**­­Save Our Bosque Task Force Board Meeting**

Socorro County Annex Office

198 Neel Ave.

Socorro NM

**Tuesday, October 6th @ 3:00pm
Meeting Location: Zoom call**

**In attendance: Gina Dello Russo, Yasmeen Najmi, Matt Mitchell, Amy Erickson, Abigail Plecki, Renee Robichaud, Sandra Noll, Rafael Sierra-Castro, Chad McKenna, Russell Thrun, Jerry Wheeler**

**Meeting began at 3:05pm**

**1. Approve Agenda –** Gina motioned to amend agenda items as they come up. Amy seconds.

**2. Approve Minutes from September meeting –** Yasmeen had a correction under Fundraising and Amy made the correction. Sandra motioned and Amy seconded to accept the minutes with corrections.

**3. Action Items:**

* **Sarah will let Amy know which projects have updates for next month’s agenda**
* **Sarah will send the budget spreadsheet to board members before each meeting**
* **Gina will set up a meeting with Sarah and Yasmeen to discuss MRGCD priorities**
* **Gina will set a date for a board member trash pickup at the riverine parks**
* **Gina will set up a meeting with Sandra and Matt to discuss funding from USFWS (BdA and Sevilleta)**
* **Gina and Matt will talk with Angel about using PWF money to purchase plants in advance**
* **Sandra and Gina will coordinate a tour with the Barclays to discuss potential PFW project**
* **Sandra will have the new logo ready for a vote by the November meeting**
* **Yasmeen will keep us updated about the guardrail repair at the riverine parks.**
* **Jerry will research NMC grant – can we apply for two at the same time?**
* **All – send Gina ideas for virtual Festival of the Cranes presentations**
* ***All – Please send Sarah a post for the Facebook page so we can keep everyone engaged in our work. We would like to have a post from each board member***
* **All – Send Amy or Sarah calendar items to put on our website calendar.**

**4. Treasurer’s Report**

Matt gave the treasurer’s report. The current bank account total is $28,079.30. A check was returned for “irregular endorsement”. Sarah will look into it. The PFW amounts are what we received this year – it is not a cumulative amount showing all previous years of funding. The Paycheck Protection Program loan has been spent out and paperwork has been submitted to have the loan forgiven. We will be migrating to Quickbooks for our accounting soon, and will no longer be using an Excel spreadsheet.

**5. Fundraising update**

MRGCD –
Yasmeen gave us an update about the $30,000 Capital Outlay funding for Socorro bosque restoration. Distribution of this funding was halted due to state government budget shortfalls, but we will find out in November if MRGCD will be getting this money. The money will be used for saltcedar treatment in the Socorro bosque at the riverine parks (former Severance project site), new signage, picnic table repairs, etc.

City of Socorro –
Not much to report since last time. Sarah purchased a couple more things for the parks and we have around $1,000 left in the budget. We still have to purchase a power washer. Sarah asked about the city hosting workday to install the new grills and picnic tables, but has not heard back.

Current grant applications-

No updates on grant applications.

Membership drive –

Sandra gave an update. Edits to our membership drive document have been incorporated and the text is finalized. Thank you for those board members who provided edits. Sandra’s daughter will get a final logo design out by the end of next week. Matt will set up the PayPal using the sobtf07@gmail.com email address, and Sarah and Colin are finalizing the membership spreadsheet.

**6. Community Outreach**

All community events are postponed until further notice. Bosque Conservation Day – Matt had a discussion with some of the Socorro area principles and they will incorporate any virtual material we give them into their education curriculum. Matt is working on a 30-minute video for the virtual Festival of the Cranes, so we can provide that to the schools when finished. Matt will reach out to past presenters to see if they have material to share. Do State Forestry or Socorro County (Fire Wise) have any videos or virtual material to share?

SOBTF was invited to present at the virtual Festival of the Cranes. If you have any ideas for the video, or want to be involved, contact Gina.

**7. Advocacy**

No updates.

