

**Save Our Bosque Task Force  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, December 6, 2016**

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Chris Hill, Gina Dello Russo, Dustin Armstrong, Matt Mitchell, Fred Hollis, Carlos Vega, Connie Robnett, Jon Erz, Mark Mercer, Yasmeen Najmi

9:05 a.m. Save Our Bosque Task Force meeting convened.

1. Approve Agenda *Motion by Gina to approve, second by Matt; approved.*
2. Approve Minutes from meeting of November 1, 2016. *Motion by Chris to approve, second by Gina; approved.*
3. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Balances: Bank balance - \$14,137.75; SOBTF funds - \$13,905.42. Project funds balances: Gonzales = \$232.33, Lawrence-Dever = \$15,199, Taliaferro = \$24,900, Armendaris Ranch = \$24,900, Sevilleta NWR = \$ 111,000. Gina will ask Nyleen to add a column to funds spreadsheet for Restore Our Rivers funds.
  - b. Bills: no new bills
4. Project Updates
  - a. Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Project: Contract for project administrator is still in process; Fred indicated he would check with Delilah Walsh regarding progress. He hopes to have the contract in place by January 1.
  - b. Partners for Fish & Wildlife Projects and Partnership: Planting day on the Perry property went as planned, with 158 shrubs planted by San Antonio School students and volunteers. An additional ten yards of sand will be required to complete the planting, anticipated in February or March 2017. Gina moved, and Connie seconded a motion for SOBTF to purchase the sand. The motion carried. Bat and raptor boxes will also be installed on poles on the Perry property and Vanetta will sow some grass seed that was given to her. Lawrence-Dever is starting up, and the Taliaferro contract is now with Fish and Wildlife Service for review.
  - c. Riverine Parks/SNA: Doug reported that the Army Corps is not yet finished, and that BOR has been working at Sand Bar. Cable is needed to prevent casual traffic along the maintenance road. Chris volunteered a BLM tractor and Dustin indicated he can give a roll of cable for the purpose. With the exception of Otero Park, the parks look good. Yasmeen mentioned again that gates will be needed along the maintenance road. Dustin reported that a pre-final inspection has been completed on section 2B and that work on section 2A is not yet finished. Dustin has an excavator working to pull cattails out along the low-flow channel.
  - d. Rio Grande Trail, Socorro Valley Trail efforts: Nothing to report. There was a local meeting, and additional meeting(s) will be planned in 2017.
  - e. Sevilleta NWR projects: Dustin said that Unit A' flood damage cleanup was done last week. A Langemann gate will be added on Unit A' to encourage establishment of flycatcher habitat. Jon described some of the upcoming resource issues to be addressed with the harvesting and

planting to be done. On December 14, he and others will go to Caballo to see the trees anticipated for harvest. BOR will provide a map of the harvest area.

- f. Other: Escondida Fire Habitat Restoration – Dustin met on October 28 with BOR personnel and saw most of the fire site. He needs to prepare a project description, title and boundaries before passing on to a biologist, and will plan a meeting for the first or second week in January. Gina gave Doug her notes on the Thomas-Brook property so that NM Forestry can take the project. Partners funds will be limited. Carlos said that landowners in the area have expressed interest in getting help with restoration. He added that Socorro Electric Coop will be working through the area and that the Coop has requested an additional easement for working on very large trees. Yasmeen mentioned the importance of leaving some standing trees. There is currently \$117K in severance funds that could be used for fire mitigation.

Other – Doug indicated that new severance funds will be \$600K, and probably will not be needed for the Escondida burn. The funds can be dedicated to salt cedar re-treat and revegetation in Units 1-5 over the next 18 months. Sites can be added and deleted as appropriate.

5. Restore our Rivers Initiative Gina provided an update of funds committed and raised for the initial match and requested reimbursement of her lodging expenses to be incurred at the upcoming Tamarisk Coalition meeting in Ft. Collins, Colorado. Matt moved and Fred seconded approval for Gina's expenses. The motion carried.
6. Tamarisk Leaf Beetle Public Meeting Planning Planning meeting will be December 7, 10:00 a.m., at the County Annex. The public meeting is planned for Wednesday, February 1 at 5:00 p.m., and topics will also include the Escondida fire and other fire in the valley.
7. Planning for Board Retreat Gina provided packets of discussion materials for the board retreat, to be held on December 15, 8:30 a.m., at the County Annex. Focus will be on capacity building planning for 2017. Access to Tamarisk Coalition funds will commence in the first quarter of 2017 and we should have plans in place.
8. Other Agenda Items Chris presented an updated Memorandum of Understanding outlining purpose and partners in the SOBTF.
9. Facebook and Website updates Jon will put up pictures of the Perry planting project.
10. Calendar
  - 12/6 Tour of Escondida Fire site
  - 12/7 Tamarisk Beetle Meeting planning; 10:00 a.m., County Annex
  - 12/8 Decision-makers tour of Rhodes Property
  - 12/12 Sevilleta NWR Christmas party/potluck
  - 12/15 Board Retreat; 8:30 a.m., County Annex. Christmas potluck follows at noon.
  - 12/21 Firewise / Ready Set Go planning meeting; County Annex
11. Individual reports None
12. Adjourn 11:10 a.m. *Motion by Matt, second by Mark; meeting adjourned.*