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Working collaboratively to support a healthy Rio Grande Bosque and riparian ecosystem while celebrating its benefits to the communities of central NM

**Save Our Bosque Task Force**

Save Our Bosque Task Force Monthly Board Meeting  
Socorro County Annex Office  
198 Neel Ave, Socorro NM

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**Tuesday, May 4th @ 3:00pm   
Meeting Location: Zoom / Conference Call**

*In attendance: Amy Erickson, gina, rex myers, sarah Anderson, sandra, Rafael sierra-castro, amy Kimball, yasmeen Najmi, matt mitchell, nancy spencer-morris, Biddy McColville.*

Meeting began at 3:04 pm

Introductions.

1. **Approve Agenda**  
   Yasmeen wants to make a riverine parks and trailsagenda item. Rio grande trail separate item. Gina – put public forum before treasurers repor. Fiscal matters can all be lumped together ie grant status etc. then review board action items, then project updates. RPT can be project updates. Fundraising and grant applications is separate than current project funding. Sandra wants to talk about our newsletter under community outreach. Matt moves to approve agenda with changes, yasmeen second. City municipal trash system? Yasmeen liked the businesss idea and sais volunteer groups in abq are always looking for trash to pick up.
2. **Approve minutes from last month’s meeting**

Yasmeen asked jerry if they would be willing *to consider* management of riverine parks.   
Sandra moved to approve with clarification, Amy second, passed. Nancy said – trash not limited to the river. How can we address that on a city-wide scale? Amy mentioned the adopt a parks. Businesses could buy a bench and donate it, could be for birding.they have to pick up trash within a certain distance from the bench. City regularly cleans up along highway 1 by the dump but not everywhere else.

Public open forum. We got a comment that our bosque is one of the jewels of our valley. And along with the college it makes Socorro better. Amazed no one is assigned to pick up trash.

Biddy, Socorro resident. Walk from otero to stumps since November. Helped to organize a cleanup last week. Got some big sheets of metal and had mrgcd come get them from the stumps. Its depressing how much trash ends up out there. What about people that have to do community service hours?

Gina gave an overview of the SOBTF for her and how the trash situation is an ongoing battle.

Sarah mentioned our summer interns pick up trash regularly at the parks from May-August.

Biddy would like to get more involved with the parks. Yasmeen spoke with donale monette and there is a tentative meeting for next Tuesday to talk with the city staff. Trash picjup and having city crews come out will be a topic of discussion.

Got 6 qualified applicants from ACE. The committee reviewed applications and we gave ace our top 3 candidates. Have one interview scheduled so far. Ace did not do a pre-screening, and we will combine their questions with ours.

Matt and sandra are still working with refuges to get support / funding.

1. **Action Items** -
   * Sarah will set up a meeting for the new Riverine Parks subcommittee. She is waiting ot get feedback from members and can set up a meeting about those topics.
   * Gina will send board members information about biogenerators
   * Sandra and Matt will continue outreach to refuges to seek funding opportunities
   * Yasmeen will keep us updated about the guardrail repair at the riverine parks
   * Yasmeen will develop a draft guidance document to get our segment of the trail designated into the Rio Grande Trail system.
   * Yasmeen will check on the Capital Outlay Funding to see if we can use the money for signs at the parks and find out the timeline for using the money. Had meeting with grants/finance person and saw the agreement for cap outlay funding. We have to get approval with bids for expendatures (was not required in the ast). We have until 2024 to spend the money. Their requirements are very general so probably okay for us to use the money for signs.
   * All – Send Amy or Sarah calendar items to put on our website calendar
   * All – Please send Sarah a post for the Facebook page so we can keep everyone engaged in our work. We would like to have a post from each board member
2. **Treasurer’s Report**

Matt. Last meeting 42,847.53, now it is 49,351.81. moderate activity this month, we got 2 donations from the public in Socorro.

1. **Fundraising update**  
     
   Sarah met with Yasmeen to talk about our MOA with MRGCD and our funding from them. They discussed the past year’s accomplishments and developed a plan and list of goals for the next year. We requested and invoiced the remainder of the funding in that MOA.

