

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting August 24, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 6:55, chaired by Glenn Bailey because current chair Sharon Ford is out of town. The other voting members attending were Snowy Dodson, Muriel Kotin, Bob Munsey and Rosemarie White. The non-voting members and alternates and guests were Patrick Aubuchon, Robert Baker, Evelyn Solano, Cynthia Weichelt and Lisa Reveen.

A quorum was established and the meeting called to order at 6:54 PM. Self introductions were made. Cynthia Weichelt and Lisa Reveen will represent Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council as ex officio (non-voting) members. Glenn requested an official letter or email appointing them.

Office of Public Safety: Sr. Lead Officer Evelyn Solano asked the committee members to explain some of the new problems. They described barbecuing of a duck, collecting of bird eggs, ongoing dog issues, fishing for large numbers of fish, sling shots, photographers being overly aggressive. Officer Solano commented that summer is heavy with problems. Officers are ticketing for off leash dogs and for fishing within the Wildlife Reserve. The past 2 months all tickets given were officer-initiated. There were no phone calls from the public. The ticket given recently for bike riding was thrown out by judge when contested, so they will not ticket for that. March - May they responded to fishing complaints from public. There is little coverage OPS in the summer weekends, as OPS hasn't had patrols in the valley. With budget cuts, only crime is covered, not quality of life issues. Come October, there should be less misbehavior and more officers. Possession of fish is not probable cause; they can ticket for fishing only if officers see the fishing. Cindy Woods of Fish and Game has been at Lake Balboa, but F&G is rarely at the WR. They are having fewer sweeps than before. A big one is coming up. The Boy Scout campout was moved to Hansen Dam.

Lisa commented that people don't know who to phone about problems. Officer Solano said 911 will likely route you to the desk for incidents like burglaries. Phone 213.978-4670 for OPS dispatch, 911 for a crime in progress; LAPD may re-route call to OPS. OK for us to phone Evelyn Solano's cell phone (213.305-9223) where we specifically need to contact her. Lisa asked if VST's (Visual Surveillance Teams) are feasible? Evelyn would support this, with appropriate registration,

training and notification. Lisa said that LAPD has an Animal Quality Task Force that might help with issues like duck hunting.

Glenn commented that it's inappropriate for the valley to have so little OPS presence on weekends; this is a political issue. Watch Commanders determine where OPS officers are assigned. More signs are desirable, even if some rules are not enforceable, such as no dogs on leash. Glenn mentioned that there is a LAMC that bikes are illegal on trails designated by R&P Commission, but our trails probably haven't been so designated. Evelyn will ask city attorney's office. Evelyn is not aware of any recent violent crime reports in the Wildlife Reserve, but there is a lot of lewd conduct. She has called in the vice squad many times. There was a small brush fire near the Apollo Field 3 weeks ago. Glenn asked if a solar powered surveillance camera on the island would be worth pursuing. We do not have enough information. If it looks good once we have more information, maybe ask neighborhood councils for funding. Patrick suggested that if a judge tosses out a ticket for fishing without a license, Fish and Game should be contacted; they consider this a serious infraction.

Minutes of July 27, 2010 Meeting: Approved with 2 corrections on page 1.

Public Comments:

Pat Aubuchon said that LA County cleaned both sides of Bull Creek from Victory to Sherman Way - Russian thistle is gone there.

Habitat and Wildlife Issues:

Robert has been watering the new HH plants twice a week. Some of the viewing areas have been trimmed up, which is still in progress.

The Pothole Pond's pipe has been repaired and the pond refilled.

Bob Munsey suggested we have on next month's agenda a motion to write a letter to council members about deploying OPS officers to Sepulveda Basin. He will look into the feasibility of trail cameras.

Bull Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project: Copies of the flyer about the Nature Walk at Bull Cr. 10/30/10 were distributed. Robert will request posting of the

flyer in display cases around Lake Balboa. It will go on the Friends of Lake Balboa website. Muriel will email it to Lisa and Cynthia for Encino NC and to Lynda Levitan.

We have no info from the Army Corps of Engineers, including on the hydrology study.

R&P is taking out Russian thistle. Robert has requested removal of shopping carts and cleaning of catchment basin. Graffiti removal is ongoing.

Commemorative Grove Locations: We will have a walkthrough of the Wildlife Reserve before next meeting, Tuesday 9/28 at 4:00 PM. Meet at amphitheater. Picnic dinner suggested. We will focus on locations for the grove.

Welcome Brochure for Wildlife Reserve: Robert said the city has concerns about paper going into the lake. He is looking into a sign. What about a display board? We could update as needed, have English and Spanish versions. We can look at the possibility of a display board or dispensing device during the walkthrough, as well as a new cover for the display board at the amphitheater. Robert will get more information as to R&P's position. It should be on next month's agenda.

Cross Country Runs: The 7/28 run was not held because they did not have a permit. Glenn spoke of the need for events calendars. Robert is event monitor for SB. He will talk to the Permit Office & request they email calendars to Muriel and the chair.

#### Reports and Updates:

Army Corps of Engineers: Although the ACOE did not attend, Carvel Bass emailed the following to Glenn: "A Boy Scout Jamboree is scheduled for mid October, which is being scoped and reviewed. Our O&M Branch will be removing some trees from the downstream Burbank Bridge area, in Sept." [The email was not read until after the meeting.]

Recreation & Parks: They are removing dead cherry trees from Lake Balboa and will remove stumps afterward.

California Native Plant Society: Snowdy distributed Sept.-Oct. newsletters with information about the Fall Native Plant Sale on Oct. 2 and 3 at the Sepulveda Garden Center and also their Sept. 14 meeting there.

Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council: Lisa is on the LADWP Water Recycling Advisory Group.

Notices: Glenn reminded Robert that Rene should post our agenda on bulletin boards. The Chair should email the agendas to Robert as well as to Abel and Rene.

Next Meeting: Tuesday September 28 at 6:45 PM, a walkthrough beforehand at 4:00PM. Send agenda items to Sharon Ford by September 14.

Submitted by

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