

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee  
Minutes May 25, 2010**

Glenn Bailey chaired the meeting which was called to order at 6:51 PM. There were self introductions. Robert Baker who will take over from Jeremy Thomas in 2 weeks was introduced. Jeremy Thomas is leaving Recreation & Parks, moving over to DWP. Voting members attending were Glenn Bailey, Sharon Ford, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin, Bob Munsey, and Rosemarie White. Non-voting members, alternates and guests were Robert D. Baker, Kerri Barton, Snowy Dodson, and Jeremy Thomas. A quorum was established. The minutes of our April 27, 2010 meeting were approved as provided.

Announcements: California Native Plant Society plant sale will be October 2 and 3 at the Sepulveda Garden Center. SFV Sierra Club dinner will be 6/15. FoLAR is working with Anheuser-Busch on a 6/19 cleanup along the LAR in the Basin. Steve Hartman read a letter he received through our website regarding a recent model airplane crash into Woodley Park. Fortunately nobody was hurt. What are the rules about the model airplanes and where they are allowed to fly? Jeremy said there are rules posted at the airfield. He will send them to Steve.

Walk Through of Bull Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project: Today's walkthrough began at 4:00 before this meeting. Participants were Ann Abramson, Glenn Bailey, Kerri Barton, Sharon Brewer, Snowy Dodson, Sharon Ford, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin, Bob Munsey, and Bill Neill.

Steve thanked Jeremy for mowing an area there, which eliminated a stand of tecolote (thistle). Steve asked if the thicker weeds on hillsides that are close to the Orange Line and too steep for mowing could be weed-whacked with Steve supervising to ensure native plants are not whacked along with the weeds. Jeremy said that could be tried, but the weeds may be too tough.

Steve asked if volunteers to weed in the Bull Creek area need to sign up. Yes. Jeremy will get forms to Steve.

The committee is concerned about the lack of water in the oxbow. Jeremy hasn't heard anything about a solution from the ACOE yet. Steve suggested the committee write a letter to Congressman Sherman regarding the problems with the oxbow. He will draft a letter.

There are 3 shopping carts in the oxbow. Jeremy will get them out. He will see if he can get the trash weir cleared out through new lake manager Steve Dunlap.

The fence closing off the new trail should be opened to let people use the trail. We would like Stay on Trail signs and a fence along the north edge of the trail. Signs will be moved from other locations in the project where they're no longer needed.

San Fernando Valley Audubon (SFVAS) is interested in leading bird/nature walks at Bull Creek starting in the fall, in collaboration with other groups, as suggested by Friends of Lake Balboa (FoLB). Kerri Barton suggested starting on a once quarterly basis.

Glenn mentioned areas where graffiti were observed. Robert has seen it. The graffiti on the bridge may be difficult for the painters to reach. Some areas of the path were rutted.

Bob Munsey thanked Steve for his leadership in today's walkthrough.

Proposed Tillman Water Reclamation Plant (TWRP) Expansion: No one from this committee attended the recent Recycled Water Advisory Group (RWAG) meeting. Glenn said his understanding is that Sanitation is still working on the scoping of the expansion. R&P has not heard anything.

Glenn has been working with the cricket players who are very concerned about the impact on their fields, on which they've spent much money. They would like to work with us. They will try to get players to stop playing across the pathway from the amphitheater into the WR. Muriel and Sharon F expressed concern that we not lose parts of the WR to cricket.

Recent Friends of the LA River Cleanup: FoLAR had 400 volunteers and picked up 1.58 tons of trash May 8 from the LAR near Balboa Blvd.

Sepulveda Basin Master Plan Update: Nobody has heard anything further from Tetrattech or the ACOE. Steve H recently phoned Kathleen Bullard about

Davidson's Mallow at Hansen Dam and SBWR's Hummingbird Hill. Glenn believes comments are still being accepted.

Hummingbird Hill: Jeremy was there today. Watering has revived the dying recently planted plants there.

Security Issues: There was a recent cleanup of homeless south of Burbank Blvd.

Temporary Removal of Bus Only Parking Signs at Bull Creek: After discussion, the general consensus was to drop this idea.

Commemorative Grove: The location was discussed. There are many possibilities. It was decided to postpone discussion of this.

Large Special Events in Sepulveda Basin: Carvel Bass asked the committee's input on the handling of applications. Glenn distributed as an example a Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for a large special event for our input. Carvel requested Glenn to organize this committee's response. Sharon reminded us that the ACOE rules forbid sales. Snowdy pointed out the event date should be included on the form.

Carvel sent out a couple of notices very recently about filming on the Sepulveda Dam spillway and equipment training there for fire equipment. Glenn made copies available.

SBWASC Memberships: The local neighborhood councils have been invited to join the committee as non-voting members and will consider.

Welcome Brochures/Flyer: Steve Hartman's draft was reviewed. A few changes were suggested. The City is reviewing the content.

Recreation & Parks Department: There was a homeless encampment cleanup early this month in the South Reserve and near the bike path west of Balboa along the LAR. The department planted wildflowers at the intersection of Balboa and Burbank boulevards. The committee thanked Jeremy for his good work in the short time he worked with us. He is leaving June 4.

California Native Plant Society (CNPS): Steve submitted two invoices for webmaster expenses for reimbursement (\$14.82 and \$18). Muriel will give it to the SFVAS treasurer.

Canada Goose Project: They are doing a year-round study of the geese at Woodley Lakes Golf Course. There quite a few families of Canada Geese there. Coyotes are preying on the geese at night. They are observing that orphaned goslings are being adopted by surviving adult geese.

Resource Conservation District of the Sta. Monica Mts. (RCD): There will be a fire summit 6/2 at AQMD in Diamond Bar. Friends of Lake Balboa will have Gregory Randall, wildlife specialist for Animal Services, speak at their meeting Thursday night at the Tillman Plant conference room.

SW Herpetologists: Glenn reported that John Holmes recently said he is interested in resuming attending these meetings.

Next Meeting: Tuesday June 22, 2010 at 6:45.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51.

Submitted by

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