

Save Our Bosque Task Force

EMNRD, Forestry Division, Socorro District Office

1701 Enterprise Street

Socorro, NM

Hwy 60 West (in back of Ark of Socorro Veterinary Clinic)

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

9:00 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Board session (Business Meeting)

9:30 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Meeting

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Gina Dello Russo, Fred Hollis, Carlos Vega, Miranda Kersten, Annalily Lopez, Kristen Cornelius, Kevin Carson, Nick Smokovich, Mark Mercer, Kevin Cobble, Cyndie and Dave Lawrence-Devers.

1. Approve Agenda *Motion by Fred to approve, second by Gina; approved.*
2. Approve Minutes from meeting of September 5, 2017. *Motion by Fred to approve, second by Doug; approved.*
3. Treasurer's Report
 - a. SOBTF Bank balance - \$11,295.51; ROR Balance = \$66,535.43. We received our regular \$2 donation. We also received \$10,000 from the Friends of Bosque del Apache in support of the Restore Our Rivers Initiative. \$10,000 for the Turner Youth Grant greenhouse was also deposited. Thanks for their support.
 - b. Bills: Program Director salary checks cashed this month = \$3,249.93. There was also a bill for lodging for the Tamarisk Coalition trainers for our fundraising workshop for \$525.00, a bill to Gina for reimbursement for supplies purchased for \$79.61, and a bill for supplies for the willow harvesting \$86.20. There was a reimbursement bill for \$124.02 for food for the trash pickup day to Doug Boykin. There is an invoice \$4,712.50 from Lawrence/Devers, it is approved by Angel, but we will wait till the money is drawn down to pay out this amount. No other bills.
 - c. Fundraising update: The Task Force submitted the McCune Foundation Grant for \$25,000. We will find out by March 31. The Task Force worked with the Sierra SWCD and Bureau of Reclamation on a Water Trust Board grant that was submitted on October 3. The total requested is \$466,000, with \$19,450 coming to the Task Force for helping with program management if awarded. We will find out on October 9th if we are eligible to move forward. Then there are multiple other steps prior to award.
4. Director's Update – Miranda gave a presentation on October 28 to the Board and others at the Friends of Bosque del Apache Annual Meeting. The Task Force had a fundraising training which she helped to organize and attended. There are tasks they recommended we do. She sent out the google drive link today for our use and our partner non-profits' use with that fundraising data; there

are good resources available to us. She spent most of the month working on grant writing. For the WTB we put in \$6,000 in-kind as a match – our monitoring of the burned areas on both private and public lands. Miranda attended NRCS meetings at the beginning of the month with a follow up meeting on November 2nd. She is working on a possible Coop Agreement with RGALT for performing yearly monitoring of easements for them. They would pay for this work. She visited the Perry Project with Angel Montoya of Partners for Fish and Wildlife. Not many plants made it this year. She wasn't able to water at all. She agreed to replace 40 plants and water them this coming growing season. Miranda will set up a dropbox site on the website for all monitoring data the Task Force is accomplishing either through her work or with the interns. Partners in these projects will have access to this data.

5. Intern Update – All the FEMA data has been entered. All TLB data is up to date. She went out with the ecologist from TetraTech to set up monitoring sites for the FEMA project for TLB monitoring. She tagged monarchs with Sevillea, monitored the progress of the Severence project. Working on interactive map of parks in QGIS, she is translating the website into Spanish for our community's interest. Photopoints at the Severence project in the fall. Woody species guide for future interns. Confluence work continues-budget for suggested renovations, working on getting signage out there. Helped with Trash pickup day. November 18 is Annalily's last day.

6. Project Updates:

- a. **Socorro Valley Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Project:** Gina reported that the Project Team has their project assignments and will be going out to meet with landowners to finalize treatment plans. The contractor is finalizing treatment specifications for their review. For the northern project we are meeting with the NMDGF on Thursday, October 5 to discuss project areas.
- b. **Partners for Fish & Wildlife Projects and Partnership:** Carlos, Miranda, and Doug went out to the Dewey property last week. The family will supply a map for us of what they would like to accomplish where. Perry project inspection was completed. Taliaferro project will be planted in February. The Task Force will volunteer to help with this. Thomas project still going forward with a combined FEMA/Partners project.
- c. **SNA:** tabled. **Riverine Parks:** Trash Pickup day was a success with 25 volunteers helping the morning of September 29. Thanks to MRGCD employees who brought a truck and backhoe to help with the big things. NM State Forestry worked on clearing the trail of larger trees, but left the live trees that could be worked around. Backcountry Horsemen helped with these areas to find alternate paths for horses where there were low hanging trees. There is an agency workday on October 19 to build some parking areas at Confluence and put up more fencing. Look at new ramp south of Otero to see what we need to design and add and how to limit trash there and elsewhere.
- d. **Rio Grande Trail, Socorro Valley Trail Efforts:** Next Commission meeting is Oct 17. May need to walk our river trail to rake and delineate where the trail is located. Could be a special trail workday or a side volunteer project, people are interested in helping. Need to replace the carsonite signs in some places.

