**Save Our Bosque Task Force**

Board Session and Public Meeting

Tuesday, March 5, 2019

Meeting Location: Socorro County Annex, 198 Neel Ave., Socorro, NM

**9:09 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Board Session (Business Meeting)**

Attendees: Amy Erickson, Fred Hollis, Renee Robichaud, Matt Mitchell, Doug Boykin, Jerry Wheeler

1. Approve Agenda – *Matt moved and Fred second, passed*

2. Approve Minutes from February 2019. *Fred moved and Matt second, passed.*

*To Do List:*

* Bosque Trail –**Fred** will talk to the new county chief about getting the ATV with dump trailer to use to spread gravel. **Doug** will ask MRGCD/Lorenzo if we can borrow the backhoe for a day. A1 Ready Mix can deliver the crusher fines this week or next week.
* MOU between County and Task Force – **Fred or Doug** will send Jerry a copy of the current MOU with SOBTF/Socorro County to use as a template
* Materials have been harvested to finish up Matt’s Partners project. They are still waiting for the trailer to be repaired which should be finished this week. **Matt** can send out an email if he needs a few volunteers and see if anyone is available on short notice.
* Gina spoke with Armendaris Ranch and they are interested in the donated land. **Gina** will keep us updated when she hears more.
* **Amy** will e-mail Sammy again about the documentation she needs for Miranda’s salary.
* **Gina or Amy** will get with John Larson on an article for the Central Socorro Bosque project. We will invite him to the spring Bosque cleanup. He can call Yasmeen to get some quotes from MRGCD; they can talk about their role with the task force.
* Spring cleanup on April 11 – **Amy** to let Felipe and Yasmeen know to get it on their calendar.
* **Jerry** will send MRGCD a request to see if they will bring out the heavy equipment. The cleanup will start at 9 and the SOBTF will provide lunch for all the volunteers afterwards.
* **Amy** will send out the budget spreadsheet to the board members before the meeting.
* **Yasmeen** will talk with Felipe and other MRGCD staff to see what they think of maintaining some parks open to camping.
* We will get new checks with two signature lines as soon as the current batch of checks run out. **Matt, Doug, Fred, Jerry and Gina** need to go to the bank and fill out the form to get Jerry added as a signatory (this was approved at the last board meeting).
* **Jerry** will contact FEMA Socorro Valley landowners and let them know that the funding fell through.
* **Doug** will contact Angel to close out FY16 projects (Lawrence-Dever, Taliaferro, Armendaris 1)
* **Amy** to contact Angel about remaining FY16 Partners money
* **Doug, Gina, Amy** to review BOR WaterSMART Draft Agreement
* **Fred** will talk to John about the status of the greenhouse.
* **Doug** will contact Terry about being on the Advisory Committee. **Matt** will do the same with Hank, and **Yasmeen** with Mike.

3. Treasurer’s Report

a. Account activity and bills received – SOBTF funds ending balance for 2-28-2019 is $51,165.54. Deposits since last meeting on Jan 8 2019: from Sevilleta account for pole planting ($13,050 and $340.00). Amazon Smile for $8.75. Checks written since last meeting : Program Director ($2,365.06 and $1,928.92 and purchase of a printer for $165.03.), Roy Armijo ($340.00), Black Widow Nursery ($6,750.00), Philadelphia Insurance ($1954.00), Gina Dello Russo ($37.15) There is a balance of $4,137.25 in the SOBTF general fund. There is still $1,508.80 in Turner Youth Grant. Sevilleta has $60,190.04 remaining.

4. Fundraising Update

a. Potential Cooperative Agreement with Reclamation for 5 years: monitoring, planting and other tasks for Reclamation. Financial officers are Nyleen Troxel-Stowe and Doug Boykin. Gina and Amy will attend a BOR monitoring plan review meeting on March 26th. Yasmeen asked if we will be monitoring in the Isleta Reach – we are not.

New Mexico Counties – potential $50,000 for fuels reduction. Amy, Gina and Jerry will work on the grant this week and have it submitted by Friday, March 8th.

APHIS/SWFL project update - Potential source of funding for environmental compliance, monitoring, research, and saltcedar removal as long as it creates SWFL habitat. APHIS will release an EA for the draft conservation program in March.

5. Project updates

a. FEMA – North Bosque project is moving forward and the 60-acre discrepancy has been rectified. There will not be a public meeting, only a 30-day notice. Socorro Valley landowners need to be updated on the funding not coming through. We are still looking for alternate funding sources to do this work.

b. Partner’s projects – Thomas/Brooks is signed (this is out of the $80,000 funds) . Matt Mitchell will be all done and submit final invoice and report before the next meeting. His project came under budget so we need to figure out what to do with that $4k – give it back, do a small project, or see if it can be transferred to SOBTF as admin money. We need to wrap up the other FY16 projects in April. There are a still a few things left to do for Lawrence-Dever, Doug will talk to Angel and try to wrap this one up. They just have to meet some of Angel’s requirements so we need to get together for a call with Angel. Taliaferro is pretty much done. Armendaris 1 – what is left to be done?

Armendaris 2 is a big project and will leave about 11k remaining – we need to start looking for another landowner to do a project on – probably one of the FEMA Socorro Valley landowners. That will close out FY17. After Thomas/Brook we will have ~$70K to do projects for FY18.

c. Socorro Valley Trail and Bosque Trail – our kickoff meeting went well and had over 50 attendees. We will be sending out updates and compiling lists of volunteers to serve on different working groups. Check out the SOBTF website for updates on the trail (and other things). Work on the Bosque Trail, led by Bob Markwell, is going well. He cut the lock on the gate and will be putting a new lock on. He and volunteers have cleared most of the trail free of debris. A1 Ready Mix is donating crusher fines and can possibly deliver this week or next week.

d. Sevilleta – they are moving dirt and dealing with sedimentation issues right now. They have more ISC funds now and are waiting to see if BOR will let them use their heavy haul trucks and/or an operator. Sevilleta will be hiring a new heavy equipment operator as the current one is retiring on Sept 30. These sites will be the willow planting sites for next year. Will from Black Widow Nursery will supply the willow poles for the next 2 years as contracted. We need to make sure that we all collaborate on these planting efforts sometime in November so it can be on everyone’s radar.

e. Tiffany Fire – Outreach and Planning RFP should be out now. Next meeting of the Tiffany Fire planning team will be March 28th.

f. BOR WaterSmart Update – Darren Olsen sent an updated Draft agreement, but a few things need added/clarified. Doug and Amy will get this finished.

g. Greenhouse update – Fred to talk to John about the status of the greenhouse.

6. Other

* Advisory Committee – Doug will touch base with Terry. Yasmeen will meet with Mike. Matt will touch base with Hank but he is tentatively on board.
* Doug’s replacement at State Forestry has been selected - Jack Dickey starts on March 25th. We will invite him to the April task force meeting.
* Jerry let us know that the Socorro County hazard mitigation plan final approval was received. MRGCD, NMtech, and City of Socorro are officially part of the plan.
* Yasmeen said they are ready to start putting water in the main canal this week.
* Doug received an MRGCD proclamation at their last Socorro public meeting thanking him for his work in the bosque.
* Jerry reminded us that the county manager wants to move into the Annex. This means they will possibly move the Task Force (Amy) to the building by the Comfort Inn along with the emergency management and fire marshal. We don’t have a timeline for this.

7. Adjourn at 10:41 am. *Matt moved and Fred second, approved.*

**Next meeting will be on April 2, 2019. Same meeting location.**