

Save Our Bosque Task Force
Tuesday, November 4, 2014 Minutes

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Gina Dello Russo, Matt Mitchell, Fred Hollis, Nick Smokovich, Ken Wolf, Connie Robnett, Kathy Granillo, Nyleen Troxel Stowe, and Yasmeen Najmi (by phone).

9:10 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Meeting

1. Approve Agenda. *Motion made by Matt to approve, second by Nick, approved.*
2. Approve Minutes from July 2014. *Motion made by Nick to approve, second by Matt, approved.*
3. Treasurer's report: Remaining balances in Private Property Project funds: \$1,800.00 (set aside for audit preparation this year if needed), Saavedra property project has remaining funds of \$12-14,000 for follow up treatment, brush removal or treatment, and plantings; approximately \$22,410 available for one more Partners for Fish & Wildlife project (Perry property to augment EQIP funds), Mitchell project is underway with approximately \$2102.06 to draw down; Gonzales property does not have a signed contract with Partners as of yet. SOBTF fund: \$4065.84. Again thanks to donors. Doug will get electronic access to account for future reports.
 - a. No bills this month.
4. Elections: Nick resided as election officer for elections this year. Isaac Burleigh had asked all current board members if they would stay on if elected, all said yes. The officer called for vote to retain current board, passed unanimously. Board stands as: Doug Boykin, Chairman; Matt Mitchell, Vice Chairman; Fred Hollis, Treasurer (with Ken Wolf as alternate); Gina Dello Russo, Secretary; Priscilla Cora Guin and Yasmeen Najmi, members at large.
5. Bosque Conservation Day – follow up
The event went well thanks to presenters, school participants, 4H Club and Task Force members. A thank you letter will be drafted and sent to each presenter organization in recognition of their time and effort to make this day a success. *There was a motion by Matt and second by Fred to award the local 4H Club with a check for \$200 for their assistance as group guides and organizers.* Our thanks to Nyleen and Nick once again for their hard work organizing as well. Tentative date of October 16, 2015 for next year's event.
6. Trash Pickup day – follow up
Great participation and all groups got a distance south of Otero Street both on the levee, and both sides of the "ribbon" of bosque between the Low Flow and the Socorro Drain. We didn't make it to Brown Arroyo, but managed to pick up almost a full dumpster through the morning. The MRGCD Socorro staff and law enforcement officers assisted in the morning and then went back out in the afternoon to finish picking up large items. Many thanks to all who were there for that nice morning out in the bosque.
7. Project Updates
 - a. Rhodes Project: Clay Spears' company is now excavating east of the interior fence, southern portion of the property. They will be excavating and piling debris for burning on approximately 70 acres. The project managers are hoping to amend the contract to allow him to work the west side of the fence into the cottonwood gallery forest. Darrell Reasner and Will Kolbenshlag have been assisting with project oversight. Gina will meet with Darrell to coordinate the planned Phase II design with the southern portion's work.
 - b. Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Project: Fred presented a summary of the proposal Socorro County is spearheading for this funding. If awarded, it would be a reimbursable grant to allow fuels reduction (large areas cleared of tamarisk) and defensible space projects (clearing around homes to make them safe from fire) for the eastern floodplain

from north of Pueblito to south of San Pedro. The Task Force's role as a partner in the project, supplying approximately \$15,000 in in-kind work will assist in include: helping to draft proposal, reviewing site-specific plans if necessary, setting up monitoring sites for the projects, and accomplishing the first year of monitoring. We are hoping to develop an internship program with NM Tech for this aspect of the project. Other in-kind work will come from the County, NM State Forestry, and the SWCD. Now is the time to start working towards a supplemental grant for the northern part of the county around Bernardo. Fred suggested they start meeting next spring to discuss that area's potential work.

- c. Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program: Nyleen presented estimated costs for the Mitchell and Gonzales properties. She clarified the available assistance from the Socorro SWCD and asked that Angel Montoya from Partners for Fish and Wildlife meet with Task Force members and landowners to clarify how funds would be used. The Task Force and Nyleen need a copy of the contract for the Saavedra parcel as reference. All this will help the Task Force with their role of monitoring and reporting on these projects. Gina will contact Angel to set up a meeting with appropriate parties.
 - d. Riverine Parks/SNA: Socorro Nature Area (BLM)
The Inmate Work Crew started again with nonnative clearing in the ribbon, this time working from Otero Street north towards the North Diversion Channel. They have gotten about halfway done so far, and will hopefully finish this work and be able to continue south towards Brown Arroyo next.
 - e. Healthy Kids Socorro: tabled
 - f. Other Projects: Corps of Engineers Levee Project – No updates to date, but MRGCD did a great job of mowing and cleaning up the Otero Street Park for the ribbon cutting ceremony. County is putting in for a bridge replacement grant with DOT. SunZia Power line – Kathy reported that there is another revision to the preferred alternative with the crossing just north of Escondida Lake going north of Strawberry Peak into the La Jencia basin. Gina will call BLM to see if we can get a map of that alignment.
8. Website update – tabled
 9. Calendar: Next meeting is December 9 due to work conflicts. Ken is setting up Firewise calendar for 2015 within the next month or two if anyone would like to request an event. They will have a concept meeting with the area fire chiefs in December then follow up with organizing meetings afterwards.
 10. Other agenda items: Senator Udall's staff would like to attend a future meeting to discuss San Acacia Reach initiatives and their interest in assisting.
 11. Individual Reports: Matt and others – enjoying the beautiful fall weather, some flying falcons; Kathy presented two projects on Sevilleta NWR that are planned: Unit A and Unit B improvements for water availability through more of the year and water management improvements. The units will benefit endangered species as well. They are working with the ISC, Reclamation, and others to get this work done. She reported that the Tamarisk leaf beetle is now on Sevilleta. Also, the historic bridge across the Rio Puerco will be replaced, possibly in 2017, anyone who has driven over it can see why. Nick – December 12 is the NM Chapter of the Society of American Foresters meeting in Albuquerque.
 12. Adjourn: *At 11:10 AM, Doug made a motion to adjourn, second by Fred, approved.*