

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

The meeting was recorded. (Link to the meeting recording for the March 23rd SBWASC meeting: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OATYPmVKeuy8wK0dWa6AXpcRAJbfRa-T/view?usp=sharing>). Nurit called meeting to order at 6:32PM. A quorum was established. Minutes of the February 23, 2021 meeting were approved after adding Barb Heidemann attending. Voting members present tonight: Shelly Backlar, Glenn Bailey, Theresa Brady, Nurit Katz, Muriel Kotin, George Waddell, and Melanie Winter. Non-voting members and alternates were Pat Bates, Robert Buenrostro, Ruth Doxsee, Margot Griswold, Barb Heidemann, Kelly Kazmirchuk, Mark Osokow and David Troy. Guests were Anne Abramson, Tessa Charnofsky, Kira Durbin, Jonah Glickman, Jerry Haro, Robert Moreno, Bill Neill, Jeremy Saraie, and Richard Rachman.

CD-6, Jonah Glickman: Vaccination clinic for unhoused in the basin. He is looking for people to help with outreach. They're using J&J single-shot vaccine. He is working on a vegetative management plan for areas outside of the Wildlife Reserve. He will report on it next month.

Tessa Charnofsky: Report on COVID. LA County is doing well, but cases rising in many states. Nonprofits and businesses: more grants upcoming. April 1 is the discretionary grants deadline. Supervisor Kuehl is not getting involved in redistricting plans. She is not running for another term.

Jeremy Saraie for Assembly Member Jesse Gabriel: He is working on climate, environmental issues, homeless, rent relief, etc.

Recreation and Parks, Robert Buenrostro: Not much new to report. He is still waiting to hear from upper management about goats. New signs are created. He will consult with Pat about where to install them. He will try to put out more trash cans and will move on getting estimates for fencing to the creek. Fencing would be a new material, Bedford Technology's "Bar Force." It is made with HDPE. It looks like Woodcrete in color but is lighter and more durable. They've been using it at Griffith Park for 5 or 6 years.

Shelly will follow up with Michael Affeldt at the Mayor's LA RiverWorks Office about goat approval.

Robert Moreno, ACOE: They are hiring new park rangers with natural resource backgrounds. They're expanding their offices, possibly including in Sepulveda Basin.

Member Reports:

CNPS - George Waddell: Weeding Tuesdays and Thursdays, up to 6 people at a time. They're planting plants they propagated and are trying to get a Saturday weeding group too. Last Saturday they had 14 new people and will repeat training/weeding sessions the next 2 Saturdays. They're trying to get weeds out of where roses are growing before they become so large that you can't reach the weeds.

City Park Ranger Jerry Haro: They have visited Angel's encampment several times. Access is difficult as he has several shopping carts chained together. Rangers are trying to get in touch with Angel and a service request has been made.

Encino NC, Pat Bates: There's a potential project along LA River and Bull Creek integrating sanitation trash pickup with outreach to reduce the amount of trash going into the waterways. Encino NC trying to do a cleanup and is working on a one-hour informational meeting on the future of the Valley with State Senator Henry Stern. Masterplan proposed and Olympics coming up included. Around end of April.

FoLAR, Shelly Backlar: She, Pat and Jonah are discussing a pilot program with Sanitation for weekly trash pickup as services for the homeless population.

SFVAS, Muriel: SFVAS, FoLAR and RCD are sponsoring a Haskell Creek cleanup June 19. SFVAS is starting to offer nature walks at the reserve by appointment.

Community Forest Advisory Committee: Nurit announced on behalf of Shelly Billik that there's a call for nomination for an alternate from CD-6.

Motion: A motion was made (Muriel) and seconded (Nurit) **to allow pedestrian access to the path around the east side of the Wildlife Lake. Motion passed** unanimously except for 1 abstention (Glenn).

Herbicide use in the Sepulveda Basin: Currently there is a proposal pending for CNPS to use herbicide in the Wildlife Reserve. Discussion of IPM (integrated pest management) and proper place of herbicide use. Comments from several members and alternatives. (Watch recording of meeting for details of extensive comments.)

Motion: A motion was made (Nurit) and seconded (Muriel) to vote that **the SBWASC will not take a position against Bill Neill's app for ROE to apply herbicides. Passed** with 5 Ayes, 1 Nay (Terrie), 1 Abstention (Glenn).

Nurit will send out papers on the specific herbicides Bill proposes to use.

Brown Act: Glenn's question on whether Brown Act violated by recent emails, if an email supports a particular course of action or position, it's a violation. It was suggested he present the Act at a future meeting.

Motion: A motion to have a **special meeting next month to discuss IPM** (Nurit) and seconded (Melanie) Do we want an April meeting and if so, have it focus on IPM, uses of pesticides and herbicides in Sepulveda Basin? **Unanimously approved.**

National F&W Fund Grant Opportunity for Pollinator Restoration: April 15 deadline for letter of intent. At least 5-10 acres of planting milkweed and other plants for pollinators. Their seeds would be

harvested and go to a local seedbank. Shelly is willing to handle the paperwork. **Motion to pursue the grant** (Katz) and seconded (Kotin). **Passed** unanimously, 7 Ayes in favor of pursuing.

Committee Communications: There were two inappropriate uses of Reply All. There have been apologies for both. Nurit will draft a possible policy. Suggestion to Bcc more often and to trim addresses from prior communications in the chain.

Public Comment and Discussion: Sherman Oaks NC will support goats if it would be useful. Complaint that more enforcement regarding fires, etc. is needed. Police and fire dept seem unable to do anything. No one knows where anything is. Safety people can't find the Wildlife Reserve. More RAP park rangers are needed. Hopefully the new masterplan will include navigation signposts for locating problems and people.

Adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Submitted by

Muriel S. Kotin, San Fernando Valley Audubon's Representative to the
Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
(Chat follows.)

18:28:30 From NURIT KATZ to Everyone : All, here is the document to sign in for the meeting roster. If your organization isn't there you can add it: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UPE9_QfCbx-dkNamVVVyOretyVhjmwJ8GDg6IUL8lq0/edit?usp=sharing

18:32:00 From NURIT KATZ to Everyone : All, here is the document to sign in for the meeting roster. If your organization isn't there you can add it: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UPE9_QfCbx-dkNamVVVyOretyVhjmwJ8GDg6IUL8lq0/edit?usp=sharing

18:32:59 From NURIT KATZ to Everyone : All, here is the document to sign in for the meeting roster. If your organization isn't there you can add it: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UPE9_QfCbx-dkNamVVVyOretyVhjmwJ8GDg6IUL8lq0/edit?usp=sharing

18:38:39 From theresa brady to Everyone : reactions

18:38:52 From NURIT KATZ to Everyone : For anyone who just joined: All, here is the document to sign in for the meeting roster. If your organization isn't there you can add it:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UPE9_QfCbx-dkNamVVVyOretyVhjmwJ8GDg6IUL8lq0/edit?usp=sharing

18:41:38 From theresa brady to Everyone : the google doc seems to have several of us several times

18:42:28 From theresa brady to Everyone : so sorry to hear that she wont run again

18:42:31 From NURIT KATZ to Everyone : its a rolling document, so the other tables are from prior meetings

18:44:40 From Tessa Charnofsky to Everyone : <https://supervisorkuehl.com/grants/> Discretionary Grant application.

18:44:56 From NURIT KATZ to Everyone : For anyone who just joined: All, here is the document to sign in for the meeting roster. If your organization isn't there you can add it:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UPE9_QfCbx-dkNamVVVyOretyVhjmwJ8GDg6IUL8lq0/edit?usp=sharing

18:48:49 From Robert to Everyone : Hello all, Robert Moreno with the USACE (626) 720-2485, for some reason I can not unmute myself.

18:49:02 From Jeremy Saraie, AD45 to Everyone : Hi all, you can reach me at Jeremy.Saraie@asm.ca.gov. Thank you!

18:49:16 From Barb H to Everyone : Is this the spot for RAP and ACOE reports?

19:02:00 From Mark Osokow to Everyone : That is great news Robert.

19:04:13 From Richard Rachman to Everyone : I'll come to the Saturday event!

19:08:23 From Richard Rachman to Everyone : And fiddlehead flowers!

19:12:48 From Barb H to Everyone : Does RAP Ranger Hnsn have any updates about our homeless gardener" issues?

