

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Meeting April 27, 2021 -- Approved Minutes

Meeting was by Zoom. Chair Nurit Katz called it to order at 6:35PM. The recording of it may be seen at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oclVDE8Qlvrbmq5hLEE3KR9UIUZeoS1t/view>.

Voting members: Glenn Bailey, Terrie Brady, Nurit Katz, Muriel Kotin, George Waddell, and (at 6:58) Melanie Winter. Non-voting members and alternates: Pat Bates, Ruth Doxsee, Barb Heidemann, Bill Neill, and Mark Osokow. Guests: Anne Abramson, Joey Algiers, Linda Babcock, Shelly Backlar, Robert Buenrostro, Steve Dunlap, Kira Durbin, Jonah Glickman, Jesse Mauck, and Jon Rishi. Shelly is no longer representing FoLAR so must resign as Vice Chair. She has asked FoLAR to nominate and send a new representative in the future. Minutes of March 2021 were approved unanimously as provided.

Governmental Agencies:

Tessa Charnofsky for County Supervisor Kuehl: Shothole borer training for homeowners, spread the word May 3 and 10. Flyer is in message below from Nurit to distribute to the committee.

Jon Rishi, ACOE: A biologist will be doing biodiversity survey May 10 -15. They have applied to RAP for right of entry permit to launch boat for turtle survey.

Jonah Glickman, CD-6: Project Roomkey is being resumed and working to bringing residents of the basin indoors. Council File 20-1205 - masterplan. It's being discussed in the mayor's budget. He hopes to have more updates for our next regular meeting. Working with LAFD for a possible pilot vegetative management plan for an area outside the reserve, possibly the model airplane field.

Organizations:

- **CNPS** is having great progress with 4th Sat weeding. May increase the number of weedings.
- **SFVAS** is gradually starting to bring more visitors to reserve. Haskell Creek Cleanup sponsored with FoLAR Saturday June 19. CD-6 cleanup of Bull Creek June 12 and South Reserve on June 26 with FoLAR.
- **Sierra Club SFV Group:** Terrie recommended a film about the SSFL cleanup, "In the dark of the valley." Link in Chat.
- **The River Project:** Any info on the Nike missile site near Victory? There are 2 sites near Orange Line. One appears to be unused. It's an old Air National Guard base. Pat Bates has been suggesting the site for a tiny house village, safe camping, or other site to house homeless. She's been in touch with the state legislators about it, not with the National Guard.

Weed Control:

(Bill Neill commented that RAP has apparently determined they will not allow any herbicide use in city parks.)

Presentation by Joseph (Joey) Algiers, National Park Service, restoration ecologist for SMMNRA. Invasive weed control is the hardest part of restoration. Chemical treatment is the most effective and the approach they use the most. Other approaches they use are manual treatment by hand or tools and mechanical with large equipment, mainly pre-planting. Spot spraying is primarily used, rarely broadcast spraying. They use herbicides cautiously and carefully as the only feasible method with some species, mainly perennials. Some annual species like some mustards are dealt with only when they're in sensitive locations. Weed infestations do not rebound very strongly after wildfires where they have been previously treated. The Evil 25 weeds were put in chat and links to pertinent web info may be found later in these minutes. The herbicides they use are at the lowest level of concern. Their residual varies with the herbicide. The main concern is with it getting into waterways. They don't spray over waterways but use water safe herbicides when they spray near waterways. 75% of acreage is treated chemically, the rest is manual or mechanical. The invasives can alter ecosystems, create new fire regimes, have other negative impacts. Mechanical can be tractor where native shrubs are widely spaced, otherwise stand behind smaller mowers. Brush cutter, like a weed whip but a metal blade. Goats are effective but expensive. Problem that they eat the native species too.

Presentation by Bill Neill on 20 Years of Controlling Perennial Weeds and Exotic Trees at SBWR, including non-herbicide methods: Bill has been a contractor in SBWR since 2000 in various capacities.

