

Save Our Bosque Task Force



MINUTES for Tuesday, October 4th, 2022

Save Our Bosque Task Force Monthly Board Meeting

Meeting Location: Socorro County Annex & virtual via Zoom

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82542666858?pwd=b0gvZW1MUUJ3KzU1OEhpUWgwVGt3QT09>

Meeting ID: 825 4266 6858

Passcode: 267787

Call-in Number: (646) 568-7788

Action items held over from August/September:

Held over: Jerry will contact a possible new project with a landowner near Escondida Bridge & Pueblitos re Fish & Wildlife projects.

Held over: Danielle will talk to Jerry or Mr. Hawkes re signage for the parks re possibly getting the County, City or MRGCD involved with personnel, funding, or pick-up trucks. She will work on trying to find grants for signage.

Danielle: will send out packets to board members with 1) information from public outreach on Rio Grande trail and 2) signage examples and mockups

Danielle: will send Jeff and Gina contact information for head of MRGCD Socorro Division

Gina and Matt: are working with Partners for Fish and Wildlife to organize the tour on October 18 with Congressional staff.

Danielle: Eagle Scout project(s)?

Jeff: status of camera installation?

Action items for October:

Danielle: summary for Board at Nov meeting of the two Oct. conferences, one on vegetation management of bars and islands; another on recreation and Rio Grande Trail updates/progress

Danielle: NM Uplift, an initiative from the governor—D will meet with Claire at conf to discuss outdoor recreation opportunities; Striders and Riders, Rock Climbers

Danielle: We need an estimate for a yearly trail and park maintenance contract with some entities if we can afford. This task has not been part of the Staff member's responsibility in the past. The walkability of trails can be viewed as a Public Relations item, as can the parks being free of trash, hazardous waste. Some local tree/yard contractors are interested.

Danielle: MRGCD/Capital Outlay—MRGCD and D are working on tamarisk control activities on 150 acres between Bosque and Confluence Park. D and Yasmeen will get estimate.

Danielle: post about our upcoming meetings on Website, Facebook, and Instagram accounts.

Danielle and Gina: are working on a Carroll Petrie Foundation Grant

Danielle and Jerry: The City needs to work to address the considerable damage to a new table in Bosque Park, as well as cottonwood limb damage; problems include a partial blockage to Confluence and downed trees at Otero. Danielle to follow up with BLM and Jerry (County fire personnel) to get this fixed.

Danielle and Gina: will meet with the Recreation Director for the NM Economic Development Dept in early November as part of the Rio Grande Trail fact-finding for recreation opportunities related to the trail.

Board, Danielle, and Gina: Gina: Board elections coming up; Nov., nominations; Dec., voting. All Board members recruit new Board members to come onto the Team.

Danielle: letter to newspaper and Facebook to ask for new blood.

Christie: trail repairs/restoration; she will talk to runner, professor, and Tech Mountain Bike Club advisor Dave Burleigh about what needs to be done on the three miles of our trails so we can start to fix the backlog of downed trees, etc.

Matt: Partners for Fish and Wildlife --Matt will do Hart; we'll be planting in Feb., 2023; he says we're just waiting for landowners' signatures to get started.

Matt: is organizing the congressional staffers with Angel Montoya for an Oct. 18 visit to Bosque del Apache, Armendaris Ranch, and Gonzales and Mitchell properties on Bosquecito Road.

Jerry: will talk more to local bee owners re using the remaining Partners for Fish and Wildlife funds, approximately \$10K we have to spend on projects much before Sept. 30, 2023.

Board: How can we get our partners to apply for grants for us in a significant amount, since we are not a state entity but a non-profit?

Board and Gina action items: At next meeting, Nov. 1, suggest guest speakers for the Dec Annual Meeting; also look at by-laws to see how we must publicize the Annual Meeting; (Gina—action item) maybe a new venue (Rodeo Grounds building?)

Meeting started, 3:11

- 1. Approve Agenda** – motion to approve: Christie; second: Matt; approved.
- 2. Introductions:** Gina Dello Russo (Treasurer), Christie Smith (Secretary), Jerry Wheeler (President), Jeff Havlena (VP), Matt Mitchell, Ron Thomas
- 3. Approve Minutes for Sept. 2022**—motion to approve, Christie: second: Gina; approved.
- 4. Treasurer's Report**
 - a. Budget Summary**

b. As of Sept. 1, 2022 our budget was \$36,526.09. As of Sept. 30, 2022 our budget was \$47,926.18. Donation from Amazon of \$7; another for \$100 from a donor; payroll and interns, outgoing; two large deposits from Bureau of Reclamation

c. **Fundraising –**

d. **New/Ongoing Grant Opportunities**

Carroll Petrie-- Danielle and Gina are working on a Carroll Petrie Foundation Grant; they had a call with them on 10/3/22 for staff time to evaluate and ways to control invasive species without pesticides.

- FEMA grants –are probably off the table this year, per Jerry; it would have to come from the County. Jerry explained about how FEMA funds are distributed in several different categories –urban, rural, documented damage, individual cf town/city, etc. The Belen Fire may get money thru a Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant but not thru us.

- How can we get our partners apply for grants for us in a significant amount, since we are not state but a non-profit

5. Program Director update

- Arrangements for annual leave (October 11th-20th) Danielle is a at a conference vegetation management of bars and islands; another conf also on recreation—lots of players in the mix to meet and get to know; she gave the Board a summary handout (internal doc only).

6. Project Updates

a. September Projects Update

- Reclamation Cooperative Agreement—Danielle monitoring woody veg survey with GSA and the Bureau of Reclamation Rio Grande silvery minnow habitat sites. Also working with Doris Rhodes, Reclamation, and NRCS to work on south easement of Rhodes property.

- New Mexico Counties updates—Jerry: we've closed out the 21-22 grants; submitted \$50K invoice, and County is already reimbursed as of late Sept. (!). SOBTF match was \$6540.08 for the project. We brought more money back into the County, which was a good thing. Jerry passed around the Project Report. This is an ongoing program in our area for fire mitigation, to prevent tamarisk from building up. BLM and New Mexico Counties representatives came out and toured the sites.

We've completed the first quarter of the '22-'23 Wildfire Risk Reduction grant in the Bosquecito area. The price agreement will have to be renegotiated in Feb. '23 since the cost of everything is going up. If we do the work before then it would be good.

- City of Socorro updates—The City will work to address the considerable damage to a new table in Bosque Park, as well as cottonwood limb damage; problems include a partial blockage to Confluence and downed trees at Otero. Action item for Danielle to follow up with MRGCD and Jerry (County fire personnel) to get this fixed.

Danielle: We need an estimate for a yearly trail and park maintenance contract with some entities if we can afford. This task has not been part of the Staff member's responsibility in the past. The walkability of trails can be viewed as a Public Relations item, as can the parks being free of trash, hazardous waste. Some local tree/yard contractors are interested. Christie will talk to Dave Burleigh about what needs to be done on the three miles of our trails so we can start to fix the backlog of downed trees, etc.

- MRGCD/Capital Outlay—SEE HANDOUT MRGCD and Danielle are working on tamarisk control activities on 150 acres between Bosque and Confluence Park. Danielle and MRGCD will get estimates from contractors.

- NMDGF –

c. Partners for Fish and Wildlife

- F18 project status updates (Barclay, Hart, other). Matt will work with Mr. Hart to schedule work; we'll be planting in February 2023. He says we're just waiting for landowners' signatures to get started. Danielle is working on Barclay to get signed (Jerry & Danielle Action item) with Fish and Wildlife for well-drilling and Siberian Elm management.

Gina says we have approximately \$10K to spend on projects before Sept. 30, 2023; Jerry has talked to local bee owners; we could do planting and assist with watering;

- Congressional visit—Matt is organizing the congressional staffers with Angel Montoya for an Oct. 18 visit to Bosque del Apache, Armendaris Ranch, and Gonzales and Mitchell properties on Bosquecito Road.

d. Parks and Trails

- Bi-annual clean-up day (October 20th) Gina will call MRGCD to set up equipment (backhoe and dump truck); we can usually take stuff to the City dump. Jeff and Christie can't be there. We need publicity for Oct. 20 (Jerry and Danielle). Gina has sent Danielle an old flyer from 2019 to use as an example.

- Socorro Valley Rio Grande Trail – Gina attends meetings related to this initiative. Danielle is attending the New Mexico Outdoor Economic Conference and a Middle Rio Grande Sandbar and Island workshop this week

e. Outreach

- Nusenda Community Rewards Opportunity & Nusenda Community Day—Matt is working with them to work cutting invasive species and planting potted grasses on Monday, Oct. 10; they and we bring tools; we'll be meeting on Bosquecito Road on the Gonzales property. **Cancelled due to wet conditions at planting site.**

- Bosque Conservation Day (October 27th) at the Socorro Nature Area in Lemitar
–Matt says that Mike Comiskey with BLM says they'll have three stations for us. How many stations do we need? 6-7?

Action item: Jerry will talk to Bear Albericht re radios and 4-H-er guides on this; several local schools are coming to this event. Matt says they expect slightly under 100 kids.

- NM Uplift, an initiative from the governor—Danielle will meet with Claire to stay up to date on this initiative.

f. Website, Facebook, and Instagram accounts—Danielle will post about our upcoming meetings after this Oct. 4 meeting.

10. Other

Gina -- Our Board tour –how's Sat., Nov. 5, 10 AM? Gina will lead this, a southern trip this time; northern, next time.

Gina met with Stacey Timmons to plan a short tour in December of the Valley by state legislators (those on the committee for Water and Natural Resources) and Gina recommended that they go out to Otero and learn about what we do there and our issues.

Gina: Board elections coming up; Nov., nominations; Dec., voting; Matt: a newcomer wants to be involved, has given us her contact info. We are very interested in new Board members to come onto the Team.

Danielle: letter to newspaper and Facebook to ask for new board members?

Next meeting: Dec. Annual and Board Meeting on Tues., Dec. 13, 5 or 6 PM? Board action items: In Nov., suggest a guest speaker and look at by-laws to see how we publicize the Annual Meeting; (Gina—action item) maybe a new venue (Rodeo Grounds building?)

Gina and Danielle will meet with the Outdoor Recreation Director for the NM Economic Development Department in early November as part of the Rio Grande Trail fact-finding for recreation opportunities related to the trail.

11. Adjourn 5:09 PM