

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee  
Minutes -- August 28, 2007

The meeting was chaired by Sharon Ford. The other voting members attending were Glenn Bailey, Steve Hartman, Dexter Kelly, Muriel Kotin, and Rosemarie White. Non-voting members, alternates and guests were included Abel Perez, Pat Aubuchon, Sharon Brewer, Nedenia Kennedy, Joyce MacKinnon, Katie Parks, and Michael Tou, as well as Tom Boyd and Michelle Nosco of Arts for Earth.

Minutes of the July 2007 meeting were approved as submitted. There were no announcements.

Public Comment: Sharon Brewer indicated fishing at Lake Balboa has increased, with many problems from hooks and line. She wants to restrict the area where fishing is allowed so she can collect line more easily before birds are harmed. It will be difficult to limit fishing at Bull Creek. Joyce said the paint on the please do not feed the ducks signs has faded. Abel will look into it. Pat Aubuchon commented that birds, squirrels and other creatures have returned to the golf course north of Victory Blvd. They had been finding dead birds and squirrels there, apparently due to West Nile Virus.

Update on Bull Creek Restoration Project: Nedenia Kennedy and Katie Parks of the Army Corps of Engineers announced that the job has been put out to bid. They expect to sign a bid by 9/28/07. Today Deenie heard that all bridges, all fences and informational signs will be optional items. Abel was concerned about how the island can be maintained without bridges to it. The bid request is based on a very conservative estimate; some of the bridges might come back in. They have reduced the numbers of plants, in response to Melanie's concern last month that they seemed to be planting too closely.

One problem is where to put the dirt they will excavate. Steve H suggested restoring the northern border of Burbank Blvd where there is a dangerous, precipitous drop-off. Abel doubts there is time to organize this, but it is planned to disburse the soil in the Basin, possibly along another portion of Burbank with a similar erosion problem. Rosemarie will phone Lynda Levitan.

Nedenia and Katie will make a detailed presentation at next month's meeting. Muriel inquired if the budget is being spent on hydrology, recontouring and

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plant restoration and simple pathways as the first priority, followed by bridges next. She does not want to see these key items lost to less crucial features. Glenn requested that next month's presentation include what is included in the basic plan and what items are option items. Meanwhile, Deenie will e-mail the plans as in the proposal to Sharon Ford who will forward them to us.

Update on Recommendations of June 26 Walk-through: Albert Torres is just back from vacation. We do not know about Wildlife Way and behavior signs or possible no-parking on Woodley yet. Rosemarie and Sharon will follow up with Chief Ranger Albert Torres about signs.

New Business:

Glenn has made a new membership roster of the voting members of this committee. He will add e-mail addresses. Glenn requested a list of involved agency people, including non-voting members from Rec & Parks.

Recreation & Parks: Abel, said the trees planted along the west side of Woodley Ave. a few years ago were dedicated to Cesar Chavez. R&P plans to make a sign about this and would like help in planting native plants under a portion of the trees near the grove and bench slightly north of Burbank. Abel and Steve H. will collaborate. Abel will also follow up with Albert Torres about signs. He is working at getting the Valley E-vents calendars to us at these meetings.

California Native Plant Society Report: Steve H. commented that the native plants in the WR are still green, helped by a high water table. He will try to have volunteers from Theodore Payne Foundation help with R&P's needs.

Canada Goose Project: Rosemarie introduced Michelle Nosco and Tom Boyd of Arts for Earth, a 501c3. Their goal is to use art to spread appreciation of nature through the arts. They are interested in working with youth groups, especially middle-school kids.

The goose count will start Oct. 1. Rosemarie highly recommended we see the movie "The 11<sup>th</sup> Hour."

Los Angeles Audubon Society: Dexter distributed e-mail exchange between Bob Munsey and Brian Young, Fish and Wildlife Interpreter, Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game, regarding fishing behavior at Lake Balboa.

Resource Conservation District SMM: Glenn reminded us that at the September meeting we need to plan the October tour of the Reserve.

San Fernando Valley Audubon: Muriel announced that Carolyn Oppenheimer is now SFVAS's coordinator for SBEEP (Sep. Bas. Environmental Education Program), replacing Muriel.

Regarding Consortium Matters: Steve H presented a bill from Riparian Repairs for \$722, for Muriel to submit to SFVAS treasurer. Muriel is to check earlier minutes to be sure the payment is already authorized. (Note: apparently it has not been. MSK) Steve commented that Bill Neill's work is really improving matters in Sepulveda Basin.

Muriel reported on funds in the Consortium account: \$35,756, including a deposit of \$1,045 that was not actually deposited yet. The committee feels that a CD would be better than a money market account. They would like a copy of the Morgan Stanley statement.

Sierra Club: Sharon Ford described the recent public meeting about widening the 405 through the Sepulveda Pass that she and Rosemarie attended. Their concern about the inappropriate design of the wildlife corridor that is part of that project. Perhaps 500 people attended, all in an uproar. There was no opportunity to discuss wildlife or plants.

Rosemarie suggested we invite Ron Kosinsky of Caltrans to attend one of our meetings.

Submitted by

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