- Castor Bean: there are small trees currently along Haskell Creek and seedlings next to the lake. They can be hand pulled.
- African Umbrella sedge: Some along Haskell Creek. Possibly they can be pulled out. With approval, he'd use herbicide approved for water.
- Tropical/Shamel ash: cut stem, cover stump with black tarp. Current ones are resprouts after fire — probably fewer than 10 trees due to past control work.
- Chinese Elm: there's a grove along creek now. He would cut stems w/ park staff and cover w/ tarp.
- Passion Vine smothers trees. There are a few plants so of N Bridge that can probably be dug out and 3 large infestations south of South Bridge.
- Wild Fennel: there are plants in the west field that survived earlier treatment and then the fire. Most are quite small, around 80 plants that can be pulled or dug out. Horehound: Some survived the fire and there are some large ones in SW quarter of West Field. Still abundant in unburned SE corner of E Field. Hand-pull it.
- Tocalote: sparse seedlings that can be hand pulled following past years of control.
- Harding Grass: See Freemontia issue on SBWR. Areas near the creek (west of creek between footpath and creek near south end) might be pulled by hand. In SW corner of West Field it may be too dense.
- Mustard could possibly be controlled by goats next year if we get permission.
- See "Freemontia" Oct 1988 in Google Drive folder, article: "Role of Herbicides in Preserving Biodiversity."
- Restoration plan is thus far informal.
- Muriel will organize a weeds tour led by Bill.
- What about Poison Hemlock which is toxic? It's a biennial that can be wilted overnight by Garlon. Without herbicide available, Bill would treat it as an annual: cut it and keep it from flowering, possibly with a brushcutter.

- Could CSUN students map the weeds as part of a student GIS project? Or possibly UCLA? We need a weed control plan before a planting plan.

Forestry is still working on their IPM plan.

A professional planting and landscape plan suggested, including for path east of lake.

Goat Grazing Update: There has been no approval yet and the neighborhood council grant did not go through for technical reasons. It's too late for a larger area, but CNPS would pay for a smaller area which might still be feasible this spring..

Public Comment: none.

Appointing a new Vice Chair for next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:41PM.

Email with relevant information from Nurit Katz and meeting Chat are below.

Submitted by

Muriel S. Kotin
Member Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee

From: Katz, Nurit
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 9:40 AM
Subject: Follow-up and resources from April SBWASC

Thank you for those who were able to attend the April meeting focused on weed management and Integrated Pest Management at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas. A special thank you to our presenters, Bill Neill and Joey Algiers, and to everyone for a thoughtful discussion. For those who were unable to attend, here is the [meeting recording](#) and here are [Bill's slides: 20 Years of Controlling Perennial Weeds and Exotic Trees at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve](#).

Here are the resources Joey shared:

- [2017-10 Invasive Plant Management Plan/Environmental Assessment](#)
- [Invasive Plants in the Santa Monica Mountains, including the Evil 25](#)
- [Santa Monica Mountains Wildflowers](#)
- [CA Invasive Plant Council](#)
- [Book: Weed Control in Natural Areas in the Western United States](#)

Also, Glenn shared the link to the Council File on the Master Plan: Council File 20-1205 on the Council File Management

System: <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=20-1205>

And below and attached is the information about the Shot Hole Borer training for residents shared by Tessa. Please share with your networks.

Protect Your Trees from the Invasive Shot Hole Borer Beetle

The non-native, Invasive Shothole Borer (ISHB) is found throughout Los Angeles and Ventura Counties and is killing numbers of native and non-native trees. Are they in your backyard trees and neighborhood parks?

Made for homeowners in the Santa Monica Mountains, this easy, online, and one-hour training will teach you what to look for in your trees and steps you can take to prevent the beetles from spreading. The same training will be offered twice. To learn more NOW, go to ISHB.org.

Please join us on **May 3rd from 2pm to 3pm** and **May 10th from 2pm to 3pm**. Both dates will consist of the same information.

For the May 3rd training, please click [here](#). For the May 10th training, please click [here](#).

Tessa Charnofsky, MSW, MPA

District Director

West Valley/Mountain Communities Field Office
26600 Agoura Rd, Ste 100, Calabasas, CA 91302

O: 818-880-9416

C: 213-590-4391

[Web/Facebook/Twitter](#)



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Discretionary Grant Application: <https://supervisorkuehl.com/grants/>

CHAT FROM MEETING:

18:38:55 From Shelly Perry Backlar : I'm no longer representing FoLAR, and I've asked the org to nominate and send a new representative in the future.

