

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee

Minutes March 27, 2001

David Ecklund chaired the meeting. Glenn Bailey, Jean Brandt, Gene Greene, Steve Hartman, Eric Lesser, Muriel Kotin, Joyce MacKinnon, James Ward, Rosemarie White, and Sandy Wohlgemuth also attended. After introductions, copies of a recent article in the *Los Angeles Times* about Steve Hartman and native plants in the WA were distributed. Minutes of the February, 2001 meeting were approved without change.

Recreation and Parks Report (James Ward): LA DWP's Burbank Boulevard Trunk Line Draft Environmental Assessment has been received by R & P and members of this committee. Replacement of trees to be removed along the median of Burbank Blvd and where the line will cross Encino Creek were discussed.

R & P is receiving requests to use the amphitheater for picnics. They are allowed, but R & P is not taking reservations except for talks, speeches, etc. Glenn suggested that if fees are charged for the amphitheater at any point, the fees go to an MRP account for the WA. Steve H. suggested the Audubon Environmental Education program. The donation pole has brought in perhaps \$100 so far.

Sandy inquired about the status of the Bull Creek Restoration Project. The federal government is reviewing the request for a 1135 Project, and its status may be less favorable with the new president. Suzanne Little has left Brad Sherman's office. The Congressman's new field representative for the Basin is Lori Fernand, 999-1990. The left over \$700,000 will be used for restrooms if possible. The city's commitment to build a children's interpretative play area is on hold until the 1135 project status starts to move along.

R & P is busily catching up from the rains. Two major events are scheduled for Woodley Park: Irish Fair 6/16-17 and Israeli-American Festival on 4/28-29. The Valley Pride Fair will be held this September. Opening the street department's tunnel under Woodley Avenue near the north end of Woodley Park is being considered.

Stu Miller did not attend this meeting, though he was expected. He wants to have a Corn Maze again, planting later and going through Halloween. Rosemarie said it is important that he close everything down very quickly after Halloween. James said that the contract this time will require that and that the tents be less gaudy, etc. James will try to get some money for our MRP account.

The Japanese Gardens (Gene Greene): They had been planning Spring in the Garden, for 4/29 but had to reschedule to 4/22 because of the Israeli-American Festival. Griffith Park is getting too busy, so events are being sent to the Sepulveda Basin

(and Hansen Dam). Cultural Affairs Dept is looking at possibly holding 12 stage events a year at Woodley Park. Steve H suggested that R & P convert the sod farm west of Balboa to an event venue. James will try to have Gene attend R & P's next logistics meeting. Gene invited us to give him flyers for the 4/22 event. Steve H will ask Steve M to give Gene some WA flyers.

Sanitation is doing a draft proposal for wetlands in the Basin to remove nitrogen from TWRP effluent. The conceptual map seems to show the entire WA as their wetland. "Draft Report City of Los Angeles Wetland Feasibility Study" prepared for the City of Los Angeles by CH2MHILL, December 2000.

Los Angeles Audubon (Sandy): Jean Brandt would like to form a volunteer community patrol. The committee thinks this is a good idea. James said a form of identification is needed: a badge or cap or.... R & P would buy the caps, shirts or whatever. The rangers and LAPD would need to know about the patrol and to train its members. There need to be pamphlets with the rules to hand out. The volunteers would phone the rangers if there is a problem they can't properly handle. The committee were all interested. James will bring badges to the next meeting. He will try to have the first hour of our April meeting be the training. Gene suggested the rules card include the positives of what we are trying to accomplish. Steve H and Jean Brandt and Sandy will form a committee to work on a card.

San Fernando Valley Audubon (Muriel): The city sent the committee a plaque and letter thanking us for our contribution (the club car). She handed out flyers for the 4/29 cleanup of the WA south of Burbank Blvd. Issues of access due to the Israeli-American event were discussed. R&P staff have been very helpful to the education program. She asked Gene if the bat boxes made for an Eagle scout project could be hung at the Tillman Plant. She is to find out from Steve Moe how many there are and discuss further with Gene. James and Glenn assured her the model airplane field's proposed new helicopter pad is very small and tucked against the other airplane field facilities.

Canada Goose Project (Rosemarie): There will be an Earthmonth Chatsworth Nature Preserve event 4/1. She will be happy to distribute flyers to other events there. She went on survey today with Steve Moe of the resident Canada geese. There are 56 birds, 5 pairs nesting. She is looking to produce a new Canada goose video, how wildlife is adapting to mixed land uses but also harmed by development. She plans to show it at a symposium this fall with the National Wildlife Federation and USC.

California Native Plant Society (Steve Hartman): He brought copies of his letter to the Steering Committee suggesting we support designation of the Sepulveda Dam Basin as a Los Angeles County Significant Ecological Area (SEA). (CNPS is asking that the entire LA River and its tributaries be designated an SEA.) Moved, Seconded and Passed that the Steering Committee support the designation of Sepulveda Dam Basin as a Los Angeles County SEA, and contact the LA County Regional Planning Commission immediately to include the area in the SEA update. Steve will put together a letter from the committee for David Ecklund to sign. David will contact FoLAR to see who is their representative on this committee.

James hasn't yet arranged a post-construction tour with the ACOE's new construction people. The tour would also identify things that might be fixed. Glenn would prefer tours be very early or late in the day (just before this meeting).

Resource Conservation District of the Sta. Monica Mountains (Glenn): The RCD is selecting a new education coordinator — hopefully by the end of next week. There is a vacancy on the RCD board because of Fran Pavley's election to the State Assembly.

Sierra Club (Eric): He attended a recent Valley Group meeting, where he updated the membership about the Basin and the cleanup.

Submitted by

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