

Save Our Bosque Task Force
Tuesday, January 5, 2016 Minutes

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Jon Erz, Gina Dello Russo, Nick Smokovich, Fred Hollis, Matt Mitchell,
Willie Lucero, Connie Robnett, Dominique Otero, Nicole Gordon, and Yasmeen Najmi

9:15 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Meeting

1. Approve Agenda. *Motion made by Matt to approve, second by Fred, approved.*
2. Approve Minutes from December 2015. *Motion made by Connie to approve, second by Nick, approved.*
3. Treasurer's report
 - a. Balance - \$ 6,696.01 in SOBTF funds and \$7,712.50 in the Gonzales Project. \$22,400 is available for the Perry Project. There are two bills: \$60 for our Post Office Box and \$21.64 to Taos Net to secure our domain name. *Motion made by Matt to approve these bills, second by Gina, 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. Gina, Fred, and Tracey will meet today to get all information for them to accomplish Phase I, the Environmental Compliance portion of the project. Process is cumbersome but in the long run will benefit the County with wildland urban interface issues.
 - b. Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program: Gina is waiting on ordering plants for the Perry project until the site preparation is done. If this is delayed due to weather, we won't be holding on to plants for a long time before getting them in the ground. Gina met with Will, Vannetta and Chris Lopez about the design. Gina will check with the status of contracts for fencing and earthwork. There is still work to be done on Gonzales, planting date is set for February 10 and 11. Gina, Connie, Matt, Nick, Doug, Nicole, and Dominique can make it! 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. Tentatively scheduled for February. 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. This committee will get back with the Task Force in March.
 - c. Riverine Parks/SNA: SNA – Road to Socorro Nature Area improvements and inclusion in County road system. No update on the SNA, let's set a date for Bosque Conservation Day early so the schools and partners can have it on their calendars. Riverine Parks – State Forestry Inmate Work Camp has treated salt cedar resprouts in the ribbon from the North Diversion to Brown Arroyo. They began salt cedar control work from the North Diversion to Escondida, maybe a quarter mile. Nick had question on the Escondida Drain and vegetation building up there. Possibility of HR along there, something to consider.
 - d. Other Projects: 1) NAWCA support, Fred made a motion, and Matt seconded authorizing Doug to sign the Partner Contribution Statement that says the Task Force will put \$250 cash and \$500 in-kind labor towards the upcoming NAWCA grant application. Motion passed. 2) Bosque Trail – Doug and Tim talked about alignment and our assistance on the next round of funding proposals. Continuing to work with MRGCD and BOR to see about options. They are looking at putting in a proposal this fall. 3) Levee project, was shut down for holidays and now the snow. There was some mobilization by the second contractor. They have put some ramps on the stretch under Phase I. We should probably check in soon on that – **Doug will call Jerry Nieto and see when we can schedule a meeting** . Gravel stockpile is starting for Phase I road base. 4) RG Trails Commission: Kathy Granillo and Gina will be going to the meeting in Las Cruces. 5) CRI project on Sevilleta NWR, planting on the project was planned for February but need to do some finish work when the site dries out from flooding of project at 1900 cfs recently. Tentatively, still planning to plant February 6-15. Contact Jon if you want to plant. They have groups coming down but

would welcome SOBTF. **UPDATE:** cancelled until further notice due to high water and snow and additional construction work on the site. Stay tuned.

5. Fundraising: Fundraising Plan discussion – We did have a discussion after the last meeting. Notes will be sent out to group attending and other board members so we can continue to work on our plan.
6. Roundtable discussion. January 13, 2016 the Save Our Bosque Task Force will host a discussion with stakeholders on the following topics. Cost for lunch, approved at last meeting, will be about \$400.
 - Restoration, monitoring and research, outreach, public use, land and water management, planning efforts in the reach will be presented by the Task Force, County, COE, BOR, ISC, private lands programs (SWCD, NRCS and Partners), private landowners, Refuges, Bureau of Geology, others,
 - strategies for getting this work done,
 - coordination and partnering on projects,
 - depletions offsets for restoration work,
 - 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 is the Bureau of Geology building in Socorro.

Motion made by Connie and seconded by Yasmeen, and approved to put a jar out for donations during this event. Connie and Nicole will take notes, Jon and Doug will bring flipcharts.

7. Other agenda items: none
8. Website/Facebook: Connie is working on updating/revising/and potentially moving our website to a new service if that is needed. Schedule a time for Nick, Gina, and Connie to work together. Jon has made a facebook page that he is ready to go with, he will publish it this month. He did a sample with Rhodes property project. These outreach efforts will help with our fundraising, but need to build a big base of friends and likes. Facebook helps us create a presence, spotlight members, community, photos of pretty places. Jon will give us a short presentation on this after the meeting. Thanks Connie and Jon!
9. Calendar: Roundtable January 13, February 2 next Task Force meeting, planting project dates, tentative date for Trash Pickup April 15.
10. Individual Reports: Connie, traveling around the Southern US. Fred said there is an initial planning meeting for FireWise next Thursday, ask Ken Wolff for details. Four storms coming through this week, so not much of a fire danger. Nick said the NM State Forestry seedling program is active now, new plants added. Nicole has settled and bought a place in Lemitar, Yasmeen will check about the MRGCD board meeting in Socorro, she had family here over the holidays, Willie reported that the State Land Office Commissioner signed an agreement for state trust land to open these lands for hunting. The agreement has NM G & F paying a 1 million dollar fee for that access and goes into effect in 2016/2017. Some designated areas for camping are being considered, don't know where or how many. Doug wants SNOW!
11. Adjourn: *At 11:15 AM, Matt made a motion to adjourn, second by Connie, approved.*