**Save Our Bosque Task Force**

EMNRD, Forestry Division, Socorro District Office

1701 Enterprise Rd.

Socorro, NM

Tuesday August 7, 2018

**9:08 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Board Session (Business Meeting)**

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Amy Erickson, Gina Dello Russo, Fred Hollis, Bob Markwell, Sawyer Hitchcock, Shannan Snyder, Kristen Cornelius, Matt Mitchell, Dustin Armstrong, and Yasmeen Najmi.

1. Approve Agenda – *Matt moved and Fred second, passed.*

2. Approve Minutes from June 2018 – *Correction on Turner Youth Grant $2,724.50. Correction that Amy is not lead on BCD, all working as a team. As corrected Fred moved and Matt second, passed.*

*To Do List:*

* *Amy will draft letter to County and City for support of BCD, Doug will present*
* Amy will look into the NFWF grant
* Gina to remind Hank of a tour at the Taliaferro property
* Interns will make a one page summary for each park to help us to prioritize work at the parks
* Yasmeen will send Amy the invite for Wetland delineation hosted by NMEMNRD
* Amy will send Yasmeen NFWF grant application
* Yasmeen will send us her comments on trail specs.
* Yasmeen will ask the POC at MRGCD on the Levee maintenance schedule (O&M manual) and get this information to Dustin, Doug. Brian Sanchez is lead at COE.
* Yasmeen will let Amy know when she is going to present to MRGCD board so she can invite us up to the board meeting
* Dustin will send out calendar invite to analysis team for TFR project, meeting will be in ABQ at his office.

3. Treasurer’s Report

a. Account activity and bills received – SOBTF funds ending balance for July $5,330.99. Thanks to Miranda’s dad for the United Way donation. It is very much appreciated. There is $75,376.60 in the Program Management Account. There is $2,724.50 in Turner Youth Grant. Total balance of $80,755.10.

b. Fundraising update –We have received the WaterSmart grant. Doug has sent in the forms required and has not heard back yet. We will serve as co-project manager with the Sierra SWCD on the Tiffany Fire Rehabilitation project, bringing $19,450 to our Program Director’s and Internship funds Clif Bar to fund tables & signs - declined, NFWF (trail extension –waiting word). New opportunities: Nusenda (grant cycle open until September through Share NM website) ~$10,000. Wells Fargo opens in August 15, environmental category through Wells Fargo Foundation.

4. Program Director’s Update – Mainly Amy has been working with the Interns to complete vegetation monitoring on FEMA monitoring for the North Bosque and mapping La Joya State Wildlife Area (funded through Rio Grande Return as a partner to NMDGF). ArcMap is now on the County smartboard so the Interns are drawing polygons of habitat type and then completing a ground truth in the field. The Interns will also finish setting up the monitoring transects for the FEMA Socorro Valley project. Amy is also organizing the geodatabase for us, getting her and Interns set up with defensive driving for driving vehicles and UTVs. She is working on other supplies for the monitoring program.

5. ACE interns update – Shannon is already learning a lot about our organization. For her personal project, she will make a list of the most common plants along the trail and add the ones they see in the valley and how prevalent they are, non-native or native, and a fun fact for each. She will have an introduction in the front of the arid land plants characteristics. She will create a brochure that we can share with our community, maybe translate to Spanish. Sawyer grew up in Indiana, school in New York, and has been part of an ACE conservation corps, removing tamarisk in Arizona. He has become quite familiar with southwestern flora. He is working on a project that is a survey to gauge people’s attitudes towards the bosque and nature in general. The survey will be a word association survey – 10 words that relate to the bosque and he plans to go out to NM Tech and other sites in the area or at one of the parks to get a local perspective-will gage what people know of their area and compile into something interesting. Side project of “transect sonnets” as a more human engagement project. Coyote willow sonnet draft shared with us!

6. On-Going Projects – Important Updates

a. Socorro County Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Projects Status – we have completed the Biological Opinion and it is with FEMA reviewing the draft EA. Inspectors have finished their treatment plans for all Socorro Valley treatments. For the 4197 North Bosque project, compliance contractor is working on surveys and the PM and interns are establishing monitoring transects on these sites. Treatment plans are being developed and there is a tour of all sites on August 24.

b. Partners for Fish and Wildlife Projects status – Mitchell property project for PFW would use up the original FY16 funds. The $44,000 will go to Armendaris Ranch and Thomas/Brook. Waiting on the FY18 grant for PFW. Past monitoring at PFW projects was simply photo points, so Amy spoke with Angel about further monitoring our sites. Angel said there is not any protocol at this time so we do not need to establish transects on those projects. We may be interested in monitoring on these sites for our own benefit and have landowners involved in monitoring too. It adds to the discussion of long-term maintenance on these lands.

c. Riverine Parks/SNA update: The interns did our yearly inventory of all parks. The interns visited all the parks and documented issues and observations of parks. GPS points of features at each park. They made notes on the status (trash, vegetation, picnic tables). Suggestions include: Trash pickup day (day of October 4 chosen) to include some of our outlying parks, those to focus on – get the word out that this is a chance to see some of the different park areas. Maybe hire inmates to maintain fire pits and clear vegetation around the pits. YCC might be able to help with this work to repair tables, benches. No report on the SNA. We should clean the nature area before BCD for the Friday before October 11 (October 4).