19:13:32 From Patricia Bates to Everyone : He has been doing more than gardening

19:14:10 From Patricia Bates to Everyone : May be time for the City Attorney to intervene

19:14:44 From Barb H to Everyone : thx for the update

19:18:51 From Jeremy Saraie, AD45 to Everyone : Feel free to loop me in Shelly!

19:21:43 From Shelly Perry Backlar to Everyone : Looking forward to speaking with you, Jeremy! sbacklar@folar.org

19:27:35 From Patricia Bates to Everyone : I think you are also using BarForce at Hansen Dam

19:36:20 From Ruth Doxsee, LBNC to Everyone : Pat, should I contact Michael Liu, our neighborhood prosecutor, regarding Angel?

19:39:28 From Richard Rachman to Everyone : This is not true.

19:45:11 From Ruth Doxsee, LBNC to Everyone : IPM?

19:50:36 From Margot Griswold to Everyone : This is why a plan is needed to see the scale of the herbicide use. Thank you.

19:51:39 From Patricia Bates to Everyone : Ruth, the guy has already vandalized most of the signage in the basin and I have reports he is threatening some of the people going in to photo birds. He has lived in there at least 3 years. Maybe let's stay in touch with the rangers, see if they are making any progress. We have a bizarre situation in Encino that I am going to contact Mr. Liu about, will ask about the basin situation too. Possible nothing will be done while emergency order is in effect.

19:53:59 From Ruth Doxsee, LBNC to Everyone : Okay, thanks Pat.

20:03:10 From Muriel Kotin to NURIT KATZ(Direct Message) : can you mute David Troy?

20:06:14 From Glenn Bailey to Everyone : Were there any communications sent out in violation of the State Brown Act?

20:11:23 From Margot Griswold to Everyone : Yes - IPM in the early 70s - I used it as a farmer.

20:16:21 From George Waddell to Everyone : Glenn please explain

20:19:06 From Glenn Bailey to Everyone : George: It was mentioned that an email was sent to all members regarding this agenda item.

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20:21:15 From Glenn Bailey to Everyone : If that email advocated a certain course of action, then it could have been a violation of the State Brown Act.

20:22:33 From Richard Rachman to Everyone : I apologize if Margot, David, or Theresa were offended by my comments, that was not my intention and my point was not properly stated.

20:24:59 From George Waddell to Everyone : Please give us a refresher course Glenn

20:27:54 From Glenn Bailey to Everyone : I recommend inviting a Deputy City Attorney (presumably the one assigned to the Department of Recreation and Parks) to advise WASC as to the provisions of the State Brown Act (Government Code).

20:46:21 From George Waddell to Everyone : Calscape says narrow leaf milkweed is a perennial

20:46:38 From Richard Rachman to Everyone : I agree with that.

20:47:21 From Patricia Bates to Everyone : Thank you Shelly -

20:48:29 From Shelly Perry Backlar to Everyone : Thanks George

20:54:12 From Muriel Kotin to NURIT KATZ(Direct Message) : Good job chairing!

20:57:49 From George Waddell to Everyone : Let's get a walk thru with Senator Stern

20:58:34 From Patricia Bates to Everyone : We will work on that. Probably after legislative session.

21:00:51 From NURIT KATZ to Muriel Kotin(Direct Message) : Thank you

21:04:24 From Patricia Bates to Everyone : That is why we need signposts!!!!

21:04:52 From Patricia Bates to Everyone : I left no flashing off the signs.

21:05:09 From Richard Rachman to Everyone : We may need to ask Google to better mark the areas of the Basin.

21:05:10 From Kira Durbin to Everyone : thank you Pat !!

21:05:26 From Ruth Doxsee, LBNC to Everyone : An idea for fire prevention: arson watch .

21:05:27 From Kira Durbin to Everyone : I'm less offended by flashing than fishing and burning things

21:05:35 From NURIT KATZ to Everyone : good idea re: google maps

21:05:43 From Shelly Perry Backlar to Everyone : Kira, can you be my Best Friend?

21:05:45 From Patricia Bates to Everyone : Me too.

21:06:04 From Richard Rachman to Everyone :
<https://developers.google.com/maps/faq#support>

21:06:06 From Kira Durbin to Everyone : thank you everyone !!

21:06:32 From Kira Durbin to Everyone : yes Shelly lets connect !