

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Meeting Feb 23, 2021 – Approved Minutes

The meeting was via Zoom and recorded. Called to order at 6:31 by Chair Nurit Katz. A Google sign-in was available to sign on-line. Voting members attending: Glenn Bailey, Terrie Brady, Nurit Katz, Muriel Kotin, George Waddell — a quorum. Later Shelly Backlar and Melanie Winter. Non-voting members and alternates: Pat Bates, Robert Buenrostro, Ruth Doxsee, Barbara Heidemann, Kelly Kazmirchuk, and Mark Osokow. Guests: Linda Babcock, Rachel Burnap, Alice Charkhchyan, Tessa Charnofsky, Kira Durbin, Jonah Glickman, Linda Gravani, Bill Neill, and Richard Rachman. Minutes of the January 2021 meeting were approved as submitted.

Reports from Governmental Agencies:

Supervisor Kuehl's Office: Tessa Charnofsky gave an optimistic report on Covid situation. Discretionary grants are made twice annually. They must be located in the district and be for items or pilot projects. April 1 deadline to apply for this round. The link is in chat.

Goat Grazing & Weeds: Robert Buenrostro sent Bill Neill's email about goats & herbicides to upper management. Email address of general manager should be in Cc sent to committee of his transmittal. Why are there orange traffic cones at locations in WR? Unknown. Robert will ask further. It may not be the work of RAP. There were some RAP barricades placed near the cricket field where there was some illegal dumping. Jerry Haro said the barricades do not come from the city park rangers. Graffiti has been removed. Trying to get new plastic covering on informational signs — old ones very deteriorated and opaque. Fewer fishermen now that there is new signage. Less parking on the grass — rangers are enforcing with warnings. Regarding sandbags, the north bridge has a sandbag over a hole in the planks.

CD-6: Jonah Glickman reported they're hosting popup vaccination clinics for seniors and healthcare workers.

Election of a Vice Chair: Perhaps the representative of the organization that is next up in sequence. (Continued until later.)

Reports from Member Organizations:

*CNPS (George) has new volunteers weeding. They are planting additional new plants.

*RCD (Kelly) doing virtual lessons on nature and neighborhood observations. Rachel Burnap on invasive shot hole borer training. Training coming up in May 18, likely online, after online training. May 25 individual surveys, followed by an office hour for questions. UCANR may be doing March trainings also. ISHB.org website.

Goat Grazing for Weed Removal (Cont): Pat attended the RAP Commission meeting last week and asked them to look into it. Sent them a letter as well. LBNC has voted to support and wrote to CD-6 and RAP. Encino NC has an item on their agenda for tomorrow night regarding

pushing for the grazing. What about the lack of rain; how much will the mustard grow? It is numerous. Bill: control of mustard between the path and Woodley Ave could be done by herbicide, otherwise repeated mowing by RAP there. What about nesting season? Perhaps the western half of the west field could be mowed leaving a 500 ft buffer from Least Bell's Vireo nest area. Ongoing surveys would be needed. Mark is gathering information.

Boat Ramp Graffiti. Thanks to RAP for responding quickly. Damage over \$3500. Almost all graffiti removed. Trying to get new signage covers. Perps not found. Probably happened Sunday night.

Unhoused Resident Guerrilla Gardener: Angel has lived in the WR for years and is undoing volunteer efforts. Pat has reported him to LAHSA. Encamped in an oak grove at the SW corner of the cricket fields. Photos of him in action would be helpful. There is a tent in the WR near Burbank Blvd west of Haskell Creek, perhaps two. Unhoused people are coming back. A lot of encampments are popping up so of Burbank, especially in the bamboos. CD-6 is working with LASHA on that. Richard might be able to engage Angel with the CSUN food garden.

Dogs and Signage: Is RAP printing up our new signs? The order is in the shop. Ordered 10 signs. Pat is thinking of a video about why a WR in English and Spanish. Hopefully we can get the place functioning.

Should we let people to continue to walk their dogs west of the creek for now, focusing on the east/lake side? Discussion on both sides.

Suggestion: a QR code with information about the WR to download on phones.

Vice-Chair, continued: Shelly and Melanie are now present and would prefer Glenn. Folar would consider next year, even chairing. Or being Vice-chair with Glenn supporting her.

Unanimous agreement: **Shelly Backlar is Vice Chair.**

Public Comment:

*Kira is concerned about the trash in the LAR and massive waste of water. Shelly is working on a program for trash pickup in areas where there are homeless people. At a meeting on the LA masterplan tonight the same subject came up. Jonah will connect with Shelly about trash pickups as CD-6 is working on it. Incredible amount of trash between Burbank and Balboa.

*Broken fencing is allowing people to enter all parts of the reserve. Some of the fencing will be replaced along Woodley by RAP. Robert isn't sure where they're at on the area between the natural area and amphitheater lawn.