NFWF proposal – this is a pre-proposal in partnership RGALT. It is a capacity building grant focused on improving or creating quality willow-flycatcher habitat. SOBTF would bring technical expertise to that grant. We hope to get payroll support for Sarah’s position and hire a part-time employee to help with projects, community outreach, trail and riverine parks upkeep, and other tasks that Sarah does not have the capacity to do. This would be similar to a 6-month Americorps internship

Another fundraising email went out last week and we got a few more $100 donations and some smaller donations. Rob suggested putting the fundraising information in the body of the email and not having it as a separate attached document. Some people may not be comfortable opening attachments or may be on a mobile device.

1. **Community Outreach**Newsletter is coming up and we said we would do one in January and June 1st. we can push it back. Amy will send an email asking for newsletter items. Will push it back to give the interns time to get something in.
2. **Advocacy**still working on the Rio Grande Basin Study. At a future meeting rex and gina will give a presentation about their work on the study. Are we going to sign on to the letter? Will meet with board members later. Action item – gina reach back to WEG about letter deadline and check in with the board.
3. **Project Updates**

Partners for Fish and Wildlife   
matt – ready to spend out the last of toe Gonzales money on grass plugs. We can pay now and plant them last year, then close out the project. Same with Ron Thomas – he is all done with the work and is taking photos so we can put together a final report for Angel and close it out. Barclay first draft agreement is finished and sent off to the landowners but we have not heard back yet.

Can sarah work on PFW using mrgcd funding? Matt called mike Hammond for clarification on the intent of the MOU with how to spend the money? Its open and not narrowly focused to mrgcd lands. Our work on non mrgcd lands has a beneficial impact for them. Ie if we do a firebreak project with the county, that impacts their lands. But a project 40 miles from the river might not be so applicable however may have an erosion control benefit. Matt gave a brief overview of what PFW is.

Rio Grande Trail  
Sarah gave an update. We are still discussing specific alignments. Will schedule a meeting as soon as next week with the project team. Story map has been sent to yasmeen for review and after tht will be sent to the board for review. Gina gave a brief overview of what the Rio Grande Trail / Socorro Valley Trail effort is.

Riverine parks and bosque trail

Yasmeen is still looking into paying for new signs with capital outlay funding and MRGCD understands and agrees that there is a need for new signs. We will design the signs in collaboration with MRGCD.

Sarah led this agenda item. Meeting with the city again next week about our $5,000. Have a little bit left. What do we want to do with the remaining $500, and how to ask for the next $500, our goals and what we want to do with the money. Everyone wants signage. Sarah will let Gina know when this meeting takes place. Also trying to get the city to help on a monthly basis. 5 big rocks were placed where the broken guardrail was.

Subcommittee meeting? What time on Monday? Monday morning at 10am on Monday the 10th. Sarah will set it up. Biddy, rex, sandra, yasmeen, gina, sarah, nancy is a maybe.

BOR Cooperative Agreement  
interns are a big part of the agreement. We are leasing a truck and pick it up on Wednesday. Starting herbaceous weed surveys on the 19th

Sevilleta  
Kathy reported that the trees we helped them purchase are leafing out and looks like a good success rate. Prairie dog releases are going well.

NMC wildfire risk reduction grant

Gina gave a short update as Jerry is not here. Consultation with USFWS is complete and are hoping to get the work done by may 31st. that is this years grant. Will not know about next years grant until later. We have worked with Forest Fitness and are hoping to start early next week. Other contractor broke his leg.

1. **Other**

Sarah already gave internship update.

Open positions on the board – gina sandra are on nomination committee, matt agreed to be on it.

We now have 41 members and a total of $4,365 raised. We need ot talk about when we want to do another membership drive. Annual membership so wont bother people again this year.

**Adjourn**  
Jerry motion to adjourn, Rex second – meeting adjourned at 4:21 pm.

**\*\*\* Our next board meeting will be Tuesday, May 4th @ 3:00 \*\*\***