

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee**  
**Meeting May 28, 2013 - Approved Minutes**

Glenn Bailey called the meeting to order at 6:49 at the Recreation & Parks Contractor meeting room. Self-introductions were made and a quorum established: 6 voting members present. Canada Goose Project needs to attend 1 more meeting after this to regain voting membership. Voting eligibility rules were reviewed.

Voting members attending were Glenn Bailey, Terrie Brady, Glen Dake, Jan Kidwell, Muriel Kotin and Robert Munsey. Non-voting members, alternates and guests were Kamal Azeez, John Alford, Robert Baker, Debra George, Ann Ohlenkamp, Kris Ohlenkamp, Tom Rice, David Sentance, Mario Sweet, Dave Weeshoff, Cynthia Weichelt and Rosemarie White.

Minutes from the March 2013 meeting are not ready tonight; they will be reviewed and approved at our next meeting.

US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps): Willie Starks Asset Management Division emailed Glenn. He and Pryanka are unable to attend tonight due to budgetary constraints. They agree with Kris Ohlenkamp that the next meeting between Corps and stakeholders should be postponed until June or July. (Glenn will forward the email to the committee members and it will be incorporated in the minutes.)

Stakeholder Meeting April 23, 2013: Kris Ohlenkamp summarized what happened at the meeting. The City's Bureau of Sanitation was excluded. No high-level Corps staff attended. The Corps said they cannot do the plan we proposed to them. Since then Kris has summarized the Stakeholder' and Corps' positions and suggested we postpone meeting until June or July when there is a new colonel. Muriel Kotin described the meeting as like running into an unexpected brick wall. Jan Kidwell mentioned that we have never received anything in writing from the Corps from any of the meetings with them. Bob Munsey said we should continue to support Kris's good efforts and communications. Dave Weeshoff said that the Corps had previously indicated interest in our comments and ideas, but now the

Corps is steadfast on the original Vegetative Management Plan except for fixing typos.

**Moved, seconded and approved 6-0 that the existing Vegetative Management Plan (VMP) of 2012 be withdrawn and replaced with a new VMP followed by an at least 60 day public participation process.** John Alford said that Congressman Sherman is concerned about what happened and the lack of public participation to date. The Congressman is having a Town Hall meeting Sunday at 3:00 at Dixie Canyon Elementary School in Sherman Oaks. He has been getting much public comment about the South Reserve.

Bureau of Sanitation: Wing Tam sent an email to Glenn. Wing does not have any updates at this point. The River Committee is not meeting in May. Councilman Reyes is leaving the Council in June; there will be a new chair. Cynthia W said the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council (LBNC) has voted to support the Jan Perry motion. We are all asked to share with each other if we hear when the next committee meeting is. (It will likely be the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of June.)

Recreation and Parks (R&P): When we have a plan for the Commemorative Grove, we should submit it to Robert Baker so he can start the process of getting city approval. **Moved, Seconded and Passed 6-0 that: when the plan is ready, it should be emailed to committee members with instructions to submit comments to Steve so that any adjustments can be made before it is submitted to R&P.**

Bull Creek: We are still waiting for the Corps on Bull Creek. Robert B hopes the new chain link fence erected to protect people from falling down the eroded bank won't collapse in the next rainy season. John Alford will have Sherman's office hasten action. Glenn pointed out the erosion problem has been lingering 3 years. Robert commented that the vegetation is growing large, so R&P is trimming it back from paths.

Wildlife Reserve Fencing: there is a large area near cricket fields that has not been fixed yet. Muriel suggested leaving some of the openings that have developed to will allow people to walk into the proposed Commemorative Grove area from Woodley Park near the older cricket fields.

Barn Owl Nest Boxes: Debra George announced that the Encino Neighborhood Council (ENC) will provide funds for 4 barn owl boxes at the Balboa Sports Fields near the soccer fields that are being renovated, for gopher control. She has put together specifications and is awaiting approval of the city to accept liability in case of damage. Scott Logan has agreed to take care of maintaining the nest boxes.

Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD): Glenn has not heard what progress has been made on municipal codes. There is no MOU between LAPD and R&P yet. Debra said LAPD is more aware of wildlife issues. The non emergency LAPD number for non-911 calls is 213.978-4670. We should spread this information!

Proposed Cricket Field for Former Corn Maze Area: Cricket Association (SCCA) President Kamal Azziz said the area is large enough for 2 cricket grounds, but it would be too crowded and require nets that could harm birds. They prefer one proper cricket ground surrounded by trees. Need support of Neighborhood Councils and City Council. David Sentance told the history of cricket in So Cal. They hope the prominent location involved will help them promote the sport among Americans who are unfamiliar with it. The cricket community takes good care of their areas.

They hope to have adequate buffer zones and to not have parking in there at all. Glenn would object to having any permanent parking / paving there. Robert is concerned that parking is inappropriate because of floods. They suggested a picnic area, which Glenn likes. When major events are held, 2 or 3 times a year, people fly in and stay in hotels, getting to the game by bus. There will be ADA restrooms

next to the existing restrooms. Terrie asked about EIR/EIS: it's way earlier than that stage. Glen D suggested that we join forces with the cricket association and support their fields, and that they support our efforts to improve the Sepulveda Basin Master Plan. Glenn asked how high cricket balls go. The equivalent of a home run, maybe 70 yards horizontally and possibly 70 feet high. Glenn thinks a surrounding berm might reduce the number of balls escaping the cricket field. Kris commented that the land was originally very low grassland, similar to what is there. There may be some minor loss of habitat from a cricket field, not enough to be a major issue. Kris is concerned about lights. They replied that lights will be used only 2 or 3 times a year, for big events. Glenn said an EA will probably be required later. Glenn suggested they find out from the Corps what the parameters are. Terrie requested that they provide ways to make the field environmentally friendly as part of their project. She and Kris asked for protections for ground nesting birds, including delaying the cricket season until the end of June. They will be installing an ADA pathway/ramp. Glenn recommended additionally a DG walkway to formalize the informal trail there now down to the WR. The committee and soccer representatives all agreed the trees should be California natives, such as western sycamores. They do not use fertilizers on cricket fields.

Signage: Muriel said we need a Keep Out sign at the south end of the apparent trail along the east side of the Wildlife Lake now. For the other signs, we should wait until LAPD works on MC's. Rosemarie commented that placing the Keep Out sign now is essential.

Master Plan: Glenn asked that everyone provide notes on comments before our next meeting. John Alford requested to be copied.

Upcoming Special Events: Persian Festival sponsors are talking to R&P about a Persian cultural event in the fall at Lake Balboa.

No Public Comments.

Recess to Consortium Meeting at 8:48: We have around \$29,000. Members represented: SFVAS, LAAS, Sierra Club Valley Group, RCD-SMM and Canada Goose Project.

Neither Steve Hartman nor Snowdy Dodson was present to provide details about their request to fund weed control. **Moved and seconded and passed 4-1: to fund up to \$1,000 to fund weed control through July 31, 2013.**

Muriel explained that the Regional Water Quality Control board indicated quite a few years ago that they wished us to use the remaining Consortium funds for physical improvements, rather than education programs.

The Consortium meeting adjourned at 9:03, at which time the Steering Committee also adjourned due to a lack of quorum.

Submitted by

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