**Save Our Bosque Task Force**

Board Session and Public Meeting

Tuesday May 13, 2019 9:07 AM

Meeting Location: Socorro County Annex, 198 Neel Ave., Socorro, NM

**9:00 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Board Session (Business Meeting)**

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Amy Erickson, Gina Dello Russo, Matt Mitchell, Jerry Wheeler, Jack Dickey, Kristen Cornelius, Renee Robichaud, Galen Hecht , Yasmeen Najmi, Willie Lucero.

1. Approve Agenda – *Matt moved and Yasmeen second, passed with changes.*

2. Approve Minutes from April 2019. *Matt moved and Jerry second, passed .*

3. Treasurer’s Report

a. Account activity and bills received – SOBTF funds ending balance for April 30, 2019 are $2,613.83. Program management funds are $32,831.32. Turner Youth grant funds remain at $1,508.80 and Internship program funds are at $4000.00. Check for $361.85 to Matt Mitchell for his Partner’s Project. Check to Socorro SWCD for $2,500.00 for final watering at Armendaris Ranch. Checks for $869.00 for our insurance, $181.43 for lunch at the trash pickup day, and $228.00 for our domain listing (website) out of SOBTF funds. Water Trust Board grant funding cycle is coming up. Jerry, Yasmeen, Doug, Gina and possibly Nyleen will assist Amy in considering applying for the 2020 cycle.

4. Fundraising Update

a. Potential Cooperative Agreement with Reclamation for 5 years: NMAC grant submittal through the County was completed, we should hear in June. We would have the funding by July if approved. Amy submitted a 5-year estimate of Program Management needs. Housing for interns will come out of Sevilleta NWR cooperative agreement. Matt mentioned a donation from cars when they are donated. They work with a company that tows it away, auctions off the car and they keep 2% of total auction. Amy will follow up with Matt on this. Amy developed a request of lodger’s tax funds from the City of Socorro. Bob took that to the City Council and we are waiting to hear back from the City Manager. This could go to signage and existing trail maintenance.

*To Do List:*

* Amy will send Jerry a summary of the value added to the County by the Task Force’s work.
* Doug and Matt will go and talk with MRGCD on possible agreement with yearly funds.
* Jerry will contact FEMA Socorro Valley landowners and let them know that the funding fell through.
* Gina will contact the ES office of FWS about the life span of the BO for FEMA Socorro Valley projects.
* Jerry will let us know when it is best to ask for the partnership funds from the County.
* Jerry will have a draft MOU with the County for our review by the June meeting.
* Yasmeen will check on funds for noxious weed and tree of heaven treatments in the bosque.

**9:30 AM Public Meeting Session**

5. Project Updates

a. SOBTF existing trail maintenance – Bob Markwell is leading this volunteer effort. A-1 Quality Redi Mix is donating crusher fines for our trail maintenance. There are some noxious weeds coming in on Severance 1 and Tree of Heaven between Confluence and Bosque River Parks in Severance 2. How can we find funding to address these issues as they arise? Rio Grande Socorro Valley Trail outreach and planning effort – National Trails Day public event will be June 1, at 10:00 am meeting at Sandbar Park. Signs to help people get there will be posted. We will have a hike with a presentation from State Forestry and a work project on trail maintenance. We will serve lunch; Amy is working on donations for lunch. We will be advertising in the Chieftain on May 30 and hope to have an article in the paper on May 23. The NM Tech Bike club might go on a ride at the same time and meet with us for lunch. Gina, Amy, George, and Doug will attend. Amy will get with Michael Olguin to put MRGCD on a certificate for liability for this event.

b. Socorro County Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Projects Status – State Forestry put in for Forest and Watershed Health Restoration Act for two FEMA project areas at NM Tech and Department of Game and Fish lands. North Bosque project update: the Environmental Concurrence Letter from FWS has been received and the County is waiting for the public comment period to begin. This should allow compliance to be completed by the end of the summer.

c. Bureau of Reclamation Cooperative Agreement – Amy and a temporary technician went out to map inundation and take velocity measurements on eight sites. She received payment through GeoSystems Analysts (GSA) for this work and has paid the technician. Amy will be going out with GSA staff to do noxious weed monitoring. Gina and Amy went out to measure the seeding area on the Rhodes Property. Amy is working up the initial seeding design for this project.

d. Partners for Fish & Wildlife – Lawrence/Devers project is complete and documentation has been sent to Angel Montoya and Amy. Armendaris Ranch Project 1 is also complete. Amy and Gina went out to the Taliaferro property and have looked at the selected project area that is closer to the river. This fall the landowner will finish site prep, purchase shrubs, and plant poles in the area. The Task Force will assist with harvesting poles. Angel is going to write up an amendment to the agreement and it will be signed by landowner. All work will be done by December 2019. Ron Thomas’ project is underway, he is burning piles when weather permits.

e. Sevilleta NWR update – Channel in Unit A is functioning with the high flows. Trees planted this spring are inundated, silvery minnow channels are functioning as designed. Amy will look for the spreadsheet that outlines where remaining funds will go. Unit D work is partially funded and work through the Bureau of Reclamation is underway. An additional phase might allow for additional overbank flows.

f. Tiffany Fire Rehabilitation Project – Outreach and Planning proposal review was held on May 1. Amy and State Forestry contactors for site prep went out to the site last week and another contractor will go out this week. Armendaris Ranch project within the burn scar has started with 65 acres of burned tamarisk and cottonwood excavation completed to date. Interns could go out and monitor some of the areas that we have delineated as site prep priority sites that need to be hand treated as opposed to masticated.

g. WaterSMART Grant – Moving forward. Amy and Gina met to start developing the RfP for the large planning contract under phase 1. Basin Study information should tie in well with our work under this grant.

h. 4H/Task Force Greenhouse Status – John needs some cement and blocks to get the foundation ready. Jerry will get with Amy for funds for these needs through the Turner Youth Fund grant.

i. Social Media – Amy is getting information out, she put river photos from the higher flows.

j. Other Items: a) Jerry got with Delilah on MOU between SOBTF and County. Jerry will have a draft for our review by the June meeting. June 30 is Delilah’s last day, the Task Force thanks her for her support of our efforts for the community and wishes her luck with her next adventures. b) Intern update – Amy extended an offer to two of our candidates and they both accepted. c) Kristen reported that they are in the middle of contracting all their EQIP projects, no range projects for her this year. d) Advisory Committee update – still working on bringing people to the table. e) Amy will be at southwestern willow flycatcher training tomorrow and the next day. f) Doug will get with our bookkeeper to get our 2018 tax documents. Doug will go by Beckham and Penner to talk about transition from contractor to employee. g) Matt’s baby hawks are doing well.

7. Adjourn at 11:30 am. *Gina moved and Yasmeen second, approved.*

**Next meeting will be on June 4, 2019. Same meeting location.**