

SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES -- August 26, 1997

Filling in for Sandy Wohlgemuth who was unable to attend, Rosemarie White chaired the meeting held at Rec & Parks valley headquarters. Attending were Glenn Bailey, Gene Green, Muriel Kotin, Dave Kukla, Eric Lesser, and Steve Moe.

Minutes: Minutes were approved after being corrected to show that Sandy Wohlgemuth chaired the July meeting, and Rosemarie was an attendee.

Weeding: The volunteer weeding by the Eagle Scouts has not been re-scheduled. Steve Moe reported that the CCC was to meet with him and Steve Hartman this morning about removing the horehound infestation in the north reserve but canceled at the last minute. Steve H. will try to reschedule.

Goose Forage Area: Steve M. reported that he has rye grass seed but not enough staff to water it. Could the Consortium help? He wants \$9,000 for a part-timer to work 20 hours a week for six months (mid-September to mid-March). Rosemarie expressed concern at reductions in forage areas throughout the valley and decreasing numbers of Canada Geese. Gene Greene offered surplus PVC pipe and sprinkler heads and to design a small system and provide volunteers. Steve M. thought vandalism might be too great and that it would last about a year if not buried. Burying it isn't practical because of annual disking of the area. Further, ACOE approval would be needed and it is too late for this year. Glenn suggested contacting the new councilwoman for the wildlife area, Cindy Miscikowski, for help. Also, we need to revisit how we have tentatively allocated the remaining funds in the Consortium. Steve M. didn't know if R & P would let us directly hire someone to do the watering. We need to ask James Ward tomorrow. Steve M. and Eric suggested broadcasting seed by hand right before the first big rain.

Muriel is to organize a special Consortium meeting at her house, Wed. Sept 10 at 7:30 to discuss possibly funding the labor.

High School Advanced Training Projects: Dave Kukla of North Hollywood High School described a new Advanced Placement course in environmental science. It will last from September 3, 1997 into June. Field work will be integral to the program. They have transportation. There will be around 30-40 students, not necessarily all interested in Sepulveda Basin. They need speakers to talk about projects in September. This is the first year of the program, with only 4 or 5 valley schools participating. This is not a magnet program, although some students may be from a magnet school. They must engage in a long-term scientific investigation, especially chemistry and biology projects. Rosemarie suggested they present their conclusions to us. Dave is interested in an Audubon YES! Program with students acting as field trip naturalists at Balboa Lake. [?] Dave will contact Rosemarie to

schedule speakers from the committee. The teachers at N. Hollywood Hi in charge of the program are Len Soloff and Kay Benitez.

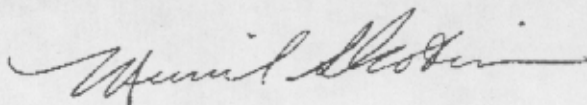
Final Plans for Expansion: Steve M. Reported that the cottonwoods along Haskell Creek will not be removed. He and Steve H. will flag the only plants to be removed. Recontouring of the creek will be almost exclusively along the west bank, so native trees will not be removed. He had no further information, including on whether and how much arundo will be removed.

Open Space Coalition: Muriel reported briefly on the workshop to delineate critical open space to be slated for purchase by PCL initiative.

Mitigation Re-planting: Gene gave an update on mitigation planting. He received the committee's agreement that in the mitigation area near the north entrance to the reserve, no more tall trees should be planted so as to avoid blocking the view from the instructional amphitheater area. He will be fixing the irrigation in the ROW in the south reserve. What plants should be planted as replacements? Do we wish to change the planting scheme?

North Gate to the Japanese Garden: A card access automatic gate will replace the guarded currently at the north entrance to the gardens. In the process, the gate will be moved slightly and a small portion of park lawn will become part of a turn around area. As part of the project, most of the pampas grass will be removed. Steve M. suggested moving the gate as far to the west towards Woodley Ave. as possible.

Submitted by,



Muriel S. Kotin, Steering Committee Member