

**Save Our Bosque Task Force**  
**Tuesday, April 4, 2017 Minutes**

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Gina Dello Russo, Carlos Vega, Matt Mitchell, Chris Hill, Nick Smokovich, Cyndie Lawrence-Dever, Dave Lawrence-Dever, and Yasmeen Najmi (by phone).

9:00 Save Our Bosque Task Force Board Meeting. Financial business, staffing, and board logistics discussed. We have a quorum.

9:45 Save Our Bosque Task Force open meeting.

1. Approve Agenda *Motion by Chris to approve, second by Matt; approved.*
2. Approve Minutes from meeting of March 7, 2017. *Motion by Yasmeen to approve, second by Carlos; approved.*
3. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Balances: Bank balance - \$12,282.97; ROR Balance = \$34,000.00. Two deposits to the Restore Our Rivers: \$5,000 from the Friends of Bosque del Apache NWR and \$10,000 awarded from McCune Charitable Foundation. We received our regular \$2 donation. Thanks to all for their generous support. Thank you letters will be sent out to our recent donors.
  - b. Bills: Armendaris Ranch = \$ 196.89 to Raks for supplies for gate installation, \$350.00 for labor to install gate.
  - c. Fundraising update: As mentioned we received funds for the Restore Our Rivers: \$5,000 from the Friends of Bosque del Apache NWR and \$10,000 awarded from McCune Charitable Foundation. We now have \$34,000 in our funds to go towards our match with Tamarisk Coalition. SOBTF applied for a grant with RGALT and RGR to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation under a new "Building Resilient Communities" grant program. Matt and Gina will meet with the Congressional Inter-Delegation staff member to assist us in searching for Grants to apply for and then we work up the proposal and they can help us get letters of support from our national delegates.
4. Project Updates:
  - a. Socorro Valley Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Project: Gina reported that the Project Team is evaluating proposals from environmental consultants for the Environmental Assessment. The Project Team is now working on finalizing treatment plans.
  - b. Partners for Fish & Wildlife Projects and Partnership: There are three active projects at this date. Armendaris, Taliaferro and Devers are underway and have invoiced for their first work on their projects. Two new projects are in design phases, with hopefully FEMA funds going to tamarisk control and Partners funds to cover the native plant establishment. Carlos is working with Nicole Jordan of State Forestry to get design these projects.
  - c. **SNA:** Chris introduced the new engineer from Albuquerque BLM to the project. She and Fernando went out to the site recently, and are working on design and work budgets. Chris is

retiring at the end of the month! Congratulations to her! **Riverine Parks:** Everything is open down there. We assume there isn't going to be a grand opening. Our trash pickup day is on **April 21**. We will be working together to get cable back up at the parks to direct vehicular traffic. Yasmeen said they had some funding to buy cable. She and Lorenzo will do an inventory and then a crew will help us install. Doug checked on the crew and Lorenzo is offering that to staff. Use compression clamps as opposed to cable clamps to help control theft, need a total number of clamps needed. Gina reminded everyone that we need to get two large trash piles picked up (went out to Confluence park on March 7 and that trash pile with couch was still there, the one just north of Otero Street in the first pass through of the ribbon was still there too). Yasmeen will check with Felipe on this right away. Table at Otero Park needs to be replaced. People are using our trail and parks, that's great! Update: Doug reported we lost a table at Bosquecito Crossing with the higher river flows.

- d. Rio Grande Trail, Socorro Valley Trail efforts: Next Commission meeting is April 6, in Santa Fe. After contractor is on board, we will invite them down to talk with local stakeholders and landowners.
  - e. Sevilleta NWR Cooperative Agreement plantings are in, willows are budding out. Sevilleta NWR might not install a gate as they originally planned, but will do a redesign and see what is needed. Then we can finalize funding for poles and interns. By summer or fall, they should know what is needed for Unit B.
  - f. Central Socorro Bosque Severance Project: \$750,000 has been allocated for work to be performed on state- and federally-owned land. Work has started at Otero St Park and they are working south. Work will stop in this area on April 15.
  - g. Other projects: 1) Yasmeen suggested some plantings at Otero Street where the Levee Project equipment was mobilized, 2) New signs for our park – recommendation from a County Commissioner to work with the schools, have a competition to choose design and construction and award winner, 3) Planting at Armendaris Ranch: April 11, 12, 17, 18, 24, 25 if needed. Angel is going to assist on the 11<sup>th</sup>, but if others can join us for a day that would be great. Too far a distance for college students that have classes, but Gina will send out an invite anyway. Lunch provided.
5. Restore our Rivers Initiative: Fundraising workshop offered by Tamarisk Coalition and a consultant they have hired to help with this initiative, the Board says yes to include other non-profit organizations in the workshop if possible. Gina will check on this.
  6. Cross-Watershed Network Programs and Opportunities: tabled until Fred is here.
  7. Director's Position update –ASAP on reviews by Director selection committee-have edits to Jon by Thursday of this week so he can send it out by April 7<sup>th</sup> – 2 week period for search, with a starting date in Mid may. Selection committee includes Jon Erz, Doug Boykin, Yasmeen Najmi, Matt Mitchell, Gina Dello Russo. Internship Program committee: Jon Erz, Gina Dello Russo, Matt Mitchell, Yasmeen Najmi, Doug Boykin-tasks to be assigned.
  8. Planning for Spring 2017 Bosque Trash Pickup Day: **April 21, 2017 9:00 am.** County can bring equipment, MRGCD will bring assistance. Volunteer firefighters, tech clubs are welcome. Gina will

get a flyer out. We will be stringing cable, picking up trash, and beginning to design the Confluence Park. Gina will get word out to volunteers. Picnic lunch provided at Sand Bar Park.

9. Other Agenda Items: Announcement by Chris that on **April 22** BLM and Sevilleta NWR are hosting a trash pickup day at San Lorenzo Canyon.
10. Website and Facebook items: Trash pickup day flyer, pictures of trash pickup day after April 21, and of Severance work photos. Grand opening of riverine parks and trail at our Trash Pickup day, why not.
11. Calendar items: BCD - Nick and Nicole will start working on the expanded efforts for our Bosque Conservation Day at the SNA this fall. First planning meeting in July
12. Individual reports: Gina – will meet with Middle Rio Grande Valley Waterbird Committee members and report on SOBTF activities and partnerships. Nick – spring turkey season begins mid-April and runs two weeks. Matt – graduate student from UNM is working with him on highlighting his project. She is willing to develop these landowner stories for our website and for Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust's website. We are hoping to work with the Gonzales family next. Cyndie and Dave Devers reported that they are working on their fencing part of their project. They haven't got seed yet, but will do this soon. They will be painting pipe, installing H braces and then stringing wire.
13. Adjourn 11:10 a.m. *Motion by Carlos, second by Jon; meeting adjourned.*