

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Meeting May 26, 2015 - Approved Minutes

Steve Hartman called the meeting to order at 6:33PM, following a walkthrough of the Wildlife Reserve by committee members at 4PM. Quorum established. Attending were voting members Glenn Bailey, Terrie Brady, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin, Robert Munsey, and Rosemarie White; non-voting member Juan Villasenor who left before signing in to deal with a recent burglary of the R&P office; and alternates and guests Pat Bates, William Bowling, Tony Callas, Bill Neill, Kris Ohlenkamp, Miriam Preissel, Susan Schalbe, Chris Trent, and Walt Young. Minutes of the meeting on 3/24/15 were approved as submitted.

Membership Requests: FoLAR (Friends of the Los Angeles River) submitted a letter appointing William Preston Bowling as their rep and Shawn Warren as an alternate.

Department of Recreation and Parks (R&P): Juan reported that their offices were burglarized yesterday. Their computer is gone, along with the data. They do not have a record of our previous requests or answers they had developed. Glenn mentioned that even more Woodcrete fence pieces are missing, some fallen. The fence is not doing its job of keeping people from entering parts of the WR where they should be excluded. He requested R&P order pieces needed. Steve mentioned that the main trail is becoming overgrown. He requested that in late summer the overgrowth be cleared to the original width. August will be a good time.

Memberships, cont'd. FoLAR has attended 2 meetings; today is the 3rd. July will make 4 out of the 8 most recent meetings. They will be allowed to vote at the July meeting. Lake Balboa NC is still looking for a delegate.

Upcoming Events: Glenn distributed the Rim of the Valley summary. The Rim of the Valley meeting he and Muriel attended last week in Chatsworth was 90% attended by people fearful of eminent domain.

Army Corps of Engineers: ACOE did not respond to Steve's phoning Jay Field two weeks ago. Nobody has heard anything.

Walkthrough: We took a walkthrough of the SBWR this afternoon. Participants were Steve, Glenn, Kris, Muriel, Pat B, Bill B and Shawn. There is an apparent trail along the east side of the Wildlife Lake. There still are no signs to Keep Out! Steve will try to get us some more attention from the chain of command.

City Municipal Codes: At the last Encino Neighborhood Council meeting the City Attorney said they're actively working on new regulations. The city Council passed a motion to have the City Attorney work on those.

Special Events: No info. A request has been made for an updated Events Calendar.

Glyphosate: This herbicide was declared a carcinogen by WHO. Bill Neill reported that he is no longer using Glyphosate in the WR at Steve's request - at least until after this meeting. He doesn't know if anything else would work on Russian thistle, which is present this year, but much less than last. Glyphosate degrades and binds to soil. It is one of the environmentally benign herbicides. When he uses it, it is in a 2% mixture. He is waiting to see what US EPA decides. Joe Trumbo who oversees the pesticide program for California Fish and Wildlife would be THE expert on impacts on wildlife. We might ask him to compare the alternatives he is using now, Triclopyr and Diquat (an aquatic herbicide). Steve will try to contact Joe Trumbo. Terrie will try to get a biologist to discuss this. Chris Trent commented that perhaps Glyphosate might be reserved for only Russian thistle, with the desiccants and other herbicides used on mustard, etc.

Committee Member Reports:

Drones: Bob and Steve reported that the FAA is working on rules. Tillman and VN Airport are relevant to future rules. Fixed winged drones are not a problem. The helicopter types are increasingly common.

SFVAS: Muriel gave an update on bird walks and field trips.

Sierra Club, SFV Group: Terrie said they are opposing the proposed Hidden Creek development. Hearing June 3. Rim of the Valley an important issue.

FoLAR: Bill Bowen reported on cleanup. FrogSpot is re-opened for the summer. Fishing line is a big problem for wildlife. They'll put up fishing line recycling bins.

Encino NC: Pat B said they are working with the City Attorney on municipal codes and plan to meet with Captain Egan on more enforcement in SB. Arts, Parks and Aging Committee is supporting the additions to the MC's.

MRCA: Walt Young announced that Monday they started the water recreation program, same terms as last year. Effectively the drop off and take out point is at

Burbank Blvd., so the trip is just along the flat water. MRCA has asked the ACOE if their ban on fishing from the river banks remains in effect, as the Corps took down the signs and hasn't reinstalled them. Phone 310.456-7049, E-mail Walt.young@mrca.ca.gov.

Friends of the Sepulveda Basin Dog Park: Miriam Preissel is president and Tony Callas is treasurer. They introduced themselves and their new organization., which just became a 501(c)(3).

Meeting adjourned at 8:33.

Submitted by

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