

Save Our Bosque Task Force
Tuesday, December 1, 2015 Minutes

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Jon Erz, Chris Hill, Gina Dello Russo, Nick Smokovich, Fred Hollis, Matt Mitchell,
Bear Albrecht, Tim Rogers, and Yasmeen Najmi

9:15 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Meeting

1. Approve Agenda. *Motion made by Chris to approve, second by Matt, approved.*
2. Approve Minutes from November 2015. *Motion made by Chris to approve, second by Matt, approved.*
3. Treasurer's report
 - a. Balance - \$ 6,696.01 in SOBTF funds and \$7,712.50 in the Gonzales Project fund. On the books, there is still \$22,410.00 available for the Perry project. \$2 donation was received.
 - b. Bills – Two bills that were approved for payment last month came through: \$100 to the Chamber of Commerce for our yearly dues and \$200 scholarship to the 4H. There is one new bill of \$399.13 for bus scholarships to get school students to the Bosque Conservation Day and a bill for \$81.74 for Sofia's for the Trash Pickup day. *Motion made by Gina to approve these bills, second by Chris, approved.*
4. Project Updates
 - a. Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Project: Fred reported that the County has sent FEMA and the state HSA contractor requested information and we are awaiting word. Nick, Fred, Jerry and Gina went out in the field with the Interstate Stream Commission contractor on Monday, November 9, at 9 a.m. to look at potential sites where fuels reduction and restoration could both be accomplished. Three project areas looked good for this: Project areas 1, 2, and 5.
 - b. Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program: Gina is ordering plants for the Perry project. Still work to be done on Gonzales. Jon Erz, Gina and Angel Montoya will work together to develop a proposal for Task Force and FWS approval to collaborate to hire an SCA or equivalent intern to serve work to develop Partners projects. SCHEDULE FOR FIRST OF THE YEAR. We currently have three in development phase, and it would be a good time to have an intern assist with outreach, design, and follow through to plantings. Jon will look into potential costs for an eight-month detail starting in June. This committee will get back with the Task Force in January or February.
 - c. Riverine Parks/SNA: SNA – Road to Socorro Nature Area improvements and inclusion in County road system. Update from Chris on road to Nature Area: said the realty person couldn't find ROW documentation at this point but there was access to Harris' to county standards does MRGCD want this? Who will maintain this? Nothing written down to date to formalize a maintenance agreement. Riverine Parks – State Forestry has \$6,000 for the Inmate Work Camp to treat salt cedar resprouts in the ribbon from the North Diversion to Brown Arroyo. If there is remaining funds, they will start work from the North Diversion to Escondida. MRGCD is checking to see if additional funds would be available to work north to Escondida. IWC can get started on respray soon.
 - d. Other Projects: 1) Rhodes property project was highlighted in the Albuquerque Journal and the Defensor Chieftain. 2) Short discussion on SunZia, this line is meant to connect eastern and western US grids, 3) Bosquecito Road: Gina is working with RGALT and the County to assure that possible impacts to the Bottomly easement and restoration are avoided. 4) The Sevilleta NWR is hosting a river project open house/tour for their upper management and the Task Force is invited. The date is December 3 at 1:30 pm.
5. Fundraising: Fundraising Plan discussion – We are scheduled to meet at 1:00 pm today with Doris Rhodes and anyone else on the Task Force or in the community interested in discussing both our five-year plan of priority projects and our fundraising plan to fund these projects. We will meet at the State Forestry office after a lunch break. Doug printed out 2009 Program accomplishments to work from.

6. Healthy Kids Socorro (HKS) and Socorro Bosque trail Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) proposal presentation by Tim Rogers, consultant, employed with Santa Fe Conservation Trust, working part time with Healthy Kids New Mexico (HKNM) and others interested in increasing physical activity “active transportation planning”. HKS has been working with Socorro County for last few years on this effort. Current project with James McNeil of HKS is to promote walking and biking. Socorro pretty bike-friendly; a recent analysis of this available, HKS did signage with bikeway finding, and the City is now working on the planning necessary for this effort. With Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), the overarching effort, Tim was trying to help local governments find funding through Recreational Trails Program (RTP) – they were successful and got funding in 2014 to do trails program plan. Status: not much has happened with the City plan yet, no deadlines have been missed. Socorro may do a Request for Proposals for their plan. They should get underway soon. Who at the city will be the lead? Jay Santiannes, maybe. James McNeil and Councilor Pargas will be involved. More recently, in order to help local communities improve access to federal lands, a new program was developed a few years ago (FLAP). Socorro applied for that program. The Socorro proposal would connect Socorro to BdA, Sevilleta, and BLM units on the way, again along the river. Having done research on this proposal, it was determined that since County comprehensive plan is not done yet, and with the current levee project, it might be feasible to incorporate a trail with levee during construction. Levee top idea not fleshed out yet with the other issues to complete the entire route, so the effort was downsized for this round. The FLAP proposal now focuses on LFCC roads and extends from Escondida Lake to Luis Lopez/ Brown Arroyo. Proposal may not be funded this round so there is time for more discussion and input on this. Another announcement late this next summer for all: TAP, RTP and FLAP. His recommendation would be to cut it down to size and work in phases, maybe Otero to Escondida Lake. Recreational Trails Program Advisory Board, coordinator Aaron Deter, will be determining next round of funding. What are the steps for this to move forward? Reclamation, MRGCD, SOBTF, City, others could work together to develop a proposal. Task Force would like to be engaged in upcoming efforts/process that will include community members. Proposed as local trail but has tie in with Rio Grande Trail. They were proposing an accessible trail. Tim suggested we contact James McNeil to make sure we can be involved in this next round of proposals. Any questions, let Gina or Doug know and we will get you in contact with James or Tim.
 7. Tour and roundtable discussion. January 13, 2016 the Save Our Bosque Task Force will host a discussion with stakeholders on the following topics.
 - restoration efforts planned or underway in the reach – including but not limited to Task Force, County, COE, BOR, ISC, private lands programs (SWCD, NRCS and Partners), private landowners, Refuges, others,
 - funding strategies for getting this work done,
 - coordination and partnering on projects,
 - depletions offsets for restoration work,
 - mitigation if SunZia powerline goes through,
 - Endangered species status in the reach and Biological Assessment Conservation Measures.
 - Design public outreach event to follow this roundtable.
- No tour included in this roundtable discussion. Venue will be determined in early January and a notice sent out to participants.
8. Other agenda items: 1) Yasmeen said they have not determined the date for the next MRGCD meeting in Socorro. Task Force to present, 2)NAWCA project partnership, would the Task Force like to sign on as a partner to the project. A \$250 donation makes you a partner. Gina will bring contribution letter to January meeting.
 9. Website/Facebook: Connie is working on updating/revising/and potentially moving our website to a new service if that is needed. Jon has made a facebook page draft for us, not live, but it is great for outreach and can help us track. Facebook helps us creates a presence, spotlight members, community, photos of pretty places. Jon will give us a short presentation on this at the January or February meeting.
 10. Calendar: Open house on Thursday at Sevilleta NWR.

11. Individual Reports: Nick has organized photos so ready to go over this with Connie.
12. Adjourn: *At 11:50 AM, Matt made a motion to adjourn, second by Nick, approved.*