**8. Project Updates**

Partners for Fish and Wildlife – Matt gave an update. Ron Thomas has removed some big Russian Olives and Saltcedar and is now pulling up stumps with the help of Roy Armijo’s heavy equipment. The project is almost complete. Ron created a small wetland/moist soil area, but it didn’t fill with water this year due to low rainfall and the river being dry.

Sal Gonzales has a lot of saltcedar resprouts. The plan is for him to front $1,000 for the herbicide treatment and SWCD will contribute matching funds. Roy Armijo will come in with his dozer to shave off the sprouts in the thick areas. We will deal with those resprouts in the future but we need to get rid of them now to be able to access the planting areas. Sal is going to do the perimeter first for easier fence access. We will map the areas of thick saltcedar so we know what areas need re-treated. We will not use those areas as planting areas.

Armendaris – there will be a fall/winter planting. Santa Ana nursery is supposed to send Gina a plant list. Matt talked to the manager and gave him our list of plants but we need to put half down to guarantee plant availability by spring. This needs to be discussed with Angel before moving forward.

No updates for other PFW projects. The Conklins are waiting until spring to plant anything in their restoration area. The Ken Hart project is on hold. Barclay – no updates.

Socorro SWCD has put their bobcat up for auction due to liability issues so we will no longer have use of that machine for projects.

Rio Grande Trail – Yasmeen will check in with Sarah and Attilla when Sarah gets back. We would like to get an update on the GIS map that the intern was working on for us. We would also like to do a virtual public outreach event and need help from Atilla to develop a plan for that.

BOR Cooperative Agreement – Sarah is working with a contractor to do followup spot-spraying in November. Sarah is currently working on annual report and plans to finish all field work in October. The Rhodes Property and the two Escondida sites are led by BOR so Sarah will help with veg monitoring at those sites. A meeting has been scheduled with Wendy Otero (SOBTF accountant) to help us understand what kind of things SOBTF can charge for under this cooperative agreement.

Sevilleta – New heavy equipment operator starts next week. After 7 years, Sevilleta got the green light to hire a maintenance worker. This position is advertised on www.usajobs.gov right now. Nancy (refuge biologist) is working on a project to analyze saltcedar resprouts on treated and untreated areas. The refuge is working with a statistician to analyze this data and Sarah is helping with the data collection.

WaterSmart Grant – This grant is completed. All funding has been spent as of 9-30-2020. Sarah is working on some additional outreach materials for the website. Tetra Tech is doing veg analysis with leftover funds and we are already working to secure Phase II funding.

New Mexico Counties grant –Bosquecito Fuels Reduction Phase 1 invoice has been submitted for $38,000 for cost of the contractor (Forest Fitness) to do mastication and herbicide application. Part of this money is for Jerry’s time, mileage, and the SOBTF match (for the amount of $3,996). The new grant, Bosquecito Fuels Reduction Phase II, started July 1. This grant is for the amount of $48,000 on Johnny Pack’s property. Jerry will look into whether or not we can apply for two of these NMC grants at the same time.

Yasmeen gave a project update– State Forestry has leftover money because the inmate work crew stopped early due to COVID and this money will be used on the Ribbon. State Forestry signed an agreement with MRGCD to complete this work (via a contractor). This work will take place in the Ribbon starting south of Otero Park down to San Antonio. The contractors need to be trained on plant ID – if you’d like to volunteer for that please contact Sarah.

**9. Other**

Board member elections have been moved to December. Let Gina know of any nominations.

Please look at the website at the new CRP Update pages, and give any corrections to Sarah.

Trash pickup – we are trying to plan a board member trash pickup in October or November.

Russ Thrun (formerly with State Forestry) has a new company called Hop Canyon Fire. This is a 10-man chainsaw crew that can do tree thinning, wildfire risk reduction, etc.

**10. Adjourn**

Amy moved and Matt second. Passed. Adjourned at 4:22 pm

**The November 2020 meeting has been rescheduled due to Election Day. Our November meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 10 @ 3:30.**