

Union County Board of Commissioners
Joseph Building Annex Conference Room
Special Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 22, 2024

Present: Commissioner R. Matthew Scarfo, Chair
Commissioner Donna Beverage
Commissioner Paul Anderes

Commissioner Scarfo opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was given with all three Commissioners present.

The purpose of this meeting is to consider a request from the Union County Fire Defense Board Chief to enter into a complete burn ban within Union County.

2024 Burn Ban

Nick Vora, Emergency Manager provided a brief staff report to the Commissioners for their information.

We are currently at a Regional & National Preparedness Level 5, which is the highest meaning there is not excess or surplus response at this time to respond to new fires. They have had a couple different spurts of new starts about 4 days ago resulting several lightning strikes. Last night there was an abundance of lightning throughout various parts of the state.

There hasn't been rain in Union County over the last few weeks, leaving the field conditions extremely dry. Due to the fuel conditions, resources and already natural starts around the region, it would be prudent to follow the Fire Defense Board Chief, Craig Kretschmer's, recommendation to enter a burn ban as provided in Ordinance 2024-02.

Commissioner Anderes asked if the burn ban would not include agricultural field burning. Emergency Manager Vora indicated that it would not include agricultural field burning, pellet or gas grills, however, it would include charcoal grills.

Commissioner Beverage is happy to see the crews working together, and sad to see the destruction the fires are causing in our area.

Commissioner Beverage made a motion to approve the 2024 Burn Ban, no fires of any kind except agricultural field burning, gas/pellet grills. Commissioner Anderes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

All three Commissioners thanked Emergency Manager Vora for all his hard work. They stated they also appreciated the Fire Defense Board's recommendation.

Adjournment

Commissioner Scarfo adjourned the meeting at 9:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allison".

Allison Moore
Senior Department Specialist