

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee**  
**February 24, 2009**

Attending the meeting, which was chaired by Snowdy Dodson, were voting members Glenn Bailey, Snowdy Dodson, Muriel Kotin, Bob Munsey and Rosemarie White. Guests and non-voting members were Sharon Brewer, Gene Greene, Tim Johnson and Joyce MacKinnon. A quorum was established. There were self introductions.

November 2008 minutes: approved without change.

January 2009 minutes were approved with a change to the next to last section. It should read "Minutes of Nov 2008 Meeting will be reviewed".

Announcements: Muriel reminded the committee that the Wildlife Reserve cleanup will be Saturday 4/18/09 from 8-noon. Rosemarie is in the planning stages of an event to create appreciation of nature through art, although there is no date or anything firm yet. She is in communication with Michelle Nosco about it.

Public Comment: Joyce has not been seeing people fishing at the WR lately, but she continues to find fishing line, etc. She feels there is urgent need for signs to discourage people from walking along the east side of the lake, as it chases the Canada geese and other birds away.

There has been a problem with homeless people sleeping in the handicapped restroom stall.

There is also a problem of off-leash dogs, and of pit bull-type dogs on-leash. Muriel requested that a dog policy be put on next month's agenda. Rosemarie suggested that Jon Kirk Mukri be invited to one of our meetings so we can discuss this with him. Muriel will email Chief Ranger Torres, copying Pat Aceves to see if dogs on leash may be kept out of the WR. Is there a legal basis? She should mention that we are still finding fishing line, but not seeing fishing. Maybe the fishing occurs at night.

Follow Up to Caltrans Interchange Proposal: Glenn thanked Rosemarie for getting Ron Kosinski here and remarked that it was a very helpful visit.

Motion Passed: Snowdy will ask Steve H if he will draft a letter about the landscaping with natives to Kosinski (cc to Paul Caron) for us. Also he should write a letter of thanks to Kosinski, reminding him of our availability and request to advise on mitigation plans as they are being developed and all details that would affect the Wildlife Reserve. Snowdy will remind Steve H to follow up for information about publication in federal register.

We should invite Carvel Bass to attend one of these meetings soon to discuss mitigation projects. Rosemarie suggested a tour of possible sites for before one of these meetings with Carvel and City representatives. In any case, Caltrans Mitigation Planning should be on next month's agenda.

Russian Thistle in the TWRP's Contractor's Lay-down Area: Gene Greene said the lay-down area north of the cricket field east of the Tillman Plant will be mitigated. He will clean up the area and will meet with Steve H to discuss what mitigation is needed.

Bull Creek Restoration: Glenn said that the arundo in Bull Creek between the restoration project and the LAR stands out like a sore thumb. Since the ACOE fairly recently cleaned out the LAR, why are they not cleaning out the arundo between that and the Bull Creek project? Do they plan to remove the arundo below the project once the project is complete? Is this the ACOE's intent? Glenn will talk to Carvel.

We have no update from the ACOE. Glenn said 2 bridges and some rip-rap have been installed, based on what he can see from outside the fence. Joyce said some plantings went in very recently. Snowdy will ask Steve if he can take some pictures.

Boundless Youth Ball Field ("Dodger Dream Field"): Tim said Abel represented R&P at the Friends of Lake Balboa public meeting. Glenn said Friends of Lake Balboa objected to locating that project at Lake Balboa. Letters submitted will be part of the public record. Sharon Brewer learned the R&P Commission authorized \$55K for studying the project, despite the claim that this project was being fully funded privately. The Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council also voted to oppose this facility being located at Lake Balboa.

Signage Updates: Tim said the rain has delayed placing the "trail closed for habitat rehabilitation" with Ranger Pat. Muriel requested Tim to follow up with Pat. Eventually she would prefer signs reading "sensitive habitat - keep out."

Friends of Lake Balboa Committee: Glenn will provide minutes of the 1/29/09 meeting referred to above for Dodger Dream Field.

No Parking on Woodley: Tim said it is still being worked on. Gil, ranger from Public Safety, was working on it. Evelyn Solano is the ranger now. They're trying to get signs to prohibit overnight parking. Gene suggested we invite a DOT engineer to give us an opinion on how to stop the parking of large trucks on Woodley Ave. and overnight parking all together.

Recreation & Parks Department: Rosemarie asked Tim if the bridge over Hayvenhurst Creek from near Lake Balboa to the golf course has been useful or improved the use of the coffee shop. Golfers use it.

Glenn asked how many staff hours are assigned to the WR. Two persons are assigned full time to the WR and Lake Balboa, under Steve Moe. The R&P staff is down about 30%. The regular R&P maintenance staff takes care of the restrooms and turf areas of the WR.

Muriel asked about Clifford's cricket fields in turf grass areas of WR. Tim will look into this.

Regarding the ornamental fruit trees and other non-natives planted along Wildlife Way, they will be replaced with native trees by R&P. The trees recently planted will be moved elsewhere. Tim will work with Steve H on the correct selection of native trees for Wildlife Way.

Japanese Garden: Gene Greene requested the committee give him things to put on his bulletin board. 6/13/09 they'll have a big 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary thank you celebration. The committee will be invited. The garden will hold more cultural events and will be working at educating the public about uses of reclaimed water.

California Native Plant Society: Snowy distributed flyers for Wildflower show 4/11 and 4/12.

Canada Goose Project: Rosemarie reported there are up to 400 geese. They should be leaving around now except for the resident flock.

Resource Conservation District: Glenn reported that one of their board members recently visited the Bull Creek project and was very impressed. Glenn suggested that once that's open we hold some sort of event there.

Organizations Listed on Agendas as No Longer Active: There was discussion of why we list these organizations on our agendas as no longer active. Recruiting these organizations to resume participation should be on a future agenda.

Rosemarie will chair this committee beginning with next month's meeting.

Submitted by

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