

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee  
Meeting March 22, 2022 – Approved Minutes**

Glenn Bailey chaired the meeting which was called to order at 6:33PM. Meeting was recorded.  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/14qAoOG62IQkDrF9v1kGqyqzmlCL2yLY/view?usp=sharing>

Attending: Voting Members: Terrie Brady, Bill Neill then Steve Hartman as voting alternate, Nurit Katz, Muriel Kotin, Dennis Mabasa, Joe Phillips, Melanie Winter. Non-voting members and alternates: Patricia Bates, Ruth Doxsee, Barb Heidemann, Kevin Jauregui, Brian Yamasaki. Guests: Anne Abramson, Emily Bowyer, Tessa Charnofsky, Marianne Davis. Richard Davis, Kira Durbin, Abby Furst (of “Overdue”), Latoya Green, Jerry Haro, Antoine Kunsch, Jesse Mauck, Robert Moreno, Bill Neill, Jack Smith, Clark Stevens, Amanda Thompson. A quorum was established.

Minutes of Meeting January 25, 2022: approved without objection. Terrie Brady and Joe Phillips abstained as they didn’t attend the meeting. No membership requests tonight.

Reports from Elected Officials:

Supervisor Sheila Kuehl: Tessa Charnofsky — April 1 deadline for grants from the offices. Introduced a measure to phase out natural gas in residential units in unincorporated areas.

Governmental Agencies:

**\*\*US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE):** Robert Moreno reported about cat feeding stations along LA River. USACE will put up signs that it’s illegal. Please report sightings of cat feeders to Robert via email. They’re hiring 2 more park rangers who will be stationed at Balboa Blvd. offices. Doing inspections of the dam, integrity of spillway. Trying to get ahead of graffiti on the spillway — please send him any info to ID graffiti makers. Suggestion to try anti-graffiti coating. Working with CD-6 on homeless encampments: there’s only one now. They defer to LA City to enforce problems in the areas they lease. They have cameras but need to relocate and upgrade them. We need an accurate detailed map of what agency has jurisdiction for every location. Jesse Mauck recommended Navigate LA as a great tool.

**\*\*Recreation and Parks:** Brian -- RAP took responsibility for the weir that controls the lake water level. Removed debris from screen and replaced rotted wood framing. Sanitation is very happy with it. RAP will continue to maintain it. He will try to find out why water level is happily rising. We hope it won’t rise too much. Fencing is not finished yet. Brian is trying to get fencing guy back, a private contractor. He will request to have contractor resume next to our lawn. Signage seems to be going OK. New RAP urban ecologist Courtney McCammom is not here tonight. She will be introduced at our next meeting.

**\*\*City Park Rangers:** Jesse Mauck -- They’re aware of fishing and trying to control it. Have heard of hunting. If any weapons seen, phone LAPD! The rangers patrol 10AM - 8PM. There is city code against feeding non-domestic mammalian predators, such as feral cats or coyotes, including leaving food out. Please report. RAP’s Storeroom at Wildlife Amphitheater isn’t adequate to serve as ranger station. There are 30 park rangers total for city, an additional 4 in training. Only 2 rangers for the entire SFV plus a senior park ranger. They patrol out of Pacoima. In a pinch they can sometimes send out a security officer who has no law enforcement authority. All other rangers are based at Griffith Park. Rangers will cite for fishing seen on a patrol. If we phone rangers about fishing, it’s very low priority, but they will respond if they’re available. **Ranger Dispatch phone is 323-644-6661.**

Members reported that on Monday morning, field trip leaders found lots of trash, no TP. A RAP employee came from Lake Balboa where he had been deployed because of a problem there. There are also problems with the sprinklers, especially around the amphitheater seating.

LAPD Senior Lead Officer: We need a SLO for Sepulveda Basin. LAPD did not attend meeting. Glenn reported LAPD is working on it.

US Geological Survey: USGS and iNaturalist studies of wildlife surveys/biodiversity in Sepulveda Basin are underway.

UCLA/RCD Practicum on Sepulveda Basin: Antoine Kunsch and Clarke Stevens — Planning for Wildfire Resilience and Community Protection in Habitat Reserve. Focus is resilience to fire and habitat improvement. Committee should look at student outline and make suggestions. Reports will be due in June. Focus is the East Field. Afterwards there will be a workshop with SBWASC to create program of site uses. Design team: Antoine project leader, Dan Cooper a key member of team, Clark the architect, other experts including GIS/CAD. 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop to develop conceptual alternatives. Finalize alternatives and have SBWASC review draft. RCD will assist after as SBWASC member with funding and implementation. TreePeople will be a partner. Workshop might be at time of a special SBWASC meeting in June on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday. Antoine to send Muriel information for minutes. [Not received.]

