

Save Our Bosque Task Force
Tuesday, May 2, 2017 Minutes

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Gina Dello Russo, Fred Hollis, Matt Mitchell, Jon Erz, Don Boyd, Carlos Vega, Mark Mercer, Nicole Gordon, Michelle Kavanaugh and Wes Anderson.

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 Matt to approve, second by Fred; approved.*
2. Approve Minutes from meeting of April 4, 2017. *Motion by Mark to approve, second by Matt; approved.*
3. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Account Activity: Bank balance - \$85,174.36; ROR Balance = \$72,888.89. One deposit to the Restore Our Rivers: \$38,888.89 from the Tamarisk Coalition as their match to our fundraising over the last year. We received our regular \$2 donation. Thanks to all for their generous support.
 - b. Bills: \$3,130.92 to Lawrence-Devers for work on their Partners for Fish & Wildlife Project, paid. Approved \$8,000 to Taliaferro for work on their Partners for Fish & Wildlife Project. Will pay when funds are available. Check for \$102.49 to Doug Boykin, reimbursement for lunch for Bosque Cleanup Day.
 - c. Fundraising update: Matt, Miranda, and Gina will meet with the Congressional Inter-Delegation staff member to assist us in searching for Grants to apply for and then we work up the proposal and they can help us get letters of support from our national delegates. Doug will follow up with First State Bank.
4. Project Updates:
 - a. Socorro Valley Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Project: Gina reported that the Project Team is finalizing treatment acreage, costs and plans for the Environmental Compliance Consultant to use during their contract. Meeting scheduled for Friday May 5, 10:00 am at the County Annex. The County has selected the consultant and is awaiting State and FEMA approval to proceed.
 - b. Partners for Fish & Wildlife Projects and Partnership: There are three active projects at this date. Armendaris, Taliaferro and Devers are underway and have invoiced for their first work on their projects. Socorro SWCD led the shrub-planting project on Armendaris Ranch. There were three volunteers that joined us for this project including Matt Mitchell from the Task Force and Keith Stowe. Two new projects are in design phases, with hopefully FEMA funds going to tamarisk control and Partners funds to cover the native plant establishment. Carlos Vega from the County is working with Nicole Jordan of State Forestry to get design these projects. Doug will assist to get NRCS involved in a grazing plan for the project on one property.

- c. **SNA:** No report except Chris retired, congratulations. **Riverine Parks:** See report on Bosque Cleanup day. Next one tentatively on Oct 27.
 - 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: Cooperative Agreement plantings are in, willows are budding out, are inundated right now. They got a design quote for the gate, came in high, so they are working with ISC on redesign. By end of June, they should have design and costs.
 - f. Central Socorro Bosque Severance Project: 25 acres south of Otero and most of the Escondida Burn area done. \$750,000 has been allocated for the work to be performed on state- and federally-owned land over the next two years.
 - g. Other projects: 1) BCD – Nicole and Nick want to get planning for this event rolling sooner. Wanting to redesign the day and have BLM more involved. Carlos will bring it up to the School Board for possible date of October 6; 2) Confluence Park plan, no work on that this month; 3) New signs for our parks – recommendation from a County Commissioner to work with the schools, have a competition to choose design and construction and award winner, Carlos spoke with school administrators to see what they thought. 4-H could help as well.
5. Restore our Rivers Initiative: Fundraising workshop offered by Tamarisk Coalition and a consultant they have hired to help with this initiative is scheduled for September 18-20. Other local non-profit organizations will be invited to the workshop. 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.
 6. Cross-Watershed Network Programs and Opportunities: Fred volunteered to go to Arizona to this workshop. They have a number of Task Forces as we have on the Gila and San Pedro Rivers. It was two days of meetings, breakout groups, Q & As. Fire suppression occurs on private properties but access to fight fires is limited. No umbrella organization like we have here in NM. Then they went on a tour of the University greenhouse where plants are grown and sold for a reduced price. They work with the restoration projects to grow what they need. Their coalitions work throughout the watershed. Let’s talk about a growing program with John Allen as County Extension Agent and the Socorro SWCD. Fred invited them to have a workshop here.
 7. Director’s Position update – Miranda Kersten, will start May 22 as Program Director for the Task Force.
 8. Internship Program – Starting May 30 (update, start June 6). When we have enough applicants then they pass them on to us.
 9. Report on Bosque Cleanup day: Bosque Cleanup day was on April 21. We worked together to get cable back up at the parks to direct vehicular traffic, picked up trash at the five parks from Otero Street to Confluence Park, and started to design improvements to Confluence Park. Thanks to all who assisted. Thanks to MRGCD staff for supplying cable and staff to help install.

Other agenda items: 1) Don presented on MRGEDA, the Middle Rio Grande Economic Development Association (Valencia, Socorro, Sierra, and Catron County area) started through Chamber of Commerce, working with NMSU, with a focus on agriculture, technology, workforce strength, renewable resources, and arts and tourism. They have an approved economic development plan, and now with USDA grantors get more points for having a plan. They have hired Georgia Otero Kirkham as their first director. They have a grant to cover her first few months. They will be seeking funds elsewhere to continue. They are a 501C-6 at this time. At 5:30 pm today, there is a public meeting at the City Council Chambers about alternative energy, fiber optic cable, and other issues. 2) Michelle reported that the budget was released yesterday and Senator Udall \$407 million for wildfires; it is upfront funding so funding will not be used from other fire program. Senator Udall's staff from Albuquerque Michelle and David Williams will be our contacts. Michelle works with NM Tech and the Hospital, David on the Environment.

11. Website and Facebook items: nothing to report.

11. Calendar items: Next board meeting changed to June 14.

12. Individual reports: Wes Anderson attended. A great surprise to see one of the founding members of the Task Force again. He reported 14 inches of snow at his place in the East Mountains near Albuquerque on Saturday! Fred and Carlos had a large animal rescue on a private property in Bosquecito. Carlos reported that Firewise events start in May, happening all through the summer and fall. Matt's birds are doing well.

13. Adjourn 11:10 a.m. *Motion by Carlos, second by Jon; meeting adjourned.*