d. Mapping at La Joya. Needs to be done by the end of August with report submitted to RGR and final invoice in by that time. Next week they are going out with Bob Sivinski to map Pecos sunflower.

e. Rio Grande Trail, Socorro Valley Trail Efforts: the Rio Grande Trail Commission met with a group this last month. They presented the RGTC’s work on the statewide trail and are excited about our ideas for the trail system. They will be presenting to others in our area in the near future. We can consider now going through the process to get our 3-mile segment designated. Who will take the lead? Doug. We need to discuss the liability issue for any segment designated. Bureau of Reclamation will consider it under the Outdoor America system. We should hear about the NPS assistance grant by September-November time period**.** Maybe get together as a small group to have an informal discussion on designating our 3-mile segment. Yasmeen submitted comments to RGTC on ditches, drains and levees. She will send to us.

f. Sevilleta NWR update –Jon reported that he has worked with Black Widow Nursery to get an estimate for additional trees. $39,000 estimated for 4,875 trees (for 2020 and 2021) and approximately $9,000 for ACE crew, which would be one stint (in 2020). The remaining funds could go to housing for interns for the next three years ($4,800) and a pump that needs replacing in Unit B. Sevilleta NWR is still seeking funds for assistance with planting. First step get contract with Black Widow nursery in place. Mountain Youth Corp or Indigenous Work Crews are a possibility. Possibly the YCC for short duration planting work in the early spring. Sammie checked on this and said there was potential here. *Matt moved and Gina second* that we will make the expenditure to Black Widow Nursery for 4,875 trees, budget $4800 for intern housing for 2019, 2020, 2021 and one stint ACE (or equivalent) for $9,000, *approved*. We also approved the purchase of a pump to replace one in Unit B and a survey of Unit A prime. Those things will be added to what was approved last month. This will close out that agreement.

g. Central Socorro Bosque Severance Project Status**:** Dustin is working on an additional $50,000 to go to this project. Waiting on the grant specialist to get funds over to State Forestry. These funds will used to finish Severance 5 using the IWC. We will leave some of the major tamarisk but get the handwork done. There are major knapweed issues in there, which the IWC could work. Spraying in November. Forest Fitness has plant order and will plant in the spring. Do we need to have a discussion on herbicide use and if plants are becoming resistant to these chemicals. Severance 1 could be available soon. They should be done with heavy equipment soon. They have some planting and seeding needs.

h. Tiffany Fire Rehabilitation Project – Dustin and Doug met with State Forestry and BLM and we should receive an additional approximate $800,000 for this project. The Analysis Team and Site Prep Team are working on scopes of work for their tasks. Doug sent in the draft Cooperative Agreement between the Task Force and Sierra SWCD; it begins in September. Site Prep team: Dustin will finish up mapping of Russian Olive soon. LiDAR doesn’t cover our entire area, so BOR will fund the needed coverage (December 2018 flight estimated). Procured yesterday, leaf off this winter with very quick turnaround. We do have 2012 information in some areas to get started. For compliance for our Site Prep work, Dustin is working with his staff on the Cat Ex. Gina is attending a meeting tomorrow to discuss depletions analysis with the Bureau of Reclamation. Bureau of Geology scope of work has been submitted with it being phased within both phases of the WTB project. Dustin will send out a calendar invite for the Analysis team meeting on the 28th in Albuquerque Reclamation office. Tentative meeting scheduled for a Site Prep team for the 29th at Socorro County annex.

i. 4H/Task Force Greenhouse Status – tabled.

j. Bosque Conservation Day – October 11, 2018 guaranteed date. Matt will be there. Amy is working with a team to schedule.

k. Fall Trash Pickup – October 4. Get the word out to interest our public in other parks.

l. Social Media – Amy is working on posting on Facebook at least once per week. Website work underway, Amy is working on the flow and some added information. Announce that we are working to get some trail maintenance done to see if there is interest in helping.

m. (new) WaterSmart grant received. Doug, Amy and Gina met with Audubon NM about both their and our grants that have been approved. Both are planning projects, in our case an update to our CCP and in Audubon’s case an outreach and strategic planning effort in the Isleta reach.

7. Synergy Group Update –Discussed again a shared position to work on outreach and social media. We announced that we applied for the NPS assistance grant with many of the Synergy members.

8. Possible Cooperative Agreements with Reclamation. Table until next fiscal year.

9. *Other*

a) New board members, we are missing one or two now. We are discussing an advisory board after lunch today.

b) Yasmeen is going to present to the MRGCD Board sometime soon of general bosque projects.

c) SunZia update: Gina updated all on efforts to address the impacts of the line, and potential impacts to our projects and our community.

d) RGALT fundraising event at Taliaferro/ La Joya Farms on November 18. They wanted to ask for sponsors at $500-2500 sponsor levels. *Fred makes a motion to fund for $500, second by Yasmeen, approved.* We will receive one ticket for the event. If we purchase tickets, they are $125 per person.

e) Amy is going to be at the Festival of the Cranes children’s day. She was thinking of having a bird identification game. She reserved a booth so if we would like to help it is November 17, 9-4 pm. 6) Individual reports: everyone passing with overload of all we discussed!

10. Next meeting is September 4, 2018.

10. Adjourn at 11:25 am. *Fred moved and Matt second, approved.*