

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee  
Minutes September 26, 2006**

Dexter Kelly chaired the meeting which was also attended by other voting members Glenn Bailey, Sharon Ford, Steve Hartman, John Holmes, Muriel Kotin, and Rosemarie White; and non-voting members, alternates and guests Carvel Bass, Sharon Brewer, Snowdy Dodson, Janet La France, Bob Munsey, Jason Preston, Stefanie Smith and Michael Tou. Self introductions included Bob Munsey, the new alternate representative for Los Angeles Audubon Society and Jason Preston, the new alternate for Encino Neighborhood Council. Glenn requested that we receive the revised mailing list for this committee. Minutes of the August 2006 meeting were approved as sent.

Public Comment: Sharon Brewer didn't get a mailing again and is not on the updated mailing list. They had to rescue a Ross' goose from fishing line wound around its leg at Lake Balboa. Egrets are getting entangled also. People are feeding the Canada geese in great numbers.

PowerPoint Presentation by Steve Hartman on Vegetation and Weed Control:  
North reach of Haskell Creek is a future expansion area. He suggested we start developing suggestions for the best uses of that area. Oyster plant (Salsify) is starting to show up in the Wildlife Reserve (WR). Last spring Rec & Parks removed about 300 of these plants. He has mapped weed trees in the Reserve. There's a major infestation of Shamel Ash in the So. Reserve, some in the No. Reserve. Huge Eucalyptus in the So. Reserve. Black Locusts planted along the north side of Burbank Bl. are spreading into the Reserve. Water Hemlock and Fennel are a major infestation in the West Reserve, with horehound in So. Reserve and along the west side of Haskell Cr. in the No. Reserve. Pepperweed is a problem in the So. Reserve. Bill Neill is working to eradicate Castor Bean in the WR. There is Virginia Creeper in So Reserve. R&P might want to consider eliminating the Passion Vine along a golf course fence so it doesn't spread throughout. Riparian Repairs bill is \$1180 for 1-8/06.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the bill is paid by CNPS,  $\frac{1}{2}$  by Consortium.

Arundo is developing again in the LA River So. of Lake Balboa. Steve will map it. CNPS doesn't want to see the major effort of ACOE to remove it to be wasted. Does the ACOE have any major weed removal projects planned? Carvel replied no. The city is contributing to weed removal and paying Bill Neill on the land they lease from the corps. Where it's non-leased Corps land, CNPS and the Consortium are

paying. There are lots of (non-native) Bullfrogs in the pothole pond area. Non-native Pennisetum grass was planted in the Woodley native plant entrance area. Steve suggests it be moved elsewhere.

Status of Wildlife Reserve as a Mitigation Project: Stefanie looked through a stack of books Steve Moe gave her and didn't find anything. Glenn suggested she should look at the DEIR and Final EIR/EIS for the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant. If Steve Moe doesn't have that, Michael Tou said the Bureau of Sanitation should have that documentation: Adel Hagekhalil the best contact.

CalTrans will select a preferred alternative by sometime next year. They're working on the alternatives and documentation. Sharon Ford said Assemblyman Lloyd Levine is contacting groups to come in and discuss the CalTrans project and wants no disruption of the WR. Stefanie will see if Steve Moe has the Tillman documentation. If not, she'll let Dexter know and Dexter will contact Gene Greene or Adel Hagekhalil.

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area: In quest of significant publicity and support for the Wildlife Reserve, Muriel suggested looking into incorporating Sepulveda Basin and the LA River as part of the SMMNRA. As she envisions it, there would be no change of ownership or management, just a re-drawing of the NRA's borders and inclusion in publications and some educational programs. Glenn felt that publicity is publicity, that we should contact the Encino Sun, pursue feature articles, schedules, Valley Realtor associations. Carvel thinks it better to focus on the LA River corridor revitalization process, but we could talk to National Park Service. The LA River is being considered for declaration as an Important Bird Area. In summary, the committee did not feel it worth pursuing the idea.

Publicity should be on the next agenda. Rosemarie said Jasmine of Rec & Parks Education Division contacted her about planning a 12/16 winter solstice festival at L. Balboa. She could not make tonight's meeting.

Fall Festival December 2: Dexter said LA Audubon could have a booth and give advice on bird rehabilitators. Sharon F said the Sierra Club Valley Group is interested in supporting a picnic-level event. Mostly they would want a table or

something and take the walks, not lead them. John said the Herp Society could set up a display near Stonehenge or at top of amphitheater; they'll need electricity for keeping their reptiles and amphibians warm. CNPS likes the idea but may have trouble getting volunteers. Steve will let Muriel know. Several committee members were dismayed at our having to pay a \$75 fee. Children's Nature Institute may participate. Muriel should contact Gene Greene for support, publicity. Food might be a liability problem unless in individual containers.

**Moved, Seconded and Passed that this committee support a Fall Festival at the Wildlife Reserve on December 2.**

Bob Munsey suggested talking to Pierce College about management for Canada Geese and wildlife enhancement on the agricultural fields.

Wildlife Reserve Brochure: Muriel to e-mail proposed brochure changes to everyone. Then we'll see responses and who will update it.

Sandy Wohlgemuth: A memorial service will be held in Plummer Park Fiesta Hall Saturday this Saturday. LA Audubon would like to establish a memorial and plaque in the Basin. Maybe a tree. Also something for Jean Brant who retired as editor of the Western Tanager. R&P has a Tree in Tribute program. Dexter should contact Patty Stutts. Glenn said Sandy was so important in getting and improving the Reserve that he would like to see a memorial grove and plaques of the scope of the Dave Lewis Memorial Cottonwood Grove along Haskell Cr. Muriel suggested the east bank of Haskell Cr. north of the access road. Or perhaps a Wildlife Reserve Memorial bulletin board or information kiosk. Dexter will discuss these ideas with Sandy's family.

Public Recreational Use Plan, Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area of 1987: Glenn asked whether The ACOE, Rec & Parks, and Fish & Game don't meet per the report's call for annual reviews. Carvel replied no, times have changed. Glenn thinks perhaps we should try to get F&G to participate. Scott Harris would be the F&G representative.

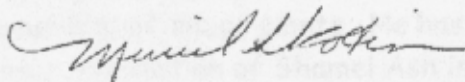
Recreation & Parks:

- Stefanie reported that a man was held up at gunpoint at 8am last Saturday

and his personal possessions taken. She has little info so far. She will e-mail us when she has more information. She has a call into the watch commander to get information.

- This Saturday is Deaf Festival in Woodley Park.
- The signage for Wildlife Way; no feedback. If she can't get a street sign, she'll try to get a R&P sign made.
- The spraying last month for West Nile did not involve a substance harmful to fish or other wildlife, not pyrethroids. Glenn asked that R & P and then this committee be notified before such spraying is done in the WR.
- The playground construction at L Bal is to start Oct 17 and take a year to be completed. Stefanie has not heard anything more about the Valley Fair. They have not received a permit yet.
- Glenn announced the SFV Fair Board meeting will be discussing the fair Wednesday Oct 4, 9am at Galpin Ford at Roscoe west of Sepulveda.
- The User's Group: Ken is not going to continue the group. Stefanie might be able to continue the meetings. Glenn thinks it is very important. Otherwise a Park Advisory Board would be necessary. Rosemarie advised it is an important outlet. Stefanie will see about getting it continued.

Submitted by



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