

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Minutes -- October 27, 2009

The walkthrough scheduled for 4:00 this afternoon at Bull Creek was cancelled due to intense winds blowing huge amounts of dust.

Bob Munsey chaired. A quorum was established. Other voting members attending included Glenn Bailey, Snowdy Dodson, Sharon Ford and Muriel Kotin. Guests, alternates and non-voting members included Steve Agrella, Tim Johnson, Kris Ohlenkamp and Henry Suzuki.

The meeting announcement, agenda and minutes were not mailed out this month. The previous two months they have been arriving on the day of the meeting or one day before it. Perhaps we should just send emails in the future. However there are many persons on the mailing list for whom we do not have an email address.

Minutes of the September 2009 meeting: Glenn Bailey requested changing the sentence about lapsed members to read "It was suggested that organizations whose membership has lapsed be dropped from the agenda" and that the second sentence under public comment be deleted.

Bob suggested holding our autumn walkthroughs in September from now on, so that cancellations because of weather or other problems will not make rescheduling impossible. After the end of daylight savings time, late afternoons are too dark for us to hold walkthroughs before these committee meetings.

Public Comments:

Kris Ohlenkamp announced that SFV Audubon's new College Conservation Committee held a tour and cleanup in the Wildlife Reserve last Saturday. About 35 participated. December 12, Kris wants to organize a conservation activity in the Wildlife Reserve (WR). He would like to install wire barriers to keep people on trails at areas that are especially abused. Muriel and Snowdy preferred planting of California Roses or blackberries near lake's edge. Snowdy commented that Hummingbird Hill needs maintenance and plantings there. Glenn suggested checking the event calendar and notifying Rec & Parks know about the event.

Steve Agrella, a photographer, commented that he has noticed deterioration in the caliber of people hanging out in the WR during the 5 years he has been photographing there. He saw someone wring the neck of a mallard and prepare to cook it, and another person collecting bird eggs. There is a problem with off-leash dogs. Signage is extremely limited and entirely in English. Spanish signs are

needed. He recommends more, bigger signs. People may not understand that it is a WR. He thinks the problem is largely ignorance, but some people know they're breaking the rules and don't care. He thinks the WR is a wonderful place that is going downhill fast. He wants more law enforcement. Graffiti is a problem. Glenn recommended phoning OPS. Their number is 213.978-4670.

Tim will have the 2 no fishing allowed signs he got from Ranger Pat Aceves installed, pointing toward the east side of the lake from each end.

Henry Suzuki, another photographer, spoke about the fishing. He has spoken with Evelyn Solano. She told him that they cannot do anything about licensed fishermen, only the unlicensed ones. He spoke with Cindy Wood F&G officer. He said last year was worse than this year. He wants more NO FISHING signs in the WR. Evelyn Solano has busted a lot of fishermen under a municipal code that says No Fishing in a city park. Henry would like to see a higher fine imposed for fishing to provide a greater deterrent.

Sharon Ford commented that it's getting worse out there. She recommended the photographers phone Cardenas's office. She urged Tim to get the two signs installed. The phone number of Tony Cardenas' VN Field Office is 818.778-4999.

Snowdy suggested that we put on next month's agenda writing a letter to the Council office requesting an ordinance protecting the WR (or all city WRs) from fishing, dogs, fires, camping, hunting, taking eggs, etc. Maybe we can suggest a designation of Wildlife Refuge during the upcoming walkthrough in preparation to updating the Sepulveda Basin Master Plan.

It was requested that the agenda have a standing item along the lines of "Wildlife Issues."

Illegal Cricket Field: Bob distributed copies of a follow up letter to Abel Perez dated 10/19/09. Tim Johnson said Abel will have a reply by next month's meeting. Glenn requested that Abel email us if he has an answer sooner. Glenn reported that he saw Clifford's activities since last month's meeting. Clifford was mowing the cricket field above the WR parking. Stakes around it had been restored. Clifford told people seated on the grass near his area to leave because he was about to turn on the water at 10:00 AM. Sharon Ford will phone James Ward of R&P about Clifford's claim to have permission from James.

Dog Policy: Glenn discussed the issue with Lynda Levitan of Councilmember Tony Cardenas's staff early this month and she feels additional signage should be installed. Bob will send her a follow up email.

Horse Droppings: These were probably from volunteer mounted police. We will remove this from the agenda unless the droppings occur again.

Bird/Aircraft Strike Mitigation: Bob spoke from someone at the FAA and will try to get more information from them. Glenn suggested that Bob request Rosemarie White to provide any useful information she can. It is unclear so far whether the SB might be impacted by any proposed mitigation.

November - December Meetings: November meeting will be on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, which is not a problem. We will decide at our November meeting about a December meeting.

Meeting Schedule for Next Year: Meetings will continue on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

Trucks on Woodley: There are now signs posted reading NO OVERNIGHT PARKING and 4 HOUR PARKING LIMIT. The dirt hauling trucks may appear from time to time. We will keep our eye on the situation.

Sepulveda Basin Master Plan: On November 9 at 10AM there will be a walkthrough by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and the consultant hired to update the master plan which was last updated 1981. The team invites members of this committee and other interested organizations to participate in the tour. On Saturday 11/21/09 there will be a public meeting at the Garden Center.

Special Events: Glenn learned about a recent run through the Wildlife Reserve by several colleges. It had a permit. The run went through a portion of the WR, mainly west of Haskell Creek. It was not on the events calendar, but there were 10 colleges, with 238 runners registered and 500 observers. CSUN has wanted to do this event for 7 or 8 years but had been told it wouldn't be allowed. Louie Loomis said this was a one-time event, but the coach wants to make the event annual and expand up to 15 colleges and 1000 observers. Glenn suggested to the coach that he come to one of these meetings. He would like to come to our January meeting to discuss the course and size of the event.

Department of Recreation and Parks: Tim said the Dam Keeper stopped by and apologized that he couldn't stay for the meeting. There is one more trail south of where Woodley dead ends into Burbank Blvd., near the bus bench, to be cleared for fire control; otherwise the trails are cleared. 11/21 is Children's Day, a big event, in Woodley 1 and 2. The brush that has been cleared has been removed now. They are trying to work on some of the Russian Thistle northeast of the archery range, near the base of the dam.

Resource Conservation District of the Sta. Monica Mts (RCD): Glenn suggested that the chair send something to the agencies that aren't always here an email before our meetings, asking for updates, especially the ACOE and Lynda Levitan. The RCD board would like a tour. Glenn spoke to Torin Dunnivant of TreePeople who may start attending these meetings.

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society: Muriel reported that the field trip program (SBEEP) for classes from LAUSD has begun. There has been considerable presence by park police from the Office of Public Safety during the field trips.

Submitted by

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