

**Save Our Bosque Task Force  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, November 1, 2016**

Attendees: Gina Dello Russo, Doug Boykin, Matt Mitchell, Fred Hollis, Carlos Vega, Nicole Gordon, Nick Smokovich, Connie Robnett

9:15 a.m. Save Our Bosque Task Force meeting convened.

1. Approve Agenda *Motion by Connie to approve, second by Fred; approved.*
2. Approve Minutes from meeting of October 4, 2016. *Motion by Matt to approve, second by Fred; approved.*
3. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Balances: Bank balance - \$14,565.82; SOBTF funds - \$14,567.82. Project funds balances: Gonzales = \$232.33, Lawrence-Dever = \$15,199, Taliaferro = \$24,900 (est.), Armendaris Ranch = \$24,900 (est.), and Sevilleta NWR = \$ 117,000 (to be corrected to \$111,000 in view of \$6,000.00 drawdown for administrative expenses paid to SOBTF).
  - b. Bills: Owl Bar, for lunch following Fall Trash Pick-Up - \$353.90.

*misc.* \$232.33 remaining in Gonzales account will be spent on a sign for the property describing the project, pending PFW approval. SOBTF received a \$2,500 donation from the SB Foundation in October, to be used at our discretion. Gina will write a letter of thanks to SB Foundation. Connie will take a copy of October meeting minutes to First State Bank and obtain signatory authority on Task Force checking account. Socorro County Schools may bill us for half of transportation costs for Bosque Conservation Day. *Matt moved to approve payment; second by Connie.*
4. Project Updates:
  - a. Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Project: Fred went to Santa Fe to confirm that all details are in order in connection with FEMA grants. He hopes a project manager will be hired within 30 days. Delilah Walsh has assumed responsibility for FEMA grant management and will not be hiring a grant manager, electing instead to supervise grant activities in-house.
  - b. Partners for Fish & Wildlife Projects and Partnership: Doug signed the Lawrence-Dever plan, which is now with Gwen Kolb, the state coordinator. Gina sent a draft of the plan for the Taliaferro property to the owner with instructions to work on their cost estimates; the draft will then go to Angel Montoya of US Fish and Wildlife Service. Gina said a draft plan has been approved by Armendaris Ranch and sent to Angel Montoya for review. The Thomas-Brook property, which lies within the area of the Escondida Fire, needs a planning lead; Gina suggested that someone from New Mexico State Forestry would be well-positioned to do this planning as it is similar to a project they did on the Conklins property. Gina expanded on an earlier mention of the property owned by Johnny Pack, indicating there are four property owners and that the part owned by Johnny Pack might be a pilot project. Gina envisions a cool season burn of masticated material and duff, followed thereafter by salt cedar spraying as needed, to support the established grassland community. Gina also indicated that Chuck Muncy is interested in

clearing some cottonwood and salt cedar to create open gallery forest, and added that this may be a part of the FEMA-funded project.

- c. Riverine Parks/SNA: Nick reported that the Corral and Beaver parks are not being used and are overgrown, and that some fuel reduction work should be done. It may be that severance funds could be used for activities here. Doug reported that he emailed the Army Corps regarding creation of a ramp near Bosquecito Crossing park; Gina proposed a ramp site further south in her email to the Task Force on October 4, together with her notes from the Task Force tour of the levee site. *Copies are attached*, to be added to agenda for discussion at December SOBTF meeting.
  - d. Rio Grande Trail, Socorro Valley Trail efforts: Nothing to report; tabled for the future.
  - e. Sevilleta NWR projects: Jon reported that he met in October with ISC and BOR on Unit A'. He said that flood events have caused changes on the unit. Test plantings on the unit were less successful than they had hoped and they will be testing to try to determine whether the cause was prolonged inundation or increased salinity. On Unit B, a great deal of earth, averaging 2 ½ feet, will need to be moved to fit the design for the coming gate. Gina said she would like to schedule a trip with interested parties to Caballo to see where the Goodding's willow for the planned planting will be harvested. She would like to plan the trip for early December, before December 15.
5. Restore our Rivers Initiative: Gina attended another in the ROR series of fundraiser training webinars. The McCune Foundation will announce in March 2017 whether funds will be granted to us. Gina expressed the view that the Task Force should engage fully in other fundraising as well since word of McCune funds are at the same time as the 2017 commitment by the Task Force for ROR is due. From the training, she got some good advice on local fundraising. She would like to set a lunch with community business owners to advertise our work and to lay the groundwork for approaching businesses with concrete funding requests and commitment to regular support. Support for Bosque Conservation Day might be a good first project to present for regular support. Business owners mentioned include First State Bank, Holiday Inn Express and Best Western Hotel, Brownbilt, Don Tripp, Owl Bar, the Hilton Foundation, and New Mexico Tech. The Task Force should tailor its appeals to business owners by sending individuals best-positioned to make the appeals. Gina shared a draft that she prepared of the ROR partnership opportunity, including anticipated uses of the discretionary funding that the partnership will garner.
6. Fall events: Review of Bosque Conservation Day. BLM expressed to Nicole their interest in helping out more financially with Bosque Conservation Day in future. There was some frustration expressed about flow of students during this year's event. The consensus is that a different scheduling scheme will work better for future Days, possibly to include extending to a daylong event, with lunch in the middle, to allow for longer projects at the stations (planting, games). Nicole suggested that state funds may be available for Conservation Day items such as the bus scholarship. Planting at Perry property will be November 22 or November 29, depending on Will's availability. Tech clubs and San Antonio Elementary School students are slated as volunteers for the planting. Trash pickup in advance of the Festival of the Cranes will be November 12. SOBTF will buy lunch afterward.

7. Tamarisk Leaf Beetle meeting follow up: Gina is working with Nicole's notes from the meeting. The public meeting tentative date was moved to February 1, 2017, (a Wednesday, at 5:00 p.m., place TBD). Planning meeting is scheduled for December 7.
8. MRGCD Valley tour: November 2, 9:00, with lunch provided by RGALT at Bodega Burger.
9. Changes to meeting times and possible Board Retreat: For the meeting on December 6 (and perhaps thereafter) the board will meet at 9:00 to pay bills. The regular meeting will begin at 9:30. December 15 at 8:30 a.m. was selected for a board retreat. We will do longer term, strategic planning for spending Task Force funds and 2017 activities. Plan to have a Christmas potluck lunch and finish up by about 2:00PM.
10. Other Agenda Items: none
11. Calendar, Facebook, Website updates:
  - Calendar*
    - 11/10 Meet the new president of New Mexico Tech, set up by the City of Socorro. 7:00 p.m., Best Western Hotel Conference Center.
    - 11/12 Clean up along Hwy 1; Task Force will buy lunch afterward.
    - 11/22 or 11/29, TBD Planting at Perry property
  - Facebook and Website* Jon and Connie will add Festival of the Cranes link and dates, and the names of closed parks. All are encouraged to email photos of interest to Jon and Connie.
12. Individual reports: Dave and Cyndie Lawrence-Dever arrived toward the end of the meeting to discuss obtaining rocks and some help with placing them to disperse the flow of water through their property during rains.
13. Adjourn: 11:10 a.m. *Motion by Connie, second by Nick; meeting adjourned.*