

Wildlife Areas Steering Committee Minutes 10/26/99

The meeting was chaired by Eric Lesser. Also attending were Gene Greene, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin, Mike Spiker, James Ward, Rosemarie White, Sandy Wohlgemuth, and guest Cameron Gobble. (Prior to the meeting, committee members walked through the Wildlife Area to the LA River. They were Steve H, Muriel, Mike, Sandy, and Melanie Winter.)

After self introductions, agenda additions were made. Minutes of September 28, 1999 meeting were approved without change.

Youth Projects: Cameron Gobble presented a proposal for an Eagle Scout project. He would remove 5 - 7 mulefat stumps from Hummingbird Hill (after the city cuts the mulefats back), do weeding, and plant native plants where the mulefats are removed. He will plant around 25 plants. If he has problems getting the plants donated, he may ask the Consortium to help fund their purchase. His project should remove all sizeable mulefats from HH west of the tunnel. He hopes to do the work this November or December. Eric suggested Cameron talk to Steve Moe about extending the drip irrigation system to the new plants. **MSP to approve Cameron Gobble's project.**

Irrigation: System on HH is partially functional. At our last meeting, Steve Moe said it won't get fixed until a new staff person is hired. Steve Hartman indicated the committee would be willing to help if needed. (See below.)

List of Projects for Acknowledgments: Eric asked those who have sponsored youth projects to provide him the following: group, person, project and description, area, date. He will compile it into a list so we can give official thank yous. Get these lists to him no later than the next meeting.

Westland School Conservation Project: November 9, the 125 students of Westland School will weed HH east of the tunnel and plant native plants along the fence next to the bike path along HH. After the planting, the new plants will be hand watered and Muriel will ask Steve Moe to periodically turn on the drip system for that area (which apparently is working).

Recreation & Parks Report: James reported that the long-awaited opening in the fence along Woodley has been made. Gene Greene presented a design for a Wildlife Area sign to go below the one for the Japanese Garden. Steve H will work with Gene to make a mockup of the sign within context of the garden sign and show different color versions to the committee at our next meeting. James will try to get R & P to give Gene a good version of the wildlife area logo.

Rosemarie said the goose sign at the overlook is down and requested it be reattached.

Drip irrigation west of Haskell Creek: James doesn't have any figures on this. He will see if we could tap off the existing drip irrigation to the oaks to irrigate future plantings.

Gardener-Caretaker Position: This went somewhere else, but there will be a vocational worker hired and assigned to the wildlife area before the end of November.

Donation Pole for the wildlife area. R & P will probably dig up one now at Lake Balboa

where they aren't successful and put it near the trail head near the staging area.

R & P is undergoing reorganization under new general manager, Ellen Oppenheim. Kevin Regan is taking the position of the Valley Deputy Director (Supervisor).

Mitzvah Day last weekend planted around 200 of cherry trees on the hill north of the Balboa Boulevard entrance to Beilenson Park, south of the bike path.

Dogs in the Wildlife Area: There are walkers with dogs and dogs apparently with no owners. James will ask the gardeners and rangers to keep an eye on dogs. If we see any unleashed dogs, we should let R & P know. Members saw coyote scat at various locations yesterday and today. New general manager will be enabling grant writing for projects such as one for getting personnel to help control dogs.

Park Bond Measure: James (or Rosemarie) will bring any info about its possibilities for us, including maintenance.

Shoal Removal along LA River above dam. James is unaware of anything going on. (The committee observed changes in the shoals in their walkthrough this afternoon.)

Acreage south of Garden Center (4+ acres) has been given to R & P by ACOE for garden plots. They should be open by next spring.

Bull Creek Preliminary Restoration Plan: Collins Pina sent R & P a 30% plan. R & P architects are reviewing. We can review if we wish. The plan is likely to come in more elaborate and expensive than necessary. We and the department will need to be vigilant. Rosemarie will talk to Susan Little, aide to Congressman Sherman about keeping the project appropriate.

Japanese Garden Report: Gene Greene showed drawings of the proposed Kawana Pavilion. Library / Conference room that will be open to public 8 hours a day. Tours out of the building. Multi purpose room and displays. Other meeting space. Japanese Garden staff and docent offices, etc. Attractive, simple Japanese style architecture. Organizations, including those represented on this committee, will probably be able to use the meeting facilities this project will provide. Gene will try to get the remaining money needed (about \$500,000) within the next year.

On Sundays the garden will be open for the public (\$3 adults, \$2 kids), no longer closed to only contract uses.

Negative Declaration for Sepulveda Basin Water Recycling Project: DWP will provide pressurized, continuous reclaimed water for irrigating the golf courses. This will be only slightly chlorinated water, appropriate for irrigation. Perhaps it will also supply water to the oxbow to be made along Bull Creek.

Alien Tree Removal & Weed Abatement: Steve H met with R & P's Steve Moe and Kevin Regan last week. Kevin said only the city should remove the large eucalyptus trees in the south area, otherwise ok. We're waiting for the city's approval of "Riparian Repair" as contractor and their use of herbicides. Steve H will write to Kevin. The

contract should be between the Consortium and Riparian Repair, not involving the city.

[CONSORTIUM MEETING was held: MSP that Steve Hartman and Sandy Wohlgemuth sign a contract with Riparian Repair for the Consortium once it is worded to their satisfaction.]

Education Programs: For Audubon, Muriel reported that teacher workshops and naturalist training for LAUSD program have begun. So have more informal bird walks for schools. Regarding potential parking conflict with a commercial to be filmed on Friday, she was advised to ask R & P's film office to note on the permit that we are to have access to parking for 20-30 cars and to have them fax her a copy to take along on Friday. She has reminded the film office to check with Steve Moe for potential conflicts in the future.

Rosemarie reported that the Goose Project will have 10:00 a.m. walks on first and third Sundays, meeting at Stonehenge. About 1 hour long. The Japanese Gardens will be open for the public on Sundays: People could participate in both.

Brochure Reprint -- Donated Services and Acknowledgments: Rosemarie passed out ACOE bird checklists for the LA District. She inquired if our brochure can acknowledge contributions by funders of the brochure. James said the brochure is the Steering Committee's and it can include whatever we want. He wants the R & P logo or name to remain on it, although a new logo may replace the old one soon. Gene gave LA Audubon a \$111 check for reimbursement for some of our printing costs.

Hansen Dam: Muriel and other Auduboners are working toward a wildlife preserve at Hansen Dam. All groups interested are invited to participate. Rosemarie said that the Goose Project is now censussing geese there.

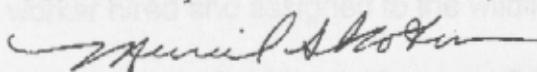
Notice of Proposed Changes to Area Planning Commissions: Several members received a letter about this. We will need to find out what this means. Committee members should communicate what they learn to the rest.

Grassland Potential: Steve H passed out copies of an article on native grasslands from *Grasslands* from the California Native Grass Association. He thinks our ruderal areas should eventually be turned into grasslands.

Chair: Eric will be chair through December. Next will be Rosemarie.

Understudies: Rosemarie recommended we find second representatives to be our backups / alternates / trainees. Steve H thinks bringing in more members of the public is key. He plans to make the HH weed wars into "learn about native plant gardening" events. Gene suggested we piggyback on his planned third Sundays event days at the Japanese Garden. Publicity for the Wildlife Area should be on the next agenda.

Submitted by



Muriel S. Kotin, Member Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee