



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 November 15th, 2022 at 1804 hours local time, at the Wrightwood Community Center, 1275 Hwy 2, Wrightwood, CA 92397. This meeting was recorded and can be heard here: <https://wrightwoodfsc.com/zoom/WFSC.11.15.2022.mp3>

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

The following agency representatives were present: Seth Mitchell (ANF), Ray Mitchison (LA County Fire), Stan Souders (WW CERT)

Public comments and questions: John Aziz announced a Ham Radio Technician Licensing class, scheduled for Jan 14th and 15th 8a-630p email certwrightwood@gmail.com or speak to Stan Souders for additional info.

Approval of minutes: Jim Emery made the motion to approve minutes from the October 18th 2022, Dave Larkin seconded the motion. Minutes unanimously approved with 5/0 in favor.

Wrightwood Winter Traffic Meeting Update: Generally, it was a productive (in person) meeting in comparison to past few years. Wrightwood CSD created and distributed a flyer/ contact list for residential to contacts agencies for winter traffic problems. Discussion ensued regarding attendees and attendees turned away- Invitation only; Agencies and Stakeholders. Staffing shortages were a concern overall with most agencies. Conversations were brought up regarding (increasing) fine amounts, street vending, funding for portable toilets and dumpster/ trash services. Donna Tremeer (Field Rep from LA County Supervisor Barger's Office) submitted a request for \$3,000 to assist with funding of winter traffic issues.

GSOB Update: Julie Clark De Blasio (University of California Cooperative Extension) along with representatives from the Green Valley Oak Tree Alliance shared their activities in the Green Valley area. Green Valley Oak Tree Alliance hosted a meeting October 27th meeting was recorded and uploaded, and uploaded by John Aziz to Youtube. In 2016, Green Valley reported their first GSOB tree. Early treatment was very limited to immediate removal of infested tree(s). They decided to proactively test other treatments including injections and sprays to eliminate the threat. Primarily been injecting with Emamectin Benzoate mainly due to environmental concerns- or minimal impact compared to Carbaryl or other commercial products. Injection rate is every 2 years, and has been injected in infested trees and healthy trees as precautionary with no found adverse effects. The WFSC was included in a CALFIRE Grant administered through the National Forest Foundation for GSOB treatment in Southern California. The WFSC has an upcoming virtual meeting with NFF for next steps for the Wrightwood Multi-Jurisdictional area and adjacent lands.

WFSC Elections: January, nom com 3 people (1 board), feb propose slate, march hold election, April appointments of board and officers.

Cooperative Partner & Agency Updates:



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Angeles National Forest: Seth Mitchell, District Fire Management Officer, ANF reevaluating current fire restrictions/ levels due to recent rains/ snow and fuel levels. ANF working on compliance to new regulations for burn plans including trainings for treatments along Big Pines Highway. Big Pines Fire Station will be staffed five days per week. Fuels treatment on south side of BPH looking to start on the western end and work to the east. New FS Law Enforcement Officer- Sean Wolf, formerly worked locally as Patrol 38.

San Bernardino National Forest: No Representative, No Report.

CCC: No Representative, No Report.

CAL FIRE: Travis Lemm, Battalion Chief, unable to attend, emailed updates- CAL FIRE lifted residential burning restrictions for areas approved for residential agriculture burning. Fire staffing reduced to winter staffing levels. Crews recently completed a road brushing/clearing project along Scrub Oak/ Desert Front area to allow better roadside brush clearances. New grant opportunities are opening up by the end of the year. Pilot Rock Crew has been working on GSOB trees at St Edwards (formerly Mariastella). New FireHawk Helicopter was delivered to the Southern California Unit.

LA County Agricultural Commission: No Representative, No Report

LA County Fire: Ray Mitchison, Acting Assistant Chief, Battalion 5. Upcoming Red Flag Warnings, issued burn bans due to wind/ low humidity levels. Running augmented staff due to Red Flag warnings. Ray discussed LA County air resources including night flying and night retardant capabilities. LA County Fire works closely with Angeles and SB County as a supporting role given small piece of WW area pie.

SB County Fire: Remembrance given to the passing of "Friends" of the WFSC- San Bernardino County Fire, Fire Marshall Mike Horton and Wrightwood Station 14 Captain Karl Hegle.

SB County Code Enforcement: No Representative, No Report.

University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE): Julie Clark De Blasio, Community Specialist III. See GSOB Update. Additionally, Julie requested 2023 calendar of local events, Julie would like to coordinate Master Gardeners to attend and distribute information regarding firewood, GSOB, plants.

Treasurer's report: One check was written for the annual WFSC Zoom subscription renewal in the amount of \$74.95. This covers our Zoom subscription for the period Oct 2022- Oct 2023.

New/ Continued Business: none

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1922 hours local time. The next general WFSC meeting will be held at the Wrightwood Community Building (in person) on January 17th, 2023 at 6pm. There is no December meeting.

Minutes submitted by:

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