

Save Our Bosque Task Force

Tuesday, April 1, 2014 Agenda/Minutes

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Gina Dello Russo, Cynthia Connelly, Nick Smokovich, Matt Mitchell, Priscilla Cora Gwin, Don Kearney, Fred Hollis, Karen Bailey-Bowman, Michael Hanauer, Yasmeen Najmi (by phone).

9:00 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Meeting

1. Approve Agenda. *Motion made by Matt to approve, second by Fred, approved.*
2. Approve Minutes from February 2014. *Motion made by Fred to approve, second by Matt, approved with the following correction.* Nick's last name is spelled Smokovich.
3. Treasurer's report: Remaining balances in Private Property Project funds: \$3,367.18; in SOBTF fund: \$4,283.84. Overall balance of: \$7,651.02. Task Force Board thanks the Treasurer Fred Hollis with assistance from Nyleen Stowe for compiling Treasurer's report.
 - a. Changing banks: SOBTF has changed banking institutions because of increasing fees. The transition is completed. No service fee was charged to set up account.
 - b. Two bills were paid this month to Zach Saavedra as part of the Partners for Fish & Wildlife project on his property with funds from Partners to offset these bills.
4. Corps of Engineers presentation on the San Acacia to Bosque del Apache Unit, Rio Grande Floodway General Reevaluation – levee construction presentation will be posted on the www.SOBTF.org website. It was announced that the Corps received additional funding to allow them to complete phases 1 & 2 (see Task Force meeting notes for March, 2014). Construction is still expected to begin in December of this year. As time approaches, the Task Force will request clarification on access to the river in the reach from the North Diversion to Brown Arroyo). Mitigation suggestion: native plantings to the east of the mowing buffer on the east side of the constructed levee. Suggestion to include Dustin Armstrong from Reclamation in our discussions on the levee since that agency will most likely be in charge of mowing. Secretary to send him notes from past meetings and invite him to attend future Task Force meetings (*Done*). MRGCD can assist with facilitating these discussions. The Task Force can assist by posting closures on website. Suggestion: County work with the Corps to see if the bridge crossing the North Diversion can be reconstructed through this project. Thanks the Corps staff who attended, presented, and answered questions.
5. Trash Pick Up Day Logistics – Meet at 9:00 a.m. on April 4 at Otero Street. Cottonwood Valley Charter School will be joining us for the trash pick up day, approximately 60 students. Lunch provided at Escondida Lake at 11:45 a.m. County will provide a dumpster at Otero Street. MRGCD to assist. Trash bags will be purchased or supplied by Raks.
6. Project Updates
 - a. Rhodes Project: moving forward with Phase II plan in terms of building support and finding potential funding for the project.

- b. Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program: Zach Saavedra finishing up clearing salt cedar on his property as part of his Partners project. Matt Mitchell's project is postponed until fall because of possible disturbance to migratory songbirds. Conservation Services has the contract to accomplish the Mitchell property work.
 - c. Riverine Parks/SNA: Inmate crews started clearing from Otero Street south to Hope Farm area. Will be shut down April 15 to September 1 due to migratory songbird use in the area. Piles of chips and wood are available in this section. A permit is required – free from State Forestry, and access is after 3:00 pm daily as supplies last.
 - d. Healthy Kids Socorro: assisting with getting the Charter School schedule for the Trash Pick Up day.
 - e. Other: The Socorro County Firewise Program is having workshops throughout the area. Upcoming workshops or flyer handouts will be May 3rd in Hop Canyon (Firewise event), May 10th in Midway (Flyer Handouts), May 17th in Veguita (Firewise Workshop), May 31st in Abeytas (Flyer Handouts), June 7th in Midway (Firewise Workshop), and June 18th in Abeytas (Firewise Workshop).
7. Website – Nick and Bear will meet to get items added.
 8. Calendar items: Yasmeen – April 8 at 6 p.m. MRGCD will be holding a meeting at the Socorro County Annex building, City of Albuquerque is hosting outreach events on the Bosque in their area each month until June. Tour of the San Acacia Reach with US Senator Udall's staff is planned for April 17, Task Force members welcome.
 9. Individual Reports: Nick – permits for cutting wood in bosque will end April 6 and no more cutting after April 30; Fred – it is as dry as can be, fire restrictions may go into effect following the County Commission meeting in April including possible closures Memorial Day through July 4th; Gina – Armendaris Ranch is willing to host tours of the ranch to help the Task Force raise money, Doug will help Gina organize this. A coalition of non-profit organizations in the Socorro area is being considered to help us all learn from each other and be able to support/advocate for each other when there are common causes. One suggestion made was presenting to Rotary Club.

Adjourn: At 11:10 AM, Nick made a motion to adjourn, second by Matt, approved.