



Wrightwood Fire Safe Council

P.O. Box 3100
Wrightwood, CA 92397
(760) 249-3249

www.wrightwoodfsc.com

Meeting Minutes

Call to order: The general meeting for the Wrightwood Fire Safe Council (WFSC) was called to order by Jim Emery on March 16, 2021 at 1800 hours local time. This was a virtual meeting, held live using the Zoom service. This meeting was recorded. Audio of the meeting is available here:

<https://wrightwoodfsc.com/zoom/WFSC.3.16.2021.mp3>.

Roll call: The following WFSC Board of Directors were present: John Aziz, Robert Comperini, Jim Emery, Hank Hallmark, Terri Hill, Ben Smith, Kathy Smith. Absent, was David Larkin.

The following agency representatives were present: Kelly Anderson (SB County Fire), Ian McBride (CAL FIRE), Seth Mitchell (ANF), Adam Panos (SB County Fire), Ariel Verayo (LA County Agricultural Commission).

Public comments and questions: None

Approval of minutes: The minutes of the February 16, 2021 meeting were approved with one correction to previous minutes. All references to Cal Fire, should be printed in all upper case letters, and the title is two words ("CAL FIRE"). The other correction was that the meeting was called to order by Ben Smith, and not Jim Emery. A motion to approve was made by John Aziz. Motion seconded by Kathy Smith. Motion passed 6/0/1. Terri Hill abstained as she was not present during that meeting.

Cooperative partner & agency updates:

Angeles National Forest (Seth Mitchell): Moisture levels are low. They will most likely remain low until May. Prescribed burns in the Big Pines area will continue during March, as weather conditions permit. Seasonal employees will be on station by May. There is an opportunity for a fire prevention grant. The WFSC may be interested in participating in that.

John Aziz discussed a new grant that is going to be used to help us complete our CWPP. John asked for ANF and LA County Fire points of contact for the contractor who will be working on the CWPP.

Ben Smith asked Seth about Grassy Hollow concessionaire. Seth did not have any additional information. VANF volunteers will likely relocate to the Big Pines lodge area.

San Bernardino National Forest: No report

CCC: No report

CAL FIRE (Ian McBride): A Fire Prevention Workshop webinar is scheduled for 3/18/21 and 3/25/21. These webinars are designed to teach participants how to apply for and write effective grant proposals. A Forest Health Grant webinar is scheduled for April 7. A Forest Stewardship Workshop webinar scheduled for 4/21/21 – 6/16/21. This webinar will teach participants how to write a Forest Management Plan.

56,000 tree seedlings from CAL FIRE nurseries and SCE will be planted in the Lake Arrowhead area. Inland Empire Conservation Corp will provide labor for planting.

IERCP will start a GSOB survey in the Wrightwood area. This survey will take place in spring.

Ian met with St Edwards Retreat camp management. They discussed forest management, and fuels reduction projects on their property. Some trees were marked for removal. The camp size is 213 acres.

John Aziz asked about Highway 2 trees that need to be cut. The trees were previously marked, but Covid probably delayed their removal. Ian will look into it.

LA County Agricultural Commission: A hearing was held in Lancaster on 2/17-2/18/21 to hear appeal requests from property owners who were cited for abatement issues. 7 people protested. Department employees will receive training during the month of March. Property inspections in the Antelope Valley area will begin in April. Private parcel clearing in those areas will begin in May. Wrightwood inspections are scheduled to begin in June.

LA County Fire: No report

SB County Fire (Adam Panos/Kelly Anderson): Adam Panos: Talked about what kind of recreational and open fires are allowed, and what the process is to obtain a permit. Currently, open burning (for burning waste) requires permit from CAL FIRE in the SRA area. Permits can be applied for on the website www.readyforwildfire.org. There is no cost. Permits are not allowed in mountain areas. Recreational fires in other parts of the county don't require permit. Fires can only be 2x3 feet in size maximum and must be at least 25 feet away from structures. There must be a water source nearby. In Wrightwood, wood fires are not allowed. The only fires allowed in Wrightwood are gas fired or in a contained outdoor approved fireplace with spark arrestor, etc. Allowable fires on one's own property do not need a permit. Campfire permits are available from CAL FIRE. Short term rental properties pose additional challenges, as tenants often don't know the rules, and start fires. More education to property owners is needed so they can make it clear to their tenants what the rules are.

John Aziz pointed out that the online permit website currently allows an applicant to obtain a campfire permit with a Wrightwood address, even though those are not allowed within Wrightwood. This appears to be a bug on the website.

The WFSC is going to consider sending out a mailing to all residents to educate them on what is allowed and what is not allowed.

Kelly Anderson: Let her know about any problem properties in the Wrightwood area including short term rental properties with illegal fires. She didn't have any cause of recent reported booms in Phelan area

SB County Code Enforcement: No report. John Aziz will make contact with them to find out what their planned schedule is for 2021.

Treasurer's report: Ben reports that the WFSC received a deposit of \$65.82 from Amazon Smile.

New/continued business: John Aziz discussed the upcoming grant we can take advantage of to help us update and complete our CWPP. Jim Emery asked if Team Rubicon can be used to supply labor for fuels reduction. Tem Rubicon did contact the WFSC and offered their help.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1925 hours local time. The next general WFSC meeting will be held on April 20, 2021.

Minutes submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Comperini". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'R'.

Robert Comperini, Secretary
Wrightwood Fire Safe Council