

Save Our Bosque Task Force
EMNRD, Forestry Division, Socorro District Office
1701 Enterprise Street
Socorro, NM
Hwy 60 West (in back of Ark of Socorro Veterinary Clinic)
Tuesday December 5, 2017



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

Update on insurance-no firm quotes yet. Bills paid, see Treasurer's report below.

9:30 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Meeting

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Gina Dello Russo, Miranda Kersten, Matt Mitchell, Mike Halverson, Kathy Granillo, Doris Rhodes (and granddaughter), Deb Caldwell, and Yasmeen Najmi.

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

2. Approve Minutes from November 2017, *Matt moved and Yasmeen second, passed.*

3. Treasurer's Report

a. Account activity - \$500 to us as admin fee for Turner Foundation Grant, purchased the greenhouse for this project with 4H so \$2,724.50 remaining in that project for supplies. We received \$13.80 from Amazon Smile, thanks to our shoppers who support our work. \$2.00 and \$5,000 in donations: we received the \$5,000 donation from the SB Foundation. Save Our Bosque Task Force bank balance at \$64,432.65. The Restore our Rivers balance is \$50,756.50.

b. Bills – San Antonio Crane \$57.24 for Nursery Planting day lunch for volunteers; \$33.56 at Bodega for going away lunch for Annalily (Gina contributed amount as donation to compensate for that). \$50 to reimburse Gina for Annalily's going away present (Amazon gift card). \$10 to NM Secretary of State to keep us active as a corporation. Paid Program Director for services. Miranda will follow up on billing from ACE and UNM for our Intern this fall.

c. Fundraising update – Water Trust Board grant is in process now. We are hearing compliments on our initial proposal. Cliff Bar Foundation grant focusing on preserving open spaces; may be used for Park improvements, due February 1, 2018. WaterSmart Grant: Can cover planning and implementation. We can apply for this for our CRP update, due January 31. NFWF Five Star and Urban Watersheds grant for improving Community Involvement in our work. We could apply for our parks, trails, and restore native plants to Severance Project area due January 31. Other suggestions, inventory of signs needed at parks. Deb Caldwell of Friends of Bosque del Apache reported that a local family has contacted the Friends about a family donation. At this point considering a pollinator planting program to start on the refuge and then spread to planting areas, schools involved along the way.

4. Director's Update - Miranda reported her Conservation Easement monitoring for RGALT is completed and RGALT has been billed for her work. Private lands part of Tiffany Fire monitoring is done and she finally got a permit from BOR for their portion of the burn. She will monitor that this month. Annalily is completing the website translation. Miranda continued updates to park maps, reviewed the FEMA EA, participated in a webinar for NFWF grant, and had fun at Festival of the Cranes outreach event she set up and ran. She is working on a year-end report for the Board and requests QC on project highlights she plans as a Facebook once a week highlight. Doug and Gina agreed to look over these highlight drafts for her.

5. Project Updates

a. Socorro County Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Projects (HMP) Status - The Socorro Valley Wildfire HMP, Phase 1 continues with a draft Environmental Assessment due out for public comment within the next month or two. For the Socorro County North Bosque HMP, we have locations for project work and Phase 1 Environmental Compliance RfP is now out for bid. Both projects will add greatly to the fire protection of the bosque and homes on the river within Socorro County. Save Our Bosque Task Force continues to be a strong partner in this project.

b. Partners for Fish & Wildlife Projects Status – Suggest we add a running total of remaining project dollars on the bottom of spreadsheet each month. Sevilleta NWR was provided a Coop Agreement update by Miranda. We are awaiting final environmental clearance through the FEMA HMP project Phase 1 to move forward with the Thomas and Dewey projects. This should be done by January or February of 2018 and final design and work can begin after that. We can prioritize these projects for clearing in the spring if possible.

c. Riverine Parks/SNA Updates – SNA – tabled. Riverine Parks – levee mowing update from Yasmeen: Levee hasn't been turned over to MRGCD so haven't worked out the reimbursement for the mowing work. Mike Hamman said that they would work on getting this done this winter. Doug offered SOBTF help in whatever way we can.

d. Rio Grande Trail, Socorro Valley Trail efforts - We should schedule an invite for the Director of State Parks and NME MNRD Secretary Ken McQueen for after the new year. Online survey available now: Miranda and Kathy completed. Our valley trail could be included in some of the grants we are considering.

