

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Minutes -- April 22, 2008

Mike Vensky chaired. Other voting members attending were Sharon Ford, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin, Bob Munsey. Non-voting members, guests and alternates were Pat Aceves, Sharon Brewer, Joyce MacKinnon, Michelle Nosco, Katie Parks, and Abel Perez. Note, this list may be incomplete as recorder does not have the sign in sheet.

Self introductions and Announcements: All members had received information from Caltrans about the 405-101 Connector Draft EA/IS.

Public Comments: Sharon Brewer discussed problems of bird injuries at Lake Balboa, with a lifeguard station fence restricting access of birds to the water. She asks that the gate be kept open. Abel will look into it. The fence will be an agenda item in May. (Prior to our May meeting we will have a walkthrough at the Wildlife Reserve.)

Michelle Nosco: Arts for Earth will have an event 4/26 to celebrate the Wildlife Reserve. She would appreciate publicity and distributed flyers.

Caltrans: Muriel described the proposal and alternatives. Katie Parks of the ACOE requested that committee members send information to Carvel Bass on what's in the WR and the history by 5/2/08.

Lake Balboa Oversight Group: Abel will post and disseminate a flyer for a "Make a Difference" Committee.

Fishing Line Containers: Abel is looking at purchase of fishing line containers. R & P won't allow volunteers to provide or install containers. He will provide ordinary containers with specialized lids in the meantime.

Recreation and Parks Budget Cuts: Lynda pointed out that R & P is taking the biggest hit of all the city's budget cuts. Abel has had to give back trucks, lawn mowers, etc. for the city to sell. That may happen to the electric cart that was contributed to volunteers by Galpin Ford. Vacancies are not being filled.

Russian Thistle: Steve H has not been able to get together with Kathleen Hanover who has been very busy.

Signage: Pat reported the person who puts up signs has been busy installing signs in the burn areas of Hansen Dam, a priority because of safety issues. Then our street signs will go up. Making up of behavior signs is delayed.

Operation Clean Sweep: Pat said the rangers on top of removing people from the south reserve. There has been a lot of illegal dumping (rubble, refrigerators, cut down trees, etc.) west of the LA River east of Hjelte Field. They're removing it and are trying to figure out how to block access to the illegal dumpers.

Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) - Bull Creek: Katie reported the Stream Bed Alteration Permit should be obtained next week. The Corps is looking at whether they can begin work before fall because of bird breeding considerations.

Wildlife Reserve Brochure: Muriel distributed a list of changes, to which there were no objections. The committee urged her to hurry in getting them printed. Steve H will help her arrange the printing.

Quarterly Review and Update is postponed to next month.

Minutes of the March 2008 Meeting: Status of Melanie Winter being shown as a voting member was questioned. (Muriel will look at Melanie's status in view of the bylaws and number of recent meetings The River Project attended and missed.) She should have been shown as a non-voting member. Minutes were approved with that correction.

Recreation & Parks: Abel reported the universal access playground should open in June. We should expect to see major cuts in R&P: unfilled vacancies, less watering of grass, etc.

Councilman Cardenas Office: Lynda reported on Earthday activities including tree planting and a Sanitation Fair 5/3, both in Sun Valley. There will be a pet fair at Woodley Park 5/24 and an Emergency Preparedness Fair 6/7.

LA Audubon: Bob Munsey is corresponding with F & G rep who may come out and look at the Wildlife Lake and Lake Balboa. Bob told of the recent death of Herb Clarke.

SFV Audubon: Muriel reported on the Wildlife Reserve cleanup 4/5, when 95 volunteers helped clean the WR. Brentwood School's 7th grade will do a community service weeding project 5/9, supervised by Steve H and Snowdy.

Next month's meeting will be preceded by a walkthrough will be 4:30 PM at Stonehenge.

Submitted by

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