

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Meeting January 26, 2021 -- Approved Minutes**

The meeting was by Zoom and facilitated by Glenn Bailey because Chair Nurit Katz was having difficulty speaking due to being ill with Covid. A link to the meeting recording:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iyVDI4004GFVdmp-7DEOihQkEh-0-Tlr/view?usp=sharing>

The meeting was called to order by Nurit at 6:34PM. Recording began. Quorum was established. A quorum is now 5 of 8 voting members. Voting members attending: Shelly Backlar, Glenn Bailey, Terrie Brady (joining later), Nurit Katz, Muriel Kotin, George Waddell, and Melanie Winter. Non-voting members: Pat Bates, Robert Buenrostro, and Ruth Doxsee. Alternates and guests: Anne Abramson, Linda Babcock, Wendy Barsh, Tessa Charnofsky, Kira Durban, Jonah Glickman, Linda Gravani, Margot Griswold, City Park Ranger Jerry Haro, Barb Heidemann, Benny Jacobs-Schwartz, Bill Neill, Mark Osokow, Jon Rishi, and Dave Weeshoff. LA Audubon, FoLAR and The River Project are all now voting members.

Minutes of Nov and Dec 2020 were approved as submitted.

A motion to add a committee vice-chair was Moved by George, **Seconded** by Shelly, and **Passed** 6-0. This wording to be added to the Bylaws:

4.3 A Committee vice-chairperson shall also be selected for a term of office of a calendar year effective January 2021. The vice-chairperson shall assist the chairperson as needed and shall fulfill the responsibilities of the chairperson in their absence or unavailability.

The Bylaws should be updated and posted on the website.

Council District 6: Jonah Glickman reported that Nury Martinez's office is focusing on area around Encino Creek. They are concerned for people who have returned to live there with the risk of flooding and also in the WR. Masterplan motion has not moved forward yet. Waiting for RAP and other agencies regarding funding sources. Jonah will include us when there is any new information. (John Lee is now chair of HENPAR committee).

US Army Corps of Engineers: Jon Rishi and Linda Babcock reported. Last week maintenance crew did big cleanups south of Burbank Blvd in preparation for the rain. As of Thursday, there were no unhoused citizens there. Jon will be looking to develop an interpretive program there and more broadly in Sepulveda Basin as an iNaturalist project site. Some mustard was removed a month ago and more last week, following the vegetative management plan. Engineering pamphlet 1110-2-18 has info, such as veg free zone 50 ft from toe of dam or service road. New masterplan was approved very recently. Jon expects it will be posted soon. It is a revision to the 2011 masterplan for the entire Sepulveda Basin. It is different from the city's proposed masterplan, which will cover recreation areas. The Corps' masterplan and lease will be foundational to the city's masterplan.

Recreation and Parks:

Jerry Haro, Rangers: They've been patrolling the WR daily. The encampment near the lake has been removed. The pedestrian bridge has been repaired. Working on vandalized signs near the entrance. SE of the lake still needs cleanup — he's trying to get maintenance to remove trash there.

Robert Buenrostro, Maintenance: Water lettuce is not being found when they monitor it. They will continue to monitor. Forestry is apparently still inspecting the dead trees and has not removed any yet. What is being done to prevent dead wood from cut trees being moved elsewhere to avoid spreading shothole borer? Robert will follow up with Forestry.

ACOE Masterplan: Why no public input? Jon was not involved. He will find out for us.

Methods of Non-herbicide Based Methods for Restoration: Margot Griswold presented.

Crystal Cove: 9.7-acre cactus scrub restoration. Started 2014. Equipment mowing plus weed-whacking and hand weeding. Non-irrigated. Weeding takes at least 2 - 3 years. Avoid soil disturbance. Timing, monitoring, and seed as soon as you think you have some control.

Whiting Ranch Regional Park: Around 10 acres. Add mycorrhizal fungi and plants like slender tar plants that tend to suppress mustard. The mycorrhizae used is a glomis. She doesn't know whether the kinds available at commercial nurseries have the same effect. Seed. She is moving away from container plants in most locations, although they might work better with volunteers.

At Sepulveda Basin, she recommends seeding and container plants, especially plants that reseed prolifically. Seeding, mycorrhizal plants is crucial. Container plants perhaps better with volunteer efforts. She has done targeted spraying — only before seeding or applying mycorrhizae. Weeds are a much bigger problem following heavy rains than in a dry year. Margot considers the most important requirement for a successful restoration is a good manager providing oversight. Baldwin Hills 15-30 volunteers, sometimes up to 60 on special occasions. They have groups of volunteers that return but not necessarily the same people. Pretty consistent turnout. They have to work at it. Funded summer fellows. Grants. Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook and Hahn Park.

CNPS Report, George Waddell: They've been weeding the space between the path and lake for around 10 years. The mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*) at SB is perennial, different from annual black mustard. It, horehound, and the like are coming back post fire, as roots survived. Weed whacking *Hirschfeldia* is not effective. Covid interfering with group efforts. They distributed thousands of seedballs including Elegant Clarkia, Succulent Lupine, Narrow-Leaf Milkweed and California poppy, primarily between the South Bridge and the most southerly viewing area along the lake.

