

SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 1992 MINUTES

Chairperson Dr. Rose Marie White polled the committee for a confidence vote. Everyone voiced their support of her leadership. Dr. White stated that although she belongs to a number of environmental groups, she was not representing a particular group, but rather her involvement in the committee stems from her interest in the Canada Goose.

Pete Ireland presented a draft of a mission statement for the committee and asked for input after it was reviewed by committee members. A revised mission statement will be presented at the next meeting.

The question was raised about the restrictive connotations of the present name of the committee. The group often discusses environmental issues that are located in the basin outside of the reserve. Wildlife doesn't recognize the artificial lines of the reserve boundaries. It was proposed to change the committee name from Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve Steering Committee to the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee. The motion was approved.

Bill Principe brought up his concern that there were now three groups and may be more interested in wildlife concerns in the basin and whether it would be better to merge some groups.

Dick Ginevan stated that the Wildlife Steering Committee was the officially recognized advisory committee to the City.

The group agreed that their needs to be a mission statement for the consortium. Bill Principe will work on it.

Discussion followed.

Dick Ginevan will report back on the City procedure in accepting donations either monetary, services, materials or capital improvements.

Peter Ireland and other members voiced their concern about the Corps of Engineer issuing a permit to Recreation and Parks Aquatics Division to conduct canoeing classes in the Los Angeles River. There was a strong feeling that there should be no recreational activity in the river without having an environmental study to determine if there would be a negative impact of the

wildlife and riparian habitat. Two representatives of the Friends of the River, Denis Schure and Lewis MacAdams, stated that their use of canoes were to expose decision makers to the beauty of the river so that they would support funding for wildlife habitat enhancements. They also stated that the canoeing class was held at the Tillman outfall which is below the more sensitive portion of the river near Lake Balboa Park.

Dick Ginevan stated that he would consult with his supervisor, but in any case, the Recreation and Parks Department would not conduct further classes without first consulting the Wildlife Committee.

It was reported that the Museum of Natural History was conducting a study of the river network. They are studying 15 species and the Sepulveda Basin is part of the study.

Denis Schure stated that he thinks that the Friends of the River are in accord with the committee's statement about natural habitat protection and care in developing the river to prevent negative intrusion of people on sensitive areas.

Bill Principe stated that he would like to see the Friends of the River involved with environmental approach to the river enhancement rather than developing recreation uses.

Jill Swift asked what areas the Friends of the River were interested in in terms of canoeing. Denis Schure stated that there are 60 miles of river and that their canoe rides in the Sepulveda Basin were just a means to introduce people to the habitat, not to promote recreational canoeing.

Jill explained that over the years many groups have proposed many recreational uses for the river including rowing courses and frankly many people have been suspicious of the intentions of the Friends of the River in terms of wanting to have recreation development at the expense of the environment. Denis Schure repeated his intention to protect the wildlife habitats.

A number of members commented that the riparian habitats along the river and creeks needed an environmental assessment study rather than a biological inventory study.

Carvel Bass will work with Jill Swift on wording for a proposal to require an environmental study to be performed before any project goes forward in the riparian habitat. Carvel gave an overview of the present environmental assessments and laws governing capital projects in the Basin.

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Bill Principe brought up the fact that the Fire Department was testing their equipment at the wildlife lake. They were pumping water from the lake and shooting the water back into the lake.

Dick Ginevan stated that the Department had not given the Fire Department permission to practice in the wildlife reserve. The Fire Department has permission to practice at the recreation lake and Reseda Lake.

Sandy Wohlgemuth stated that people continue to misuse the reserve and go into the restricted areas. More signs and barriers are needed.

Rose Marie White reviewed the progress of the Canada Goose project. There were 1400 geese at Encino Reservoir. Counts are coming in from six locations. The grant from Bank of America is still in the running. Ted Kinchloe has offered to put together pictures of the six locations where the goose counts are taking place. He is talking about a slide show. There were 600 geese counted at Chatsworth Reservoir. It is the opinion of the counters that the geese population are below last year up until now.

Steve Hartman would like to receive the revised flood plane levels. The Corps of Engineers will supply.

There was a discussion about the farmer and the availability of food crop for the birds. It was reported that the geese were feeding on the Curly Dock growing around the lake.

The committee asked for information about how much the farmer pays the Corps for the farm land in the basin.

Carvel Bass gave a report on the shoals removal project. The comments from the public are presently being looked at.

It was announced that an environmental work shop on the Basin will be held on Saturday, March 6th.

The meeting was adjourned.

DG:jl893