

Save Our Bosque Task Force

Tuesday, July 1, 2014 Agenda/Minutes

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Gina Dello Russo, Matt Mitchell, Priscilla Cora Gwin, Fred Hollis, Santiago Misquez, Willie Lucero, Jack Dickey, Nick Smokovich, Don Kearney, Chris Hill, John Romero, Yasmeen Najmi (by phone), Mark Meyers.

9:00 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Meeting

1. Approve Agenda. *Motion made by Chris to approve, second by Matt, approved.*
2. Approve Minutes from June 2014. Numbering needs adjusting. *Motion made by Matt to approve, second by Priscilla, approved.*
3. Treasurer's report:
 - a. Remaining balances in Private Property Project funds: \$1,800.00 (set aside for audit preparation this year if needed); in SOBTF fund: \$4,265.36. Thanks to those donors. Overall balance of: \$6,065.36. Task Force Board thanks the Treasurer Fred Hollis with assistance from Nyleen Stowe for compiling Treasurer's report.
 - b. No bills this month.
4. Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Project. The Socorro Valley WUI Mitigation Project was submitted on June 30, 2014. Primarily, this project would address WUI on the east side of the river, protecting the communities of San Pedro, Bosquecito, and Pueblito. Willing landowners would work with Socorro County and partners in the proposal to protect both homes and wildlife habitat from fire. The final decision on funding is due out in October, 2014. Thanks to Jerry Wheeler, Fred Hollis, County Manager Delilah Walsh and many others for putting this proposal together.
5. Project Updates
 - a. Rhodes Project: Doris is attempting to purchase inholdings within the project footprint. She is also hoping to schedule a tour with US Senator Heinrich's staff to her property. She reports the easement is close to being finalized. If so, NRCS work will start in the fall.
 - b. Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program: Saavedra project is underway with slash processing going on. Mitchell and Gonzales property projects are ready to go this fall. Looking for another project to benefit wildlife, possibly the Perry project.
 - c. Riverine Parks/SNA: Socorro Nature Area (BLM) hosted the Magdalena Schools recently. Chris is working with Cynthia and Healthy Kids Socorro to post mile markers on trails so kids and adults can track their exercise. It was reported that MRGCD land between Escondida Bridge and the North Diversion is having heavy 4x4 use. Request made that the Task Force assist with building berms, deterrents to this use. Mike from the Socorro Division MRGCD did an inventory of wire, metal posts, and other supplies to assist with protecting bosque from offroad use. This work needs to take place soon while seasonal firefighters are available to assist. There was also a suggestion to burn some of the piles

left in the bosque from past fuel reduction work. This needs to be inventoried and planned for the winter moisture season.

- d. Healthy Kids Socorro: Quarter mile markers going in to promote exercise and building up to longer walks, runs, and hikes!
 - e. Other: 1) 4th of July is a busy time for firefighters in the valley. There will be a daily presence along the bosque from State Forestry, the County, possibly MRGCD and Socorro PD. 2) There is a hazard tree north of Otero Street on one of the turnouts into the parks; Nick and Jack will look into this. 3) SunZia powerline project may be progressing after some agreement between the Department of Defense and the company. More as the project progresses. 4) San Acacia Diversion Dam language in Senator Udall's drought relief language for the state. Elizabeth Driggers from the Senator's office asks anyone with questions or concerns to contact her at his Las Cruces office. 5) County did put in request for funding to replace the bridge over the North Diversion Channel. 6) John Romero is the new Fire Management Officer for the MRGCD. In this position, he will work with other entities on anything related to fire and MRGCD. There is a Joint Powers Agreement between firefighting agencies that is in place. Doug recommended the MRGCD might assist local firefighting efforts by having some water tenders available and by getting some of their heavy equipment operators Red Carded (fire qualified), equipped and have yearly training. MRGCD is not on state sponsored insurance so this needs to be considered. John will be assisting with streamlining partnerships throughout the MRG, the Task Force welcomes him. Of note-the Abeytas Crossing is going to be replaced, assisting firefighting in the Abeytas area. Does MRGCD have a Hazard Mitigation Plan? Socorro County would cover them in the county. Suggestions to also have Socorro County WUI work north of San Acacia Diversion Dam and for the MRGCD to work with stakeholders in that area to come up with a long term plan to address fire danger for those communities. Socorro County would be a part of that along with Valencia. MRGCD is working with Valencia SWCD for mitigation from the Pino Fire.
6. Website – no update.
 7. Calendar: next meeting August 5.
 8. Other agenda items: none
 9. Individual Reports: Fred – be safe on 4th of July. Gina – work coming along on the greenhouse at SWCD. Willie – fence at Rhodes property does cross State Land Office land, they are considering whether it needs to be adjusted at this time. May be an issue if someone else picks up the grazing lease there (5 year cycle). Yasmeen – stay cool this summer. Santiago – Greg Fenchell of the Plant Material Center retired, Dave Dreesen would be the contact for the time being. NRCS also has a new state biologist: Christopher Hamilton.
 10. Adjourn: *At 10:50 AM, Priscilla made a motion to adjourn, second by Willie, approved.*