

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Minutes March 24, 2015 -- APPROVED

The meeting was called to order by Steve Hartman at 6:32. Introductions were made and a quorum established. Attending were other voting members Glenn Bailey, Terrie Brady, Muriel Kotin, Robert Munsey, Joe Philips, and Rosemarie White. Non-voting members: Debra George and Juan Villasenor. Alternates and guests: Pat Bates, Bill Bowling (FoLAR), Karin Flores (NPCA), Chris Trent, Shawn Warren (FoLAR), and Walt Young (MRCA).

Minutes of 1/27/15 were approved with inclusion of a parenthetical clarification sent by Karin Flores on page 2. Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR) sent two representatives; Steve explained the procedures for FoLAR to again become an active member.

Announcements: Bill Bowling announced FoLAR's Basin cleanup on April 11. They're doing a fish study in Long Beach with the RCD and LB Aquarium this Saturday; they will do a study in SB in the future. Muriel announced the SFVAS cleanup April 11, and a meeting this Thursday about the Santa Susana Field Laboratory. CNPS and Theodore Payne Foundation will have Wildflower Show and Plant Sale 4/18 at Sepulveda Garden Center.

USACOE: Steve had no response to his status request to Jay Field two weeks ago.

Council File 13-0024: Andy Schrader told Steve he is following up. Glenn said Community Impact Statement in Sept, 2013 was the last action.

New Municipal Codes: We have to wait to hear from Andy. The City Attorney seems to think we don't need new MC's. Debra and Chris Trent will work with Steve on this.

Additional Signage: Nothing has happened. We asked Juan to talk to Jeremy about finally getting signs and also to request that posts and chains be reconsidered, that if money is the issue, Consortium might fund.

Bull Creek Restoration: tabled.

Geographic Mapping of Wildlife Reserve Amphitheater: Muriel will write up the problem and a request and email to Steve. He will turn it into a formal request to Jeremy Thomas. (TWRP address is 6100 Woodley.)

Special Events: Persian Festival will be in Woodley I this Sunday, 3/29. Joe P heard about a bike event on 5/1. He did a walk two Sundays ago in the WR and said the area looked very good except for a homeless camp close to the pothole pond. He called Nury Martinez's office. (Terrie suggested that Sheila Keuhl's office should be included in the notices for these minutes.) Steve recommended My311 app for reporting. Bird LA Day Saturday 5/2 will be celebrated at SBWR with 2 events at 9AM.

Committee Members:

- LAAS: Bob reported problems with drones. Reported on Lyme Disease.
- Canada Goose Project: Rosemarie is looking into organizing a new conference to re-establish interest in the Geese.
- Sierra Club SFV: Terrie has done research and found recent evidence that Roundup is carcinogenic. She is concerned about removing habitat for monarch butterflies.
- Sierra Club Angeles Chapter: Joe went to an Excom Meeting Sunday. There are new conservation chairs.
- RCD-SMM: Glenn announced the office's move to Topanga. Chatsworth NP Open House Sunday 4/12.
- SFVAS: Muriel announced backing of SSFL as National Monument and Cleanup to Suburban Residential standard.
- CNPS: Steve announced continuation of weeding by volunteers. Mustard Control Zone is resulting in more growth of coyote bush and revealing horehound for removal. Comments that it looks great, with weeding and some rain.

Enhanced Infrastructure Finance District (EIFD): There was discussion concerning EIFDs along the Los Angeles River. Karin Flores said \$75K has been allocated for LAR within LA City. [Communication 4/20/15 from Glenn Bailey: "Please note that the Council File number is 14-1349 and the associated documents may be viewed online at <http://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=14-1349> ."]

Mowing in the Wildlife Reserve: Steve got reports out of the blue that the City was mowing in the WR. He asked Juan why the City mowed in the WR. Juan said that every year there are areas where they mow but not in breeding season. Steve said the breeding season seems to have begun early this year. He requested that the city check with the committee before starting activities like mowing. Steve and Juan will tour the WR together. Around 4:00 5/26 before our May meeting, we'll do a general walkthrough, inviting Juan and other city people.

Consortium Meeting: Steve explained what the Consortium is. There is about \$20K left in its account. As Sierra Club Angeles Chapter was not an original member, it did not vote tonight. Consortium Meeting Convened at 8:45.

Web page for the Steering Committee has a domain name \$33.54 for 3 years and hosting charge is \$107.99. Steve requested reimbursement of \$141.42. **Moved, Seconded and Passed** unanimously to reimburse him. .
Matti had proposed \$70 annual fee for "Meet Up," which was tabled until Matti is here.

Herbicide Application:

- Riparian Repairs' (Bill Neill) invoice is for \$2010.50 for work Aug 2014 - Feb 2015. \$2,000 was approved in July. Is there any objection to paying \$2010.15, which is \$10.15 over the amount approved? **Moved, Seconded and Passed** to pay the \$2010.50 to Riparian Repairs with Terrie abstaining.
- Bill Neill requests an allocation of \$1200 more for now through October to control an infestation of Russian thistle east of the Wildlife Lake and growth of mustard. **Moved and Seconded** to authorize an additional \$1200 for Riparian Repairs to do additional weed control through October. Glenn objected to being the sole source of funding for weed control. **Passed 4 - 2.** Steve and Glenn will look at mechanisms for getting funding for weed control. **Moved and Seconded** that we ask the city and/or the Corps for matching funds. **Passed 5 - 1.**

Consortium Adjourned and Steering Committee Meeting Resumed at 8:55.

Public Comment:

Walt Young: MRCA has 2 opinions from Corps. MRCA could issue FoLAR their cleanup permits to expedite. MRCA has been trying to remove floatable concrete debris from the LAR. They have a letter saying they can remove this debris in SB

as part of their lease, concrete that is dry and on the concrete berm, not that in the water. They will have a pilot project in the next few months. There will be no impact on birds. In one case a forklift will be used, driving only on concrete. The rest of the work will be done by hand. Their biologist Paul Edelman will be on hand. A motion will go before the city that allows MRCA to assist the city with ranger type functions.

They have a situation in Elysian Valley where environmentalists and birders are against all recreation, especially fishing, there. Rec zone is only Memorial Day to Labor Day. Muriel referred him to LAAS and Audubon California. Glenn asked if MRCA has authority to remove obstructions and blight from the river. Inside the river itself, this has not been determined yet; on the banks, yes.

Karin Flores, who is now consultant to NPCA, attended for Dennis Arguelles. NPS will release its Rim of the Valley study in April. NPCA is organizing a Rim of the Valley Coalition to have it included in the SMM-NRA. Under one of the proposals, Sepulveda Basin would be included in the NRA. She will send applications to the committee members.

Debra George for Encino NC. Easter is tough on the Wildlife Reserve. She has asked for extra help from city that day. Construction has begun on Burbank Blvd. They will replace the trees that are removed with ones in the WR where we request. Where FoLAR cleanup will be is the NW corner of River and Balboa. A small piece of wooded land may be purchased from Metro to build an apartment building, destroying the native plants - on Victory at Balboa.

Chris Trent: Last weekend a family was seen collecting eggs along the lake. Pat Bates: there are continually dogs along the lake.

The meeting adjourned at 8:59.

Next meeting will be Tuesday May 26, 2015 at 6:30 with a 4PM Walkthrough.
(Meet at the Amphitheater dressed to walk to the LA River.)

Submitted by

Muriel S. Kotin
Member Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee