

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee**  
**Approved Minutes -- July 28, 2009**

Rosemarie White chaired the meeting. The other voting members attending were Glenn Bailey, Snowy Dodson, Sharon Ford, Muriel Kotin, Bob Munsey. Non-voting members, guests and alternates were Olga Ayala, Shelly Backlar, Kerri Barton, Carvel Bass, Sharon Brewer, Ron Fegan, Tim Johnson, Lynda Levitan, Joyce MacKinnon, Jim Odling, and David Warren.

After introductions, minutes of the June 2009 meeting were reviewed and were approved pending completion of the blank on page 5.

Announcements: Olga Ayala announced Councilmember Cardenas' office (CD6) will sponsor a LA River cleanup near Balboa Blvd 9/19. FoLAR will sponsor one on 8/22, east of Balboa Blvd. San Fernando Valley Audubon and LA City Park Rangers are sponsoring a Family Flashlight Walk the evening of Sunday 8/23.

Public Comment: Ron Fegan discussed fishing line problems at Lake Balboa. He showed a new PVC bin for discarded fishing line he developed and installed at the SM Pier. He wants to install 3 of them at Lake Balboa. He will work with Tim.

Friends of the Whittier Narrows Natural Area: Before this meeting, Rosemarie, Muriel and Bob took three members (Jim Odling, David Warren and Julio) of the Friends of the Whittier Narrows Natural Area on a tour of the Wildlife Reserve.

Jim Odling made a presentation about their Natural Area, also located in a federal flood control basin. They are trying to save it from development, a \$30M, football field size building about water, The project would destroy their natural area: destroy 40 acres of their 419-acre natural area, impact a creek, knock down trees and turn an area enjoyed by low income families into a fee based project.

Dog Policy: Glenn reviewed for Lynda Levitan what Kevin Regan told us last month, that to ban all dogs from the WR we need a specific city ordinance banning all dogs from the WR. Lynda said we would need to document overwhelmingly the damage caused by dogs in the WR, as dog lovers reliably oppose restrictions on dogs. Are pictures of off-leash dogs documentation? Do we need to phone OPS each time we see off-leash dogs? There is no capability for adequate enforcement. What about establishing that best practices for wildlife reserves are to ban dogs? Rosemarie will ask one of the people Kevin Regan mentioned last month to next month's meeting. Glenn suggested consulting with Calif. DFG which helped fund the WR. Is there a pertinent state law? Might they send a biologist to our next meeting?

Carvel and Bob will both contact DFG. LA County parks in flood control basins (Whittier Narrows and Eaton Canyon) allow dogs on leash. [Next month's agenda]

Bull Creek Planting: Snowdy walked the project a week and a half ago. Some of the problems she and Steve Hartman noted shortly before our June meeting have been reduced, but there are huge areas with tumbleweed, arundo, etc. Carvel will check to see who is in charge of maintenance.

Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR) and River Cleanup: Shelly Backlar, FoLAR's executive director, discussed their river cleanup planned for Sat. 8/22/09, 9AM - noon, just downstream of Balboa Blvd. FoLAR received a grant from Coca Cola Foundation for 2 cleanups with a focus on watershed conservation and recycling. Our organizations are invited to participate and connect people to this place and our organizations. They can provide tables, chairs and canopies. FoLAR has a monthly e-newsletter that publicizes events throughout the watershed, so member organizations are invited to send them information about our events.

Rosemarie invited Shelly to see about FoLAR rejoining this committee.

City Council District 6: Lynda Levitan advised that National Night Out, a huge event, will be at Birmingham HS Tuesday August 4, 5:00PM-9:00PM; a huge car show in Woodley Park August 23, the day of the evening Flashlight Walk; a deaf festival in September; and a health fair October 24 at the Japanese Garden with free flu shots.

Clifford's Illegal Cricket Field: Tim said the 405-101 corridor project is taking all of R&P's attention. It was not clear whether there is any news on the connector.

Fire in Wildlife Reserve: Participants on today's walkthrough saw large burned areas on both sides of the Burbank Blvd. tunnel and signs of a small fire along Haskell Creek. R & P and ACOE don't have any information yet. The fire apparently happened last Friday. [Next month's agenda]

Jim Odling warned that a major fire at Whittier Narrows some 20 years ago, resulted in permanent habitat conversion with loss of riparian habitat and coastal sage scrub.

Army Corps of Engineers: Carvel Bass advised the movie set outside the dam is being broken down. The Corps will meet with City Bureau of Engineering and Rec & Parks about Sepulveda Basin and Hansen Dam. A recycled water line for irrigation is planned for landscaping at Lake Balboa. They will also discuss the boundless baseball field project at Lake Balboa and the sports complex to be built west of Balboa Blvd. Glenn asked why the boundless baseball field isn't being built in the new sports complex where some of the baseball fields originally planned have been eliminated to reduce costs. Maintenance of the maintenance road in the south reserve is on the calendar for the Corps' current cycle; it may happen this fall. Positive numbers are expected in a report of Least Vireos at SB and HD.

Recreation and Parks: Tim said there's a problem with the water supply around Bull Creek, causing problems irrigating the new plantings at Bull Creek. They're doing their best to fix the breaks and to water what they can from a water truck. They hope to have the water restored tomorrow afternoon. There is much vice activity at the overlook at Burbank Blvd. near the 405. R&P is doing their best to clean up the area and reduce overgrown plantings. The gate along the top of the dam on the south side of Burbank Blvd. keeps getting unlocked with possibly unauthorized cars driving in lately. Carvel will check into it.

R&P keeps putting up orange fencing around Bull Creek and will put up more Keep Out signs. Committee members should email Tim when we observe graffiti. The graffiti team is shrinking but they're doing the best they can. Tim will probably retire within the next several months. Jeremy Thomas, who is now Tim's lead senior, will probably take over.

Los Angeles Audubon: Bob discussed condors.

Resource Conservation District - Sta. Monica Mts: Glenn said the RCD board is interested in a tour of Bull Cr & the WR.

Sierra Club SFV Group: Sharon distributed flyer for a new member meeting.

Bob Munsey becomes the Chair for six months. Rosemarie will help him.

Submitted by

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