**Save Our Bosque Task Force**

**Tuesday, August 1, 2017 Minutes**

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Matt Mitchell, Miranda Kersten, Fred Hollis, Annalily Lopez, Hannah Shutka, Don Boyd, Nicole Gordon, Jon Erz, Andrew Chavez, Cecilia Rosacker, Mike Comiskey, Denny Apachito, Yasmeen Najmi (via phone)

1:30 PM Save Our Bosque Task Force Board Meeting. Financial business, staffing, and board logistics discussed. We have a quorum.

a. Raise for program director (after 3 months); effective on month 4 paycheck - *Motion by Matt to approve, second by Fred - Approved*

b. Extend one intern for additional 3 months for GIS-type work - *Motion by Fred, second by Matt- Approved*

c. Lodging for Tamarisk Coalition for fundraising workshop, paying directly – *Motion by Fred, second by Matt – Approved*

2:00 PM 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 July 5, 2017 *Motion by Fred to approve, second by Matt; approved.* We will be going paperless for the minutes for future meetings. There will be one hard copy of minutes for file and electronic minutes will be available in advance of the meeting.

3. Treasurer’s Report

a. Account Activity: Bank balance - $78,075.10; ROR Balance = $66,617.28; $11,457.32 in SOBTF funds. We received our regular $2.00 donation. Thanks to all for their generous support.

b. Bills: $7,720 to Socorro SWCD for Armendaris Ranch watering,

c. Fundraising update: We will be applying for the McCune Foundation grant, which opens on August 15. The fundraising workshop has been set for Tuesday, September 19, 2017. The board will be meeting with the Tamarisk Coalition on Monday, September 18, 2017.

4. Director’s Update: Met with board about our fundraising priorities for the next few years using to build a fundraising plan and resources development plan; helping Gina out with the Rio Grande Trail Resources workgroup gathering spatial information about resources and facilities, TLB surveys at Severance and Sevilleta, Completed the Armendaris inspection, set up monitoring schedule for FEMA sites, met with the school board about park signs and Carlos will help set up meetings with the school, working with TC on fundraising workshop, call with Cross-Watershed Network to talk about potential of us hosting next workshop has been rescheduled

5. Interns’ Update: Mapping Bernardo Farm invasive plants for NMDGF, finished monitoring at Severance sites and started monitoring at FEMA sites, TLB surveys at Severance and Sevilleta, Annalily attended school board meeting with Miranda

6. Project Updates:

a. **Socorro County Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Project**: Contractor on board to do environmental compliance – should be done by mid-fall, people have been assigned to each project to work with land owners and on treatment plans. We should be able to start fuel reduction and hazardous fuels reduction this winter. Second project in the works for north of San Acacia to northern boundary of Socorro County – will be on east and west sides of river. Gina and Miranda met with NM Tech and will hear back the week of August 7

b. **Partners for Fish & Wildlife Projects and Partnership**: Three on the books now (Lawrence-Dever, Armendaris Ranch, Taliaferro); Two on the docket (Thomas-Brooks – FEMA will go in first for fuels reduction; on hold until EA is done; Dewey – haven’t been able to make contact with)

c. **SNA:** Creating lane into an enclosed parking lot on the inside of the main parking lot so people don’t have to park on the ditch bank, will hopefully make it not look like its closed all the time; Pond - not getting recharged so going to try to fix the pump to keep it filled, but the liner may be too old (installed in 1995); Interpretive program – good turnout, issues with parking and accessibility for those that can’t walk to amphitheatre area; Going to create swales near the parking lot and plant native shrubs

**Riverine Parks**: Need to replace park signs from Confluence to Otero Parks. Parks are back in full use. About half of the cable from Sandbar Park is gone. Need to replace cable at Bosque Park, but wait until done with the Severance clearing. Trees down on trail – will need to clear them during fall cleanup and possibly move trail around some of the fallen cottonwoods. All riverine parks are now on Google Maps, but 8 are pending review.

d. **Rio Grande Trail, Socorro Valley Trail efforts**: At commissioner’s meeting, Yasmeen had asked about environmental compliance for trail corridors – they are looking for voluntary efforts –landowners that have an existing trail or want to provide land; have to follow whatever compliance is applicable to each type of land (e.g. federal lands have to follow federal laws). Continuing conversations about trail surfaces and mult-use aspects of trail. The Task Force is hosting meeting on August 10 for Socorro County resources.

e. **Sevilleta NWR**: Meeting with BOR about willow site selection to be prepared for willow harvesting. Unit B – new design/plans keep changing – culverts and a new levee to get overbank flooding – funding by MRGCD, plan B – buy the culverts themselves

f. **Central Socorro Bosque Severance Project**: Monitoring has been completed. Contractor should be in September 1, start at the flood control and work south. Need to meet with contractor this fall to talk about the reveg work, and we will be their technical advisors.

g. **Other projects**: Tiffany Fire Rehab – meeting scheduled with various entities (FWS, BOR, Armendaris, etc) at BDA at 10 am for Thursday

RGALT received 3rd NAWCA grant – 5th conservation easement at Taliaferro – SOBTF is a partner; project at Armendaris Ranch (51 partners to date on last three); how much money do we have on the table between our different partners?

7. Restore our Rivers Initiative: Prepping for the fundraising workshop

8. Other agenda items: Bosque Conservation Day – October 6, 2017 – Need committee; Considering making it an all-day event with lunch; Look for local sponsors; Need more restrooms. Cecilia gave an update on the Bernalillo County Conservation Easement program.

9. Website and Facebook items: Building a social media agenda; build a photo bank from past photos

10. Calendar items: August 8 – 9 am – Presentation at Sevilleta on monitoring protocol and the assessment/restoration efforts and monitoring , August 10 – 1 pm – Rio Grande Trail Resources Workgroup Meeting – State Forestry; August 17 – Interns present, synergy workshop; September 5 – Next meeting; September 17 – RGALT Harvest Dinner – 20th anniversary – Gutierrez Hubble House; September 19 – Fundraising workshop; October 20 – Bosque Clean-up Day

11. Individual reports: Matt – San Pedro Arroyo was roaring a week ago while the river was dry; Don - MRGEDA still in infancy, executive director making contacts, trying to build an awareness of what’s going on in the MRG valley, trying to find more consistent funding; Jon – It’s Monarch Monitoring Blitz this week; Annalily – finally saw a rattlesnake at Sevilleta; Hannah – Not scared of snakes or bears; Yasmeen has draft of BOR’s Lower Reach Plan for Biological Opinion.

12. Adjourn 3:31 p.m. *Motion by Fred, second by Matt; meeting adjourned.*