

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee  
Meeting September 29, 2015 -- Approved Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 by Steve Hartman and a quorum established. Other voting members attending were Glenn Bailey, William Bowling, Terrie Brady, Muriel Kotin, Robert Munsey, and Joe Phillips. Non-voting member attending was Jesse Casillas. Guests and Alternates were Patricia Bates, Bill Carrier, Carrie Carrier, Susan Schalbe, Kevin Taylor, and Chris Trent. Kevin Taylor is the new west valley representative for the mayor's office (kevin.taylor@lacity.org). If there are issues where we wish to bring to his attention it's best to email him. Glenn mentioned Councilmember Koretz's and City Attorney's attempt to beef up municipal codes as regarding offenses against wildlife. Council File is 14-0356.

Minutes of the meeting August 25, 2015 were approved with the addition of information at bottom of first page that Harding Grass is a non-native invasive plant.

Membership: Bob Munsey complained that the determination that the Canada Goose Project does not have status as a non-profit any longer should have gone to the entire committee. It was explained that Glenn sent Steve the Secretary of State's statement that the group has been suspended. Steve discussed this with Rosemarie White who did not take action or respond. (Additionally, around a year ago, Glenn warned Rosemarie that her organization was on suspension at that time. In June, she told Glenn that the group is defunct.) Glenn did not send this to the entire committee to avoid embarrassing Rosemarie.

Native Plant Sale: CNPS's big California native plant sale will take place Oct. 24 & 25 at the Sepulveda Garden Center.

The South Reserve – Vegetative Management Alternatives: was the topic of the special August meeting of SBWASC. There has been no further word from the Army Corps of engineers since that meeting. Discussion by the committee of alternative plans followed tonight. Generally committee members prefer Alt. 4 with Alt. 3 being considered the best of the first 3 alternatives. Alt. 1 and Alt. 5 were not well thought of by anyone. Muriel submitted comments suggesting that 4 be the preferred alternative with Alt. 3 being effectuated until Alt. 4 can be financed. There was general concern that there be plans for managing the pothole pond – whether or not water will be part of those plans. There was considerable opposition to using herbicide with strong preference for using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) instead. Bill Bowling offered that FoLAR would provide volunteers to hand manage non-native plants in a non-herbicide way.

**A Motion was made to support Alternative 4, the South Marsh Alternative; with a one year program of volunteers hand clearing non-native vegetation rather than using herbicide; and mowing brush down only to 3 feet. It was seconded and passed unanimously.**

City Council Motion 13-0024 to investigate habitat destruction in the South Reserve by Koretz expired. Being taken off agenda. Glenn will alert Koretz's office of the expiration. Motion 14-

1349 (Enhanced Infrastructure Finance District) will be removed also. Motion s/b 15-0841 regarding water for wildlife was referred to committees and Steve will follow up.

Walking Tour Regarding Herbicide Use in SBWR: Steve led a tour of the WR on September 8 to show how herbicide has been used. He committed not to use Glyphosate or the desiccant in the WR any longer if alternate means can be employed. Bill Neill is contacting the authorities to see if a propane torch may be used. Other groups here, formal or not will try to form groups who would commit to weeding on an ongoing basis -- and Steve will train them.

Need for City Services in Wildlife Reserve: Kevin Taylor suggested that we engage in some advocacy to get city services re-established in the WR -- in response to Muriel's plea to get the pathway and viewing areas cleared as children's field trips begin Thursday. Jesse will try to expedite, but he has very little staff. Glenn suggested inviting the General Manager to our next meeting. Kevin will advocate for us if we give him the language in an email.

Signage & Other Concerns: No progress on signage. Bull Creek is a mess. Concern was expressed that the Olympic plans sketched for Sepulveda Basin include much that was fought against and defeated before the 1994 Olympics. Olympic Committee did not consult with any of the agencies or communities involved in Sepulveda Basin.

Frank Gehry: Joe and Bill went to the River Revitalization Committee meeting. Joe was well impressed with the plans for recreational use. Bill said Gehry wants to leave a lot of concrete in place, even where there was an agreement to build a 20 mile wetland between Chinatown and Burbank. We don't know much about the Gehry plan yet. There's not enough information. Kevin said the mayor's office wants Los Angeles to be speaking with one voice. FoLAR's opinion will be in the LA Times tomorrow. LARiverCorp.com.

#### Committee Reports:

SFVAS: Muriel is trying to develop an ongoing education / service project with a school. Field trips for schools are about to start.

Sierra Club: Leadership training coming up. Joe will see if The SMM Taskforce which mostly does trail maintenance might be involved with weeding or other maintenance in the WR.

FoLAR: Oct 10 is their annual fundraising event. The committee members are invited.

CNPS: Steve met with David Ryu, new city councilman for Koreatown and Sherman Oaks. Steve shared the problems in SB with him.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55. Next meeting will be Nov 24, 2015.

Submitted by

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