TreePeople Habitat Restoration/Planting Project: Emily Bowyer and Jack Smith of their native plant nursery -- reviewed their nursery work based on Best Management Practices. They are looking to partner with people who are working in the SBWR, primarily to provide plants. They have a lot of Valley Oaks (*Quercus lobata*) growing this year. Discussed past plans for West Field, including the (approx.) 1996 Conceptual Master Plan and need for irrigation.

The River Project: Melanie – See Calmatters.org OpEd: <https://calmatters.org/commentary/2022/03/reimagining-the-sepulveda-basin-into-a-grand-park-in-los-angeles/> . The online executive summary and other basin plans are viewable at <https://theriverproject.app.box.com/file/933403610733?s=dy744b9j6w6bpba1mgjs8wp784w1xzcs> . They're not releasing their full study yet.

Haskell Creek Cleanup: SFVAS is sponsoring creek cleanup Saturday April 9, including tours of the reserve at 11AM.

Overdue (a Nonprofit): Abby Furst -- This organization has been working on trash removal along the LA River in Sepulveda Basin, mostly near Balboa Blvd. Working on developing a trash boom. What do the groups in this committee do about trash in LAR? Cleanups. Steve H will show Abby the weir north of the north bridge in the Bull Creek which the city doesn't have the staff to clean out.

### **Continuing Business:**

Update on developing Master Plan/Vision Plan Project for Sepulveda Basin: (Council Files 20-1205 and 20-1205-S1 (SMM Conservancy grant) and related Council File 22-0002-S9 (State Budget funding). Pat emphasized that there has been no community interaction. The neighborhood council and the communities near the basin are in the dark. Unfair to the community! There should have been robust community involvement well before now. There should be outreach to the

surrounding communities. County told her that the Bull Creek weir is their area and that it's very hard to clean out. Our organizations should all read info on the links in the chat and weigh in with our elected officials where our interests are involved.

Weed Removal, Controlled Burns, etc.: No updates. 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday habitat restorations by CNPS and FoLAR continue. Lots of beautiful wildflowers are in bloom.

Steve was told that Street Services is closing Woodley for resurfacing for 2 weeks, which may affect Saturday weeding. Nobody has information about it.

Events Calendar: Brian hopes to get the calendar in about 2 weeks. He's been trying to get it. RAP is trying to ramp up staffing.

Education Programs: RCD is bringing many school kids to SBWR, largely through April.

2028 Summer Olympics Facilities: Encino NC may hold a Town Hall late April or late May. The cricket association may be considering another field for the "overflow parking" area between SBWR and Woodley II.

Member Organizations:

\*Typically, we have a walkthrough in May. We may still be meeting virtually which will make it difficult to do a walkthrough the same day as a meeting. Perhaps better to do the walkthrough April 26 instead. Any particular location to include? Discussion inconclusive. Meet at amphitheater 5PM?

\*Chatsworth Nature Preserve Open House Sat 4/23.

\*LBNC Sat 5/14 emergency preparedness event.

Public Comment: none.

Next Meeting: Will be Tuesday 5/24, unknown whether zoom or in person. May need to be in person because Brown Act suspension allowing us to meet virtually may end April 1. If in person it will likely be at the Balboa Sports Center. Walkthrough 4/26.

Meeting adjourned 9:27PM.

Submitted by

Muriel S. Kotin, SFVAS Representative to SBWASC

The Chat:

00:17:25 Amanda Thompson: agt4design@sbcglobal.net  
00:17:54 Joe Phillips: Joe Phillips, Sierra Club Angeles Chapter here  
00:19:19 Nurit Katz: hi!  
00:29:41 Antoine Kunsch - RCD of the Santa Monica Mountains: hit tab  
00:29:44 Brian Yamasaki Yamasaki: Brian. Yamasaki from Rec and parks is here  
00:30:19 Richard Davis: Richard and Marianne Davis, SFVAS, here  
00:37:03 Glenn Bailey RCDSMM: Link to sign in again:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UPE9\\_QfCbx-dkNamVVVyOretyVhjmwJ8GDg6IUL8lq0/edit?usp=drivesdk](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UPE9_QfCbx-dkNamVVVyOretyVhjmwJ8GDg6IUL8lq0/edit?usp=drivesdk)  
 00:37:27 Glenn Bailey RCDSMM: Link to tonight's agenda:  
<https://sepulvedabasinwildlife.org/pdf/Sepulveda%20Basin%20WASC%20Agenda%2022.03.22.pdf>  
 00:39:26 Tessa Charnofsky: Supervisor Kuehl's Discretionary grants link. Due date is April 1st: <https://supervisorkuehl.com/grants/>  
 00:57:34 Patricia Bates: <https://navigatela.lacity.org/navigatela/> need training!!  
 01:10:23 Kira Durbin: Park Rangers 323-644-6661  
 01:15:58 Melanie Winter: From Sherman's website: The funding would be used for a community room and ranger station with public restrooms and are part of a larger, 30-acre project that will include construction of four multi-purpose sports fields, lighting, irrigation, stadium/bleacher seating, concessions, paths, native landscaping, and active transportation connections to the Orange Line and National Park Service trail system (designated along LA River) to accommodate expanded public recreational use on approximately 30 acres west of the existing Sepulveda Basin Sports Complex.  
 01:42:40 Patricia Bates: Interesting on Sherman's website - Secret Ranger Station?  
 01:59:11 Antoine Kunsch - RCD of the Santa Monica Mountains: I would be interested to chat about getting native plants to homeowners in the SMM (different grant project than the one discussed) - [akunsch@rcdsmm.org](mailto:akunsch@rcdsmm.org) :)  
 01:59:28 Jack Smith: Sounds great!  
 02:10:43 Melanie Winter: CalMatters OpEd: <https://calmatters.org/commentary/2022/03/reimagining-the-sepulveda-basin-into-a-grand-park-in-los-angeles/>  
 02:11:05 Melanie Winter: <https://www.theriverproject.org/sepulveda-basin-es>  
 02:12:30 Melanie Winter: <https://theriverproject.app.box.com/file/933403610733?s=dy744b9j6w6bpbalmgjs8wp784wlxzcs>  
 02:25:18 Muriel Kotin: Cleanup Flyer: [sfvaudubon.org](http://sfvaudubon.org)  
 02:25:36 Barbara H: <https://www.sfvaudubon.org/events/haskell-creek-cleanup-2/>  
 02:25:53 Barbara H: there you go for a link, Muriel  
 02:27:26 Abby Fuirst - OVERDUE: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/Encino,+CA+91316/@34.1795769,-118.501096,18z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x80c299c4fdc4f487:0x943aaf7190486de9!8m2!3d34.1801121!4d-118.5005812>  
 02:28:13 Patricia Bates: A lot of the stuff ending up in the river is from storm drains or encampments,  
 02:28:42 Abby Fuirst - OVERDUE: [lariver@itisovertime.com](mailto:lariver@itisovertime.com)  
 02:29:28 Patricia Bates: I think that weir on bull Creek is county  
 02:30:03 Patricia Bates: The County clears from Victory down to the Weir  
 02:30:32 Robert Moreno: Abby,  
 02:30:43 Dennis Mabasa (they/them): Abby—if you have questions about La River cleanups, feel free to reach out to me. [Dennis@folar.org](mailto:Dennis@folar.org)  
 02:31:59 Robert Moreno: Thank you for your efforts in trash collection. Please send me your proposal. [robert.moreno@usace.army.mil](mailto:robert.moreno@usace.army.mil)  
 02:43:56 Patricia Bates: Someone needs to contact CD 6 about the Woodley mess!  
 02:48:49 R. Doxsee, LBNC: I can contact CD6 regarding Woodley resurfacing.  
 02:49:02 Patricia Bates: It is amazing there !!  
 02:51:11 Terrie brady: 2028  
 02:52:50 Kira Durbin: where are the wildflowers ?

02:58:43 Muriel Kotin: Ruth, it would be very helpful if you let me know what you learn about the resurfacing!  
02:59:42 Patricia Bates: can the walk thru be before the meeting?

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Email received during meeting and discussed briefly:

Please know that Congressman Brad Sherman and Mayor Eric Garcetti will be announcing the dedication of \$3 million dollars in federal funding towards the construction of a Community Room and Ranger Station in the Sepulveda Basin tomorrow (3/23) afternoon at 4:00 p.m.

We would love it if you could join.

Here are the key details:

What: Announcement of \$3 million in federal funds for Sepulveda Basin Community Room

When: Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 4:00pm

Where: Sepulveda Basin Sports Complex, 6201 Balboa Boulevard, Encino, CA 91316

**Sepulveda Basin Community Room – City of Los Angeles**

**Amount: \$3,000,000**

The funding would be used for a community room and ranger station with public restrooms and are part of a larger, 30-acre project that will include construction of four multi-purpose sports fields, lighting, irrigation, stadium/bleacher seating, concessions, paths, native landscaping, and active transportation connections to the Metro G (formerly Orange) Line and National Park Service trail system (designated along LA River) to accommodate expanded public recreational use on approximately 30 acres west of the existing Sepulveda Basin Sports Complex.

Please let me know if there is anything else that you need.

Regards,

John Alford  
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