

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Minutes April 27, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 6:57 by current chair Glenn Bailey. Other voting members attending were Sharon Ford, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin and Robert Munsey. Non-voting members, alternates and guests attending were Patrick Aubuchon and Jeremy Thomas. Minutes of the March 23, 2010 meeting were approved as submitted.

Rene of the Rec & Parks office prepared a list of WASC hard copy recipients, which Glenn passed around for comments, corrections.

Announcements:

Glenn distributed information about an upcoming FoLAR river cleanup May 8. Lake Balboa will be a site.

Muriel announced that one of the bluebird nest boxes installed near the WR parking has 2 nestlings, about half grown, which Mark Osokow, who is a federally licensed bander, will band next week. Steve H suggested we investigate burrowing owl nest boxes for future installation.

Bob provided information from the Air Force on using radar to avoid bird-airstrikes.

The RCD got the tire of the electric vehicle fixed. SFVAS and the RCD are finished using it until October. Apparently the Canada Goose Project is still using it, so it should remain at the Tillman plant near the Japanese Garden office. At May meeting we should see if it should stay there over the summer. Muriel explained that the electric "Think! Smart" vehicle was donated by Galpin Ford to the city for use by volunteers of wildlife areas in SB. The donation was made through the auspices of Councilmember Tony Cardenas's office.

Public Comment: None.

Proposed Expansion of Tillman Reclamation Plant: A representative will attend next month's meeting. Glenn explained that the purpose of the expansion is to clean the effluent beyond tertiary level, so it can be better reused. The 4 alternatives being considered for the site are the southeast corner of TWRP within its berm; the Japanese Garden office trailer area and the corner of Woodley Park north of the entrance road to the Japanese Garden; outside the Tillman berm, at the Cricket field immediately north of Wildlife Way; and the laydown area near the northernmost cricket field north of Wildlife Way. There is also a fifth alternative, in the northeast SF Valley, which would require expensive additional piping. Glenn is concerned about the impact on Haskell Creek and our

hopes to establish riparian habitat along its east bank. Muriel is also concerned that the Wildlife Reserve land not be impacted directly or indirectly.

Wildlife Reserve Clean Up on April 10: Muriel reported it was a big success, with 70 volunteers participating.

Public Meeting on Master Plan Update April 24: Glenn reported that there was a big crowd, about 130 people, many from golf and model airplane field. A land use classification map was distributed, which Steve H finds highly flawed. Glenn reported that Kathleen Bullard of TetraTech, the ACOE's consultant, said the golf courses and Apollo Model Air Field will keep their present uses.

Steve H mentioned that on the map only the north wildlife reserve is shown as environmentally sensitive - the south reserve is not given that rating. North Haskell Creek is still shown as an operations area. In the Bull Creek Restoration Project area, only the oxbow is shown as environmentally sensitive and the rest is recreation low density. The scale is too small to see if all creeks are shown as environmentally sensitive, but apparently not. Lessees are not shown on the map. Nicely, the corn maze area which this committee would like to incorporate into the Wildlife Reserve is shown as environmentally sensitive. Recalculated flood lines are shown on the map, including 10 year.

Sharon Ford agreed with Steve's comments. She would really like to get rid of the jet model airplanes. Steve said that when he mentioned his objections to the jets to a model airplane representative after the meeting, he learned the model airplane enthusiast also has problems with the jets.

Glenn noted, regarding the flood lines, and considering erosion and flood damage at Encino Golf Course near the LA River, that perhaps the future of Encino Golf Course might be more problematic than that of Woodley Lakes Golf Course.

Glenn also noted that the agricultural field, south of the LA River, near the dam gates is shown as operations, except just east of Hjelte Field which is designated as inactive or future recreation.

Glenn will draft a comment letter and circulate to the committee.

Hummingbird Hill: Steve mentioned that some of the new plants are dying. Jeremy is aware of that.

Enforcement of No Fishing and No Dogs Rules: Steve endorsed a suggestion that photographer Val Sikorski made to him, that we have handout sheets with the rules, one side in English, the other in Spanish for volunteers to hand out in the WR.

Sharon is leaning on city council offices to protect people and wildlife in the WR. Glenn said OPS is citing for fishing without a license, but the officers say they can't cite for fishing per se. Jeremy has an email from Evelyn Solano that there are daily patrols through the Sepulveda Basin, etc.

Bull Creek Ecosystem Restoration: Glenn received an email from Carvel Bass that the ACOE is still studying the problems of erosion and siltation there.

Steve asked if the bus only parking signs at the turn around could come down temporarily until buses actually use the area. Glenn will put this on next month's agenda.

Jeremy said the new trail will be opened as soon as there is orange fencing along it. Pat suggested a wood border would be a good Eagle Scout project. He'll look into that.

Steve said the weeds are growing hugely; Jeremy said Bill Neill should be assigned out there soon, but the materials are not available yet.

Calendar of Events: Glenn distributed a copy, which he had trouble getting.

Maricela Bautista is now in charge of the calendar. Muriel asked to be notified well in advance about the Boy Scout day camps in Woodley Park because they typically use the storeroom where SFVAS and the RCD store equipment for school field trips. The calendar seems to indicate two scout day camps this year, in July and August.

Memorial Grove: This should stay on the agenda. It does not need to be part of the Master Plan.

Large Special Events in Basin: Committee members expressed serious concern about their impacts on wildlife and visitors to the park.

Walkthrough Next Month: This will focus on Bull Creek.. Meet at the bus turn-around area at Bull Creek at 4:00. The committee will have its regular meeting at 6:45.

Wildlife Reserve Parking Lot Rental: Muriel complained that last Wednesday a filming company had taken over the entire lot, which they said they had rented, resulting in a shortage of parking for parents who drove their students to the WR for a field trip. On an earlier occasion this school year the naturalists had difficulty parking their cars because of a filming company. Jeremy said he lets filming rent only $\frac{1}{2}$ of the WR parking lot. Phone him if the problem occurs again. We should notify him of scheduled weekday walks and of large weekend ones.

Committee Membership: Encino and Lake Balboa neighborhood councils might like to be ex-officio members. The chair will contact the presidents of the Encino and Lake Balboa neighborhood councils.

Recreation and Parks Department: Jeremy reported that Steve Dunlap is now the Lake Manager, working out of the Central Service Yard. Daily water samples are still being taken from the Wildlife Lake.

Resource Conservation District: They're sponsoring a fire summit June 2. Glenn will email a flyer.

Sierra Club: June 17 is an annual dinner. Sharon F will email flyer.

Next Meeting will be May 25, preceded by a walkthrough of Bull Creek at 4:00PM.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03PM.

Submitted by

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