

## Save Our Bosque Task Force

Tuesday, June 2, 2015 Minutes

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Matt Mitchell, Connie Robnett, Gina Dello Russo, Bear Albrecht, Chris Hill, Carlos Coontz, John Romero, Fred Hollis.

### 9:15 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Meeting

1. Approve Agenda. *Motion made by Matt to approve, second by Connie, approved.*
2. Approve Minutes from May 2015. *Motion made by Connie to approve, second by Chris, approved.*
3. Treasurer's report
  - a. *Balance of \$5,644.60 in SOBTF funds, \$445.59 in Saavedra Project funds for a balance of \$6090.19. On the books there is still \$24,900 available for the Gonzales property and \$22,410.00 available for Perry project.*
  - b. Reports for 2015 tax reporting were submitted for the files. Thanks to Nyleen and Fred for the Treasurer's report and tax form submittal.
4. Project Updates
  - a. Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Project: Tracey submitted all requested additional and edited information to FEMA; we should hear soon. Doug, Fred, Tracey, and Gina worked on requested edits and required changes to the budget. There is a potential project area for consideration under this program just north of the Mitchell property; MRGCD is owner so we would need to check with them. As a reminder, the project has tentatively begun as of April 30, 2015 as long as we get edits to them soon we should be funded and get started. Again, partners in the project are Socorro County, Socorro Soil and Water Conservation District, NM State Forestry, and the Task Force.
  - b. Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program: Doug will ask Nyleen for an update on the Gonzales property project. Gina will follow up on Perry project and see if the project can move forward.
  - c. Riverine Parks/SNA: State Forestry closed off the vehicle access to the Confluence park to limit people driving in the levee project area and also closed off the access at the Escondida Bridge park. This should assist us in limiting trash and damage to the bosque in those areas. The Inmate Work Crew is done in Unit 2 and 3 for the season (Otero Street to the North Diversion and Hope Farm to Brown Arroyo) with additional funding from NMSF and MRGCD. Ribbon at Flood Control is very clean and may be able to serve as parking access and trailhead for Confluence Park and River Trail; might assist with limiting vandalism on that park if there is no motor vehicle access down there. More work planned for this fall from the North Diversion to Escondida Lake, approximately 62 acres. Trash pickup day next fall can focus on stretch from Hope Farm to Brown arroyo at least, lots of trash exposed by IWC working in the area. Socorro Nature Area: Visitation has slowed down for the summer in terms of school groups, but families are still using the area. Pond needs repairs again. Maintenance position is going forward so that should help with pond maintenance. Hiking in Socorro County, New Mexico, a new trail pamphlet is available! Robyn Harrison, author, thanked Task Force for the contribution to its publication. Copies are available at the Chamber of Commerce and Sundance Gifts (on the Plaza), The El Camino Heritage Center and Bosque del Apache NWR gift shop.
  - d. Planning public forum: Task Force is considering hosting a roundtable discussion and tour focusing on San Acacia habitat restoration projects, "Trail and Parks after the Levee Project," Sunzia project (possibly), and other area topics. This could be broken up into two events, one for the public and one for agencies. TBD.
  - e. Fundraiser: A fundraiser is being developed by a Task Force subcommittee. Tentative dates are in August. More details will be available at the July meeting. We will need to get Board approval for the proposed tour of Armendaris Ranch costs and logistics, *approval granted by all members via email.*

- f. Other Projects: 1) We heard back from the COE that there is a new project manager on the Levee Project. Doug has contacted him, but no response yet.
  
- 5. Website: Bear updated as per our discussions, Connie has volunteered to work on the website and Doris Rhodes has volunteered to consider other outreach opportunities for the Task Force and help us develop an outreach plan.
- 6. Other agenda items: Locally, Fire danger is usually high in June but the County is not expecting restrictions this year. If there is, it goes in order of priority areas and signs are put out on the bridges accessing the bosque. There was the suggestion of locked gates when fire danger is high, but getting keys quick when fire response teams need to access the fire has been difficult in the past. More discussion of this if needed.
- 7. Calendar: Next meeting is July 7, 2015; New Mexico Wildlife Federation is having a sportsman summit on August 8 in Socorro. Possible to have them meet with Task Force?
- 8. Individual Reports: Connie's broken kneecap is recovering. Fred is in the middle of their firewise days at different places around the County, Midway Fire Station was next. They will be at Oldtimer's Celebration in Magdalena too. Bear and Yasmeeen traveled farther afield. Matt reported that San Antonio/Bosquecito area had the highest reported rain in the state from the rain in early June: 1.26 inches. John reported there is some restructuring going on at MRGCD, there will be an Assistant CEO, and he is waiting to see how the district organizes the Fire program. Doug reported his son was back in Georgia for the summer, graduating from his program soon.
- 9. Adjourn: *At 10:50 AM, Chris made a motion to adjourn, second by Matt, approved.*