**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee**

**Meeting November 22, 2022 -- Approved Minutes**

Melanie Winter chaired the meeting which was called to order shortly after 6:30PM. A quorum was established. The meeting was virtual and recorded. Voting members attending were Glenn Bailey, Terrie Brady, Nurit Katz, Muriel Kotin, Mireya Valencia, George Waddell (late arrival), and Melanie Winter. Non-voting members were Pat Bates, Ruth Doxsee, Brian Yamasaki. Non-voting alternates and guests were Anne Abramson, Dan Cooper, Barb Heidemann, Isabella Isles (RCD), Jesse Mauck, Bill Neill, Mark Osokow, Gregory Stewart, Clark Stevens, Amanda Thompson, and Diana Weynand.

Minutes of 9/22/22 were corrected to show that David Troy attended for Valley Group Sierra Club and approved without opposition.

**Government Agencies**:

\***Rangers**: Jesse Mauck reported he walked the Wildlife Reserve with Ranger Jerry Haro for an hour today. They are aware of the burned RV near the restrooms and are trying to get it removed. 2 homeless individuals were living in it. Fencing going in. Multiple fires were being set on 10/17/22. Suspect set 12 fires. LAFD identified the suspect at Woodley and Victory. Jesse arrested him. Suspect is apparently still incarcerated while awaiting trial. Rangers are issuing citations for parking on the lawn. Trying to get more security officers in the mornings to cut down on the problem. Difficulty in enforcement is the number of scofflaws and the issue of safety for rangers when they’re vastly outnumbered.

A Senior Lead Officer (SLO) has been named: Mike Terazza. He and Jesse have communicated. A walkthrough of rangers and SLO might be helpful. Melanie will add Mike Terazza to distribution list.

**\*Recreation and Parks**: Brian reported that fencing is finally in process. Hopefully it will be complete before Christmas. Trying to get a commitment from Forestry to get dead material cleared over the next few months. RAP’s Construction Dept has reached out to Engineering about the sinking Viewing Area 3. Brian will try to find out who is lake manager. Working more with Sanitation on getting the lake level lower. Will follow up with plumbing regarding the restrooms, etc., including the archery range. Planting in lawn? Leon Boroditsky will be back in town next week, then Brian will contact him. Discussion ensued that sycamores recover from shot hole borers, as do oaks. Sycamores might be best bet in the lawn given the frequency of irrigation. Oaks perhaps upslope — or inside the natural area where there is no irrigated lawn. Alders too? A lot of positive recommendations for sycamores. Great wildlife value.

**RCD Planning Process For Wildfire Resilient Habitat Plan**: Clark Stevens, Dan Cooper, and Isabella Isles reported on the RCD’s Cal Fire Grant, including SB and including socially vulnerable communities. UCLA Practicum Project a part of their study. It considers The River Project’s SB Restoration Feasibility Report. Urban-parkland interface and sites of multiple fires need to be mapped. Fencing and signage to keep out vehicles and encampments and avoid intentional and accidental ignition. Design workshop 1 needs a decision on a date and time. ACOE has reached out to RCD for a plan for South Reserve. “Gateway to LA River.” RCD should have something by June.

**Goat Project**: LAFD Captain Wade White recently indicated there is a captain who runs the brush clearance. There is a steering committee he works with. Maybe he might be an entrée to further use of goats.

**CalFlora Weed Management Program in SB**: Nobody available from CalFlora tonight. Nurit explained that city is working with CALFLORA to get on the platform which is for mapping and managing invasives.

**LASAN/Climate Action Corps Volunteer Planting & Weeding Project**: Confusion as to how this Biodiversity Project fits in with anything. Departments are not communicating with each other. This Steering Committee might step in and take leadership to address these disconnects.

**Discussion of Possibly Allowing NC’s to Be Voting Members**: Next meeting.

**Sepulveda Basin “Vision” Plan and Contract C-129657**: Why are we not seeing a new master plan from ACOE? Plan for controlling invasive species? Lots of personnel changes in LA ACOE. Koretz made a motion today for RAP, City Attorney, etc to report back on deals with Rams or other entities. It will go to Arts, Parks… Committee, chaired by Lee. Doesn’t mention the contract with GeoSyntec. Board of Public Works approved the contract.

**Motion**:

Due to the secrecy involved in scoping and development of the proposal to create a Sepulveda Basin “Vision Plan” proposed by Councilmember Martinez, and the complete lack of community consultation or engagement, the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee recommends that the [“Vision Plan” and  Contract C-129657](https://www.encinonc.org/assets/documents/8/meeting6377ee0473e12.pdf) in the authorized amount of $2,339,654 awarded to Geosyntec, Inc. on November 18, 2022 by the Board of Public Works be rescinded.

