

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area Steering Committee
Minutes January 23, 2001

Sandy Wohlgemuth chaired. Also attending were David Ecklund, Gene Greene, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin, Eric Lesser, James Ward, and Rosemarie White.

Glenn has asked to have his term as Chair postponed. Dave Ecklund will be Chair the next 6 months and then Glenn will chair. Minutes of the November meeting were approved after it was pointed out that it was correctly "Corn Maze" or "Maize Maze," not the amazing "Corn Maize."

Recreation and Parks Report (James Ward): The Valley Fair will not be at the Sepulveda Basin this year. It will be at Hansen Dam near the sports center there this year. The request for a permanent fair site near the equestrian center at Hansen Dam has been turned down by the ACOE.

The Basin was flooded earlier this month. It was closed for about 48 hours. Arundo removal and management is needed; the flooding was mostly due to the LA River jumping its banks. The river did not back up from the gates of the dam.

The Pedlow Skate Park will be dedicated Sat 2/17. DWP pipeline project is being wrapped up. The Woodley Golf Clubhouse should open in a few months. (Contractor has been kicked off the job.) Next week there will be a meeting about a new traffic light on Burbank Blvd. near the golf course entrance.

Dogs in the Wildlife Area: Their photograph was in the Daily News last Friday. There have been many complaints about the dogs for over a year. The council office applied heat to the Department of Animal Regulation. Volunteers have been befriending the 2 dogs and have asked for 2 more weeks. They want someone to adopt the dogs and have phoned the press. There will be a special interest story within the next 2 days. Hopefully it will have the right spin about this being a bad place to dump dogs. If the volunteers can't grab the dogs within 2 weeks, Animal Regulations will have to do something drastic.

Japanese Gardens (Gene Greene): Tours of the Tilman berm will begin in the early spring, as will tours of the new DWP pump station. There will be a fund raiser in early May for Kawana Pavilion and an attempt through Prop 13 to put a water monitoring portion. The site "www.theJapaneseGarden.com" is being updated and a video made. The dirt area west of Haskell Creek where BMX riders used to go has been fenced in. Vegetation there will remain low. The Gardens will be in Sunset Magazine next month.

The Sanitation Dept. is interested in developing wetlands in the Sepulveda Basin to improve the quality of Tillman effluent. Committee members liked the idea!

Los Angeles Audubon Society (Sandy): He read a letter from Audubon member Jean Brant, interested in becoming part of a citizen patrol to help enforce rules in the W.A. Sandy also suggested a printed sign about the rules (including no bicycles) be added to the entrances where there are pictograph signs. Especially, there should be a metal sign saying "no dogs, no bicycles," near the donation post. James suggested that we might want to sell a T-shirt "Supporter of Sep Bas WA" and have a badge citizen patrollers can wear over any clothing when they are on patrol. (Ellen's Silk Screen in Pasadena \$6 tees, \$10 sweats.) Have a training session with the rangers some Saturday at the amphitheater.

Steve H brought up that we have never had a post-mortem walk through to see what mistakes were made in the expansion project. We will then have a meeting inviting the ACOE. February 22 (WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY AT 2:30, MEETING AT STONEHENGE. JAMES WILL TRY TO ATTEND AND HAVE STEVE MOE ALSO. BRING DIGITAL CAMERAS.

San Fernando Valley Audubon (Muriel): Almost 100 school classes will get field trips at the W.A. this year.

Canada Goose Project (Rosemarie): 1,200 geese have been flying out daily from Encino Reservoir. Rosemarie is very pleased that something will be done about the homeless dogs. The goose sign near the Burbank Blvd. overlook has been graffitied. Rosemarie suggested an inner-city school might paint a mural to be hung on the fence. (Other members thought this was too much.) She suggested brochures on the overlook to inform people who stop there. Muriel said she would like brochure holders for both the overlook and the entrance to the WA.

California Native Plant Society (Steve H): Bill Neal didn't get the weed eradication grant but is still trying to raise money. Horehound and mustard are abounding. Non-native trees are going to need a major eradication effort.

James mentioned that the Armory next to the skate park has as one of its requirements is availability of meeting rooms to community organizations.

Submitted by

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