



Meeting Minutes

Call to order: The general meeting for the Wrightwood Fire Safe Council (WFSC) was called to order by Jim Emery on August 17, 2021 at 1804 hours local time. This was a virtual meeting, held live using the Zoom service. This meeting was recorded and can be viewed here:

<https://wrightwoodfsc.com/zoom/WFSC.8.17.21.mp3>

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

The following agency representatives were present: Matthew Brossard (ANF), David Haas (CAL FIRE), Ariel Verayo (LA County Agricultural Commission), Tom Stukey (LA County Fire) Steve Tracy (SB County Fire), Donna Tremeer (LA County Board of Supervisors).

Public comments and questions: Wrightwood CERT (Stretch Suba) gave an update to tri community CERT basic training that began this last Saturday August 14, 2021. 15 people were in attendance at the Wrightwood Community Building. Next Saturday, August 21, the 2nd session of the training will be held in Phelan, the 3rd session, August 28, will be back in Wrightwood.

Approval of minutes: The minutes of the June 2021 meeting were approved as written. A motion to approve was made by John Aziz. Motion seconded by Terri Hill. Motion passed 5/0. The minutes of the July 2021 meeting were pushed to September meeting for approval.

Future Meetings: Continuing virtual due to continuing pandemic.

Big Pines Highway Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project: Contractors began working on the project last week. We discussed 4 parts to Project:

1. Prescribed Fire Project- ANF planning on burning 3 plots contingent on conditions; 1) Near Ball Flat and Big Pines Hwy, 2) Hwy 2 near Big Pines Visitor Center, 3) Blue Ridge.
2. Hazardous Fuels Project- Contracted fuels reduction along Big Pines Highway corridor to help provide a safe escape route for the citizens of Wrightwood.
3. Table Mountain Campground and Road Work- Rivers and Mountains Conservancy along with California Conservation Corp to remove hazardous fuels along 4N21 and Table Mountain Campground.
4. Big Pines Highway Co-Op- National Forest Foundation along with Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to assist ANF with hazardous fuels reduction along North and South side of Big Pines Highway for escape route and community defense.

Project map can be found at:

<https://wrightwoodfsc.com/ANFWrightwood/ANF.8.2021.MapDescriptionBigPinesProjects.1.pdf>

David Perry from Organization Camp New Journey asked about existing piles that were not burned. Discussed removal or chipping of piles within his permitted area.

National Forest Foundation- CAL FIRE Forest Health GSOB Grant: NFF has been awarded a CAL FIRE grant for GSOB, including treatment, public outreach, exploratory, educational and supporting documents/ studies. Grant period is approximately \$5 million, over 4 years and includes San Diego to San Bernardino counties with flexibility for exploratory and site-specific treatments into LA County.



Wrightwood Fire Safe Council

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San Bernardino County Fire Hazard Abatement Inspections: No updates, Adam Panos will forward information if something comes up or if additional information requested.

Cooperative Partner & Agency Updates:

Angeles National Forest: Matthew Brossard updated on Big Pines Highway Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project- contractor has begun work on fuels reduction along Big Pines Highway corridor. Matthew mentioned ANF possibly looking into forest closure due to extreme fire conditions and drawdowns of staff.

San Bernardino National Forest: No Report, auto response- assigned out on fire.

CCC: No Report, staffed hand crews with CAL FIRE Fenner Canyon

CAL FIRE: David Haas reported on resources in and out of area. Haas reported on numerous fires burning in Northern California with a lot of CAL FIRE resources deployed. Pilot Rock crew staying at Camp Elk doing some work on Bobcat burn scar. Haas to look into using Pilot Rock for falling of dead trees along Highway 2 in Wrightwood area.

LA County Agricultural Commission: Ariel Verayo reported 6 unimproved parcels have been identified as non-compliant for fire hazard abatement clearance. Tractor mowing of the Wrightwood parcels was delayed due to fire danger. Crews to start work August 23-26 with additional water truck and 2 additional employees due to high fire danger levels. Discussed contingency plans for fire danger in consideration to tractor mowing.

LA County Fire: Tom Stukey reported all LA County residence inspections have been completed and all are in compliance. If there are any questions or reports of non-compliance requests, report to LA County Fire Station 79. Southern California has been relatively quiet with fire- but when there is fire, LA County is supporting with "Heavy Dispatched Response" to gain control early and try and keep any new starts small. Stukey referenced 364 acre Gorman fire with 14 aircraft responding.

SB County Fire: Steve Tracey forwarded Adam Panos response on *San Bernardino County Fire Hazard Abatement Inspections*- see above. Tracey also discussed San Bernardino County's Residential Assessment Program, where homeowners can request a free on-site home inspection from San Bernardino County Fire- email countyfirerap@sbcfire.org to schedule an appointment or additional information. Shout out to CAL FIRE and Task Force Rattlesnake utilizing the California Guard- witnessed them first hand on Dixie Fire.

SB County Code Enforcement: No Representative- see *San Bernardino County Fire Hazard Abatement Inspections* item above.

Peter Brierty- East Little Mountain update: Brierty assisting Laura Dyberg of Mt Rim FSC and newly formed Little Mountain FSC received a IERCD grant for East Little Mountain Fuels Reduction. The group is using goats to remove flashy fuels. Program is experimental, and has been found to not introduce disease to Bighorn sheep due to geographic location and urban boundary. Matt Topeleski (SB County Fire) assisting with fire behavior history and past prescribed fire. Topeleski is attempting to bring back prescribed fire but AQMD concerns. Brierty sits on an oversight board of San Bernardino



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County Fire Hazard Abatement Department and reports there have been no property owner appeals since July county wide from SB County Fire Hazard Abatement Inspections. John asked about county website changes that removed information regarding inspection notice status. Brierty commented on Hazard Abatement should be an on-going maintenance item, not a once a year job driven by inspection or non-compliance notice.

Treasurer's report: No new activity, as of June 30, 2021, the Wrightwood Fire Safe Council has \$25,775.82 in the account.

New/ Continued Business:

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1915 hours local time. The next general WFSC meeting will be held virtually on September 21, 2021 at 6pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Ben Smith, Vice President (for R. Comperini)
Wrightwood Fire Safe Council