



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 21, 2024 at 1900 hours local time, at the Wrightwood Community Building, 1275 SR-2, Wrightwood, CA 92397. Audio of this meeting is available here:

<https://www.wrightwoodfsc.com/zoom/WFSC.5.21.24.mp3>

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

The following agency representatives were present: Matthew Bokach (ANF), Matt Edmiston (CAL FIRE), Marlon Gomez (OFM SB County), Mike Laabs (San Bernardino County Fire), Gil Lester (Tree People), Michael Nobles (USFS), Vicky Rinek (Mountaineer Progress), Daniel Rios (San Bernardino County Fire), Adrian Shum (Caltrans), Drew Smith (CAL FIRE), Stan Souders (WW CERT), Ariel Verayo (LA County Agricultural Commission), Jen Miescher-Vandevrugt (San Bernardino County Fire), Ron White (ANF).

Flag salute: The flag salute was led by Jim Emery.

Public comments and questions: Stan Souders talked about the ham class that took place the previous week. In that class, 12 people passed the test. Five people were Wrightwood residents.

Approval of minutes: Approval of the minutes of the April 16, 2024 meeting were tabled as there was no quorum.

GSOB: From Kayla Thompson via email: We had a successful outreach at the recent WDAD event. 141 people visited the booth. 11 people signed up for GSOB surveys at their properties. Julie Clark is working with the Forest Service and other agencies to come up with aerial GSOB surveillance plan to help battle the over 7000 acres of potentially infested trees in the Santa Clarita area. Hannah Lester from Tree-People reported that almost 2,500 trees were surveyed in the Bouquet Canyon area. They have identified 159 with signs of GSOB infestation. 1,200 pines of various varieties, were planted around the Guffy campground area. Weeding will take place in that area, soon.

WDAD: Was held Saturday, May 11, 2024. Jim Emery thanked everyone who supported the recent WDAD event. The event was very well attended. We think it exceeded last year's attendance. Many younger and new people to the area were at the vent. The WFSC did make some money from donations and sales.

Tri-Community Green Waste event: Will be held May 31, June 1 and June 2, 2024 from 9:00am to 3:00pm in the County Yard, located just east of the Wrightwood Post Office.

Cooperative partner & agency updates:

Anges National Forest (Ron White): Burning continues today in the Table Mountain area. Burning should be done by the end of the week. No burns are scheduled during the Memorial Day weekend. Burning will continue after the holiday. Future projects will include the Blue Ridge area.

Mathew Bokach: The Monument was recently expanded by President Biden. The new areas included are in the south-west portion of the forest. We are writing a new fuels NEPA as a result of the Sheep fire. A draft map

has been created. Surveys will take place soon. ANF will seek inputs from residents. In 3-4 months, a draft document should be ready to share, for inputs.

The ANF is planning on performing restoration work in the Sheep fire area. Restoration will include planting Joshua trees and other vegetation that was lost. Evasive plant removal will be a part of this project. The road up to the old quarry will be closed.

San Bernardino National Forest (Michael Nobles): 26,000 acres of fuel reduction projects are in the planning stages. Projects include Lone Pine Canyon area southward toward Lytle Creek. We are done with prescribed burns for this year. We are working with Tree-People to do a NEPA for several restoration projects. Staffing levels: There are 9 engines at the Mormon Rocks station. Fire staffing is 95% in place. Aviation assets will be in place starting June 1.

CCC: No representative, no report.

CAL FIRE (Drew Smith): We are currently increasing our staffing for fire season. We will be at peak staffing within one month. Currently, there are 13 engines and 7 crews. Helicopters are online. We also have 2 dozers and support personnel. Burn and mastication work was done in the Lake Arrowhead area. We expect an active fire season.

Matt Edminston: I am back at Fenner camp. Matt wants to get involved with doing roadwork in the Wrightwood area, with their crews. Fenner camp only has 2 crews available (normally, there were 6 crews).

LA County Agricultural Commission (Ariel Verayo): Ariel thanks the WFSC for having their agency at WDAD. Over 300 people visited their booth. The weed abatement division is in full operation in the Antelope Valley. All County owned properties have been inspected. There are less than 70 vacant properties in Wrightwood that need to be inspected. So far, about 30-35% are in compliance. June 1, 2024 is the due date. County crews will clear properties that are not in compliance by June 17, 2024.

LA County Fire: No representative, no report.

SB County Fire (Mike Laabs): Good turnout at WDAD. In April 2024, Station 14 statistics for April: Vegetation fires: 1. Other fires: 2. Investigations/alarms: 9. Hazmat: 1. Medical: 50. Public service: 5. Traffic collisions: 2. Total calls for the period: 70. Mike discussed staffing at station 14. Station 14 is a "priority station", which means if our crews are out, others crews will come here to staff the station. ALS services are always available.

SB County Code Enforcement (via email): Property inspections in Wrightwood won't begin until after the Green Waste Event.

Cal Trans (Adrian Shum): We are still waiting for environmental clearance, before we can proceed with fuel reduction service contract. This approval is expected by the end of May 2024. Adrian briefly discussed staff training. Adrian discussed the progress of their vegetation management plan, which is a work in progress. SR-2 will not reopen this year. It will remain closed between Vincent Gap and Islip Saddle.

Fire Marshal (Marlon Gomez): The new Fire Marshall for the Wrightwood area will be Tracy Shaw. The Fire Marshall's San Bernardino office location has changed.

Treasurer's report: No report.

New/continued business:

Fire Hydrant program re-introduced to the public at WDAD. Hank Hallmark reports that Tom Foley made contact with the new GM at Golden State Water Company, to get the latest information on hydrant locations. Several people signed up. Several additions/corrections were made to the map we had.

CWPP update: John Aziz reports that there are no updates.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1943 hours local time. The next general WFSC meeting will be held on June 18, 2024.

Minutes submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert Comperini". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R".

Robert Comperini, Secretary
Wrightwood Fire Safe Council

5-21-24

Email

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| John Aziz | WFSC | |
| Robert Campanini | WFSC | |
| Tim Heinrich | WFSC | |
| Jim Emery | WFSC | |
| Victory Rincat | MPN | |
| Gil Lester | TreePeople | glester@treepeople.org |
| Maikel Lopez | OFM SBL | mlopez@soalps.org |
| POW WHITE | USFS ANF | |
| Matthew Bokach | USFS ANF | matt.bokach@csd.ca.gov |
| Adrian Shum | Caltrans | adrian.shum@dot.ca.gov |
| Shawn Traeger | | shawn@traeger.com |
| Drew SMITH | CAL FIRE/BDU | |
| Mich Edmisten | CAL FIRE/BDU | |
| ARIEL VERAYO | ACWM | Averayo@acwm.lacounty.gov |
| Michael NOBLES | USFS/BDF | michaelnobles@csd.ca.gov |
| Jen Mescher-Vandougt | SBCoFD | Jmescher@sbcfire.org |
| DAMILE REOS | SBCoFP | |
| MIKE LAABS | SBCoFD | MLAABS@SBCfire.org |
| STAN Souders | WW CERT | |