

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Meeting October 23, 2012 -- Minutes

At 6:35 PM Chair Bob Munsey declared a quorum and called the meeting to order. Other voting members attending were Glenn Bailey, Steve Hartman and Muriel Kotin. Non-voting members and guests were Robert Baker, Jim Hanlon and Cynthia Weichelt.

Minutes of the meeting on July 24, 2012 were corrected and approved.

Announcements:

- The California Native Plant Society's native plant sale is this coming weekend.
- National Park Service will hold a public meeting on Tuesday Nov. 27 at 6:30PM in Encino on the Rim of the Valley.

Violations at Wildlife Lake: Jim Hanlon, a photographer who has spent quite a lot of time in the Wildlife Reserve over the last couple of years, expressed his concerns about the violations he has observed, especially in the early evenings. He is concerned that the fishermen may be impacting the food supply of the fishing birds to the point where the different bird species may be harmed. (Steve H pointed out that there is no city law against fishing there, so the only people that can be cited and fined are the ones who are fishing without a license.) Many of the people are eating the fish they catch. There are different levels of fishermen. Some casual, some more heavy duty, for example with coolers. The atmosphere is generally pleasant. NE corner of the lake is often fished. Law enforcement always approaches from the north on the main path; perhaps they could vary this. There seem to be lookouts so the fishermen can flee when they see law enforcement. Maybe there needs to be a change in the city law.

Robert Baker indicated the city does not want a citizen patrol because of safety and liability reasons. Glenn pointed that the GSA police are being reassigned to the LAPD, various divisions. We should work with Captain Egan of West Valley. Bob M will contact California Fish and Game Warden Kory Collins. Steve mentioned

the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), which was involved in the kayaking on the LAR. Recently their chief Joe Edmiston suggested that Steve talk to the MRCA head ranger about their possibly patrolling the SBWR. Steve and Jim will discuss collaborating on this.

Robert Baker was in the Wildlife Reserve recently. He found lots of graffiti and placed an order for its removal. Rec & Parks is in charge of the WR, although the water manager is Steve Dunlop of Forestry Service. Jim would like some semi-official presence to reduce the fishing. He suggested we add a phone number to the NO FISHING signs. (To be on next agenda - invite LAPD.) The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) is now managing south of Burbank Blvd. They and police have been removing homeless there.

Planting Proposals: Steve was contacted by someone who wants to plant wildflowers on the face of the Sepulveda Dam. Steve referred them to ACOE. Another person affiliated with Encino 411 suggested seeding California wildflowers near the model airplane field where there was a brush fire in July. Steve will make suggestions for what they might try in a small area of the burn, such as milkweed or annual sunflowers.

Barn Owl Nest Boxes: SFVAS will install two boxes at the Sepulveda Garden Center and one at the Wildlife Reserve as soon as Scott Logan has time. R&P has approved the locations.

Commemorative Grove: Steve will help Bob M map and add square footage on the proposal for our next meeting.

Recreation and Parks: Robert is trying to remove graffiti. The woodcrete fencing on both sides of Woodley Ave. and by Wildlife Area is being repaired. They are adding an informal entrance on Woodley closer to Burbank than the existing one. R&P signage to south reserve along the bike path is being removed, since that area is now ACOE's responsibility.

Steve asked about the buffer area between the LA River and the new Sepulveda Basin Sports Complex, that Steve, Glenn and Muriel visited during this afternoon's walkthrough. What is the city doing to manage the buffer zone? Robert said that when the contractor is finishing, it is to be cleaned off. Steve mentioned that there are coyote bushes starting to grow, which should be left. Steve will send Robert suggestions for additional native plants that should be planted there. The reason the complex is not open yet is that the irrigation system was not installed correctly, so the plantings within the complex is not doing well, being under irrigated in places, over irrigated in others.

CNPS volunteers have been weeding regularly and have removed most weeds in the north reserve and through much of Bull Creek. Steve, Glenn and Muriel also toured the Bull Creek Restoration Project today - looking good! Glenn mentioned that the DG has eroded next to the bridges at Bull Cr.

LA Audubon will have reps at the native plant sale.

SFV Audubon is about to put up nest boxes. Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Program's season (SBEEP) just began. Its teacher workshop will be next Saturday. R&P granted a permit for Audubon and the RCD to drive microscopes to the boat ramp area for educational programs.

Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council held its election recently and has new members.

Next Meetings: Our next meeting will be Tuesday November 20, 2012 at 6:30. Please note this is a third Tuesday to avoid conflicting with the Rim of the Valley meeting. We will meet again in January.

Submitted by

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