



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 Ben Smith on March 21, 2023 at 1802 hours local time. This meeting was held as a virtual meeting via Zoom because of inclement weather. Audio of this meeting is available here:
<https://wrightwoodfsc.com/zoom/WFSC.3.21.23.mp3>

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

The following agency representatives were present: Charles Bostwick (LA County Supervisor Barger Assistant Field Deputy), Gay Crusius ([Green Valley Oak Tree Alliance](#)), Julie Clark (US Cooperative Extension – Ventura), Jason Mahan (CAL FIRE), Ian McBride (CAL FIRE), Isidro Mora (ANF Fire Patrol), Patricia (Beyond Prepared), Dianne Philibosian ([Green Valley Oak Tree Alliance](#)), Vicky Rinek (Mountaineer Progress), Thierry Rivard (Director of Mountain Forestry, [TreePeople.org](#)), Stan Souders (CERT), Adrian Shum (CalTrans), Strech Suba (CERT), Ariel Verayo (LA County Agricultural Commission), Ron White (ANF)

Public comments and questions: None.

Approval of minutes: Minutes of the January 17, 2023 meeting were approved as written. Motion to approve was made by John Aziz. Motion seconded by Kathy Smith. Motion approved 5/0. Minutes of the February 21, 2023 meeting were approved as written. Motion to approve was made by Terri Hill. Motion seconded by John Aziz. Motion approved 5/0.

WDAD: This event will be held on May 13, 2023 at the Mountain Hardware parking lot, from 10:00am to 3:00pm. John Aziz discussed that setup will begin at 9:00am. John discussed exhibitors that will be there.

Green Waste Recycling Event: Will be held June 2-4, 2023 from 9:00am to 3:00pm. This event will be held at the county yard in Wrightwood.

GSOB Updates (Julie Clark): The community GSOB training workshop will be held the morning of Saturday June 17, 2023. This event will take place at the St. Edwards Retreat Center in Wrightwood. Lunch will be provided. There is no fee for attending this event. People interested in attending may send an email to staff@wrightwoodfsc.com to reserve a spot.

Ben Smith mentioned that residents, who would like someone to inspect Oak trees on their property, may complete the online application, found at: <https://www.wrightwoodfsc.com/GSOB/gsobinspection.htm>.

WFSC Board Elections: Because the March 2023 meeting was held virtually, board elections are being postponed until the April 18, 2023 meeting.

Fire Hydrant Snow Clearing: Ben Smith discussed the problem of getting fire hydrants cleared after major snow storms. After the February storms, CAL FIRE and Station 14 had crews in Wrightwood clearing hydrants. In past years, Fenner crews also assisted with hydrant clearing. The WFSC used to have an “adopt-a-hydrant” program, which encouraged residents to take responsibility for clearing hydrants near their homes. This program became inactive, because Wrightwood has not experienced large snow events for several years. Ben would like to add this as an agenda item for future meetings, so ideas can be discussed about how to best ensure that hydrants are cleared after storms.



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Cooperative Partner & Agency Updates:

Angeles National Forest (Ron White): Ron introduced himself. He replaces Chris Frye. Chris is now the Forest Prevention Officer, working in the Arcadia office. The current fire danger rating has been lowered to "moderate". Angeles National Forest will be attending WDAD in Wrightwood. Fuel reduction projects continue in the Big Pines area.

San Bernardino National Forest: No representative, no report.

CCC: No representative, no report.

CAL FIRE (Jason Mahan and Ian McBride): Crews have been busy with recent storms, clearing hydrants, hazardous tree removal and general storm support. Beginning April 17, additional staffing should come online. CAL FIRE will participate in WDAD and the green waste event.

There are currently two fuels reduction projects CAL FIRE is working on. The old Oak Springs Ranch area near Desert Front Road is a project of approximately 100 acres in size. This project is currently on hold, pending a Department of Fish and Wildlife determination on listing the Joshua trees in the project area. The Department of Fish and Wildlife will be meeting in the next few months. The second project is in the area east of I-15 along the Forestry Road. This project is also on hold for issues regarding wildlife in that area.

LA County Agricultural Commission (Ariel Verayo): The LA County Agricultural Commission will participate in WDAD. Because of the increased moisture this winter, we are already seeing a lot of weed growth. We expect a busy season. We were unable to complete our tumbleweed mowing project from last year, mainly because of weather. We started mowing tumbleweeds last November 2022, and ended at the end of January 2023. We have hired another employee. This will give us more manpower to help with tumbleweed mowing. March 2023 is our employee training month. Weed abatement inspections will begin soon. LA County property inspections will begin during the third week of April. Inspection of private properties will begin during the first week of May.

LA County Fire: No representative, no report.

SB County Fire: No representative, no report.

SB County Code Enforcement: No representative, no report.

LA County Supervisor Barger (Chuck Bostwick):

The new CHP captain for the Antelope Valley station has asked the Board of Supervisors to come up with some kind of snow/mountain area parking fine to help reduce the illegal parking problems. There was an effort a few years ago, but it never went anywhere. The Board will look into this again.

The LA County Board of Supervisors created a "brush clearance inspection fee" which will become part of the property tax bills for property owners of improved properties in high fire risk areas. This fee is currently \$101 per year. Next year, the fee increases to \$151. This is a new fee that LA county property owners will notice on their property tax bills. This fee does apply to property owners in the LA County side of Wrightwood.

Caltrans (Adrian Shum): Adrian talked about upcoming fuels reductions projects in the area.



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The first project is along SR-2 from Highway 138 to the forest boundary. This project is scheduled to begin in early 2024. The second project is along Highway 138 eastward from the LA County line, through Pinion Hills to SR-2. This project is scheduled to begin in late April 2023.

CERT (Strech Suba): CERT Training is scheduled for the last two Saturdays in April, and the first Saturday in May. This training will take place in Pinion Hills. The exact dates have not been decided yet. Contact Strech for more information.

Treasurer's report: Ben Smith reports that he has reconciled 2022 finances. He will present reports during the April meeting. Ben also submitted the required tax (IRS-990, etc.) forms. Current bank balance: \$23,937.18. John Aziz reports that the WFSC should receive one final Amazon Smile payment.

New/ Continued Business: Thierry Rivard (Director of Mountain Forestry, TreePeople.org) introduced himself and discussed recent activities of their organization. They are supporting the Green Valley area with their GSOB problem. They will try to become more active in the Wrightwood area.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1919 hours local time. The next general WFSC meeting will be held at the Wrightwood Community Building on April 18, 2023 at 6pm.

Minutes submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Comperini".

Robert Comperini, Secretary
Wrightwood Fire Safe Council