The above-referenced contract was set in motion by  [Council File 20-1205](https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=20-1205): (Martinez - O'Farrell) regarding developing a master plan for the Sepulveda Basin. See also [Council File 22-0002-S9](https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2022/22-0002-S9_misc_2-02-22.pdf), [grant proposal](https://www.encinonc.org/assets/documents/8/meeting636ac7d862e5b.pdf) submitted to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy ($950,000) and  [2022-2023 Los Angeles City Budget](https://cao.lacity.org/budget22-23/2022-23%20White%20Book%20-%20Volume%202.pdf) page 830 including $2,500,000 for the [Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan](https://www.encinonc.org/assets/documents/8/meeting636ac77a23835.pdf).

The motion introduced in City Council on November 22, 2022 by Councilmember Koretz regarding the LA Rams and LA28, should be amended to investigate the development of the Task Order Solicitation and the selection of the consultant.

Moved: Kotin. Second: Bailey. 5 yeses. No other votes, only 5 voting members being present. **Motion passes.**

**Public Comment**: Forty organizations have signed on to a resolution supporting natural solutions for re-envisioning the SB.

**2023 Committee Chair**: Not on the agenda. Proposed as a January item. In the meantime, Melanie will chair Jan 2023.

Meeting adjourned 9:40.

Chat from meeting follows.

Submitted by

Muriel S. Kotin, Member SBWASC

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**The Chat:**

18:46:01 From Barb Heidemann SFVAS To Everyone:

 Ranger Mauck, thank you again for helping us with the loud Zumba group.

18:49:03 From Dan Cooper To Everyone:

 (Not sure I’m allowed to post here). There’s no sign saying “don’t park on the grass”. There’s also no rope fence or any indication that you can’t do it.

18:50:11 From Muriel Kotin To Everyone:

 Dan, of course you're allowed to post. And signage is definitely an issue.

18:55:05 From Park Ranger Mauck To Everyone:

 LAPD Senior Lead Officer Michael Terrazas 34499@lapd.online

18:59:02 From Nurit Katz To Everyone:

 Alligator at Machado??

18:59:29 From Glenn Bailey To Everyone:

 Yep!

18:59:40 From Melanie Winter To Everyone:

 Reggie the alligator

19:00:04 From Gregory Stewart To Everyone:

 https://www.cbsnews.com/news/reggie-the-gator-finally-nabbed-in-la/

19:00:51 From Patricia Bates To Everyone:

 I saw Reggie today, he's looking great.

19:01:07 From Melanie Winter To Everyone:

 😂

19:02:11 From clark stevens, RCDSMM To Everyone:

 aka “Mr. October”

19:04:54 From Patricia Bates To Everyone:

 Seriously - we took the grandkids to LA zoo today - Regie is right at the entrance😀

19:05:49 From Melanie Winter To Everyone:

 That’s so cool, Pat!

19:08:29 From Mark O To Everyone:

 Trees also serve as wildlife habitat.

19:10:05 From Amanda Thompson To Everyone:

 reluctant because of what? I didn’t get what is attacking the trees…

19:10:20 From Melanie Winter To Everyone:

 Shot hole borer

19:10:26 From Amanda Thompson To Everyone:

 Thx

19:10:30 From R.Doxsee, Lake Balboa NC To Everyone:

 Shot Hole borer

19:11:05 From clark stevens, RCDSMM To Everyone:

 eats non native trees too. hence the name “polyphagous”

19:16:55 From Nurit Katz To Everyone:

 info on treatment in general: https://ucanr.edu/sites/pshb/management/

19:19:02 From Patricia Bates To Everyone:

 Great thing with Sycamores is we can enjoy soon.

19:29:53 From Melanie Winter To Everyone:

 We referenced this map set in our work.

19:30:47 From Melanie Winter To Everyone:

 Also just learned recently that RKO had a backlot at the Basin, and It’s a Wonderful Life was shot there!

19:37:51 From Glenn Bailey To Everyone:

 I am almost certain the referenced pipe fencing was installed when the bicycle path was built many years ago.

19:40:26 From Dan Cooper To Everyone:

 Melanie I’ll look up those scenes, thanks!

19:46:02 From Melanie Winter To Everyone:

 Emailed images I found to you, Dan.

19:47:09 From Patricia Bates To Everyone:

 any activities with replanting need to be protected....there have been instances of plants pulled out & killed. and going forward who is going to handle this? Whatever is going in should be sanctioned by city and USACE and protected including with the LA 28 plans.

19:51:38 From Patricia Bates To Everyone:

 Does USACE have a coordinated strategy with which group to work with going foreard? Does anyone know? they are not at this meeting.

