

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Minutes - May 22, 2007

The meeting was chaired by Glenn Bailey. Other voting members attending were Steve Hartman, John Holmes, Sharon Ford, Dexter Kelly, Muriel Kotin, Rosemarie White. Alternates, non-voting members and visitors attending were Sharon Brewer, Janet La France, Joyce MacKinnon, Bob Munsey, and Abel Perez.

Minutes of the April 2007 meeting were approved as submitted.

Announcements:

Rosemarie announced that the 405 widening project northbound has begun. The bridge near the Skirball Center will be widened and a wildlife corridor will be added to the bridge. There is a glitch at the western side: westbound animals will come to the end of the wildlife corridor and then have to walk across Sepulveda Blvd. There will be a community meeting Thursday evening at the Skirball and another 6/27 at Sierra Club headquarters.

Public Comment: None.

Consideration of changing Starting Time and Adjournment by a Time Certain:

Abel thinks this would be more convenient. Members expressed their opinions. A motion that we begin meeting at 6:30 (with the room be unlocked at 6:15) -- passed 7-0. Next month's cover letter should reflect the change in start time in **BIG BOLD LETTERS**. A motion regarding 9:00 adjournment time: that we aim to adjourn by 9:00, but that the adjournment time be flexible - passed 7-0. Glenn requested that reports and announcements be in writing whenever possible.

Review and Update of Various Items Previously Recommended or Requested by SBWASC Per Minutes of Previous Meetings: It was suggested that such a list (of pending action items might go out with minutes). The list was discussed and updated.

Rosemarie suggested we again try to get TreePeople to reactivate membership on this committee. Glenn has been in recent communication and will give Rosemarie the contact information to follow up.

Bob Munsey passed around signs from Fish and Game about disposing of fishing

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line. Rosemarie reported poaching (fishing) around the Wildlife Lake and suggested No Fishing signs.

Abel distributed the current event calendar for the Basin. He was requested to keep providing current calendars.

Abel reported that Ramon Barajas was opposed to planting trees on the east side of Woodley Avenue because it would eliminate parking for the WA. In response, committee members pointed out that it would eliminate only parking by huge trucks. There would be room for 2 or 3 cars between each 2 trees. This is not a major parking area for the WA. Chief Ranger Albert Torres supported the idea at a recent SBWASC meeting. Abel will speak to Ramon on this again.

Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan Update: So far as we know, only the later stages of the Sepulveda Sports Complex planned for the sod fields west of Balboa Blvd. are involved thus far. Glenn would like to see someone familiar with the LARRMP, perhaps Melanie Winter, summarize for us what is in the plan for Sepulveda Basin. Glenn will phone Melanie. Rosemarie will ask the River Revitalization planners to give a presentation to this committee on impacts on the Basin.

New Business:

Glenn announced that Tessa Charnofsky of the Mayor's office submitted to him plans for an environmental initiative. Glenn will e-mail that to the committee.

Agency and Committee Reports:

Army Corps of Engineers was not represented today. Glenn understands the city has appropriated a substantial amount towards the Bull Creek Restoration Project. Abel said R&P is working hard on the project. Glenn will contact Carvel and request information.

Recreation and Parks: Abel reported they are starting to put wood chips on the L. Balboa overflow parking lot. They are planting more natives in the landscaping

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around headquarters here. Abel and Steve H will select native plants for re-landscaping the oleander area along Wildlife Way.

California Native Plant Society: Steve Hartman reported there are few weeds in the W.R. because it's been so dry. He will ask Bill Neill to focus on arundo and non-native trees this year.

Canada Goose Project: Rosemarie reported a nesting pair of Canada geese in the Japanese Garden and that there are somewhat fewer resident geese at Woodley Lakes Golf Course than last year: about 100. Abel said golf is considering building a bridge over Hayvenhurst Channel.

Resource Conservation District - Sta. Monica Mts.: Glenn reported that their board will be communicating to Ron Berkowitz their support of an oversight group for L. Balboa.

San Fernando Valley Audubon: Muriel reported the education program is done with the electric cart until next fall. She suggested that some simple signs forbidding dogs, fishing, feeding birds, Abel suggested standardizing signs. Muriel will send an e-mail to get together for a walk through and look at wording and location to submit to Abel for standardizing signs. This should be on next month's agenda .

Sierra Club: Sharon Ford is trying to get the Valley Group out to the W.R. and involve them in any fall festival this year.

Next meeting will be 6/26/07. The deadline to get agenda items to the chair is 6/12/07.

Submitted by,

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