

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Meeting September 23, 2014 - APPROVED MINUTES

Terrie Brady chaired the meeting, which she called to order at 6:35PM. A quorum was established. Other voting members present were Glenn Bailey, Snowdy Dodson, Muriel Kotin, Bob Munsey, Joe Phillips and Rosemarie White. Non-voting members were Jesse Casillas, Gary Davis (who attended as the potential representative of Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council), and Debra George (who arrived later). Alternates and guests were Bruce Campbell, Jesse Casillas, Nathan Duvall, Sr. Lead Officer David Ham, Bill Neill, Kris Ohlenkamp, Chris Trent and Walt Young. Self-introductions were made.

Minutes of Meeting July 22, 2014: Minutes were approved as submitted. Glenn suggested that in the future the non-voting members be listed as a separate grouping of attendees. The city is not willing to hang the Certificate of Appreciation presented to the SBWASC by City Council Member Koretz, so Joe Phillips won't have it framed.

Requests for Membership: Gary Davis attended for the first time, representing Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council. He is its park rep.

Announcements:

- Muriel: SFVAS will lead tours of the Wildlife Reserve in honor of National Lands Appreciation Day this Sat Sept 27. SFVAS's conservation banquet honoring Louis MacAdams will be Nov 7.
- Nathan: is organizing a cleanup of LA River near outlet of Lake Balboa Sun Oct 26 for SFVAS.
- Snowdy: CNPS will hold the annual native plant sale Sat Oct 25 and Sun Oct 26 at the Sepulveda Garden Center.
- Glenn: CicLAvia will take place Oct 5. A State Assembly District 45 candidate debate will be on Oct 6.
- Joe: He will lead a vision walk in Sep Basin Nov 1.

LAPD Senior Lead Officer David Ham: LAPD is trying to get a two man police park car assigned to the Basin. They're patrolling almost daily now, almost all weekends. Officer Solano frequently patrols here also. They're doing homeless sweeps. There is some illegal dumping, not tested for toxics. A camera would be difficult and expensive, not very effective. Non-life threatening incident, email Officer Ham: 25717@lapd.lacity.org. Non-urgent also phone 877.ASK-LAPD. (Send Officer Ham email about 10/11 cleanup - when and where.) (Glenn

mentioned that Council file 14-0818 is the one with the new proposed laws to give tickets for minor infractions.)

Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority: Walt Young gave an update on LA River recreation area in Sepulveda Basin. Very few people kayaked on their own here. Most participated as part of groups. Army Corps required them to close the banks to pedestrians and fishing because of bird nesting season. So no fishing is allowed along the LAR until the Corps takes down the signs (expected soon). Unattended fishing lines were quite a problem. They removed 4 homeless encampments. 310.456-7049 is the tel. no. to call about problems in their narrow footprint. The MRCA is responsible for getting people out of that area in case of flood events. Memorial Day through Sept 15 was the boating period in the basin this year. Lisa Sandoval is the Corps staff person to comment to about nesting season and the program.

Herbicide Application in Sepulveda Basin - Effect on Wildlife:

Bill Neill of Riparian Repairs: From 2002 on Bill has been working for the committee under Steve Hartman, using herbicides for weed control. Bill's work here has been mainly in the North Reserve. He has been doing herbicide application for habitat restoration for 31 years. He has been also working for the Army Corps in the South Reserve since March and at times works in the basin for Rec & Parks.

Bill does not observe any collateral damage from his work. He uses the right herbicide for each type of weed. He has had no impacts to his health. Herbicides are very specific to plant life. Garlon is something he applies to bark only, except in the case of Castor Bean where it goes on foliage, so hardly any goes onto ground. It is not like agricultural use where the soil biota is disturbed by repeated application. Snowdy commented that after being very leery of herbicides, she has learned how necessary and effective a very small amount of herbicide can be. Bill explained that Glyphosate can be used in aquatic situations so long as it does not have surfactants (which the formulation in Roundup has). Triclopyr (Garlon) for broad leaf plants. Imazapyr is very strong and he uses it very carefully.

Bruce Campbell of Sierra Club: Terrie and Bruce brought up research indicating possible toxicity to humans and wildlife of herbicides currently being used. He read us a list of problems to wildlife that can be caused by Imazapyr, which can persist about a year in soil. Bill does not know what concentration is being referred to, but he suspects that it is less dangerous

to animals by weight than caffeine or nicotine. He has not observed transfer from tree to tree via roots, but he understands this is a possibility. Bill said he normally lets dead plants gradually biodegrade; they're removed only if it's an aesthetic problem or a hazard. Bill uses Roundup for mustard. Roundup is effective only on green vegetation. It becomes bound up as soon as it hits clay soil, which is why it is so safe that it can be sold to non-professionals. He considers the EPA the definitive authority on safety. Bruce asked about a new herbicide that is related to Agent Orange and DDT.

Bill recommended as the best expert for an opinion is Joe Trombo with Cal Fish and Wildlife. Bill uses the same exact types of herbicides here when he works for this committee as when he works for City RAP, using city-supplied herbicides.

CAP (Continuing Authorities Program): Kris O described an Army Corps of Engineers presentation on three potential restoration projects for Sepulveda Basin. They are preparing to do studies for Encino Creek, Woodley Creek and the LA River Channel. The Corps plans to hold future public meetings on the CAPs.

Glenn expressed concern that the Corps scheduled the public meeting on an evening that many of the major players were not available. He would like the CAP to be on the agenda as a standard item. Glenn remembers before the County started routinely scraping Woodley Creek. It was lovely. Perhaps some reclaimed water from Tillman could be piped into it as part of its restoration.

Committee Members who did a walkthrough this afternoon to inspect the two creeks reported that Encino Creek was quite lovely, had running water, minimal insect activity. We don't know the source of the water there.

Significant change in Army Corps Policy: Kris also reported that the technical letter under the policies of which the destruction of the South Reserve occurred has been invalidated. A lawsuit by Friends of the River (Sacramento River) won in court and won appeals. The court rulings were ignored by the Army Corps, so Congress passed a law earlier this year that the Corps not remove vegetation from dams, levees, embankments and other appurtenant structures unless a hazard exists. This applies nationwide.

Commemorative Grove: Debra reported that there will be a tree mitigation project for the trees that will be removed from Burbank Blvd median for a turn lanes at Woodley and at Hayvenhurst. We may get our trees we want planted in the commemorative grove area and also along Woodley Ave. Kevin James of the Dept. of Public Works was agreeable to her request that the Steering Committee, CNPS and Japanese Garden have input in defining the mitigation.

Special Events: Jesse will scan calendar and email it to the committee.

Encino NC Report: Debra announced that Louise Rishoff will be retiring soon from Senator Pavley's office. RAP has a great maintenance request system online. Debra will email the link. [It is <http://m.laparks.org/#serviceRequestHome> . Debra also advised regarding the new RAP service request app. Please book mark on your smart phone. It allows you to report issues including graffiti, homeless camps, trash, etc. and include one photo. You can follow your request and you will receive an update. You can also use from your home computer. MSK]

Debra is on a committee for children oriented park projects. A swimming pool is proposed for the area just north of the new baseball fields on Balboa Blvd. A zoning change is being considered for a large to medium apartment building on land owned by metro on Victory near Balboa.

Our next meeting will Tues Nov 25. There may also be an additional meeting in Oct if the Corps is ready to discuss the VMP or CAP.

Submitted by

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