

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee  
Minutes -- November 26, 2002**

The meeting was chaired by Rosemarie White and attended by Sharon Brewer, Trevor Daley, Gene Greene, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin, Joyce MacKinnon, Tom Persons, Kevin Regan, James Ward, Melanie Winter, Sandy Wohlgemuth. After self introductions, papers from the early 1990's pertaining to this committee's mission were distributed, including a mission statement adopted by this committee in March 1993 and changes proposed by ACOE.

Committee Status: Kevin Regan asked whether we are trying to become a Park Advisory Board (PAB). James Ward replied that we are a separate advisory committee from the PAB being formed for the Sepulveda Basin in general. James and Kevin said that we are advisory to Rec & Parks and that the mission statement should reflect our goals; the city should not have any objections. Steve H asked why a mission statement is of any value at this time; what is its purpose? We will take this up at our January meeting.

Minutes of the October meeting were corrected: page 2, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph should show that Steve Moe, not Steve H is looking into ET gages. The minutes were then accepted.

Kevin Regan, Valley Region Superintendent of Recreation & Parks: The dept of R&P under new General Manager Manuel Mollinedo will reflect his interest in native habitat and river restoration. R&P will be more environmentally sensitive in its landscape management practices.

There are very few park rangers. The department is leaning towards a ranger force that is primarily interpretative and park-management oriented, involving no heavy law enforcement. R&P is negotiating a new arrangement with LAPD. There is a hiring freeze, and a 4-year degree in particular fields is required of new rangers. Part-time rangers are not funded, although R&P is using funds from special event fees to fund some. ACOE has recently stated that they would like to have a full-time federal ranger at Sep Bas and another at Hansen Dam. The emphasis would be environmental issues. That person would probably become ACOE's liaison to this committee.

Melanie W is trying to put together a Hansen Dam wildlife areas steering committee, separate from the PAB being formed there. Kevin said the first step is a regional PAB for Hansen Dam of about 18 members. A wildlife areas steering committee like ours might well be formed for the large lake area there. Steve H brought up the problem of removing invasive exotic plants, asking for R&P's help in

controlling them, including cutting down the large exotic trees south of Burbank Blvd., as a partner in grants. R&P is willing to work with us on this. Kevin & James need a plan that will allow them to find the trees and cut them in phases, replacing the cut down trees with new plants where a barren area would be left. Melanie suggested R&P coordinate their environmentally friendly training materials for gardeners with the County which is doing the same thing.

Trevor Daley: Gallanter's office will not be able to provide money for a gate to the Wildlife Area near where last June's fire began at the east end of Hummingbird Hill. He is trying to find other sources of funding. Gene said the ACOE should be consulted to see if they would accept such a structure in concept. Trevor has been working on graffiti and he and R&P have a good handle on it. Tom, who did a big cleanup along Haskell Creek for TreePeople, asked about the situation of groups of homeless living north of the WA. They have been doing outreach, and after December, LAPD will go out and remove them. And the MTA project should lessen the trash/homeless problem. Some of the homeless are day laborers from the Home Depot. The city is looking into a labor center at Home Depot to improve the laborers' lot. And vice problems are moving west into the basin after the LAPD came down on vice along Sepulveda Blvd. What about parking along Burbank Blvd west of the 405? They're beginning to work on clarifying this with DOT.

Public Comment: Sharon Brewer listed problems at Lake Balboa. Trevor said that a letter will go out from Tom Cotter to Fish & Game, letting them know of the many public complaints about wildlife issues there. This is the beginning of a process that hopefully will bear fruit eventually. James said that the Friends of Lake Balboa and the Users Committee are being formed into a PAB. Trevor was concerned that the PAB may eliminate the means of the members of the friends to express their complaints to R&P. James said that the new general manager wants "friends of" groups rolled into PAB's. The friends of groups can still meet, but the PAB is a layer above them. Kevin said that more staff, including park rangers, is needed at Lake Balboa. They've put up signs and instructed staff to watch for fishing paraphernalia. Perhaps an entrance booth with ranger and small parking fee like at state parks or off-site parking and a tram could be developed.

Gene Greene on Autumn in Garden: The Japanese Gardens are hosting more community meetings and have kicked off their levy tour program. They will make a brochure about the levy. They pass out our brochure all the time. Greenhouse is now propagating unusual plants that they need for the garden. They are working diligently on Haskell Creek maintenance. Gene would like some participation from

this group at Springtime in Garden. Open 10-4 on Sundays. He proposes a fun weekend for the public at the Garden and at WA and Lake Balboa. They are still raising funds for Kawana Pavilion.

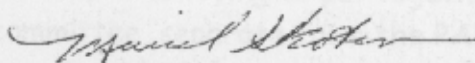
Recreation and Parks, James Ward: The Woodley Golfhouse will be formally opened by 12/12. Lake Balboa aeration system has been installed by Sanitation & R&P. They have applied for an award. The real test of the system will be how the lake does next summer. Muriel requested that blown-down trees in the Wildlife Area merely be cut from the trail, not hauled away. James agreed and will let the staff know.

Committee Reports: LAAS: Sandy is still working on the \$2,500 for the ed program. Muriel had nothing to report for SFVAS. Canada Goose Project: Rosemarie reported for Tish that some Canada geese are being seen recently in WA, Beilenson Park, and Tapia's corn field. CNPS: Steve H will submit a list of recommended native grass seeds for the burn area, along with info on where to buy them. River Project: Melanie reported she & Rosemarie attended a meeting on the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) recently regarding wastewater and storm water planning. Melanie wants to bring in R&P and the Planning and Land-use Department to this process of the City Bureau of Sanitation. It was suggested that Kevin ask Adel Hagekhalil for info about the process. TreePeople: Tom reported a recent tree planting of about 50 seedlings along the west side of Haskell Creek, including sycamores, a few female cottonwoods, a few valley oaks. The seedlings were planted with protection of cages, above and below ground. Volunteers also removed a lot of debris from the creek and are asking for more work. Where can Tom go in restoring native plants? He and Steve H will go out and work on it.

MTA will be at our January meeting. Steve H distributed copies of the letter he sent in response to MTA's proposed plant list. He will talk to Gene about a plan he is working on for plantings along the Woodley Avenue median.

Our next meeting will be in January.

Submitted by



Muriel S. Kotin

Member Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee