

DWP will Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee 6/27/00

The meeting was chaired by Rosemarie White and attended by Glenn Bailey, David Ecklund, Muriel Kotin, Steve Moe, and Sandy Wohlgemuth.

Minutes of meeting 5/23/00 were approved without change.

Old business: Rosemarie did not invite corn maze developers to this meeting. She will do so for the next. Francine Oschin visited the WA with Rosemarie, Steve Moe, Sandy and Muriel. Rosemarie will invite Ellen Oppenheim for a visit, getting a few dates from her and then checking with committee members for availability. Steve Moe suggested waiting until autumn to invite her. It was agreed to try for a November visit.

Rosemarie wrote to the chief of the ACOE operations branch regarding removal of vegetation in the LA River upstream of the Sepulveda Dam. See the attached copy of the reply dated 3/17/00 from George L. Beams, P.E., Chief, Construction-Operations Division which indicates that sediment and vegetation is already being removed from the concrete lined section from the dam to Woodley Avenue and that an EA will be completed this month for selective removal of exotics upstream of Woodley. Glenn commented that all people on the Sepulveda Basin mailing list should have received notice of this project. The process does not seem to have been followed, and we should ask for notification. (Steve Moe said that sediments along the river have been pretty much cleared to the gunnite from the dam up to Burbank Boulevard.) Sandy will phone Carvel Bass.

Recreation and Parks Report: Steve Moe said R & P will place a memorial bench being donated near the east end of the second bridge.

The corn farmer expects to open July 1 if the corn is high enough, though this does not seem to be the case yet. David Ecklund commented that the corn maze is looking more and more like a permanent carnival. He is concerned that the WA will be impacted negatively by large crowds and a highly commercial venture, that the proximity to the WA will have a negative impact on the wildlife. He would like developer Stu Miller to attend our next meeting. Steve Moe replied that the maze will be taken down and all broken down shortly after the corn dries out, that the maze is not within the boundaries of the WA. Muriel commented that the corn maze has become much more commercial and beyond what was originally presented to this committee, that such a very commercial venture does not belong in a city park, especially one that is to last for such a long period. Glenn suggested that if this happens in future years, such a project be placed west of Balboa Blvd.

DWP will be building a high-pressure reclaimed water line from the TWRP to irrigate the 3 Basin golf courses and Beilenson Park. Muriel is concerned about the resulting 3 month closure of the road along the south side of TWRP during the corn maze impacting access to the WA. Glenn suggested that the Committee critique the corn maze after it is taken down in the fall. Rosemarie read from the 1987 recreation use plan for the Sepulveda Basin: it says management of visitor use is necessary to avoid negative impacts on the wildlife and that commercial activities are prohibited. The commercial character of the corn maze as it is developing seems to conflict with the plan, given that it will be adjacent to the WA with no buffer zone. She suggested we ask James Ward at the next meeting to be kept informed of attendance records and advertising made for our critique in the fall. Glenn suggested that we look for some other space in the Basin where we might encourage growing of corn in future years. Sandy will call Stu Miller and ask him to attend our July meeting.

R & P has been removing thistle and castor bean from the WA west of Woodley (the buffer zone) and arundo along the LA River near the model airplane field.

Last spring there were 13 Canada geese resident in the basin. This year it's 51 (29 young). R & P has no way to track what individual geese are staying around. Getting a bird banding permit is difficult. Steve asked if the Audubon Society and Consortium would be interested in funding a study. We could find out whether the geese being born here remain here or join the flocks of migratory geese. [Muriel is to talk to SFVAS to see what they think.]

California Wildlife Center had a gosling that they were looking to release, per David Ecklund. Steve Moe suggested talking to Fish and Game, that the Basin would not be an appropriated release site.

LA Audubon: Sandy reported that he and Steve Hartman met with Gil Flores and George Gonzales of the Street Tree division of General Services. They were in favor of planting native trees along the medians of Burbank Blvd. and Woodley Ave. in the Basin. They and Steve H will be in further communication.

SFV Audubon: Muriel reported that Don Tucci of the archery range requested trees at a recent Users Committee meeting. She suggested California natives, but R & P does not have a supply of these available. Muriel should apply for a grant if possible for native plants for there and the WA. Rosemarie suggested that Clean and Green might be a partner in this. Steve suggested BFI might have some 5-gal

trees available. David suggested the County Fire Department Forestry unit on Malibu Canyon has 1-gal trees which he feels are preferable to the larger size.

The Flashlight Walk Saturday night had about 100 participants. Environmental Education programs for the fall and winter are planned. Robert Parker Jr. still plans to install a bench between the most southerly viewing circle and the lake's outlet as his Explorer Scout project late in the summer or in early fall.

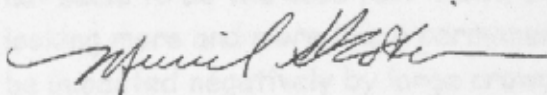
Canada Goose Project: Rosemarie reported that the project participated in the Chatsworth Community Fair recently and received the contribution of a butterfly box for the Steering Committee. The woman in charge will attend our next meeting and explain. Rosemarie will phone James after 7/4 to find out the status of WA signs.

Resource Conservation District: Glenn attended a recent workshop on the MTA busway. A consensus-building firm ran the meeting. The busway would go near the north edge of the Basin. Glenn is concerned about the lack of a study prior to its being budgeted by the State, though it is a great idea. There would be a station at Balboa Blvd. in the park-and-ride lot, the very same place that is being planned as the overflow parking for Beilenson Park and its expansion along Bull Creek and west to Balboa Blvd.

He attended a DWP meeting about reclaimed water re-use. He commented that active public outreach should have happened 10 years ago rather than now. He tried to be supportive of re-use as an environmental person but has some concerns.

Sandy now will be chairman through the December meeting. The committee thanked Rosemarie for her service as chair.

Submitted by



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