19:54:16 From Amanda Thompson To Everyone:

 Is there any potential funding toward this design from the planned Olympic usage of parts of the Basin?

19:56:07 From Muriel Kotin To Everyone:

 Especially to RCD: Are you familiar with the Vegetative Management Plan for the S. Reserve from around 2012? There are alternatives suggested but not adopted for a seasonal wetland with water from Haskell Creek.

19:56:46 From Dan Cooper To Everyone:

 Muriel, Rosi is searching for a hard copy of that! Do you happen to have one? I can pick it up if so.

19:56:49 From clark stevens, RCDSMM To Everyone:

 thanks for the reminder muriel. im sure bella is taking note

19:57:12 From Muriel Kotin To Everyone:

 I think I have an electronic copy.

19:57:19 From Dan Cooper To Everyone:

 Thanks.

19:57:37 From Melanie Winter To Everyone:

 I think it’s on the SBWASC website - if not we have a digital copy

19:57:59 From Isabella Isles To Everyone:

 Noted

19:58:39 From clark stevens, RCDSMM To Everyone:

 all good we are in data collection phase for sure

19:59:20 From clark stevens, RCDSMM To Everyone:

 but editing and collating from SBWASC is very much appreciated to get us to the most critical items faster

20:00:08 From Dan Cooper To Everyone:

 Pat, great questions (I’ve had the same ones). To your question about USACE involvement, we would be including them in our workshops about alternatives and design elements. Ideally, all of our work would merge into what TRP/Melanie put forth in their feasibility report. Actual implementation is a separate process; we need a vision first.

20:00:53 From Barb Heidemann SFVAS To Everyone:

 For those older, planning doc, try here:

20:00:59 From Barb Heidemann SFVAS To Everyone:

 https://sepulvedabasinwildlife.org/publicdocs.html

20:04:18 From Patricia Bates To Everyone:

 Dan, I fear Nury's vision is shambling on- whatever it is.

20:05:15 From Glenn Bailey To Everyone:

 The Council File related to use of goats in City Parks is 22-0600-S61. No report back yet and still in Committee

20:09:19 From Dan Cooper To Everyone:

 Thanks all! (And for the website info - we’ll download those docs).

20:10:17 From Isabella Isles To Everyone:

 Nice to virtually meet you all. Looking forward to the coming work!

20:10:28 From Barb Heidemann SFVAS To Everyone:

 Protect them. Also water the baby plants for months.

20:12:55 From Melanie Winter To Everyone:

 Courtney McCammon

20:16:39 From clark stevens, RCDSMM To Everyone:

 dan is working with michelle barton on the biodiversity planning. there is nothing specific to the basin, but it will of course be of regional diversity/connectivity importance.

20:20:10 From Nurit Katz To Everyone:

 https://www.lacitysan.org/biodiversity

20:22:30 From Patricia Bates To Everyone:

 When can our Encino and Lake Balboa NCs have a voting voice on this body? Is it time to reconsider?

20:40:24 From Patricia Bates To Everyone:

 Council file #

20:43:11 From Patricia Bates To Everyone:

 It's an 'asset' like VNY

20:46:29 From Patricia Bates To Everyone:

 That motion sb waived out immediately!!!!!

20:56:05 From Patricia Bates To Everyone:

 Press???

20:59:59 From Glenn Bailey To Everyone:

 The WASC requests that the "item" be rescinded.

21:18:01 From Patricia Bates To Everyone:

 I took a pic

21:33:07 From Barb Heidemann SFVAS To Muriel Kotin(Privately):

 I texted you a pic of the Motion, if you need the wording.

21:33:09 From Amanda Thompson To Everyone:

 I need to look into how to become a voting member.

21:33:49 From R.Doxsee, Lake Balboa NC To Everyone:

 What agency are you with, Amanda?

21:34:46 From Nurit Katz To Everyone:

 Amanda, the members aren't individuals, they are non profit organizations, but thank you!

21:34:50 From Amanda Thompson To Everyone:

 I’m an individual, not with any agency.

21:36:18 From Glenn Bailey To Everyone:

 The voting members represent the organizations listing on the agenda (bottom of page 1 and top of Page 2). There are also two non-voting members from the two Neighborhood Councils.

21:37:29 From R.Doxsee, Lake Balboa NC To Everyone:

 We need a FoLAR rep, don't we?

21:38:14 From Glenn Bailey To Everyone:

 Mireya with FoLAR was in attendance earlier...

21:38:19 From R.Doxsee, Lake Balboa NC To Everyone:

 I have one announcement from LBNC.

21:39:30 From R.Doxsee, Lake Balboa NC To Everyone:

 folar sub