

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Meeting September 24, 2013 - Approved Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chair Glenn Bailey at 6:42. Introductions were made. Tom Rice is the new maintenance supervisor for Sepulveda Basin. His cell phone is 818.398-5865. Robert Baker has been reassigned to WLA. Steve Lane has taken Abel Perez's place as Senior Park Maintenance Supervisor. A quorum was established. Voting members present were Glenn Bailey, Terrie Brady, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin, Bob Munsey, Joe Phillips, and Rosemarie White. Non-voting members, alternates and guests were Debra George, Ann and Kris Ohlenkamp, Tom Rice, and Cynthia Weichelt.

Minutes of the 7/23/13 meeting were approved as submitted.

Upcoming Events:

San Fernando Valley Audubon will resume their Family & Beginners Birdwalks at the Wildlife Reserve on Second Saturdays at 9AM, Oct. - Mar.

California Native Plant Society's will hold their annual Native Plant Sale Oct. 26 & 27 at the Sepulveda Garden Center.

Canada Goose Project will meet with Tom Rice to explain about managing the area east of the Wildlife Lake for goose forage.

Today's Walkthrough: Bob Munsey, Rosemarie, Glenn, Muriel, Steve H & Terrie Brady participated, as did weeding team volunteer Ann Abramson. Trash and encampments were seen in the South Reserve. Views at Boy Scout Bench and Outlet are blocked by vegetation and need to be opened up. Some branches of Cottonwood trees are overhanging the path and might be a danger. We need a sign telling people to keep out from the apparent path leading north from the Burbank Blvd tunnel.

Recycled Water and Groundwater Replenishment Project: There will be public scoping meetings, starting tomorrow evening. In an exchange of emails with Muriel, Bureau of Sanitation Environmental Engineer Patricia Bohlmann gave reassurance that reclaimed water to streams & lakes will continue. August 16, 2013:

To answer your question: "Will you continue to supply recycled water to Haskell Creek and Bull Creek after implementation of DWP's Proposed Recycled Water and Groundwater Replenishment Project. "

Answer: Yes, we are committed to continue to supply Haskell and Bull creeks and all existing basin lakes and streams with recycled water. The only time flow would stop, would be due to a plant maintenance activity, or an emergency.

Also in that email, in response to the question of whether the water from Tillman WRP recharging Bull Creek south of Victory Blvd. is tapped from the pipe from TWRP to Lake Balboa or from Lake Balboa itself, she stated:

After reviewing some drawings surrounding Bull Creek, we found a 12" PVC water line running north of the Ox Bow and just south of the Victory Blvd draining into Bull Creek. In addition, the catch basins or lake perimeter catch basins flow into Bull Creek just north of the main road bridge. Water flows into these catch/overflow basins from the lake.

South Reserve: Willie Stark emailed Glenn that the Army Corps of Engineers wants to host a stakeholders' meeting week of Oct. 7. The Corps will resume work in South Reserve the week of Oct. 15, including removing debris, flagging non-native trees, applying herbicide on non-native vegetation. Terri Kaplan emailed clarification that there will be a homeless intervention on Oct. 10, so they want to meet with us not later than Oct 7. Trail markers will be set upright. Paths will be regraded. We will suggest meeting Mon. Oct. 7 at 1:00.

Kris O made a presentation at a meeting sponsored by State Senator Fran Pavley, as did Jodi Clifford and Terri Kaplan. The 2 Corps representatives had a positive attitude and the Corps seems to be seeking this committee's input. Kris's 3 page critique of the vegetative management plan calls out the main errors and omissions. Kris feels that the attitude of the new Colonel will be crucial. The local Corps' focus has been the LAR and the Colonel has been quoted as saying environmental restoration is their main focus.

Bureau of Sanitation: Wing Tam emailed Glenn that they will be meeting with the Corps.

Recreation and Parks:

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Proposed Commemorative Grove: Tom Rice does not have the plan or project description. Muriel will email them to him. Tom will find out which R&P upper management people, if any, have seen them.

Bull Creek: Steve described the restoration area for Tom Rice. Steve commented that mulefat shrubs are impinging on the Bull Cr main trail, so they need to be trimmed back. His volunteers have pulled out all the stinkwort, a new invasive weed, they could find. He showed some to chief gardener Vel.

Barn Owl Boxes for Balboa Sports Center: Debra George is encountering resistance from Corps who don't want the 3 proposed boxes to go up until she can prove that barn owls will eat gophers. Kris Ohlenkamp can provide info that there is no negative result to attracting barn owls and they may help with the gopher problem. Debra is working through R&P.

Woodcrete fencing needs repair. Tom will talk to Robert Baker, who had been having it repaired.

Max Reyes is the new mayor's representative for the West Valley. He wants a tour of the Wildlife Reserve. Tom could have tour at the same time.

Bureau of Sanitation: Gene Greene offered his help. He is happy to publicize our events. He hopes to be more involved with this group than he has been lately. The new building which should get built in the foreseeable future near the Japanese Garden will provide space for small public events.

LAPD: Debra said there is no MOU or LAMC update yet, but they are enforcing the existing LAMCs now, including ticketing for being in the basin after sunset. Joe Philips said a senior lead officer told him the only major crime issue in the basin is lewd conduct.

The Vegetative Survey has been cancelled for lack of volunteers.

Signage: No Entry signs needed north of Burbank Tunnel for straight ahead or right turn. Other signs can wait until LAMCs are updated.

Public Comment: Chris Trent, who is a photographer & park user, commented on the breaking of rules like off leash dogs, fishing, throwing things at large birds, use of slingshots and b-b guns on raptors including on owls and ospreys. Committee recommended he phone 213. 978-4670 and spread the number to others. That Park Police phone number should go on future Wildlife Reserve signs.

Committee hopes that new Councilmember Nury Martinez will attend one of our meetings soon.

SFVAS Conservation Banquet will be Nov. 8, 6PM at Encino Glen Restaurant.

Encino Neighborhood Council: Parks Committee will meet at Balboa Sports Center Oct. 7.

Lake Balboa NC: Their next meeting is next Wed. at Gault ES, their new meeting location. They will be doing another neighborhood street tree planting, using California native trees.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55. The next meeting will be Tuesday November 26, 2013 at 6:30.

Submitted by

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