

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Meeting July 27, 2010 - Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 PM by chair Glenn Bailey after a quorum was established. Other voting members present were Snowdy Dodson, Muriel Kotin and Bob Munsey, soon joined by Sharon Ford and Rosemarie White. Non-voting members, alternates and guests were Abel Perez, John Holmes and Carol Wu. Introductions were made. The membership standing of SW Herpetologists will require 3 more attendances out of the next 7 meetings.

Minutes of the June 22, 2010 meeting were approved as distributed.

Announcements:

Glenn was at a meeting with DWP officials recently. Nothing was said about Haskell Creek. The EIR for advanced recycled water treatment will look at alternative sites.

Glenn distributed copies of the Calendar of Special Events in abbreviated format, dated 7/8/10.

There will be a meeting regarding the Sepulveda Basin Dog Park tomorrow night. Tentatively there will be a distribution of trees and maintenance of cherry trees at Lake Balboa on 8/28.

Muriel said SFVAS is planning the first quarterly Bull Creek Nature Walk for October 30, 9AM-11AM.

Office of Public Safety: Glenn spoke to Officer Evelyn Solano, Senior Lead Officer of OPS about the fishing, off leash dogs and security issues in the Wildlife Reserve. She may be able to be here later this evening.

Sepulveda Basin Master Plan Update: Carvel Bass of the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) sent a brief update to Glenn. 80% completion of the master plan will be submitted by consultant Tetra Tech in Aug-Sept for continuing development and review by ACOE. Congressman Brad Sherman's office is trying to obtain additional federal funding for the plan. The public will not be engaged further in the Master Plan Update until next year.

Wildlife Reserve Maintenance: Muriel requested that Recreation & Parks trim back plants blocking views from viewing areas in Wildlife Reserve. She offered to

go out with Robert Baker and show him or Laura Baurenfeind what needs to be trimmed. She will send Abel and Robert an email to remind them.

Public safety and Rule Enforcement: Glenn said OPS apparently tickets only for fishing without a license and dogs off leash, but not for fishing in the wildlife lake and not for dogs on leash. We need to be sure that members of our organizations who visit the WR carry the OPS dispatch number [213.978-4670]. Discussion of the suggestion for surveillance cameras was deferred until SLO Solano is here. Glenn asked Abel to check with Robert whether he has found out whether surveillance cameras are feasible. Glenn will email SLO Solano about this too.

Bull Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project: Carvel told Glenn today that the hydraulics and hydrology study is still pending. From Congressman Sherman's office: 'Bull Creek and the oxbow is eroded in several places. In March 2010, RAP, USACE and Michael Tou (Congressman Brad Sherman's office) toured the Bull Creek Area. USACE is trying to determine if it is a design flaw or a construction problem. The Corps Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch is investigating the situation. ... On July 21, 2010 Michael stated that USACE is "still completing the report which will be available for in-house use only. The Corps plans on establishing an Architect-Engineer (A-E) Responsibility Management Review Board to review the report's findings as it relates to the issues with the project design. The Board plans on meeting with the project design firm in the coming months to discuss the Board's findings and allow it to respond.'"

Weeding at Bull Creek is discontinued until fall because of heat. There is Russian thistle upstream of Victory Blvd. Some residents in that area have been complaining to County Dept. of Public Works about illegal behavior among the tall weeds there. Glenn phoned Co Public Works; they will look at expediting removal of the Russian thistle.

Lake Balboa: Rosemarie said the numbers of Canada Geese are pretty much standard, although coyotes visit and prey mainly on non-wild waterfowl. The Canada geese move around within the basin and nearby open areas, focusing on the golf courses. There is concern that there may be poaching on domestic geese at Lake Balboa.

Commemorative Grove: Bob Munsey wants to get hold of a map to look at for consideration of possible locations. This can be a focus of our fall walkthrough.
Next Walkthrough: The committee proposes holding the walkthrough on 9/28/10, the day of our September meeting, with emphasis on possible locations for the memorial grove. Plans will be finalized at our August meeting.

Welcome Brochure/Flyer for Wildlife Reserve: We explained to Abel, who is just returned from a long leave period, that we gave Robert a copy of the proposed brochure for R&P review. Abel has a copy, but the powers that be have not seen it yet. Once it is approved, we plan to get a Spanish translation for the reverse.

Weekly 3-Mile Cross-Country Runs through Wildlife Area: There are 4 unpermitted races, with a \$7 participation fee. The first was last week on 7/21. The future runs according to the flyer Glenn acquired are scheduled for 7/28 (tomorrow), 8/4 and 8/11. The runs are being held by a private company, TryUsEvents.com. There is no permit. It's against ACOE policy. OPS will be at the race tomorrow. Officer Solano has contacted the promoters and told them the event is not allowed.

Moved, Seconded, and Passed unanimously that all athletic and commercial events in the Wildlife Reserve are incompatible with the Public Recreational Use Plan of 1987 and we request that this policy be enforced by the City of Los Angeles.

Rotation of Committee Chair: The Sierra Club, represented by Sharon Ford, will be Chair starting with August 2010. Sharon will be away, so the August meeting will be chaired by Glenn and Sharon will make the agenda.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Katie Parks is on maternity leave, so Carvel Bass is our temporary point person.

Recreation and Parks Dept.: Abel Perez is now the R&P representative to this committee. Minutes should go to Abel and Robert Baker. There is no longer a SF Valley R&P construction crew.

California Native Plant Society: Snowdy said their weeding at Bull Creek will resume in fall. It is now on hold until fall because of summer heat.

Canada Goose Project: Rosemarie said they have started an environmental training section for high school students. Carolyn Wu who attended tonight's meeting is a volunteer who is censusing geese very early in the morning.

San Fernando Valley Audubon: The Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Program will resume for the coming fall to spring season. Muriel will notify committee of naturalist training schedule when she has it.

New Committee Members: Encino and Lake Balboa neighborhood councils have both voted to send representatives. Glenn expected a representative from Lake Balboa NC this evening. John Holmes is here for the SW Herpetologists Society for the first time in a long time. They are not continuing their herp survey in the WR. John hopes that the SWHS will become current member soon.

Submitted by

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