*Alice Charkhchyan is eager to volunteer. She just completed law school and was admitted to the Bar.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29. The Chat and Sign-in are below.

Submitted by

Muriel S. Kotin

SFVAS Representative to the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee

18:31:57 From NURIT KATZ : All, please sign in via the sign in sheet:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UPE9_QfCbx-dkNamVVVyOretyVhjmWJ8GDg6IUL8lq0/edit?usp=sharing

18:35:24 From Terrie brady : the google doc is filled in and does nt have sierra club. i did not sign last month

18:40:04 From Tessa Charnofsky : <https://supervisorkuehl.com/grants/>

18:40:23 From Tessa Charnofsky : Link to discretionary grant application. Deadline is April 1st.

18:40:46 From Kelly Kazmirchuk - RCDSMM : Thanks Tessa!

18:46:38 From NURIT KATZ : for anyone who signed in after I shared the link here's the link to the sign in document: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UPE9_QfCbx-dkNamVVVyOretyVhjmWJ8GDg6IUL8lq0/edit?usp=sharing

19:15:25 From NURIT KATZ : <https://ishb.org>

19:17:03 From Kelly Kazmirchuk - RCDSMM : <https://www.rcdsmm.org/resources/caring-for-your-oak-trees/>

19:17:12 From Richard Rachman : If folks need help with iNaturalist, feel free to set up a Zoom appointment with me. Totally don't mind.

19:18:52 From ACWM - Rachel Burnap : rburnap@acwm.lacounty.gov

19:19:20 From ACWM - Rachel Burnap : There is also a replay of the online training done last November, the most recent one

19:19:54 From ACWM - Rachel Burnap : Thank you everyone for your hard work! We are so lucky to live in such a beautiful and special place

19:20:37 From Kelly Kazmirchuk - RCDSMM : Here's the link to the recording of the November Bad Beetle training - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mEXqZzr0YuA&feature=youtu.be>

19:24:29 From Patricia Bates : huge amount of thistle in big field

19:29:18 From Ruth Doxsee, LBNC : So, plenty of food for goats?

19:36:06 From Barb H : In the party spots, under the signage, there were fires being set.

19:49:47 From Barb H : The old link to the news clip after the fire still works. If you need to see him, check here: https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/one-dead-one-in-custody-in-sepulveda-basin-fire/2425962/?_osource=db_npd_nbc_knbc_eml_shr

20:05:55 From George Waddell : There needs to be a strong visual demarcation of the limits of the Wildlife Area if we want folks to understand that it is a different place.

20:06:12 From Shelly Backlar : Good point George

20:06:22 From Shelly Backlar : A QR code

20:07:00 From Kira Durbin ShermanOaks Green&Sustainability : I would appreciate that George — I'm a newbie but people are already asking me a lot of good questions because they care — and people like an easy visual like a map

20:07:35 From Shelly Backlar : I also agree with you, Kira

20:08:47 From Barb H : There used to be a nice map on the end of the restroom building, but it was badly damaged by repeated graffiti.

20:08:50 From Shelly Backlar : Great idea!

20:19:29 From George Waddell : As I recall—2020 Sierra Club Joe Phillips, 2019 CNPS George W, 2018 Sierra Club Theresa B, 2017 RCD Glenn Bailey

20:27:51 From Shelly Backlar : Nice to meet you Alice

20:28:53 From Kira Durbin ShermanOaks Green&Sustainability : Welcome Alice !!

20:29:14 From Alice Charkhchyan : Thank you! Nice to meet you all too :) !

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Meeting sign in sheet (rolling document)

Meeting Date: February 23rd, 2021

Organization/affiliation	Name	Email (if you are not already on the list)
Army Corps of Engineers	Linda Babcock	Linda.C.Babcock@USACE.ARMY.MIL
California Native Plant Society	George Waddell	
Friends of the LA River		
Los Angeles Audubon Society		
Los Angeles City Department of Parks and Recreation		
Resource Conservation District	Glenn Bailey, Kelly Kazmirchuk	GlennBaileyNCs@gmail.com
San Fernando Valley Audubon Society	Muriel Kotin	Mark Osokow
Encino Neighborhood Council	Pat Bates	
CNPS representative	Richard Rachman	
Office of LA County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl	Tessa Charnofsky	
Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council	Ruth Doxsee	
The River Project	Melanie Winter	
Guest/Lake Balboa NC	Linda Gravani	
CNPS chapter	Bill Neill	
LA Audubon		
Office of Council President Nury Martinez		
Army Corps of Engineers		
San Fernando Valley Audubon Society + Biocitizen Los Angeles		

Guest / Sherman Oaks Green & Sustainability	Kira Durbin	caliginger13@gmail.com
San fernando valley sierra club	terriebrady	sfvscsepbasin@gmail.com