

SBWASC Meeting November 28, 2023
Approved Minutes

The meeting was held at the Encino Women's Club. Chair Melanie Winter called it to order at 6:35. A quorum was established. New park ranger Andrew Tresco introduced himself.

Attending were voting members Glenn Bailey, Theresa Brady, Kevin Jauregui, Nurit Katz, Muriel Kotin, Joe Philips, Greg Stewart, Melanie Winter. Non-voting members Pat Bates and Jim Stein. Guests Park Rangers Larry Khou, Andrea Deocampo, Andrew Tresco. Guests and non-voting alternates (remotely) Ruth Doxsee, Barb Heidemann.

(Emergency Mitigation Plan Survey was distributed by Glenn before call to order.)

October minutes were approved after correcting the next to last paragraph on first page to clarify that it is the ACOE updating of its Master Plan in which the SBWASC has not been involved.

Agenda: Should include discussion of next year's chair and vice chair.

Park Rangers: The valley rangers' primary assignments are Hansen Dam and Sepulveda Basin. Assignments may change in January. A lot of homeless encampment issues. Working with CD-6 now, deputies Christopher Hernandez and Rosie. They've been ticketing cars parked on the amphitheater lawn. Wayne Neal is working on replacing missing no parking signs. Discussion that parking should be OK along edge of roadways. Barriers are needed to make clear the distinction of where parking is permitted and not.

Rangers expect updates on kites in municipal codes. Pat suggests kites be banned entirely east of Balboa Blvd. She will draft and push for a ban for us and other organizations.

Nurit has requested Marcelino Ascencio to advise who contact about the collapsing viewing area, as well as the letter about the bike path location.

Discussion of a policy for LA City parks similar to the new one county parks recently adopted, where problem people can be banned from the park for up to a month. City Park Rangers are issuing administrative citations now to people who really deserve them. These are effective, as they're very expensive and hard to fight.

There will be no strategic planning meeting until Feb because of December holidays. We will not meet in December.

Controlled burn season is past, so it is a non-issue at the moment.

FoLAR/CNPS will lead a restoration event Dec 16 –including at least one school. SFVAS Christmas Bird Count is on the same day. CNPS has planted 30 plants recently and will plant more this Saturday and many other Saturdays in December – let Greg know if you wish to participate.

CNPS made a wish list. They'll send it to Muriel to become an addendum to these minutes. Sierra Club's Michael Stevenson died in late November. He was the program chair for the San Fernando Valley group of the Sierra Club Angeles chapter.

Vision Plan: Melanie reported that The River Project is disappointed in the Vision Plan's handling of the river. It is not process-based restoration. Riverine ecosystems not created for the river and its tributaries. The 8 miles of waterways should be treated as dynamic, living ecosystems. Unfortunately, climate adaptation is not a priority in the plan. Melanie feels the projects prioritized, except for vague upgrades to the Wildlife Reserve, are all Olympics-oriented things nobody has asked for, although the Olympic events are not acknowledged in the plan. Cricket may happen in the basin, shooting, flag football. Melanie may not be able to write formal comments due to health issues.

Next Committee Chair according to organization order is that the RCD should chair and the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter vice-chair. Melanie and Nurit will facilitate the January meeting and the committee will vote on chair positions at that meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55. Next meeting will be Tuesday Jan 23, 2024.

Submitted by

Muriel S. Kotin, SFVAS Representative to SBWASC

(CNPS's wish list provided by Greg Stewart follows, spread sheet format lost.)

1 Priority

(MHL)

Category Sub-category Area of Concern Suggested Resolution

2

Ecological

Integrity

Invasive

Species

Mustard

(*Hirschfeldia incana* et al.)

-this invasive species poisons the soil with chemicals that interfere with germination of native plants. It forms a monoculture that competes with Natives for resources and dries to form a fire supporting deep thatch every summer.

RESOLUTION—Remove mustard from all parts of the Wildlife Reserve. Must remove mustard seeds for three years to eliminate most seeds in soil

Tocaloté

(*Centaurea melitensis*)

-this invasive weed creates large rosettes that reduce habitat for native seedlings and competes for scarce resources. Its spiny seedheads make areas unfriendly to humans (esp weeders)

RESOLUTION—Remove tocaloté from all areas of the WR. If successful in removal for three years prevalence of tocaloté will be very low.

Evergreen Ash

(*Fraxinus uhdei*)

-this invasive tree grows quickly and much taller than native trees with a closed, evergreen canopy that creates a habitat desert beneath.

RESOLUTION-- remove evergreen ash from the Haskell Creek riparian corridor north of Wildlife Way and all the way to the LA River. Continue to remove evergreen ash within wildlife reserve as it recurs. This is a big job and requires heavy equipment and herbicide.

Passion Vine

(Passiflora incarnata)

-this invasive vine grows quickly and will quickly kill native willows and other Natives by smothering them. If one is allowed to become established animals readily spread its seeds.

RESOLUTION—remove passion vine from all locations within WR, particularly along Haskell Creek. Herbicide is necessary to kill this tenacious plant.

seemingly defeated

invasives

Castor bean, tobacco tree, fennel are three noxious weeds that have largely been eradicated from WR over the years. Due to flooding and human foot traffic they are continually being reintroduced.

RESOLUTION-- Ongoing inspection and rapid action to remove new infestations

Invasive bunch grasses

(smilo grass, Harding grass

et al.)

These grasses are fire hazards, and have the capability to dominate large areas if not controlled.

RESOLUTION—Small infestations can be removed by hand, but herbicide is the only way to effectively control these aggressive weeds.

Invasive

species

removal

techniques

endangered bird species Guidelines need to be developed to allow creek cleanup activities and weeding programs to

operate during the nesting season. An improved habitat will in the long run support more endangered birds than will be disadvantaged by judiciously planned and trained work parties during nesting season.

herbicide bans Many invasive plants cannot be effectively controlled without the use of herbicides. Habit restoration employs targeted well-timed application of small amounts by certified professionals. SC should advocate for a rational science based herbicide policy.

Mowing Mowing the East and West fields in the dry season reduces fire hazard but does little to interfere with invasive plants life cycle since they have already set seed by that time.

Mowing can be far more effective if its timing is coordinated to prevent seed-set.

Goats Goats function like mowing. Well-timed introduction of goats could markedly reduce ability of mustard etc. to set seed and then reduce fire hazard.

RAP barriers to use of goats should be removed.

Volunteers Volunteers are key to both maintaining wildlife areas and on a larger scale reclaiming larger areas for quality habitat. Additionally, volunteers make possible introduction of greater plant diversity by growing, planting and maintaining new plants.

Volunteer efforts should be supported as much as possible.

Ideally, there should be a paid-person coordinating volunteer efforts and educational programs at the WR.