Planting in Near Term, Muriel: A comprehensive landscape plan is needed, but could we plant to replace burned cottonwoods, willows, and sycamores in the riparian area late next fall? Dove weed seed in the area west of the creek where FoLAR did weeding project? Wildflowers or whatever in the plowed area east of the lake? Along the path to the southerly lake viewing area? George said enough cottonwoods coming up from the roots – almost too many. Melanie

suggested holding off planting in the riparian corridors given the plans being worked on. Wait for comprehensive plan. Terrie was concerned about erosion in the goose forage area — perhaps seeding needed. We will need to work at a comprehensive plan coordinated with The River Project's planning that is underway. NC's may have some funds with June 1 deadline.

Goat Grazing, Bill Neill: Nothing has happened in the past month. There has been no word from upper management. Committee has not yet sent letter to Cathie Santo Domingo. Muriel to work with Nurit and Joe on a letter. Hope CD-6 can give us a hand on getting goats approved. Also spraying in letter. Jonah has reached out to RAP and will do so again. NC's are on board and have reached out to RAP and City Council. Pat will send her email on to Kira Durban to get more communications going. Lake Balboa NC supports the goat grazing proposal and is seeking NC funding for it.

Plan B for weed control if goats are turned down and herbicide also?

Tentative meeting Feb 23 at 6:30: We will send emails seeing if 6PM or 7PM a preferred starting time or to leave it as 6:30PM. The selection of Vice Chair will be made at next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

the chat transcript is below.

Submitted by

Muriel S Kotin, San Fernando Valley Audubon's Representative too SBWASC

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V1FES7aYKx4tGEvqWBeq_basmwppGu_t/view?usp=sharing

00:28:51 NURIT KATZ: Link to sign-in sheet:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UPE9_QfCbx-dkNamVVVyOretyVhjmwJ8GDg6IUL8lq0/edit

00:36:27 NURIT KATZ: Link to sign-in sheet:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UPE9_QfCbx-dkNamVVVyOretyVhjmwJ8GDg6IUL8lq0/edit

00:41:52 Glenn Bailey: Link to sign-in sheet:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UPE9_QfCbx-dkNamVVVyOretyVhjmwJ8GDg6IUL8lq0/edit

00:49:29 Mark Osokow: How does one acquire the engineering pamphlet?

00:52:18 NURIT KATZ: tonight is a good example of why a Vice chair is useful!

00:52:26 NURIT KATZ: thank you Glenn!

00:55:30 linda babcock: google: engineering pamphlet 1110-2-18

00:57:21 Barbara H: When will the Vice Chair be named/nominated? I would like to suggest it is the person in the rotation to be Chair next year.

00:58:41 NURIT KATZ: Glenn was previously suggested at a past meeting. that is an excellent suggestion moving forward Barbara as it will be good training and continuity for future chair, as long as it isn't too much for people to do two years in a row that way.

01:02:52 Melanie Winter: Is it Glenn that has a buzzing thing going on in the background?

01:05:00 Mark Osokow: To ACE Reps: What is the status of the new Master Plan for the Basin.

01:12:08 Mark Osokow: In past years, the corps held public meetings on the Plan. Why not this year?

01:19:45 Glenn Bailey: Link to sign-in sheet:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UPE9_QfCbx-dkNamVVVYOretyVhjmWJ8GDg6IUL8lq0/edit

01:23:05 George Waddell: Would Margot prefer to postpone her presentation

01:30:05 George Waddell: We donâ€™t have black mustard, we have *Hirschfeldia incana*

01:30:38 George Waddell: Black mustard dominates near coast

01:31:17 Benny Jacobs-Schwartz: copy that

01:39:08 Shelly Perry Backlar: That's great George!

01:40:14 Ruth Doxsee, LBNC: Yes, good work, George!

01:49:24 Terrie brady: where can we see this recording later

01:52:11 Glenn Bailey: The Zoom link will be posted on our website

01:57:15 Wendy: Muriel,

01:58:00 Mark Osokow: Box elder and big-leaf maple may also be good additions.

01:59:25 Wendy: Do you want to, perhaps hire someone to draft an overall planting plan with Muriel and other's input?

01:59:50 margotgriswold: Dove weed is very expensive seed because the flowers only bear about 4 seeds in each flower.

02:01:26 Shelly Perry Backlar: I'm happy to work with you, Muriel

02:17:53 Benny Jacobs-Schwartz: This was my first time joining in on the steering committee, and it was great to hear and see all of the committed to the revival and restoration of the basin

02:18:02 Benny Jacobs-Schwartz: I have to sign off for now, but look forward to the next meeting@

02:18:07 Benny Jacobs-Schwartz: - Benny

02:31:51 Ruth Doxsee, LBNC: 6:30 is fine with me.