

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee**  
**Minutes -- June 24, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 PM. by Sharon Ford who chaired until current chair Mike Vensky arrived. The meeting began with approval of minutes of the May, 2008 meeting as submitted and self introductions. Additional voting members attending were Glenn Bailey, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin and Robert Munsey. Non-voting members, alternates and guests were Sharon Brewer, Kathleen Hanover, Joyce MacKinnon, Mark Osokow (a new alternate representative of SFVAS) and Abel Perez.

Additional Trash Cans for Lake Balboa: Abel announced that trash cans have been received and will be set out tomorrow. Lids will arrive later.

Loss of Ranger: Pat Aceves has been transferred to Griffith Park from Sepulveda Basin. SB is no longer considered a regional park, so no interpretive rangers here or at Hansen Dam; they will all be stationed at Griffith Park.

Electric cart: The cart will stay. Rosemarie explained that the cart had been delivered to her for use by the steering committee, that Galpin Ford who donated it through Tony Cardenas had agreed to do all maintenance on the cart for free.

Lake Balboa User Group and Flyer: Glenn requested that a copy be emailed to this group, since it was not distributed with the announcement of this meeting. Abel will have it scanned and emailed to us. Nobody has signed up or responded to the flyer. Glenn suggests that the L Balboa Neighborhood Council, the members of the old SB Users' Group, and the Friends of Lake Balboa should receive a copy. Rosemarie offered to bring this to the Encino Neighborhood Council and other groups.

Bull Creek and Lake Balboa Sidewalk Closure: Abel explained why the sidewalk along the west side of Lake Balboa Creek will be closed 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  months. The contractor will divert the water from Bull Creek temporarily to dry it out so the creek can be dredged and install in a pipe to provide reclaimed water to Bull Creek.

Public Comments: None.

Meeting Times: Rosemarie White finds the 6:30 meeting time to be a hardship for her. She prefers 7:00. Discussion. This will be on the agenda for July.

SBWR Website (SepulvedaBasinWildlife.org) Presentation: Steve Hartman presented our new website. Committee members should look at the website and let Steve know of any wording they want him to change. Starting tomorrow it can be accessed through a temporary url. He plans to have it up and running on July 1<sup>st</sup> at [www.SepulvedaBasinWildlife.org](http://www.SepulvedaBasinWildlife.org).

Each organization can have a separate page on the Sepulveda Basin, otherwise a click on their logo will go directly to their website.

Steve requested Muriel to provide a PDF of current bird list, a PDF of current birds of Sep Bas, and a good link for bird info.

Steve submitted invoice to SFVAS for the Consortium for \$1500 for 70% of the website work from Justin Baker and a \$301 invoice for reimbursement to Steve Hartman.

Caltrans Connector Project: Rosemarie said Ron Kosinski told her they'll set up a press conference announcing the preferred alternative and the printing of the DEIR very soon. Glenn suggested we have a press conference at the Wildlife Reserve as well. Rosemarie suggested the current chair have a statement prepared. Muriel will send an email to all committee members asking for phone numbers, including cell phones - reply to her. Then she will send out the phone numbers to the group. Glenn will make a draft of a statement for the SBWASC.

Bull Creek Restoration Project: Glenn discussed the June 12 ACOE community meeting. He considers sending out a notice the morning before a meeting - as the ACOE did - to not provide adequate notice. Glenn disseminated the notice the best he could, so an article got on the front page of the Daily News the morning of the meeting, resulting in a fair number of people attending. The major issue for most of the attendees was why the shore of Lake Balboa was closed off and how long that would continue. The ACOE did not answer any questions at the meeting, although Michael Tou did provide some information. Glenn distributed comment cards and the flyer from the meeting to the committee. Glenn will start comments from the committee.

Russian Thistle Abatement: Steve H said there are a lot of weeds this year, including Russian thistle. He suggested planting weedy fields in the Basin with California native plants and incorporating the areas into the WR. When he returns, he'll call Kathleen to set up a walkthrough.

Signs: Kathleen will follow up with the construction division on their work order to make and install the signs. Rosemarie emphasized the importance of the street signs being put up before the Caltrans press conference.

Canada Goose Project: She visited the park at Santa Fe Dam regarding a fishing line problem there and will set up a visit by the head of that park to this committee. She would like to discuss the NPS Centennial Project at a future meeting and would like a report about BioBlitz.

She attended the celebration of Jill Swift's life yesterday.

There are several families of *C. geese* in the Basin. She is working on an October conference on Global Warming and the effects on wildlife. Students from the Zoo Magnet will have a site visit in August to the wildlife bridge at the Skirball crossing.

Resource Conservation District - SMM: Glenn pointed out 2 items from today's meeting on the Water Integrated Management Plan that are pertinent to SB. They have in pre-design stage a storm wastewater detention project: a huge tank to be built under the cricket fields in 2011. The use of reclaimed water for the 3 golf courses is about to begin or just did.

Other Committees: Muriel and Steve reported on the BioBlitz 5/30 and 5/31 and Mike reported on it from the biologist's point of view.

Muriel said that many teachers whose classes participated in SFV Audubon's Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Program field trips had sent letters to Caltrans in support of the Wildlife Reserve, sometimes including letters from all their students.

Sierra Club SFV Group: Sharon F is working on an event to involve their members in the Wildlife Reserve.

This meeting was adjourned in the memory of Jill Swift.

Submitted by

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