

**Save Our Bosque Task Force**  
**Tuesday, June 14, 2017 Minutes**

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Gina Dello Russo, Miranda Kersten, Fred Hollis, Annalily Lopez, Hannah Shutka, Michelle Kavanaugh, Carlos Vega, Mark Mercer, Maddie Woodall, Yasmeeen Najmi, Deb Caldwell, Kathy Granillo, Will Janousek, Nicole Gordon .

9:00 Save Our Bosque Task Force Board Meeting. Financial business, staffing, and board logistics discussed. We have a quorum.

9:30 Save Our Bosque Task Force open meeting.

1. Approve Agenda *Motion by Doug to approve, second by Mark; approved.*
2. Approve Minutes from meeting of May 2, 2017. Michelle Kavanaugh's name is spelled wrong, will correct that. *Motion by Mark to approve, second by Fred; approved.*
3. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Account Activity: Bank balance - \$85,078.87; ROR Balance = \$72,888.89; \$12,189.48 in SOBTF funds. We received our regular \$2.00 donation and \$5.00 from Amazon Smile. Thanks to all for their generous support.
  - b. Bills: \$6,424.01 to Lawrence-Devers for work on their Partners for Fish & Wildlife Project and \$6,880.00 to Socorro SWCD for work on the Armendaris Ranch Partners project have been paid. A bill for \$426.28 from Gina Dello Russo for office supplies, monitoring supplies and drinks for synergy building workshop. First invoice for our Program Manager has been paid.
  - c. Fundraising update: Matt, Miranda, and Gina will meet with the Congressional Inter-Delegation staff member via conference call, so they can assist us in searching for Grants to apply for following the Synergy Building Workshop on Friday, June 16, 2017 and a board meeting on fundraising priorities planned for July. We can do a video conference call from Senator Udall's office with the DC staff member when we are ready.
4. Director's Update: Miranda has been working on setting up the monitoring program for the different projects including Fred for FEMA project, Jon Erz from Sevilleta NWR, and Angel and Gwen from Partners. Draft protocol and spreadsheet of monitoring is in the board packet. She needs GIS products from each of our partners. She will be the rep for the SOBTF McCune Charitable Foundation webinar, get our first river story on the website, and create an Instagram account. Synergy building workshop is on Friday June 16, with 5 nonprofits attending. Tamarisk Leaf Beetle (TLB) monitoring getting underway to answer research questions, effects on birds, vegetation. Next steps are to work with Doug and others to fill in blanks on the monitoring spreadsheet. Interns introduced themselves and shared their interests. Annalily is interested in GIS and will help us develop our geodatabase and Hannah would like to get more field experience in conservation. Both will be working to design upgrades to the Confluence River Park.

