

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Minutes February 24, 2004

The meeting was chaired by Steve Hartman, substituting for Melanie Winter. Other members attending were Gene Arias, John Holmes, Muriel Kotin, Rosemarie White, and Sandy Wohlgemuth. Joyce Mackinnon attended as alternate; and Sharon Brewer, Lois Goodman, Gene Greene Lynda Levitan, and Ken Novak, as ex-officio (non-voting) members.

Minutes of the January meeting were corrected. Move Joyce Mackinnon to Voting Members. On page 1 Council Office report, correct spelling of Lynda Levitan's name and change "A.C.O.F." to "CalTrans." On page 2, move from the Japanese Garden report to Rec & Parks report the discussion of the boundary of the site proposed for remote controlled cars and of a sign for Wildlife Way.

Muriel commented that she did not send around an e-mail on voting procedures as suggested on page 1, as she thinks the rules on membership and voting membership as adopted 1/17/04 are adequate as they stand, that no elaboration is necessary. There were no objections.

Public Comment followed additions to agenda. Sharon Brewer asked when fishing regulations at Lake Balboa will be implemented. Ken didn't know and will inquire. Sunday 3/28/04 will be Persian New Year, an all day event. Earlier that morning Northridge Hospital will have 5K and 10K events. Woodley Ave will be closed and used for parking. The Wildlife Area (WA) will not be readily accessible but not otherwise impacted. Any daily park user can request to go to their destination and will be given a pass. If a user runs into problems, let Lynda Levitan know. There will also be an Israeli Festival of 40K people on Sunday 5/2/04 with similar access difficulties and passes for daily park users. (Glenn emphasized the need for this committee to get a calendar of events in the Basin as per last month's minutes.) Rosemarie asked has there been any discussion about moving these events elsewhere? Ken said there is not another available that is large enough.

Office of Council Member Tony Cardenas: Lynda Levitan reported that the city is working on the cleanup of homeless encampments south of Burbank Blvd. More "no parking" signs are being put up along Burbank and parking will be restricted on Woodley. The overlook on Burbank Blvd will remain. Gene Arias commented that since the city did the sweep south of Burbank Blvd, there a lot of people "moving into" the WA north of Burbank. Lynda asked him to write down all of the inappropriate behavior he has observed and send it to her. Glenn is concerned about losing Woodley parking for accessing the WA. Muriel said parking on

Woodley was not originally planned, that R & P refused to allow the entrance designed to be built at Woodley and Burbank. However, she hopes that parking could be reinstated later, as there are not enough parking spaces for Woodley Park on hot Sunday and holiday afternoons. John Holmes suggested we see how the restrictions work out.

Army Corps of Engineers: Lois Goodman said that review problems and budget cuts are delaying the Bull Creek restoration plans. Construction will probably not begin until the fiscal year starting 10/1/04 or later. She hopes the plans will be out for public review in around 2 months.

Recreation and Parks: Ken Novak reported the city removed about 9 tons of debris from 6 encampments south of Burbank with heavy equipment. They are figuring out exactly what remains of homeless stuff in the basin and will then have a blitz to get rid of large debris, with tractors, etc. Then they will ask volunteers to help get rid of the smaller stuff. The next sweep will be between late March and mid April. The LA River, including under the Burbank Blvd. bridge, has lots of homeless and abandoned cars, on ACOE property.

Ken distributed a list of issues from the January User's Group meeting. There was no flooding except for a little bit south of Burbank and on the cornfield in recent storms.

Radio-controlled (R-C) cars are using the model airplane flight field and causing problems. R & P proposes to build an R-C car field just southwest of the intersection of Woodley and the access road to the model flight field. Muriel asked if this is on a portion of the designated WA. Ken said yes. Rosemarie objected. John suspects that when word gets out, the field would become over used. Glenn suggested the city look at alternate solutions for the R-C field. There is a master plan for the Basin. Things should not be done willy-nilly. He moved that the Steering Committee ask R&P to look at alternate locations for an R-C park before selecting a site. Seconded. Ken described various alternate locations they considered and why this site was preferable. Rosemarie said that not all recreational activities are appropriate to parks. Steve H does not think the area west of Woodley is our main focus. He would be willing to trade that small area of the WA if we got Haskell Creek as part of the WA all the way up to Victory Blvd. Muriel commented that that area is one of the parts of the WA west of Woodley with the most potential for wildlife, but she might be willing to trade it for adding

Woodley Creek north of Wildlife Way to the WA. Glenn said the dept should commit to enforcing that R-C cars be used only in the R-C field, with a limit on usage and size. The motion was withdrawn, the topic to be reconsidered next month.

R&P has just begun the landscape project along the road to R & P's valley headquarters here. Completion is expected in September if rain does not cause delays. We may have an access problem for our next meetings. Contractor is having difficulties finding some of the native plant species in the plans, but they will use native species.

Japanese Garden: Gene offered use of their meeting space at Tillman Plant to R&P during access problems for construction. Sanitation has completed weeding the Tillman levy and they are doing levy tours. Construction in the plant will start in about 4 months and continue about 1 ½ years, access through the septage facility. We're invited to the garden's 20th anniversary on Sunday 5/15/04 from 3 - 5:30.

Website: sepulvedabasinwildlife.org is up. Members should send material for it to Steve H.

Los Angeles Audubon: Sandy reported they hired an accountant to do periodic reports. Sandy will request that our Consortium funds are specified for all their records.

San Fernando Valley Audubon: Muriel reported SFVAS will sponsor a cleanup of the WA on Sat 4/17/04, 8 - noon and invited all to participate. Ken said the cleanup should stay north of Burbank Blvd.

Canada Goose Project: Rosemarie introduced Gene Arias as the new Goose Project rep. The wild migratory geese are leaving the area, with the resident geese largely staying at Woodley Lakes Golf Course.

California Native Plant Society: Steve H reported CNPS is requesting a grant from the Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP) plus a grant from the Consortium for a 3-year weed-removal project. He passed out a draft application. Apropos of this, he requested the Consortium meet.

Consortium meeting: Moved and seconded That the Consortium approve \$1250 for

weed control work in the Sepulveda Basin in this calendar year. Glenn made a number of suggestions to help with the application for a WRP Small Grants Program and other possibilities for funds to supplement the Consortium funding. Approved unanimously.

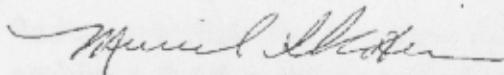
Resource Conservation District of the Sta. Monica Mountains: Glenn had nothing to report.

Sierra Club: Rosemarie announced an Earthday event at Chatsworth Nature Preserve. Other organizations are invited to participate. Gene A and Rosemarie will meet with Tony Cardenas about the homeless situation 3/15. Sierra Club is considering hikes at the W.A. Reinchanting the City Conference "Overpasses, undercrossings and wild corridors" will be on 10/16/04.

CSUN Earth Day Event: Glenn announced this will be celebrated 4/22/04 at the bookstore. Our organizations are invited to participate. Let him know.

Southwest Herpetologist Society: John Holmes wants to be added to the committee reports. John will send an e-mail to Melanie. John distributed membership applications that describe his organization.

Submitted by



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