

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee**  
**Minutes March 22, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by current Chair Steve Hartman at 7:10 when Sharon Ford arrived, making a quorum. Steve Hartman, Glenn Bailey, Muriel Kotin, and non-voting member Abel Perez were here by 6:45. One had to talk one's way through the barriers at Woodley and Victory because of mud and debris on the roads from recent flooding. Rosemarie White joined the meeting at 7:54. There were no other attendees.

Minutes of Jan 2011 Meeting were approved without change.

Announcements: CNPS Wildflower Show and Plant Sale 4/23. SFVAS Cleanup of Wildlife Reserve 4/30.

Sharon said that Phyllis Trabold of the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) who took over from Katie Parks said repeatedly that the ACOE has no obligation to provide information to this committee, as the city leases the land. Glenn suggested we contact the ACOE. This is not acceptable.

Public Comments: None -- only committee members attended.

Recreation and Parks Dept (R&P): Abel announced there was a major flood in the Basin Sunday. There was much mud, debris and damage, especially south of Burbank Blvd. Burbank Blvd. is still closed between the 405 and Hayvenhurst. There is lots of dead wildlife in the Basin. The WR is closed, hopefully re-opening next Tuesday. He hasn't heard anything about Bull Creek from the ACOE. New Park Maintenance Supervisor is Tom Leveque. Robert Baker will still be here, working under Tom Leveque.

Term of Rotating Chair: Extending the term of chair to 1 calendar year in view of the recent change to meeting only in odd-numbered months was discussed. We'll vote next meeting.

Meeting Start Time: A motion to change the starting time of meetings to 6:30 PM was seconded and unanimously passed.

South Reserve: Questions had been raised about ACOE plans there because of comments by the dam keeper. Carvel hasn't heard anything about plans to do controlled burns or to revive cutting fire roads.

Interpretive Signs: Muriel should work with Abel to find out if the templates for the original signs are available. She should take pictures of what exists.

Bull Creek: Abel has not heard anything. Glenn and Sharon have spoken to Michael Tou; there is nothing about the study of the Bull Creek forthcoming. FEMA looked at it about a year ago, but Abel never heard back from them. Steve and his volunteers have been doing a lot of weeding there. There is a huge amount of clover which Bill Neill has been spraying with a spray that does not harm grasses. There is also much tecolote, mustard, etc. Bull Creek grasslands walk is postponed from tomorrow to 3/30/10 AM because of the recent flood.

Steve sees that some of the more accessible graffiti gets removed sometimes. Glenn suggested Steve ask Keri Barton to report graffiti. Rosemarie suggested inviting the graffiti artists to one of our meetings. Perhaps they can be convinced that some areas shouldn't be destroyed. Glenn said he's been seeing just lettering, not artistic graffiti. Steve commented that he doesn't see graffiti as a wildlife issue. Glenn replied that it impacts people's enjoyment of the wildlife areas. Abel said R&P will work on the graffiti.

Glenn requested that public nature walks at Bull Creek continue, similar to the one we had last year.

Canada Goose Project: Rosemarie reported that migration is over, but there has been a resident flock the past 7 - 8 years. She is going to try to get research assistants to collate the data that has been collected to date. She may cancel

surveying next year. Springtime event will be Chatsworth NP on Sunday April 3, 10:00 - 3:00. However the city told her there will be no more access there and is cancelling access there otherwise for all who are not DWP employees.

Resource Conservation District of the Sta. Monica Mts: Glenn announced the RCD's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party will be Sunday May 22 at 4:00 at Peter Strauss Ranch.

San Fernando Valley Audubon: Muriel asked about the Recent Mowing of the Former Corn Maze. That field has been mowed except for some coyote bushes. Abel explained that it is for overflow parking for the Persian Festival the first Sunday of April. Muriel expressed concern the SBWASC had not been notified about this activity in a field adjoining the WR. How will cars be kept out of the WR? Abel said the ACOE approved it. He will meet with Steve to see where people need to be kept out of. Steve will call Carvel. Muriel and Sharon asked how SFVAS will be able to access the WR for their first Sunday birdwalk there. SFVAS should contact Louie Loomis (who negotiates permits) or Ramon Barajas (who signs permits) about access. Precedence issue. Abel said the berm to the corn maze field is temporary and will be removed after the event.

SFVAS College Student Committee plans to do a planting next fall. Steve will be happy to work with SFVAS.

California Native Plant Society: Steve will post a report of the vegetation survey along the rapid busway on the website and also give it to Carvel. Steve hopes the city will help get MTA's assistance on getting rid of the exotics.

Next meeting will be Tuesday May 24 at 6:30.

Submitted by

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