5. Project Updates:

- a. **Socorro Valley Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Project:** Gina reported that the Environmental Compliance Consultant is on board and we had our first meeting with them this month.
- b. **Partners for Fish & Wildlife Projects and Partnership:** We have three current projects underway. Lawrence-Devers is installing fence, Taliaferro is maintaining weeds on their project this summer, and Socorro SWCD is busy watering the shrubs on Armendaris Ranch. This project has been amended because we didn't reach the water table and shrub watering costs needed to be adjusted.
- c. **SNA: Riverine Parks:** SNA: BLM Mark and Jonathon on the list, get on this list, Denny Apachito. They will make sure that someone comes to here. Riverine Parks: Doug, Miranda, and the Corps of Engineers representative toured the levee project. At Bosque park there is a chance of losing a table, weed issue on the levee, the ramp down to Bosquecito crossing. There is a new ramp down to the river, north of Bosquecito crossing. Look at improving this area and review Bosquecito Crossing. The interns are taking an inventory of all the parks and mapping features. Hannah presented the potential design for the Confluence Park. They are interested in safety and people friendly aspects of the park, hoping to bring more of an educational aspects to that park and getting the community involved. Carlos said that once public schools get back in session he will work with them this fall to organize possible joint projects. Signage we had previously developed: work on this at this next meeting. Need more cable for the Bosque Park and to replace some posts. Yasmeen can buy those supplies now before the end of the year. Work day in July and August to do more of this cable and post work is possible. Trees on primitive trail need to come down. Doug will send a crew down there.
- d. **Rio Grande Trail, Socorro Valley Trail efforts:** There was a RGT Commission meeting on April 6. Gina attended. She suggested that the Task Force invite the Cabinet Secretary for NMEMNRD and other commissioners to come to our meeting at some point. The new contractor is on board and will hopefully attend.
- e. **Sevilleta NWR:** A Sevilleta NWR DFP, Will spoke about their restoration project on A prime. He is developing a monitoring protocol for flycatcher and cuckoo habitat monitoring for their restoration projects. Willow plantings: poles versus stakes, looking at survival. Vegetation monitoring protocol will be developed by end of July. They will do a first round of monitoring then. Will be here through mid-August. Preliminarily about 70 percent survival of their current restoration. Interns may be able to help with the initial monitoring next week. Miranda will schedule this with him. For Unit B, a change in design to a levee set back to allow more overbanking on the river itself, widen the floodplain. There will still be an outflow gate needed. Sevilleta NWR is revising their hunt plan, a public meeting will be held June 15, at the refuge 5:30 – 6:30 pm. Miranda will put this on the website today.
- f. **Central Socorro Bosque Severance Project:** 25 acres south of Otero and most of the Escondida Burn area was treated this spring. \$750,000 has been allocated for the work to be performed on state- and federally-owned land over the next two years. Monitoring has started in Severance Project.

- g. **Other projects:** none to report.
6. Restore our Rivers Initiative: Yasmeen did attend the Fundraising webinar offered by Tamarisk Coalition. She will look through her notes and get back to us on what she learned. A consultant they have hired to help with this initiative is scheduled to come down to work with us and our partner non-profits from September 18-20. Other local non-profit organizations will be invited to a fundraising workshop then the Tamarisk Coalition will meet with us separately. Gina will send out calendar invite. The Task Force will host a “Synergy Building” workshop on June 16 with some of those area non-profits to kick off the potential partnerships with these groups.
  7. Other agenda items: 1) Friends of Bosque del Apache July newsletter is out, a special edition in the fall for staff changes and improvements, new website is up: friends of the bosque.org. Friends annual meeting is on September 16. This year they will have entertainment and music along with the board meeting.
  8. Website and Facebook items: Miranda needs pictures of board members and bio, also for the interns. Photos of parks for the website needed. First landowner story is up on the website, next story is the Gonzales family and next up Conklin’s we think. Facebook almost at 200 likes.
  9. Calendar items: County-wide cleanup on state roads on July 27. Maybe the Task Force could do Escondida Bridge across the river. Miranda will let Delilah know that we could take care of this mile or so. Nicole let us know that Bosque Conservation Day will be on October 6. Carlos will check with the School Board on this. Our next meeting should be July 5, the first Wednesday of the month, since the 4<sup>th</sup> is a holiday.
  10. Individual reports: Fred Hollis reported that the SkyWarn training is this afternoon put on by the National Weather Service. Kathy reported that the old bridge crossing the Rio Puerco (west side of I-25) is getting replaced. Michelle presented that Senator Udall questioned the USDA Secretary on the 20% cut proposed, zeroing out many of their programs. The Senator is pushing back on those cuts. Please contact our Senators and Representative about these issues. For the Secure Rural Schools, they are currently planning to totally cut this program. Those interested should speak up about these issues. Will gave us his email contact information, Deb said next Saturday is hummingbird banding 8-10 am then activities for kids until 2 pm. Deb suggested our websites invite partner organizations to get likes. Carlos said that there is a Firewise and Ready Set Go Program at Abeytas Fire department. Annalily said that she thinks Socorro is cool. Hannah said she liked it too. Yasmeen said they just had their new elections – Valerie Moore is Socorro rep, Derik Lente and Karin Dunning, Juaquin Baca won as well. Miranda said she is excited to be here.
  11. Adjourn 11:10 a.m. *Motion by Doug, second by Mark; meeting adjourned.*