



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 May 16, 2023 at 1804 hours local time. This meeting was held at the Wrightwood Community Building. Audio of this meeting is available here: <https://wrightwoodfsc.com/zoom/WFSC.5.16.23.mp3>

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

The following agency representatives were present: Lauren Blake (SB National Forest), Matthew Bokach (ANF), Julie Clark (US Cooperative Extension – Ventura), David Haas (CAL FIRE), Gil Lester (Tree People), Vicky Renick (Mountaineer Progress), Adrian Shum (Caltrans), Stan Souders (CERT), Ariel Verayo (LA County Agricultural Commission), Ron Wright (ANF).

Public comments and questions: None.

Approval of minutes: The minutes of the April 18, 2023 meeting were approved as written. Motion to approve was made by John Aziz. Motion seconded by Hank Hallmark. Motion approved 7/0.

WDAD Recap: This event was held on May 13, 2023 at the Mountain Hardware parking lot. Jim Emery recapped the event. Jim said it felt good to have this event again after the long Covid hiatus. There was a good turnout, and there appeared to be a lot more younger/new residents attending the event.

Jim thanked Mountain Hardware for hosting the event on their property. Thanks also, to John Aziz for all the work coordinating this event, and to everyone who helped make it a success. Several people signed up for the upcoming GSOB training, and inspections. Stan reported 20 new CERT signups. Hank Hallmark said he would like to promote fire hydrant adoptions at next year's event.

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. The mailer advertising this event will go out this week. As a reminder, San Bernardino County Code Enforcement will begin inspecting Wrightwood properties, beginning the week after this event.

GSOB Updates: 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>. The community GSOB training workshop will be held the morning of Saturday June 17, 2023. This event will take place at the St. Edward 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. For more information, visit: <https://www.wrightwoodfsc.com/GSOB/gsobworkshop.htm>.

Cooperative Partner & Agency Updates:

Angeles National Forest (Ron White): ANF was at WDAD. They had on display several maps, including fuel reductions and a 20 year fire history map. Fuel reduction/pile burning continues in the Big Pines area, as weather allows. The ANF will treat and burn piles in the Blue Ridge area, once the road is open, and as weather allows. Burning will also take place in the Chilao area. The ANF is going away from the "seasonal workforce" model, in favor of a more permanent workforce. Expect staffing levels to be more consistent throughout the year.



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Matthew Bokach: There is a field trip for prospective concessionaire bidders that will be held on May 17, 2023. This will allow the bidders to see the properties that are part of this contract. The closing date for bids to be submitted is toward the end of June. The 5 year contract should be awarded around October 2023, with the period of performance starting in early 2024. SR-2 beyond Vincent Gap is expected to be closed all summer, because of storm damage. Hank Hallmark asked if there were plans to remove dead trees in the forest. Matthew responded that ANF does not remove dead trees, unless they pose a hazard.

San Bernardino National Forest Lauren Blake): Lauren said she would try to find a representative to attend our future meetings. Fuel moisture levels are averaging 122. This is higher than normal, and higher than expected after all the precipitation. Old growth moisture levels are averaging 87. A value of 60 is considered "critical". Lauren discussed the Nob fire, and the challenges fighting it. Lauren confirmed that the rumors stating that this fire started as a controlled burn that got out of control, are false. It appears that Caltrans first posted this rumor, and the rumor quickly spread. A Lytle Creek reductions project has been approved. It is out for bid now. The SB National Forest is experiencing staffing challenges, due to employees leaving. I-15 buffer project is still expected to continue soon. The SEQA for this project has been completed by Caltrans.

CCC: No representative, no report.

CAL FIRE (Davis Haas): CAL FIRE is currently in "Transitional staffing" now. All stations are open. Pilot Rock currently has 5 crews on board, with 2 more expected. The Insect Control Program is ramping up again. Tree climbing certifications will be done soon. David briefly discussed the fuel reductions programs planned for the Cajon Pass area. CAL FIRE is still waiting for the appropriate Fish and Game approvals before these projects can begin.

LA County Agricultural Commission (Ariel Verayo): We are now clearing non-compliant properties in the Juniper Hills/Palmdale/Lancaster areas. This year, most properties are in compliance. Inspections in the Wrightwood area will begin during the second week of June. There are 63 parcels in Wrightwood that fall under our jurisdiction.

LA County Fire: No representative, no report.

SB County Fire: No representative, no report.

Caltrans (Adrian Shum): District 8 will communicate and coordinate with District 7 regarding the SR-2 closure. David discussed the upcoming fuels projects in the Cajon Pass and Highway 138 areas.

Treasurer's report: No report was submitted. Ben Smith said there were approximately \$100 in the donation jar from WDAD. Ben still needed to calculate how much money came in from sales at this event. The Mountaineer Progress donated \$50. The insurance premium check has finally been cashed.

New/ Continued Business: None



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Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2000 hours local time. The next general WFSC meeting will be held at the Wrightwood Community Building on June 20, 2023 at 6pm.

Minutes submitted by:

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

Robert Comperini, Secretary
Wrightwood Fire Safe Council



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Meeting Attendees

WFSC - May 16, 2023

Name	Org	Email
J. Emery	WFSC	jimandmo@att.net
JOHN AZIZ	WFSC	
Tim Heinrich	WFSC	
Kathy Smith	WFSC	Nolena@msn.com
Ben Compenn	WFSC	
Ben Smith	WFSC	
Frank Hellmark		
Vicky Rinet	MPN	
Julie Clark	JCANR	
Gil Lester	TreePeople	glester@treepeople.org
David Haas	CAL FIRE	
Ron WHITE	USFS	
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Adrian Shum	Caltrans	adrian.shum@dot.ca.gov
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ARIEL VERAIS	LA County AEWMA	Averay@acwm.lacounty.gov
Matthew Bokach	USFS-AWF	matthew.bokach@usda.gov