

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Minutes February 23, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 6:53 p.m. Glenn Bailey chaired. A quorum was established. Other voting members attending were Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin and Bob Munsey. Sharon Ford attended the second half (arrived at 8:08 p.m.). Non-voting members and guests were Patrick Aubuchon, Keri Barton and Jeremy Thomas. After introductions, minutes of the January 2010 meeting were approved without change.

Announcements:

Muriel reported that SFV Audubon College Conservation Corps will do a barrier planting Saturday (or Sunday). The SFVAS cleanup of Haskell Creek will be Saturday 4/10 8:30 - noon. Other organizations are invited to be co-sponsors of the event.

Glenn distributed a flyer for the Valley Water Expo at Balboa Sports Center 4/22/10, 6 PM - 9 PM.

Public Comment: Patrick Aubuchon asked about the extent of the use of reclaimed water in the Basin. It is partial and does not extend all the way to White Oak. Woodley Park will be the next area in the Basin to use reclaimed water.

Proposed Cross Country Meet: The coach of Cal. State Northridge cross country was not in attendance.

Public Recreational Use Plan of 1987: A copy of the plan was distributed to those attending. It is also on the SepulvedaBasinWildlife.org website. Pages 6 - 8 have the 14 rules of public access and use. The requirement for Annual Reviews begins on page 9. Steve H's recollection is that the reviews occurred during Dick Ginevan's representation to this committee and irregularly under James Ward. The ACOE has not commented on this or any other items for this meeting. Glenn feels the Public Recreational Use Plan governs several current issues and that the annual process should be reinstated. Steve feels that in this time of shrinking budgets, we should target the issues we feel are currently the main problem areas. Meanwhile we should keep the document in mind as problems arise.

Sepulveda Basin Master Plan Update: The second public workshop was held last Saturday. There were many errors in labels of streets and streams on the map used. Another possible error showed the east side of Haskell Creek north of Wildlife Way as part of "operations" (the Tillman Plant). The ACOE's consultant, Tetra Tech, will correct the errors and check out the possible error about the

east side of Haskell Creek. Generally expressed opinions at the meeting included that no events other than interpretive, educational ones should be allowed in the Wildlife Reserve or Bull Creek Restoration Area; wildlife must be protected; and more passive park land needed. According to the lease, large events should be restricted and may be held only with ACOE's written permission. There will be a 3rd public workshop on April 28 (or 29?) when a draft master plan will be presented.

Hummingbird Hill: Jeremy has not heard anything from the department about repairing the destroyed plants. Glenn will email Jeremy for a follow up. Jeremy asked Steve H for a plant list of what should be replanted at HH. Steve suggested the actual plantings wait until the fall except for what they have on hand already and can plant now.

Bull Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project: There are serious erosion problems which were discussed at the public workshop. Steve H said that the entire oxbow got entirely silted up with sand and debris. Jeremy said the oxbow will have water only when it rains. Steve suggested that much of the silt may be dust from the Station Fire, washed in from a large area of the valley. Jeremy says Rec & Parks doesn't have the type of equipment that can get down into the creek. Patrick Aubuchon suggested taking in tracked vehicles from north of Victory Blvd. Steve said the hillside areas are starting to look good. Hydromulch is being used between the willows and mulefat along the creek banks.

City can't afford to hire Bill Neill to control weeds. Steve will get a bid from Bill for the Consortium to pay him to control the weeds in Bull Creek this spring. There is erosion along the LA River near Woodley Lakes Golf Course from last week.

Glenn suggested that the Audubon Society might counteract the unfortunate positive publicity recently given by the media about feeding birds. (There were two different Daily News articles - available on the Friends of Lake Balboa website.) The flow of water in Lake Balboa has been cut way down because the new grates installed to avoid drowning coots in the drains were improperly designed. Rec & Parks is trying to remedy the situation. The unauthorized Cricket Field is still being used; it was suggested that OPS stop by on Saturdays at 11 a.m.

Commemorative Grove: Glenn will advise Tetra Tech and the ACOE of our wish to have a commemorative grove in the WR, possibly west of Haskell Creek. Moved,

seconded and unanimously passed that, as in all of the WR, all plants in the commemorative grove should be native to So. California.

Sepulveda Basin ACOE/Rec & Parks Lease will be posted on the website in preparation for discussion next month. Members are requested to become familiar with it after it is posted.

Policy on Sports Events and Large Scale Filming in Wildlife Reserve Areas: The ACOE said at Saturday's Master Plan Workshop that large events are not allowed in Wildlife Reserve Areas. Jeremy said Film LA gives permits for filming. There is confusion about the amphitheater area. Jeremy said there is no filming there only during nesting season. Muriel said large scale filming should not be allowed in the amphitheater at all. She finds it puzzling that the amphitheater was designed to be large enough to hold 120 people but the city limits events there to 75.

The SBWASC Mailing List should be reviewed and updated.

California Native Plant Society: Steve commented that he did not see trash in Haskell Creek below the 2nd bridge.

Resource Conservation Dist. - Sta. Monica Mts.: Glenn is impressed with the numbers of school children who visited the Wildlife Reserve in January.

San Fernando Valley Audubon: Muriel advised that the Recreational Transit Program (RTP) bus program that has provided crucial partial subsidies for school visits to the Wildlife Reserve may be ended by the city.

Sierra Club: Sharon F announced that the SC kept military maneuvers from being held in Chatsworth Nature Preserve.

Submitted by

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