

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee**  
**Minutes June 22, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 6:51 by Chair Glenn Bailey. A quorum was established. Minutes of the 5/25/10 meeting were approved after correcting 2 spellings. Other voting members attending were Sharon Ford, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin, Bob Munsey and Rosemarie White. Non-voting members, alternates and guests attending were Robert Baker, Kerri Barton, Ron Fagan, Gene Greene and Diana Wilson. This meeting was the first at which lead senior gardener Robert Baker was the representative for Recreation and Parks.

Announcements: Bob Munsey will be teaching a class at Pierce College on firearms. He also announced the availability of improved earthquake safety techniques. He mentioned that the FAA's improved radar helps avoid bird strikes by aircraft. Muriel requested that next month's agenda include discussion about trimming tall plants away from lake viewing areas.

Glenn announced the reorganization of the former Lake Balboa Neighborhood Association as "Voices of Lake Balboa." Their "territory" includes the Sepulveda Basin as well as the Lake Balboa neighborhood.

Jan Hinkston has suffered a major stroke in Wisconsin.

Public Comment: Ron Fagan said the geese at Lake Balboa are disappearing due to poaching. He suggested using solar surveillance cameras at Lake Balboa and Wildlife Lake. Grates were added at Lake Balboa 5 or 6 months ago to keep coots from being trapped at the weirs, but the weirs resultantly need to be cleaned out by the lifeguards several times a day. Glenn requested Ron to email him information about the cameras. Glenn will forward that to the committee and senior lead officer Evelyn Solano of OPS.

Proposed Tillman Water Reclamation Plant (TWRP) Expansion: Gene Greene said an assessment of 4 locations was made. Their contractor's lay down field just north of the cricket fields north of Wildlife Way is a possibility. There will be a major impact on the Japanese Garden. Glenn mentioned that TWRP may be looking

again at the northeast valley spreading grounds area. Sanitation's lease does not cross to the east side of Haskell Creek to the best of Gene's knowledge.

Glenn mentioned a presentation from the Water IRP Stakeholders Meeting on June 10 about a planned pit within the TWRP berm. A contractor has been selected. A Negative Declaration was used as it's fully within the TWRP Lease.

FoLAR Cleanup June 19: Kerri said about 20 participants cleared out shopping carts from the river.

Sepulveda Basin Master Plan Update: Nobody has heard anything. Release of an updated master plan draft is expected this summer.

Habitat and Wildlife Issues: Hummingbird Hill has not been irrigated since before our last meeting. Steve H will tour the Basin with Robert Baker.

Fishing, Dogs and Public Safety: Glenn will invite Lead Officer Evelyn Solano to a committee meeting.

Bull Creek Restoration Project: Robert said job orders have been put in for graffiti removal. The old orange fencing is being replaced by newer for improved appearance. Steve H and other CNPS volunteers have been removing trash and weeds. Their weeding in Bull Creek has focused largely on the two hills. They are removing tecolote star thistle, Russian thistle and tamarisks and trimming down prickly lettuce and horseweed. Arundo is growing. Bill Neill will spray castor bean, spiny cocklebur, etc., within the creek bed. Robert will try to make R&P employees aware what a sensitive area it is.

The ACOE Colonel will be doing a walkthrough of the Basin the week of July 8. Steve will ask Carvel if Steve can participate. There's no water in the oxbow. There has been no word from the ACOE on the erosion problem. Steve reminded Robert that the trash weir at the north end of the Bull Creek needs to be cleaned

out, which will require Lake Manager Steve Dunlop's help. Steve H asked that the irrigation be turned off (it was turned off today) and if the native plants start to wilt, any irrigation should be deep. The path extension looks good, with fencing on the north side. There are a lot of little California walnut trees starting to grow. Steve will draft the letter discussed last month to Rep. Sherman and circulate it to the committee. There was no objection to the letter being sent prior to our next meeting.

Commemorative Grove: We will discuss possible locations at our next meeting.

Neighborhood Councils: The Encino and Lake Balboa NC's both plan to have non-voting members but have not yet selected their representatives and alternates.

Welcome Brochure: R&P is reviewing the draft. Steve will email Robert and the committee members a copy.

Lake Balboa Outflow Screen Installation to Protect Birds: Kerri expressed concern that frequent removal of the grates presents a danger to the birds. Robert explained that the grates have to come off at least once a day for cleaning of trash and algae. There are two employees there at that time, in order to lift the grates. Gene may be able to help R&P with a better grate like those used at the Japanese Garden.

Ron is going to discuss a floating sign about not feeding the birds for use at Lake Balboa with Abel Perez, or in his absence with Kathleen Hanover. He showed a sign about recycling fishing line.

Recreation & Parks: The Pothole Pond is almost empty. Steve H will show Robert where the valve is next week. Eventually reclaimed water should be used there rather than potable.

Japanese Garden: Gene Greene welcomes our emails. He is getting the native plantings on the Tillman berm weeded. He is also trying to get weeds removed from the lay down field. All the month of May they held an Okinawa Festival.

California Native Plant Society (CNPS): Steve has a small group of volunteers that has been weeding with him. The native landscapes along the road between Woodley Ave and the R&P headquarters need weeding. He and Robert will discuss having the volunteers do the weeding while teaching R&P staff how to do it.

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (SFVAS): Muriel said SFVAS is interested in leading bird/nature walks through Bull Creek. She asked for help training leaders; Steve volunteered. The committee in general wants to be notified about the training. Its members may attend. Kerri recommended that the walks cover nature in general, as well as the birds.

Signs: Gene said the signs for the Japanese Garden and WR are coming down for replacement. The committee is comfortable with remounting Wildlife Reserve signs like what we have now.

The next meeting will be July 27. The deadline for agenda items is July 13.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58.

Submitted by

Muriel S. Kotin

Member Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee