**Save Our Bosque Task Force**

Socorro County Annex Conference Room

198 Neel Ave.

Socorro, NM

Tuesday November 6, 2018

**9:30 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Board Session (Business Meeting)**

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Amy Erickson, Gina Dello Russo, Fred Hollis, Matt Mitchell, Jerry Wheeler, and Yasmeen Najmi.

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

2. Approve Minutes from October 2018 – *Matt moved and Fred 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 will send Fred an electronic version of our signed MOU with our partners.
* Doug and Fred will make sure crusher fines get out to trail locations for volunteers.
* Amy will get draft a summary of our benefits the Task Force provides to Socorro County.

3. Treasurer’s Report

a. Account activity and bills received – SOBTF funds ending balance for September $6,004.11. Two deposits of $1,000 each were made: one from Nuscenda for the BCD and one from the SB Foundation for support of video production ($1000) and our internship program ($4,000). There is $68,559.44 in the Program Management Account as of October 31, 2018. There is $1,508.80 in Turner Youth Grant. Total balance of $80,531.35. We reimbursed interns and PM for their mileage while working and using their own vehicles. New reimbursement for Gina Dello Russo $744.66 for preparing the revegetation plan for the Bureau of Reclamation’s Rhodes Property project. The Program Manager and interns completed the pre-construction monitoring on the project for a reimbursement of $1,027.97. A payment of $270.34 to Walmart covered costs of food for Bosque Conservation Day and one for $150 donated to “A wing and a prayer” non-profit for participating in BCD. One deposit for $395.04 was made for Program Manager’s work on the Tiffany Fire Rehabilitation project management tasks.

4. Fundraising update

a. We received a generous donation from the SB Foundation to support our work. New opportunities: Amy is looking at two grants that will fund outreach efforts. Temper of the Times is one effort for the documentary and NFWF Proposal for the MRG Native Water Leasing Pilot Program as a sub recipient with National Audubon Society. Discussion followed on the Task Force’s role in the NFWF grant proposal, as a vote on this proposal submittal, two board members are abstaining (Gina Dello Russo as a contractor to the work and Yasmeen Najmi as a staff member of MRGCD), *Matt moved and Fred second, approved*.

5. On-Going Projects – Important Updates

a. Socorro County Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Projects Status – Gina reported on the status of the Socorro Valley mitigation project and the Socorro County North Bosque mitigation project. The next cycle of funding from FEMA would be March/April 2019.

b. Partners for Fish and Wildlife Projects status –waiting on feedback on the Armendaris Project, Mitchell project is moving ahead – they are ready to burn piles, Thomas/Brook project is ready to go with edits Angel had – will be the first of the FY 2018 funds allotted. We charted up the remaining funds. Jake Chavez might be interested in a project - he has land on the Canas Arroyo.

c. Rio Grande Trail, Socorro Valley Trail Efforts – Our Bosque Trail: Fred will assist Doug to get the crusher fines at different trail heads along the trail and then volunteers, led by Bob Markwell, will spread it. Socorro County has a reduction in staff to haul material (crusher fines) for trail maintenance. Fred is asking Lorenzo of MRGCD to haul a couple loads to the trails. NPS Rivers, Trails and Communities grant was awarded to us. Tour of our trail area at 2:00 pm and a meeting at the Socorro County Annex tomorrow at 3:00 pm, November 7.

d. Sevilleta NWR update –We are starting to use the rest of the funds, we are paying for the intern’s 2018 lodging out of this agreement.

e. Central Socorro Bosque Severance Project Status**:** Doug reported that follow up spraying of resprouts will start today. The contractor will start on the flood control and go south and then work on Severence 1. Discussed seed mix and Amy will work with George and the contractor to determine mix and timing of seeding. Shrubs will go in soon and will be fenced to limit cattle impacts.

f. Tiffany Fire Rehabilitation Project – Amy reported that the project team met last week and we are determining site prep areas, finalizing the scope of work for a planning contractor.

g. WaterSmart Grant – we scheduled a call with Bureau of Reclamation for November 27, 10:00 am.

h. 4H/Task Force Greenhouse Status – still waiting to see when greenhouse will be constructed.

i. Bosque Conservation Day – Trash Pickups – overview of events . BCD went well and both trash pickup days went well. SNA clean-up was a good event, had equipment there to assist, probably not necessary every year. Did help us figure out what is needed out there in terms of maintenance. We spent $169.79 to cover buses to come out there, maybe BLM could cover these costs. Trash pickup went well, we got many of the northern parks cleaned up. MRGCD moved one of the tables at “the Tubes” away from a hazard tree.

j. Social Media – Amy is working on updating our website –new pages: interns and community outreach. 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.

6. Upcoming events

a. Saturday, November 10 – Festival of the Cranes trash pickup on Highway 1. Gina will present at a Water Advocates work in the Middle Rio Grande.

b. Saturday, November 17 – Wildlife Zone station at the Festival of the Cranes – id birds by song, Amy needs help during the day. She will be there until 2:00 pm needs help afterwards.

c. Sunday, November 18 – RGALT Fall Fundraiser; Amy and Gina are going to the event.

d. Next Task Force meeting December 4, 9:00 am at the Socorro County Annex.

e. Friday, December 7 – Fred’s going away party from noon to 3:00 pm at Socorro County Annex, Commission Chambers.

7. Other

a. SOBTF Advisory Council: Amy was tasked to write up advisory council bylaws (including roles and responsibilities), which she handed out as a draft for us to review. This included suggested size, 4-6 persons; large professional network in the area; individuals that can act as a liaison to other groups of people (someone from NM Tech as example); someone who could help with grants or fundraising from donors; and maybe someone with an accounting background. Meet informally occasionally, have someone from our board to attend their meetings. Suggest we assign individuals with tasks. Next steps – Amy will send out updated version, board reviews is ready to talk about this next meeting.

b) Socorro Synergy Group update – next meeting possibly December 12 or 13 from 4-6 pm at Gina’s house.

c) County housing the Task Force and participating in Task Force after Fred’s retirement. We will check with Delilah about meeting with us. Doug will send Fred electronic copy of MOU. Amy will draft a summary of the benefits to the County for our work, she will have this to us by Friday. Process will include: writing up an MOU between the County and Task Force, County Attorney to review our benefits to the County, commission reviews, approval considered, signs MOU.

d) Board transition at the end of the year: Doug is retiring on December 31, 2018. Yes, we will have a party for him at some point for sure! Doug believes we may want to have a new Chairperson, it would be good to have an agency staff member as chairperson. Matt suggested that Doug move into Vice-chairperson and leave the chair vacant at this time.

e) Yasmeen checked in with Lorenzo at the manager’s meeting and the weeds on the levee are not that tall, wait until late winter to mow the levee. Levee maintenance will now be on the MRGCD regular maintenance schedule to mow once or more times per year as needed.

f) MRGCD is working with NMDGF to have a limited elk hunt this year. A certain number of permits will be issued per year, limit types of weapons, and certain areas will be excluded – near Socorro City limits for Socorro Valley. Will they delineate the park areas? Yasmeen will make sure that those are mapped. Amy can get Yasmeen a map of the parks. Will it be advertised? Yasmeen wasn’t sure since NMDGF is managing the hunt for now.

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