**Save Our Bosque Task Force**

Board Session and Public Meeting

Tuesday June 4, 2019 9:07 AM

Meeting Location: Socorro County Annex, 198 Neel Ave., Socorro, NM

**9:00 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Board Session (Business Meeting)**

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Amy Erickson, Gina Dello Russo, Matt Mitchell, Jerry Wheeler, Sophie Farr, Gabriel Deutschman-Ruiz, Galen Hecht, Yasmeen Najmi.

1. Approve Agenda – *Jerry moved and Matt second, passed with changes.*

2. Approve Minutes from May 2019. *Matt moved and Jerry second, passed .*

3. Announcements: Amy’s last day is Friday. Interns will be on a pollinator’s field trip with Miranda. Our summer interns are here, started last week. Sophie Farr, from Santa Fe, NM, just graduated from UNM with a BS in Biology. She wants to get more experience with the behind the scenes efforts in conservation. Gabriel is from Ohio and graduated from SUNY at Syracuse, NY. He is interested in continuing his plant ecology experience and field work experience. The southwestern US is a new place for him to explore. Miranda Kersten has offered to oversee their work for the summer, one day per week, probably Wednesdays. Amy will work with them on the Tiffany Fire Rehabilitation monitoring suggested by State Forestry. Jerry will work on getting access for Miranda to the County Annex building.

4. Treasurer’s Report

a. Account activity and bills received – SOBTF funds ending balance for April 30, 2019 are $2,079.65. Program management funds are $27,624.16. Turner Youth grant funds remain at $1,508.80 and Internship program funds are at $4000.00. Check for $768.75 to Gabriel Parrish for work on Reclamation/GSA contract. Check for tax preparation for $375.00 and check to Connie Robnett to reimburse her for paying WIX account for $168.00. WIX is now in Amy’s credit card, needs to be changed next year. Deposits from Amazon Smile donation for $8.82 and a deposit from RGALT for $210.00 for Amy’s work on Taliaferro’s conservation easement. Amy is closing out her work on the budget and will hand it over to Nyleen Troxel-Stowe to manage the budget.

b. Fundraising Update. Potential Cooperative Agreement with Reclamation for 5 years. Gina updated all on the deadline for decision to move forward with this agreement at this time. The board will have a special meeting in June to review the particulars and make a decision on this agreement. NMC grant submittal through the County was awarded. Matt mentioned a donation from cars when they are donated. They work with a company that tows it away, auctions off the car and they keep 2% of total auction. Matt is ready to take this on when we are ready. Amy will follow up with Matt on this. Amy developed a request of lodger’s tax funds from the City of Socorro, waiting to hear back on that ($1000 total for advertising). The Mayor also offered an amount on a yearly basis from the city parks fund to assist with trail and park maintenance. Donald Monette should respond to us on this funding. Yasmeen suggested other work that the city could assist with in terms of maintenance.

*To Do List:*

* Gina will set up special meeting in June to discuss the following topics: MOU with Socorro County, 5-year agreement with Bureau of Reclamation, request for funding from partners.
* Jerry is going to look at getting keys for Miranda and the interns for the summer.
* Yasmeen will plan a meeting for the trails next steps for some time in June.
* Gina will set up meeting with Angel , Doug and Matt for this month.
* Matt will set up a meeting with Nyleen, Doug, Gina and Will to discuss future PFW projects.
* Gina will call Dagmar at Reclamation about a kick off meeting on the WaterSmart Grant. Doug to be included.

**9:30 AM Public Meeting Session**

5. Project Updates

a. SOBTF existing trail maintenance – Bob Markwell is leading this volunteer effort on the existing trail and has volunteered to help coordinate the Socorro Valley Trail outreach and planning effort. We will set up a meeting in June to see how we can move forward with this project. Rio Grande Socorro Valley Trail outreach and planning effort – National Trails Day public event was on June 1, at 10:00 am. We got donations from Walmart, John Brooks, and Subway. A-1 Quality Redi-Mix donated the crusher fines for this trail maintenance. Four people helped with trail maintenance and the other eight went on a hike on the trail and discussed restoration, trail and other program planning. Gina will get an advertisement in the paper to thank all. Yasmeen agreed that she would take over coordination for the spring and fall community cleanups. We are looking at the noxious weeds and follow up woody invasives regrowth within the Central Socorro Bosque project within the trail/park footprint. Doug is working with the contractor for some follow up work and the interns will map the noxious weeds within this footprint.

b. Socorro County Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Projects Status – No update yet on State Forestry put in for Forest and Watershed Health Restoration Act for two FEMA project areas at NM Tech and Department of Game and Fish lands. North Bosque project update: the Environmental Concurrence Letter from FWS has been received and the County is still waiting for the public comment period to begin. This should allow compliance to be completed by the end of the summer.

c. Bureau of Reclamation Cooperative Agreement – Payment has been received for work to date under a short term contract with GSA. Amy went out with GSA staff to do noxious weed monitoring. Amy will write up a short summary of this work to complete her work on that short term project. Amy wrote up a seeding proposal and sent it to Gina and Ashlee (BOR) to review.

d. Partners for Fish & Wildlife: Amy is completing a spreadsheet for the FY 2016 agreement with FWS. This spreadsheet will document all cost share and federal expenditures on this project. Gina and Matt will review this for Amy. Amy will check on the amended agreement with Taliaferro. Angel has requested a meeting this month. Matt and Gina will attend.

e. Sevilleta NWR update – tabled.

f. Tiffany Fire Rehabilitation Project – Outreach and Planning contract has been awarded. We are waiting for final signatures on this contract. Travis Day will be the single project manager now on this project. Amy and the interns will go out to determine some of the protocol particulars. State Forestry contactor for site prep was awarded. This work would begin in the fall. A categorical exclusion document was developed by Dustin Armstrong at Reclamation

g. WaterSMART Grant – The official agreement is signed. Amy developed an Rfp for the major work under this grant. Gina had a short discussion with the Bureau of Reclamation team on this project. The next step is a kick off meeting that Reclamation will organize. We are hoping this will happen in June to get going with an RfP for the contracts under this project.

h. NMC Grant update: Jerry and Amy can go out and look at this site. They will review the in-kind requirements for the Task Force. The grant agreement should be signed this month with a resolution with the County.

i. 4H/Task Force Greenhouse Status – Jerry has been trying to get with John on that. He needs some supplies which can be covered with the Turner Youth Grant. A final report needs to be developed to close out this grant and submitted to ED Edwards at Armendaris Ranch.

j. Social Media – Gabriel is going to do Instagram and Sophie will do Facebook updates on a weekly basis for us over the summer.

6. Other Items: a) MOU with County - Jerry is working on this in June. b) Advisory Committee update – tabled until the fall.

Thanks to Amy for her great work with the Task Force! We wish you well with your future work with Audubon New Mexico. We are glad that she is going to continue to be engaged with us in the Socorro area.

7. Adjourn at 11:00 am. Yasmeen *moved and Jerry second, approved.*

**Next meeting will be on July 2, 2019. Same meeting location.**