**Save Our Bosque Task Force**

Board Session and Public Meeting

Tuesday December 4, 2018 9:00 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, Fred Hollis, Matt Mitchell, Jerry Wheeler, Mark Mercer, Kathy Granillo, George Smithson, and Jon Erz.

1. Approve Agenda – *Fred moved and Mark second, passed with two corrections to agenda.*

2. Approve Minutes from November 2018 –one error, place of meeting updated to Socorro County Annex. *Fred moved and Jerry second, passed.*

*To Do List:*

* Yasmeen will let Amy know when she is going to present to MRGCD board so she can invite us up to the board meeting - Pending.
* Doug and Fred will make sure crusher fines get out to trail locations for volunteers.
* Doug will schedule a meeting with Delilah for us.
* Amy will summarize our discussion on 2019 work and priorities for funding for Synergy Group meeting on December 13.
* Amy will work to get a more detailed landownership map from the County to send to NPS and ask if there are other tasks for us this month.
* Jon will work with Amy on this potential volunteering efforts in early to mid-February.
* Amy will schedule Advisory Board meeting in January.
* Amy and Gina will schedule plant relocation for either December 17 or 20.
* Amy and Matt will schedule harvesting day and then a planting day at his property for February 2019.
* Amy will contact Brent Nourse of NMT about volunteer opportunities for sports clubs.

3. Treasurer’s Report

a. Account activity and bills received – SOBTF funds ending balance for November 30, 2018 is $75,664.08. Two deposits were made: one from Facebook (a birthday fundraiser) and one from United Way, both from individual supporters – Thank you so much for the contributions! There is $65,347.40 in the Program Management Account as of November 30, 2018. There is a balance of 6427.88 in the SOBTF general fund. There is $1,508.80 in Turner Youth Grant. We received $169.79 from BLM (error, says BOR) for bus transport to the Socorro Nature Area for the trash pickup prior to BCD. Thank you BLM for your support! Thanks to Fred for acting as Treasurer all these years and to Nyleen for her continuing support of the Save Our Bosque Task Force – we couldn’t do it without you!

4. Fundraising Update

a. Amy is looking at the following grants to fund our efforts. We received two donations from members/supporters this month: a birthday fundraising donation from Casey Berner (Happy Birthday Casey!) and a United Way donation from Miranda Kersten’s family. Temper of the Times - small grants for environmental media outreach (due December 15). Maki Foundation – $1,000-$5,000 grants for public lands and rivers, Network for Good grant opportunities to support fundraising or capacity building (due December 7, call for proposals repeats each month), and possible cooperative agreement with Reclamation for monitoring and maintenance of Reclamation’s projects. Board supports moving forward with potential agreement. *Doug moved and Matt seconded passed*.

**9:30 AM Public Meeting Session**

5. Project Updates

a. Socorro County Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Projects Status – Socorro Valley Wildfire project will end with the closing of Phase 1. Socorro County North Bosque fuels reduction project is moving through Phase 1 and we are very hopeful that we can complete Phase 2. Jerry Wheeler and Sammie Vega-Finch are the best contacts now for these projects. We spoke about the potential for finding funding to complete the Socorro Valley Wildfire Project.

b. Partners for Fish & Wildlife - Amy and Gina assisted with a Regional Coordinator Tour on November 7. Angel Montoya and other regional staff across the US were present. Partners for Fish and Wildlife Projects status –FY 16 - Armendaris agreement is signed, working on the environmental compliance to be completed. Mitchell project is at the stage where they are going to burn piles, and then work to get a group of volunteers together for plantings. Once Matt has a date for planting then we will schedule volunteers to harvest and plant (2 days total). FY 2018 - Thomas/Brook project is about ready for the signed agreement with edits Angel had made.

c. Rio Grande Trail, Socorro Valley Trail Efforts – A tour of the trail area and a meeting with NPS to discuss first steps was held on November 7. Amy will work to get a more detailed landownership map from the County to send to NPS and ask if there are other tasks for us this month.

d. Sevilleta NWR update – Jon reported that Sevilleta NWR has completed Unit B construction and the site is flooded for the minnow. Next year, Unit B should have forage for wintering ducks. Unit A’ Project is ongoing, some changes to the design are necessary to maintain this project area. Sevilleta NWR will be planting this coming February. Will’s contract will be fulfilled in part this year with 3,000 poles delivered this winter, more to come next year. Socorro SWCD will assist with digging holes for this planting season. Volunteers will also be needed for planting this season. Jon will work with Amy on this potential volunteering efforts in early to mid-February.

