**­­Save Our Bosque Task Force Board Meeting**

Socorro County Annex Office

198 Neel Ave.

Socorro NM

**Tuesday, July 7th @ 3:00pm
Meeting Location: Conference call**

**In attendance: Chad McKenna, Sarah Anderson, Amy Erickson, Gina Dello Russo, Sandra Noll, Kathy Granillo, Doris Rhodes, Rafael Sierra-Castro, Matt Mitchell, Phil Pischke**

**Meeting began at 3:04**

**1. Approve Agenda –** Yasmeen motions to table certain agenda items to keep meeting to one hour. Amy seconds, passed.

**2. Approve Minutes from June meeting –** Sandra motion to accept June minutes, Gina second, passed.

**3. Action Items:**

* **Amy will set up a Zoom video call for the August meeting**
* **Amy will send the updated Mission Statement to the board for a vote**
* **Gina will send the existing by-laws to the board to have on file.**
* **Sarah will let Amy know which projects have updates for next month’s agenda**
* **Sarah will send the budget spreadsheet to board members before each meeting**
* **Yasmeen will keep us updated on the status of financial support from MRGCD and will develop language for the agreement outlining the expectations of MRGCD and the Task Force**
* **Yasmeen will ask about remaining MRGCD funds allocated for Bosque Conservation Day (may be re-allocated for budget shortfalls)**
* ***All – Please send Sarah a post for the Facebook page so we can keep everyone engaged in our work. We would like to have a post from each board member***
* **All – Send Amy or Sarah calendar items to put on our website calendar.**

**4. Treasurer’s Report**

Sarah gave the treasurer’s report. We have a current bank balance of $14,508. This includes a deposit of $5,000 from the City of Socorro for improvements to the bosque parks. The Paycheck Protection Program loan has $5,023 left.

**5. Fundraising update**

Agency support from MRGCD:

Yasmeen spoke with Mike Hammond who indicated they would be willing to offer support and send an agreement to Gina and Matt. Yasmeen hasn’t heard back on that. Yasmeen will develop language for the potential agreement including what MRGCD would like the Task Force to help with or coordinate on their land.

City of Socorro:

We received the $5,000 from the City of Socorro for improvements to the 5 bosque parks within city limits. Sarah will give Gina a list of items to purchase and the Task Force will reimburse Gina.

Current grant applications:
The Task Force and RGALT are applying for a NFWF grant. Sarah is putting together an application for the New Mexico Conservation Partners grant through NRCS – this is a grant focused on community outreach and education and can include money for capacity building. Rafael will send Sarah more info about the grant.

New Mexico Counties grant – On May 7, we received a grant approval for Bosquecito fuels reduction phase II in the amount of $48,250. This is a 2021 wildfire risk reduction grant and the project is starting soon.

No update on FAWRA grant applications.

**6. Interns update**

Phil gave an update – They mapped areas of interest on the Barclay property (this is a potential Partners for Fish and Wildlife project). On the Mandeville property, they updated the maps of saltcedar presence. On Rhodes, they have been pulling knapweed and performing noxious weed surveys to assess coverage. Will Widener from GSA gave them a Plant ID field training, and Sarah gave them GIS training. Abigail trained them on GPS field mapping skills. They have been regularly picking up trash at the parks and mapping areas that need work/cleaned up.

Doris wanted to say thank you to the interns for their work on the Rhodes property and noted that she appreciates that the property provides opportunities for people to learn.

**7. Community Outreach**

Summer outreach events are still postponed. We have some tentative dates for Bosque Conservation Day in October but it is on hold for now.

Community outreach is still taking place on the website and social media. Sarah and Amy are updating the website. They are creating a page about our work with Socorro County and our partnership. Sarah would like to do a monthly post from various partners to keep people engaged virtually. Sandra would like to see a post from the interns before they leave.

**8. Advocacy**

The board retreat took place on June 12th and was held at Sevilleta NWR and facilitated by Kathy Granillo.

The Task Force is updating our mission statement – Sandra gave us 2 options. Amy will send an e-mail to the board to get a vote by Friday.

Matt, Gina and Yasmeen are working on the updated by-laws as discussed during our board retreat. Gina will send out our existing by-laws.

Sandra contacted Amigos de Sevilleta to talk about a membership to raise money for the Task Force. The Task Force needs an expanded mechanism for membership or partnership – similar to how a Friends Group operates. Sandra will send us a write up of her conversation with Amigos, and we can discuss setting up a Zoom meeting or conference call to discuss ideas. It was requested that one of the Task Force board members also sit on the board of Amigos de Sevilleta to help foster ideas and strengthen partnerships.

**9. Project Updates**

To keep meetings shorter and more structured, we’ll just do updates for projects that have made significant progress since the last meeting. Gina and Sarah will let Amy know which projects should go on the agenda for each month.

*Rio Grande Trail / Socorro Valley Trail*

Tabled.

*BOR Cooperative Agreement*

Field work for the year will wrap up in September.

*Partners for Fish and Wildlife*

Matt will give a more in-depth update next month.

*Sevilleta*

Tabled.

*Tiffany Fire*

Sarah will give a more in-depth update next month.

*WaterSmart Grant*

This project will be finished by the end of July. We will have our geodatabase soon, and the river reach report is in draft form / in review.

*NMC Grant*

The Mandeville project is almost ready to be closed out.

**10. Other**

Yasmeen spoke with Lorenzo – MRGCD crews are working on replacing the damaged fence at the park. The Belen bosque is closed to vehicles due to off-road use and fire danger. Do we want to put an article in the paper about people offroading in the bosque and leaving trash? We can also put this on our social media.

The New Mexico Counties grant requires a press release this month – we can use that as an opportunity to inform the community about our work and about closures/issues in the bosque.

**11. Adjourn**

Matt moved and Jerry second. Passed. Adjourned at 3:56 pm

*Next meeting will be Tuesday, August 4th at 3:00pm. This will be a video Zoom meeting so the interns can give a PowerPoint presentation of their work this summer. Login info will be provided on the August agenda and e-mail board meeting invite.*