

**Save Our Bosque Task Force**  
**Tuesday, September 6, 2016 Minutes**

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Matt Mitchell, Gina Dello Russo, Fred Hollis, Nick Smokovich, Connie Robnett,  
Dustin Armstrong, and Yasmeen Najmi (via phone)

9:10 Save Our Bosque Task Force Meeting

1. Approve Agenda. *Motion by Matt to approve, second by Connie, approved.*
2. Approve Minutes from meeting of August 2, 2016. *Motion by Connie to approve, second by Fred, approved.*
3. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Account activity. *See bank statement for details of Fred's report.* Nyleen will prepare a new spreadsheet for financial details of current projects; Sevilleta, Taliaferro, Armendaris, and Lawrence-Devers
  - b. Bills. No bills this month.
4. Project Updates
  - a. Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Project: Request for Proposal for EA is in preparation and should be submitted soon. First step for EA will be to discuss Endangered Species locations to confirm that sites can be used; general techniques are in place already. Selecting alternate sites may be tricky (*see discussion by Dustin Armstrong*). It is hoped that the EA will begin this fall.
  - b. Partners for Fish & Wildlife Projects and Partnership: Gina and Angel Montoya from Partners with Fish & Wildlife, visited the Armendaris and Taliaferro sites and are working on budgets for the projects. Angel suggested opening an entirely new initiative for work at Taliaferro because there are many project opportunities, with a budget to be *submitted/considered/proposed* next fiscal year. Gina and Angel also visited the Escondida Fire burn and Angel suggested that HR funds may be available for work there, if property owners are interested. Dustin indicated that BOR would begin immediately on restoration, including knocking down dead trees before the wood becomes a hazard. Doug indicated that an inmate crew will also be working on the Escondida fire scar. Gina presented a request from Nyleen for funds of approximately \$2,000 to purchase cattle panels and sprinklers for plant enclosures. Los Lunas plant materials facility is *changing its focus away from growing plant materials* and Nyleen is going to pick up free plants from the facility at a savings of about \$22,000. The pick up needs to be made before the end of September. The plants and the plant enclosures will be located at SSWCD and Nyleen's property. Matt moved to approve the purchase and Connie seconded. Gina reported that Johnny Pack would like to do a restoration-mulching and winter burn project on land he owns in an active flood plain area, maybe as a Partners project. She indicated that she believes it would be a good project.
  - c. Riverine Parks/SNA: Jacob Chavez of USACE will attend the October meeting and lead a tour of the parks after lunch to discuss/establish sites for park and trail rehab, with the intent to have

usable features when the parks reopen. Dustin reported that BOR is currently working at 2 parks (Sandbar and Confluence), performing bankline lowering for habitat and extracting non-native vegetation, particularly at Sandbar. Additionally, there was discussion of establishing a parking area at Confluence park on the west side of the low flow channel. Dustin indicated that rock from Red Canyon is available for parking areas and barriers, along with poles from Ft. Craig. Dustin also reported that BOR will be replacing the Neal Cupp pumps at Luis Lopez with electric pumps. It is anticipated that Rocky Mountain (second phase contractor of levee project) will finish work before Kirkland finishes its part (first phase).

- d. Rio Grande Trail, Socorro Valley Trail efforts: Gina reported that there will be a Task Force and MRGEDA meeting on September 16 to discuss the Socorro Valley Trail in Socorro. She also indicated that the next Rio Grande Trail meeting will be on September 22 in Corrales.
  - e. Other: Dustin reported that BOR and NM Tech are doing a sediment load transfer/deposit project at Los Pinos Arroyo and that Chuck Muncy approached him in connection with establishing a fence boundary on the west side of the river north of Escondida. We have received nothing new from Darryl Reasner regarding establishing a patrol on the river. A clean-up along Highway 1 from San Antonio to Bosque del Apache and on 380 from the flashing light to the river, followed by lunch, was discussed and scheduled for November 12.
5. Restore our Rivers Initiative. Gina reported that she is waiting to hear whether The Friends of the Bosque will provide \$5,000 in support for 2017-18. She also indicated that she is preparing to submit a proposal, due by September 30, requesting \$15,000 for 2017-18. She is working towards the \$45-\$47K match SOBTF will need for the initiative.
  6. Fall events: The Fall Trash pick-up day will be October 28. We will meet at San Antonio Park and travel north from there approximately to Brown Arroyo, and then work to the south. Lunch provided after pickup. Nick is working on final commitments from Bosque Del Apache NWR, the Friends of the Bosque, and the county extension agent for Bosque Conservation Day presentations. Doug confirmed that we will assist with transportation costs, if necessary.
  7. Tamarisk Leaf Beetle meeting planning: Gina indicated that October 19 works for most people, and that the meeting will be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> at the Socorro County Annex offices from 10AM to 3- or 4PM. Discussion will include: 1) Science, including the issues of increased fire danger, vegetation likely or probable to fill the void left by beetle kill, and whether the beetle will completely eradicate tamarisk in the area; and 2) Initiatives Under Way, with remarks from all working on this issue.
  8. Other agenda items: Facebook, Web page. We would like to add interviews with Matt, Doris, and someone from the Gonzales family to our website, with information on the history of the projects and the process of habitat restoration activities at their respective properties, and with discussions of their perspectives on land ethic and stewardship. Connie is to work on these interviews and to set links to the county for Escondida fishing and wood permits, including linking to NM Forestry, and directing the public to the Escondida burn scar and from San Acacia to Hwy 380 for wood, with the admonishment to use only designated areas and keep outside the levee construction area. There are 16 NM Tech clubs looking for volunteer opportunities in the community.
  9. Calendar items:

9/16 MRGEDA meeting

9/22 Rio Grande Trail meeting (in Corrales)

10/4 The next SOBTF meeting; officers will be *selected/elected*

10/19 Tamarisk Leaf Beetle meeting

10/21 Bosque Conservation Day

10/28 Fall Trash Pick-Up Day

11/12 Clean up along Hwy 1

10. Individual reports: Dustin said that BOR will be working at Sevilleta on drain maintenance for the next several months
11. Adjourn: At 11:45, *Connie made a motion to adjourn; second by Nick, approved.*