

## Save Our Bosque Task Force

Tuesday, May 6, 2014 Agenda/Minutes

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Gina Dello Russo, Cynthia Connelly, Bill Simon, Matt Mitchell, Priscilla Cora Gwin, Fred Hollis, Jerry Wheeler.

9:00 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Meeting

1. Approve Agenda. *Motion made by Fred to approve, second by Matt, approved.*
2. Approve Minutes from April 2014. Tabled, will revise and approve minutes for both April and May at June meeting.
3. Treasurer's report: Remaining balances in Private Property Project funds: \$1,802.00; in SOBTF fund: \$4,259.36. Donations of \$104.00 were received this month. Thanks to those donors. Overall balance of: \$6,061.36. Task Force Board thanks the Treasurer Fred Hollis with assistance from Nyleen Stowe for compiling Treasurer's report.
  - a. No bills this month.
4. Corps of Engineers presentation on the San Acacia to Bosque del Apache Unit, Rio Grande Floodway General Reevaluation – levee construction presentation should be posted on the [www.SOBTF.org](http://www.SOBTF.org) website by now. Suggestion: County reported that the Corps doesn't have improvements to the bridge over the North Diversion in their design for phase 1 and 2, but the county is seeking funds to construct this bridge and improve the access ramps for emergency and fire response reasons.
5. Project Updates
  - a. Rhodes Project: Doris is working 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: Matt Mitchell's project is postponed until fall because of possible disturbance to migratory songbirds but he would like Conservation Services to begin work as soon as possible in September.
  - c. Riverine Parks/SNA: Inmate crews finished clearing from Otero Street south to Hope Farm area. They got through about ½ mile along the area from Otero Street north towards the North Diversion. There are still some piles of chips left to pick up. If they are left too long will be spread out so they don't become a fire hazard. The work is shut down from April 15 to September 1 due to migratory songbird use in the area. The BLM continues work at the Socorro Nature Area with interpretive signs going up installation of metal tables at group shelter so you can put hot items on them, pond pump repair, general maintenance, thinning by the fire crews, installation of hitching posts so horseback riding groups of up to 10 riders can stop by, installation of signs off I-25 from the north for SNA and San Lorenzo. BLM is hoping to purchase a dump trailer to aid in their trash pickup and other projects and mechanized gate openers so the area is open during daylight hours.

- d. Healthy Kids Socorro: The Cottonwood Valley Charter School enjoyed assisting with the Trash Pick Up day. Thanks to them for all of their help! The Charter School is willing to partner on other park, bosque activities as well. Bike to school and Trail around Sedillo Park programs are still underway; bikeway signs are going up around town.
  - e. Other: Trash Pick Up day – tires are still out there. Fred will contact the County folks to see if someone can pick those up for us and dispose of them. The Socorro County Firewise Program continues with their workshops in May and June with upcoming workshops or flyer handouts on May 10<sup>th</sup> in Midway (Flyer Handouts), May 17<sup>th</sup> in Veguita (Firewise Workshop), May 31<sup>st</sup> in Abeytas (Flyer Handouts), June 7<sup>th</sup> in Midway (Firewise Workshop), and June 18<sup>th</sup> in Abeytas (Firewise Workshop).  
Fred and Jerry presented on a Federal Disaster Mitigation Program that could be used to address wildland/urban interface (WUI). The Notice of Intent went out and the county submitted a number of proposals. One was to thin invasive woody plants from Bosquecito to Pueblito on the east and possibly west side of the river. The scope can be extended if we choose to do so and include “defensible space around homes”. The Task Force is considering partnering on the proposal (due June 30<sup>th</sup>) to assist the county with project design and management. The County could be the fiscal agent and provide some of the cost share in terms of staff time and equipment. Task Force time volunteered could be used as a part of the match as well (25% is required). This is federal funding through FEMA. Jerry gave us sample proposals to review and a group will be meeting on Friday morning, May 9, at the County Annex building to discuss. All Task Force members welcome. Of note, they are looking for shovel-ready projects, counties have to have approved Mitigation Plans to apply (Socorro County has one), and Jerry suggested we be thinking of other projects as well for future opportunities to apply. If we work on private lands, we will need to have letters of support to turn in with the proposal. If awarded, funding can be used for compliance and surveys as needed or help can come from FEMA and Corps of Engineers.
6. Website – no update.
  7. Calendar items: Yesterday, Gina attended a Science workshop hosted by MRGCD and UNM’s Natural Heritage Program. The Conservation Action Planning process is underway for the District and will be a process with stakeholder involvement. Doug will be attending the Manager’s workshop on Thursday.
  8. Other agenda items: none
  9. Individual Reports: Gina – Will schedule with Doug a time to call Tom Waddell of Armendaris Ranch about the fundraising strategy for tours of the ranch to help the Task Force raise money. Jerry – be thinking of other projects for hazard mitigation funding.
  10. Adjourn: *At 11:10 AM, Priscilla made a motion to adjourn, second by Matt, approved.*