



Wrightwood Fire Safe Council

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Meeting Minutes

Call to order: The general meeting for the Wrightwood Fire Safe Council (WFSC) was called to order by Jim Emery on May 18, 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.5.18.2021.mp3>

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

The following agency representatives were present: Peter Brierty (SB County Fire), Dania Gutierrez (National Forest Foundation), Seth Mitchell (ANF), Tom Stukey (LA County Fire), Ariel Verayo (LA County Agricultural Commission), Stephen Volmer (CAL FIRE).

Public comments and questions: None

Approval of minutes: The minutes of the April 20, 2021 meeting were approved as written. John Aziz made a motion to approve the minutes. Terri Hill seconded the motion. Motion approved 6/0.

ANF Wrightwood CCI Prevention Proposal (Ben Smith): Ben has been working with multiple agencies with ANF being the lead agency, regarding a fuels reduction and forest health and thinning in the Wrightwood area. Funding would be through a CAL FIRE grant. Project would get underway in the fall of 2021 or possibly spring of 2022.

National Forest Foundation Forest Health Grant specific to GSOB (Ben Smith, Dania Gutierrez): The National Forest Foundation (NFF) is working with the Forest Service, ANF, San Bernardino National Forest, CAL FIRE and others to secure grant money to combat GSOB in the Wrightwood area. The NFF also reached out to a local non profit organization called "Tree People", to help with education efforts regarding GSOB.

SB Fire Hazard Abatement Inspections: Inspections will begin 6/7/2021. A new feature on the SB County Fire Hazard Abatement (FHA) website is a publicly accessible map that shows the properties that have received, or will receive a FHA notice. The map is called EZ-FHAN, or EZ-Fire Hazard Abatement Map. It allows property owners to search a property by the address or APN and if a green clipboard icon is on the parcel, then a notice has, or will be sent. If the green icon is clicked, information regarding the mail date and compliance date will be shown, if the notice was mailed already. If the property owner would like additional information regarding the notice, they can contact our office. The EZ-FHAN map can be found on the Fire Hazard Abatement website at <http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/FireHazardAbatement/FireHazardAbatementHome.aspx>

Jim Emery reminded everyone that CR&R will take extra green waste. CR&R will take 5 additional bags each week. For a nominal fee, CR&R will take additional bags, over the 5. Contact CR&R to make arrangements if you have more than 5 bags that need to be picked up.

Cooperative partner & agency updates:

Angeles National Forest (Seth Mitchell): Seasonal employees will be on site beginning next week. Seth discussed the recent "Pine" fire in Pinon Hills last week. The fire was approximately 450 acres. Cause of the fire is under investigation.

San Bernardino National Forest: No report

CCC: No report

CAL FIRE (Stephen Volmer): Fuels continue to be very dry this month. CAL FIRE is still involved with the Palisades fire. Fire season staffing has begun.

LA County Agricultural Commission (Ariel Verayo): The clearing of LA County parcels in the Antelope Valley area has been completed. They are also clearing vacant parcels in the area also, They expect to finish this by the end of May. Clearing crews will be in the Wrightwood area around the third week of June, to clear parcels that are not in compliance. They are seeking funding from grants to address the illegal dumping problem in the area. Illegal marijuana grow operations present dangers for our inspectors.

LA County Fire (Tom Stuke): Tom is the new Division 5 Chief. The Pines fire is still staffed to make sure it does not flare up again Staffing will continue through 5/18/2021. 442 Acres burned and 4 buildings were lost. The cause is under investigation. Fire hydrants that are more than 600 feet away from structures are being removed, in an effort to combat the water theft problem. Tom mentioned that there was a "fake" fire truck that was caught stealing water recently. This was a truck that was designed to look like a legitimate fire truck, in an attempt to steal water without raising suspicion.

SB County Fire (Peter Brierty): Peter Brierty is on the Fire hazard appeals board, which is where citizens would appear FHA citations. Peter said he would try to contact someone in county fire, to attend WFSC meetings in the future. There is an effort underway to fund getting goats to graze in areas where fuels reductions need to be done. This would be a cost effective way of controlling fuels. Grazing is 3 to 5 times lower cost than having hand crews go in to treat areas.

SB County Code Enforcement: No report

Treasurer's report: Ben reports that the WFSC wrote one check to the USPS for our annual mail permit. The cost of the permit was \$245.

New/continued business: Scott & Michelle Butcher are local residents that lost their home in the recent Pines fire in Pinon Hills. There are several GoFundMe accounts that are not legitimate and are not associated with the Butchers in any way. If anyone was going to donate to help them with their loss, it is requested that people contact the Calvary Chapel in Phelan. Calvary Chapel is the official place for helping them.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1916 hours local time. The next general WFSC meeting will be held on June 15, 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 initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Robert Comperini, Secretary
Wrightwood Fire Safe Council