18:45:19 From NURIT KATZ : Council File 20-1205

18:48:32 From Jonah Glickman CD6 : Here is my email contact:

Jonah.glickman@lacity.org

18:50:39 From Glenn Bailey : Recreation and Parks budget will be considered by the City Council Budget & Finance Committee on THURSDAY.

Here an excerpt from their agenda: THURSDAY " APRIL 29, 2021

9:00 a.m.

ITEM NO. (1) - Consideration of the Mayor's 2021-22 Proposed Budget, including:

Police Department

Economic and Workforce Development Department

Fire Department

Cannabis Regulation Department

Planning Department

Building and Safety

Recreation and Parks

Department of Aging

Department on Disability

18:54:14 From Glenn Bailey : Here is the link to Council File 20-1205 on the Council File Management System:
<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=20-1205>

18:56:45 From NURIT KATZ : Sign in sheet:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UPE9_QfCbx-dkNamVVVyOretyVhjmWJ8GDg6IUL8lq0/edit?usp=sharing

18:58:21 From NURIT KATZ : In the Dark of the Valley:
<https://www.clevelandfilm.org/films/2021/in-the-dark-of-the-valley>

18:59:36 From Terrie brady : having trouble understanding melanie

19:00:41 From Jesse Mauck : she is pretty clear to me, just a little crunchy background noise.

19:00:48 From Patricia Bates : Encino NC is very active in the Basin - Jonah has mentioned. We also have a motion regarding the Mulholland Design Review Board issue with City Planning. Thank you to Linda Babcock from US ACE for helping plan and do cleanups in South reserve

19:03:50 From Patricia Bates : Nothing in the Basin will ever be housing...

19:04:14 From Glenn Bailey : This is not an agendized item so should not be discussed

19:05:58 From Glenn Bailey : That Chat was regarding the Nike facility

19:07:01 From Patricia Bates : Thank you Glenn, I am glad to discuss separately

19:08:20 From Terrie brady : i thought discussion was ok just not a vote

19:09:01 From Terrie brady : regarding glenns comment

19:09:35 From NURIT KATZ : @Terrie, I think he meant that the parking lot item wasn't on the agenda and we shouldn't get too far in discussion since we had other items on the agenda

19:10:14 From Glenn Bailey : @TERRIE: Items being DISCUSSED, as opposed to our organizational reports which are not, need to be agendized.

19:10:55 From Terrie brady : ok

19:11:41 From Terrie brady : imeant that at glenn

19:14:21 From Glenn Bailey : To review the provisions of the Brown Act, a portion of the California Government Code which applies to the WASC meetings, visit this link:
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?division=2.&chapter=9.&part=1.&lawCode=GOV&title=5.

19:15:19 From NURIT KATZ : This page has the evil 25 on it:
<https://www.nps.gov/samo/learn/management/invasive-plants.htm>

19:16:10 From NURIT KATZ to Joey Algiers(Direct Message) : you froze, we cant see or hear you

19:20:40 From NURIT KATZ : <https://www.smmflowers.org/>

19:21:02 From NURIT KATZ : <https://www.cal-ipc.org/>

19:22:26 From NURIT KATZ : <https://www.cal-ipc.org/product/weed-control-in-natural-areas-in-the-western-united-states/>

19:44:41 From George Waddell : A little math says the solstice volunteer needs about 40 hours to treat one acre.

19:56:16 From Joey Algiers : Here is the link to the EA

19:56:21 From Joey Algiers :
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=341&projectID=44351&documentID=83505>

20:19:15 From Patricia Bates Encino NC : Thank you Bill, very informative.

20:23:04 From Terrie brady : with loppers in hand

20:24:55 From Glenn Bailey : Just a reminder, pre-COVID-19, the WASC scheduled walk throughs at various Sepulveda Basin locations prior to its May and September meetings

20:28:30 From Patricia Bates Encino NC : Thank you - next month a weed tour?

20:28:51 From Mark Osokow, San Fernando Valley Audubon : Some high resolution aerial photography could help with mapping.

20:34:14 From Shelly Perry Backlar : Oh yea. Mia would be great. Mia and Melanie have history and both Mia and Irma want to know more about what Melanie is doing in the Basin with the funds she received.

20:37:22 From Kira Durbin : bummer i was really hoping for the goats

20:41:14 From Ruth Doxsee, LBNC : Thank you to everyone. Great presentation, Bill! Good to hear goats could still happen.