e. Central Socorro Bosque Severance Project Status**:** Spraying will be completed today. Hack and squirt should be done too. The shrubs are in a trailer at Doug’s office, fencing tomorrow and then plant and seed after that. George gave Jeremy all the maps needed for planting. With the additional $50K that came from Reclamation, the IWC has been working south of Brown Arroyo starting about a mile down. George said they are clearing around cottonwoods and then when this work is done, they will work the ribbon starting from across from the river work, and then fill in. Estimated timeframe to finish this work is about four months. Amy sent a notice to the paper to let people know that there was firewood if people get a wood permit.

f. Tiffany Fire Rehabilitation Project – Doug reported that the project team met last week with Bureau of Reclamation staff to begin the process of environmental and cultural compliance on the first phase of work out there – spot spraying or lop and scatter of resprouts. We were hoping to treat ~950 acres but that will be determined through the compliance process. RfPs for Outreach and Planning and Compliance are in draft form and we hoping they go out soon.

g. WaterSmart Grant – we had a call with Bureau of Reclamation on November 27 to discuss the financial paperwork needed to finalize the grant. Amy, Gina, and Doug are working to pull all information together. We will meet at 9 AM on Friday to work on this task list.

h. 4H/Task Force Greenhouse Status – nothing to report.

i. Social Media – Amy is working on updating our website. Amy could use some postings for our Facebook page. Announce that we are working to get some trail maintenance done to see if there is interest in helping.

j. General discussion of SOBTF priorities for 2019 in preparation for Synergy Group meeting at Gina’s on December 13, all welcome. 2019 will likely include FEMA projects monitoring, Partners projects will be on-going, Rio Grande Trail outreach and planning will take place this year, Central Bosque Project – IWC work may continue with added funding, WaterSmart planning will take place this year, and there is a possibility that we will have an agreement with Reclamation. We are potential NFWF grant partners and Audubon NM if that proposal is funded. Internship program hopefully will continue. Amy would like to attend a fundraising workshop, preferably early in the new year. Funding priorities for 2019 are Program Director salary, training and opportunities, Internship program, and possible maintenance fund to assist landowners with their maintenance needs.

6. Upcoming Events

a. December 7 – Retirement party for Fred noon-3:00 pm at the Socorro County Annex.

b. December 7 – Friends of Bosque del Apache Holiday Open House 4:30-7:30 pm at Refuge Headquarters.

c. December 12 – Rhodes Property Reclamation Project Preconstruction meeting 10 AM at Reclamation in Socorro yard.

d. December 13 – Synergy Group Meeting at Gina’s house 4-6 PM

e. December 13 – Sevilleta NWRs Holiday Pot Luck and White Elephant gift sharing, please RSVP if you want to attend.

f. December 18 – Lunch at the Boykin’s to celebrate Doug’s retirement 1:30 PM

g. December 28 – open house at Sevilleta NWR for their 45th anniversary

7. Other

a. SOBTF Advisory Board update – Amy wrote a two-page summary of how an Advisory Council might work for us. We discussed this summary and that now is the time to work on the specifics. We will meet in the first part of the new year to work on next steps. Potential date is after our next meeting - January 8, 2019 at 1 PM.

b. Synergy Group Update – next meeting December 13, 4-6 pm at Gina’s house. Gwen Valentino now works for South Central COG and may be able to help us with fundraising.

c. Reminder: The first Tuesday of January is New Year’s Day – Happy New Year! The next meeting is January 8, 2019.

d. Discussed the changing positions on the Board - Fred will stay on the Board and will remain Treasurer until someone is found and Sammie Vega-Finch is one County Representative to our Board (we should vote on this in January to make it official if she is interested), Doug will remain Chairman until our elections in October 2019. Doug noted that Amy brings continuity to this transition.

e. Plant relocation at Rhodes Property. Maybe Sevilleta NWR could help with truck and trailer and two volunteers, Matt will help with this, plants could go to Matt’s, maybe the sports clubs (Brent Nourse at NM Tech brent.nourse@nmt.edu) is the contact. Tentative dates are the 17th or 20th of December. Fred can do the 17th.

f. Gina reminded all: please don’t send emails to me at the County email I had.

8. Adjourn at 11:30 am. *Matt moved and Fred second, approved.*