

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Meeting January 27, 2015 - Approved Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM by 2015 Chair Steve Hartman. He noted that this is the 20th year of the Steering Committee. Other voting members attending: Glenn Bailey, Theresa Brady, Muriel Kotin, Bob Munsey and Rosemarie White. Non-voting members: Karen Flores, Debra George, Paula Jaramillo representing R&P and Kris Ohlenkamp. Guests and visitors: Matti Asgarian, Susan Schalbe and Chris Trent. Self-introductions were made. A quorum was established.

Minutes of the meeting of Nov. 25, 2014 were approved after corrections. Muriel will send out corrected minutes for review before submitting the final for posting to www.SepulvedaBasinWildlife.org.

Membership: Glenn talked to the president of Lake Balboa NC. She has not responded with a member to represent them yet.

Announcements:

- Karin Flores: FoLAR's river cleanups will be 4/11, 18 and 25 (Sepulveda Basin near Lake Balboa on April 11).
- SFVAS will clean up Haskell Creek on 4/11.
- CNPS 4th annual native plant week symposium will be held 4/18 at the Garden Center. 4/18 is Theodore Payne Foundation event too.
- Terrie said US Fish & Wildlife is taking comments on listing monarch butterflies, including observations.

US Army Corps of Engineers: The Corps did not send a representative to this meeting. A briefing meeting was held on 12/16 on a REVISED MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE SOUTH RESERVE. Kris O reported that 5 alternatives were presented. There was to be a public forum in a couple of weeks, but we have not heard of its being scheduled yet. At the briefing meeting, changes were suggested to Alternatives 4 and 5. Kris followed up by sending in his comments after the meeting. Steve H explained that the No Action Alternative was to do absolutely no management, and that is not what No Action means; the Corps agreed to look at that. We are still waiting for a public release of the management alternatives, probably because we made so many substantive comments.

Karin announced a new state measure to create an EIFD (Enhanced Infrastructure Finance District) for 31 miles of the LA River. Perhaps that might be useful in funding proper restoration in the So Reserve. LA Times article of Jan 19 does not show any river projects currently planned in the San Fernando Valley. [After reviewing these draft minutes, Karin emailed the following clarification: "Just to clarify, EIFD is a state-wide tool. City of LA is investigating the creation of one EIFD for the City's portion of the river, potentially with the County as a partner. Other EIFD's could be created for other areas."]

The Corps started removal of non-native vegetation in the South Reserve in mid-November. Steve and Kris have checked to help ensure that only non-native trees and shrubs were removed. Terrie is concerned about monarch butterflies which overwinter on eucalyptus, although others pointed out that "eucs" harbor monarchs in winter only near the coast. The eucalyptus in the South Reserve have been removed except for the corridor along Haskell Creek where the trees have not yet been mapped.

Glenn reported that 3/19/13 is last City Council action on Council File 13-0024 reports regarding destruction of the South Reserve. Steve will follow up with Andy Schrader of Koretz's office.

Additional Signage (Keep Out) is still lacking for either end of road along east side of Wildlife Lake. Paola reported for Jeremy Thomas that R&P will not install posts with chains across at the places the signs are needed because R&P expects they would quickly be torn out. Signs will be installed, however.

Reporting Graffiti: There is an app, "My311" for reporting graffiti.

Bull Creek Ecosystem: All of the native grasses are gone from the wildflower hill, with trails expanding because of dirt bicycling. There are no behavior signs. The riparian area, however, seems to be a success.

Proper Address for Wildlife Reserve needed to help visitors find it. Also a problem with native plants obscuring the large sign for Wildlife Reserve.

Special Events: The calendar that Glenn sent to Muriel is the latest.

Domain: is being renewed at \$12 + per year. It will be agendaized for next meeting.

Reports: Written reports, referenced above under Announcements, were submitted by 3 committees: CNPS, SFVAS, Sierra Club SFV Group. Others:

- Canada Goose Project: their count ended a few weeks ago and will resume next September. Rosemarie is trying to get the interest of people who explore the WR from the overlook on Burbank Blvd. She feels that migration is damaged.
- LAAS: Bob reports on SBWR and this committee at all LAAS board meetings.
- Chief Park Ranger Albert Torres phoned Muriel this afternoon. The rangers did a mounted patrol of the SBWR on Jan 18 and interacted with bicyclists, dog owners and a man who has an encampment in the South Reserve, east of the tunnel, on the Burbank Blvd. berm. Albert is gathering his resources to remove the encampment, which appears to be the one we have expressing concern about to the Army Corps.
- Matti asked about dogs and their poop in the amphitheater area and lawn. Suggested signs. She'll make a map and suggested signs asking people to clean up after their dogs because it's a student education area.
- RCD: The educational program at the Wildlife Reserve continues. The RCD has vacated Peter Strauss Ranch and moved back to "downtown" Topanga. They are not fully operational until next month.
- Encino NC: Debra will follow up with Koretz's office about updating the Municipal Codes.
- LAPD may attend next month's meeting, but MC's are apparently still with City Attorney's Office.
- Terrie asked that Sheila Kuehl's office be on the agenda regarding homeless. Terrie would like Melanie Winter to present her vision for the LAR to the committee.
- CNPS is still weeding, 1355 hours of volunteer work in SBWR and Bull Creek in the past 3 years. Rains have brought back all the plants that went deciduous in the drought. Bob asked Steve to send the committee's compliments to the weeders.
- FoLAR received a grant from NPS for a map of recreational opportunities along the LAR. Fish study being done in Long Beach. At some point they plan a study in Sepulveda Basin. I-Naturalist app allows people to enter their sightings into databases.
- Susan Schalbe, nature photographer, is concerned that there isn't an overall plan for Sepulveda Basin. She is concerned about the lack of enforcement and about herbicides, especially Roundup. (Bill Neill is not using Roundup, rather a different quick acting herbicide.) She is also concerned about cutting down many exotic trees at one time. Steve explained the reasoning.

- Several committee members discussed the habitat management of the Wildlife Reserve. Greatest diversity a major goal.
- Army Corps is starting 3 CAP (Continuing Authorities Program) studies for LAR and tributary restoration.
- Chris T reported that the dead Great Horned Owl found above the banks of Haskell Creek between the Wildlife Reserve and Wildlife Way was a young one. It died of liver failure. Debra has asked Jeremy Thomas to keep out an eye for undisturbed dead birds. She will let us know who we should report to. Male adult owl from last year has not shown up this year. There was also a report of 2 dead barn owls found near Woodley Avenue, no details available.
- There will be a homeless count in the Basin on Thursday. They are looking for volunteers to count.
- Wildlife Emergency Services will have a training on 2/14 at Lake Balboa on how to supplement the thin infrastructure. Greg Randall was transferred from Animal Services, leaving only one Wildlife Officer for the entire City. WildlifeServices.org for info.
- Matti would be willing to manage a MeetUp for this committee if we pay their \$70 annual fee. For agenda next meeting.
- Neighborhood Councils created a NC Sustainability Alliance with a 2/21/15 launching at TreePeople at 2PM. Rosemarie will attend.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50.

Submitted by

Muriel S Kotin, Member Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee