

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
January 24, 2012 -- Approved Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bob Munsey at 6:43PM. The other voting members attending were Glenn Bailey, Snowy Dodson, Jan Kidwell and Muriel Kotin. Non-voting members were Robert D. Baker and Cynthia Weichelt. After self introductions, minutes of the meeting Nov. 22, 2011 were approved with corrections to the spelling of Cynthia Weichelt's name and Kevin Regan's title: Assistant General Manager.

Announcements: Jan distributed copies of the Jan-Feb "Southern Sierran," which has an article featuring SBWR. Jan offered to put our news in the "Southern Sierran" and in the newsletters of local Sierra Club groups. The committee should email her information we would like them to include.

Glenn is on the mayor's city budget questionnaire committee. He recommended we and members of our organizations complete the questionnaire soon and let them know what we need for the SBWR. New Mayor's Rep is Sandra Bedrossian, replacing Yas.

Recreation & Parks: Robert Baker. City has done a great deal of clearance in the WR and opened a 2 foot space between the DG trails and the wild roses. Once every year or two, brush clearance crews will do the clearance if his regular staff can't do it. The viewing areas and some lewd activity trails have been opened up. He is blocking some casual paths with brush piles and putting up signs to deter people from going east of the lake. He just got 10 signs that say no dogs, no fishing & no feeding wildlife. He's also putting up no lewd activity signs, just off the beaten trail, at locations determined after advice from vice squad. Robert suggested taking cuttings of wild roses, stripping thorns and sticking them in the ground. (Snowy will talk to Steve Hartman about the possibility.) He will look at the Wildlife Reserve sign near Woodley Avenue that has become hidden by shrubbery.

Cynthia suggested another sign to WR advising people southbound on Woodley to turn left. Robert will check. Robert still does not have a good address for the WR but will ask Cathie SantoDomingo.

LA RIO (Los Angeles River Improvement Overlay) Proposed Ordinance: Glenn said the city Planning Department was been told to develop this for the riverside area, which extends from Ventura Blvd. to around Vanowen Blvd. in Encino. Use of native trees on private and city property is part of the ordinance. Snowy pointed out that it is for new construction and significant remodels. Glenn believes replacement trees are also to be native.

Orange Line Corridor Sustainability Study: Glenn reported that MTA got a grant to make the stations more sustainable. The Woodley and Balboa Blvd. stations will be involved. This is really an issue of transit oriented development. Mixed use development is proposed for south of Victory near Balboa. Since that is recreational land and owned by ACOE in flood zone, although there is a part that belongs to MTA, Glenn pointed out to the commission that they need to talk to ACOE and R&P. Glenn will keep us posted if any impacts to the basin seem likely after further study and meetings.

Special Events Calendar 2012: Glenn noticed that virtually every weekend there's at least one event in Woodley Park, a dog show, car show or other. Glenn will forward the calendar to any of us on request.

Oscar Urrutia did not attend and will be invited to March meeting. Glenn suggested we might do nature walks at Bull Creek rather than at SBWR for participants of the LA LA Music Festival October 13, which would have simpler logistics.

Inviting Game Warden Kory Collins to a Meeting: Jan will phone him and invite him to either come to a meeting or a walkthrough with the committee.

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Page 3

Sepulveda Basin Master Plan: Muriel summarized contradictions about the boundaries of the WR. We will discuss the plan further at next meeting.

Wildlife Reserve Cleanup: SFV Audubon Society will sponsor on Saturday April 14, 2012.

Bull Creek Restoration: Robert said now that the temporary fencing is down, trash is blowing into the creek. R&P will put the fences back up tomorrow.

Native Plant Symposium: CNPS is sponsoring this on April 21 at the Sepulveda Garden Center, culminating Native Plant Week, with a plant sale, talks, etc.

LA Audubon: They are having problem finding a new meeting place.

Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council: They are also having difficulty finding a new meeting place.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50.

Submitted by

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