- e. **Sevilleta NWR** – we are going out on Friday October 6 to look for willow harvest sites for this year's contract harvesting under that Cooperative Agreement.
 - f. **Central Socorro Bosque Severance Project:** 155 acres as of yesterday; Miranda and Annally mapped it yesterday. The contractor will be doing basal bark and cut stump this fall. Lemitar fire department is assisting by spraying out the radiator to limit fire. That is working very well. The contractor is working south from Bosque Park now. They will be seeding grass and shrub species and planting shrubs in some areas.
 - g. **Tiffany Fire project** – the WTB grant has been submitted, we had a good project put together, thanks to everyone who helped write this up. We got good support from partners through letters of support and in-kind contributions. Need a permit from the Bureau of Reclamation to monitor out there this fall.
 - h. **Goodings Willow Nursery Project:** Bosque del Apache NWR is supplying land and water, SOBTF and other partners in the Tiffany Fire project will be harvesting from the refuge October 4th, everyone meet at the Visitor's Center at 8:00 tomorrow morning. For planting on October 20, we will meet at the north boundary at 8:00 am and go in from there. Please let Miranda know if you plan on attending. We are going in a locked gate and won't be there if you come later unless you schedule with us to let you in, please join us if you can.
 - i. **Other projects:** 1) The river within Bosque del Apache NWR is flooding on the floodplain again with the river up. The Rio Puerco is running at around 4,500 cfs; peaked Saturday and Monday. Bosque del Apache NWR's corn did very well except for the javalina moving in, elk moved out for a while but are hitting the area again. Best crop they have had in 12 years. They are monitoring elk in the area and are seeing some impressive numbers. 2) BCD is postponed to a later date while the planning team works on a new and exciting schedule for the event. Carlos spoke to the teachers and the last two weeks in February this year would work well. If we set the date early then they will not schedule anything else. Thinking of a Wednesday or Thursday so Magdalena schools can come. A committee, led by Miranda, with Carlos, Jeanine, Nick, with some teachers, and others will work to get this organized. 3) 4H/Task Force Greenhouse – funded through the Turner Youth Initiative. A committee was formed to work on this initiative including Miranda, Carlos, John Allen, Fred, others. Funding is available again in March so that if we were ready to apply again, we could.
7. Restore our Rivers Initiative: Miranda received our second contribution from the Friends of Bosque del Apache NWR on Saturday, September 16 at their Annual Meeting. She is providing a longer update for them at the October board meeting. The Fundraising workshop offered by Tamarisk Coalition and a consultant they have hired was held on September 19 with other non-profits attending. There are many follow up tasks. Strategic Planning committee: Gina, Doug, Miranda, Mark, others?
8. Other Agenda Items: new idea for meetings – The Board discussed changing up our meeting schedule (considered a few other times). Beginning in January, we will continue to have board/business meetings and check-ins the first Tuesday of each month. This will be at locations TBD and all are welcome as always but in-depth discussions of projects will not be included unless

there is a need. We will also start having quarterly public meetings where board “highlights” and project updates will be given and invited speakers will present on topics we think our local community will find interesting. These public meetings will be later in the afternoon, again on the first Tuesday of March, June, September, and December of each year. We will look for a good venue for these outreach events. Fred moved, Gina seconded and the board voted to approve this new schedule.

9. Website and Facebook items: Question on the Website – mapping products: an overview map of active projects will be created and updated occasionally. Our Riverine parks are in Google Earth now. Miranda added these. She continues to work on ROR website info, needs to add our local fundraising and efforts under this initiative. She will also get the Gonzales Family highlights on the website.
10. Calendar items: Harvesting willows at BdA on October 4 and planting there on October 20. Volunteers welcome. See Facebook page for details. Agency park maintenance day on Oct 19. November 2, USDA information meeting on wildlife projects for producers will be held at the Socorro County Annex building. Next Task Force meeting is November 7. The Highway 1 trash pickup on November 11 before Festival of the Cranes is coming up, again look at website or Facebook page for details. Meet on the east side of the Owl Bar at 9:00 am, lunch at noon. Festival of the Cranes is November 14 through 19.
11. Individual reports: Mark will look for an auger for us, we will consider options. Kevin said they have a dump trailer for the back of a tractor we could use for our crusher fine work on the trail. Lawrence/Devers family are working on their sandpoint well. Carlos went to the southern NM State Fair with his family. His kids showed. Kristen reported that she is working to organize the meeting with USDA and folks interested in wildlife-focused NRCS projects. It will be at the Socorro County Annex on November 2 from 10:00 to noon. She is working on the agenda for this meeting. Task Force will present a short summary of our work. Kevin Carson will pass on work days to Backcountry Horsemen in case they are interested. On the 21st of October, NMSU will be putting on a Equine Expo at the Rodeo Grounds, an all-day event and the horsemen will be presenting. Horsemen groundwork class at Kiva RV Park at 9:30 am on Oct 25th. There is an entry fee. The Kiva RV park is where the Backcountry Horsemen meet. Annalily saw her first rattlesnake, didn’t get bit. Be careful out there! Gina is presenting our work to the Volunteers at the Bosque del Apache NWR. Miranda said we never heard back from the Cross Watershed Network on if we will host a workshop in Spring of 2018. She will follow up.
12. Adjourn 11:10 a.m. *Motion by Doug, second by Fred; meeting adjourned.*