

Topanga Canyon Boulevard Roadside Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 10, 2013
10:00am-12:00pm
Topanga Library

I. Welcome:

a. Introductions

Standing Members in Attendance:

Susan Nissman, Zuhey Espinoza – Yaroslavsky, Third Supervisorial District
Sara Tamor (as proxy for Kara Seward) – Pavley, SD27
Fiona Nagle – Caltrans (CT)
Roger Pugliese – Topanga Association for a Scenic Community (TASC)
Stacey Sledge – Topanga Town Council
Kevin Johnson – Los Angeles County Fire Department
Beth Burnam – North Topanga Canyon Fire Safe Council (NTCFSC)
Clark Stevens – Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains (RCDSMM)
James Grasso – Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness (T-CEP)
Joseph Rosendo – Topanga Chamber of Commerce
Ben Allanoff, Carrie Carrier- Topanga Creek Watershed Committee (TCWC)

Other Attendees:

Bill Carrier (TCWC Member)

b. Approval of Minutes

add: Group celebratory

add: a name → Clark Stevens

II. Reports:

a. Implementation Plan Review

As part of the “Adaptive Management” approach, there was discussion around which type of reports the Fire Dept could provide Caltrans and us with so that we could assess how well we were meeting their standards for vegetation management alongside the road.

- Susan suggested using both the Caltrans and Fire Dept reports to assess our progress on an ongoing basis.
- Susan specified that we did not want a comprehensive report on all of LA County, just the land alongside TCB.
- Kevin said that he could search the Fire Department database and create a list of all non-compliance properties along TCB
- Fiona clarified that we wanted to focus exclusively on the roadside-not broad-based homeowner brush clearance non-compliance.

- Kevin said that he could achieve that level of specificity by examining data from the following sources: (a) the brush clearance group run through County Ag (for unimproved parcels); (b) the “station” group (for improved parcels); and (c) the Edison program for poles. He could then generate a list that includes only “*Roadside Non-Compliance for all Property Types along TCB*”.
- Fiona said that this info would be most useful to us as a way to gauge how well our BMPs were working. We’re not trying to penalize individual homeowners.

The implementation plan was reviewed with the following changes:

- Pg 10: soil cement changed to minor concrete
- Pg 13: Community volunteers- expanded, either done as a group of individually. The language is now more inclusive.
- Pg 17: In regards to the 2013-2017 Recommended Work Plan please note that parcel #'s are for location reference only and do not necessarily denote responsibility and/or ownership.
- Furthermore, post mile markers have been updated on the work plan. Susan, James & Beth identified areas where roadside is being maintained by property owners.
- Pg 29: will attach maps for Appendix A (100 pages)
Clarification made: these maps are for reference and to be used with work plan spreadsheets.
-Susan points out that we need to have a mechanism to input new data into living document.
-Caltrans is in control of the maps (talk to Ed)
Question posed by Fiona: How much info needs to be in maps in order to be useful?
-James and Fiona will discuss offline with Ed
- Pg. 40: “Absolute scales for mass” – refer to updated document that Fiona will send out in July.
- Pg 41: A higher score for the sample fire safety assessment form is better
- Pg 51: For Appendix G: Existing Vegetation- omitted detailed criteria for rating of each plant high, moderate, or limited. This was omitted because it was irrelevant to the table of existing vegetation and was confusing.
- Additionally, Table 5 of TCB Roadside Non-native flammable vegetation species, 2012-2013 needs to be adjusted.
- -need to talk to Skylar Feltman to do this. (Beth and Ben will coordinate with Skylar)
- Pg 54: In Appendix H. Committee Members, unless otherwise noted, the address for all Caltrans employees is
100 S. Main St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(www.dot.ca.gov/dist07)

**The following items on the agenda were not discussed due to time limit of the meeting:*

b. Communication Subcommittee

c. Evaluation Framework (Caltrans) – *continued to next agenda*

d. Mapping Subcommittee – *will be offline discussion*

e. BMP Subcommittee

i. Mulch Issues – up to \$5,000 may be spent on mulch. Jim Fowler will work with Jack Wright of Aguinaga Green to request a bid proposal for our pilot program.

ii. Data Collection and Analysis

iii. Review Methods used up to now and future BMP's (e.g. weed mass)

f. Discussion regarding Merging Mapping & BMP Subcommittees – 2 subcommittees to be combined into one *Implementation Subcommittee*

III. Next Steps

a. Action Items

- incorporate a picture of loose and compact/small and large?
- grants & students/grad & undergrads could work on monitoring and assessing
- Susan requested Fiona to include applicable grant opportunities that would monitor and assess unacceptable/optimal vegetation (pg. 42)
 - Fiona's suggestions: put some language in the main part of the document
 - keep your ears/eyes open for grants/opportunities
 - grad student project/undergrad class (UCLA/Pepperdine)
 - talk to RCD
- conference call: Fiona & Caltrans Colleagues
- Beth and Ben follow up on invasive plan
- K. Johnson: Status report from June
- communications committee needs pictures from K. Johnson

NEXT MEETING:

September 11th, 2013

10am-12pm

Topanga Library Community Room

- In the meantime, continue offline with subcommittees
- Wednesday August 7th @ 10am-12pm (Downtown at Caltrans headquarters) is the next meeting of the communications subcommittee.