



**Wrightwood Fire Safe Council**

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[www.wrightwoodfsc.com](http://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 January 18, 2022 at 1804 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.1.18.2022.mp3>.

**Roll call:** The following WFSC Board of Directors were present: John Aziz, Robert Comperini, Jim Emery, David Larkin, Ben Smith and Terri Hill. Kathy Smith arrived after the previous meeting minutes were approved. Absent was Hank Hallmark.

The following agency representatives were present: Sadie Albers (Wrightwood CSD), Matthew Bokach (ANF), Dave Corbin (SB County Fire), Stan Souders (CERT), Tom Stuke (LA County Fire), Stephen Volmer (CAL FIRE).

**Announcements:** None

**WCSD Fire Protection Feasibility Report:** Wrightwood Community Services District board member Sadie Albers discussed the history of this proposal. Former CSD Board President Wes Zuber funded the feasibility study, which cost approximately \$10,000. Former LAFCO member Kathleen McCormick was the consultant hired to create this report. Sadie reports that there are about 27 possible powers the CSD could take over. These include things like postal service and streets. The original \$10,000 was to fund feasibility reports for 4 items. Reports already completed are the snow removal services, and the fire protection. The fire protection report concluded that the CSD could not effectively provide the same level of fire protection currently offered by the county. The CSD previously looked into taking over snow removal responsibilities from the County. The feasibility report for that function also concluded that the CSD could not effectively perform that task. There are still two more reports to be issued. Current CSD President Leo Hordyk has asked that the remaining reports be generated. The subject of those reports was not discussed.

This issue was originally scheduled to be discussed and voted on at the regular February 2022 meeting, however that discussion has been postponed to a special meeting, now scheduled for 2/22/2022 at 7:00pm. The reason for the delay was not disclosed by the CSD.

Sadie was asked if the letter submitted to the CSD by the FSC opposing the formation of a local fire department, would become part of the record of the meeting, in case a FSC person could not attend. Sadie responded that she intended to read the letter into the record at the meeting.

**Public comments and questions:** None

**Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the November 16, 2021 meeting were approved. John Aziz asked that a wording correction be made to the meeting minutes of recent meetings regarding the Zoom link provided. The wording change is to reflect that audio of the meeting can be "listened to" as opposed to "viewed". Bob Comperini will make these changes to all previous meeting minutes. A motion to approve was made by John Aziz. Motion seconded by Terri Hill. Motion passed 6/0.

**Return to in-person meetings:** Meetings will continue to be held remotely using Zoom for the near future.

**Cooperative partner & agency updates:**

Angeles National Forest (Matthew Bokach): Discussed some of the prescribed burns that have been taking place recently. More burns will take place as weather conditions allow. Angeles National Forest Supervisor Jerry Perez has been promoted and will be going to Washington D.C. to become the new National Director of Fire and Aviation Management for the Forest Service. He will be taking that position in February 2022. ANF will be able to hire more firefighting staff this year as part of the infrastructure bill, should it become reality. This will allow ANF to treat more acreage in the future. Facility Concessionaire: The winning bid was from Mountain High. They will run Grassy Hollow Visitor Center, and several campgrounds in the local area. Forest offices have been closed and may remain closed for a few weeks to limit Covid exposure. Over 30 Monument employees have tested positive for Covid. More than 90% of ANF employees are vaccinated.

San Bernardino National Forest: No report.

CCC: No report.

CAL FIRE (Steve Volmer): Still staffed for fire season, and still performing fuels treatment work. The Pilot-Rock facility and hand crews should be online in April 2022. CAL FIRE reminds us that we are still in a drought. We should expect another active fire season in 2022. The chipping program at the Phelan station will begin again. Expect one day per month (Saturdays most likely).

LA County Agricultural Commission: No report.

LA County Fire (Tom Stukey): Covid has hit LA County Fire hard. As of last week they had 512 people out with Covid. They remain fully staffed however. All weed abatement issues in Wrightwood have been taken care of. We are working with SB County Fire to make sure all MOUs and mutual aid agreements are in place and updated.

SB County Fire (Dave Corbin): Many people are out with Covid. Approximately 200 people are out for various reasons (covid, injury, vacations, retirements, etc.). A new snow cat has been placed into service at Station 14 in Wrightwood. This new snow cat has a 10 foot plow attached to it, so it will be able to create a pathway for other emergency vehicles when needed. A new 4WD Type 1 engine will be placed in Wrightwood by summer time. Division Chief Shane Glaze has retired. John Aziz asked if Julie Hernandez was still with Code Enforcement. Chief Corbin did not know. John asked for new points of contact for abatement personnel.

SB County Code Enforcement: No report.

**Treasurer's report:** The WFSC has approximately \$24,000. Recent deposits include \$38.93 from Amazon Smile. Amazon Smile has provided \$942.12 since the program began.

**New/continued business:** None

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1905 hours local time. The next general WFSC meeting will be held on February 15, 2022.

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