e. Sevilleta NWR Project Status – Started with \$117,000, overhead, contract for 3000 willows last year has been spent. Obligated \$24,000 for 3000 from Black Willow Nursery for early 2019. Gate update: project design changes to three water control structures within the new design. ISC has obligated money to cover most costs for this project. Need to meet to look into the use of remaining funds. Going out on Thursday afternoon with harvest contractor to look at potential harvest sites on Bosque del Apache NWR. Miranda should be able to get Sevilleta a good number on willows we will be able to harvest this winter by the end of the week. Planting in February 2018. Volunteer days are available and word will go out for this opportunity. Other

topics: Reclamation is working on culvert and Langaman gate construction. We need to work up a schedule for any monitoring needs on Sevilleta NWR for 2018.

f. Central Socorro Bosque Severance Project Status – Severance 1 – done except for final spraying. Severance 2 - mastication done, spraying done in fall 2018. Planting areas in Severance 2 have been delineated. Severance 3 - spray in the spring where they first worked, then masticate whips. Then spray the remainder in the fall 2018. Contractor Forest Fitness, Inc. is working Severance 4 now. They will be able to go all the way to Brown Arroyo with existing funding. They are down across from Hope Farm now. State Forestry is the lead on this project and Doug is overseeing the progress and quality of the work. Miranda and Gina are assisting the project by delineating planting areas and advising contractor on planting requirements.

g. Tiffany Fire Rehabilitation Project Status – We received praise of our proposal from some of the initial reviewers. We are waiting to hear if our proposal will move to the next step towards approval and award. There is a meeting on January 18, 10 a.m. meeting at Bosque del Apache NWR to continue work on this project.

h. Goodding's Willow Nursery Project Status – We will check on nursery on Thursday when we are out at Bosque del Apache NWR. Plan to harvest and plant again in February 2018.

i. 4H/Task Force Greenhouse Status – Greenhouse has arrived. County is doing the prep work for building greenhouse behind the County Annex building. They will plan a work day to put up the Greenhouse before Christmas. Mike recommends 60% shade cloth for the summer months, will need fans.

j. Other Projects: 1) Santa Ana Nursery – Mike Halverson presented that the nursery has been in business since 1991, now at a larger location to allow them to expand. They are starting from seed Goodding's willow, Cottonwood and coyote willow. They specialize in native plants, forbs, grasses, milkweed (4 species at this point). Mike said that he would be happy to partner with us on the 4-H greenhouse, possible pollinator project with Friends of Bosque del Apache. He brought some sample plants for us to see. Miranda will help schedule field trip for us to look at their nursery (Deb, Kathy, Cyndie, Gina, Fred all said they were interested). 2) Sun Zia update, Plan of Development now on schedule for a January 2018 availability to the public. 3) Bosque Conservation Day – committee has a meeting this Thursday to discuss. February 22 or March 1, 2018, Thursday and see which works best for them. Carlos will follow up with the schools to pick a final date. 4) YCC grant tabled.

6. Restore Our Rivers Initiative Update – Miranda submitted our fall accounting for this partnership to the Tamarisk Coalition in October. Our match to date is \$54,000 and \$32,000 in-kind. Miranda is following up with the Tamarisk Coalition's advice on Strategic Planning and Board development. She has sent out draft documents and is waiting for Board review and comment on those documents. Miranda will be presenting to the Friends of Bosque del Apache in January 2018. The next dispersal of TC funds to the Task Force should be in March 2018, approximately \$38,000. Miranda's abstract was accepted for the Tamarisk Coalition conference in February 2018.

7. Other agenda items – 1) Cross Watershed Network – The workshop will happen April 4 and 5, 2018. We have a call Tuesday December 12 with the organizing team coming up. We should be looking for local sponsors of this event – food, lodging, scholarships? Workshops are designed to bring people from different watersheds together to talk about related subjects, learn from each other. 2) Maintenance Program Evaluation – no update from the Utton Center but Doug has been discussing a cooperative agreement with Bureau of Reclamation.

9. Facebook and Website items –Next up will be a project update series. We are considering a “Highlighting Partners” series next. What is our Facebook famous “Like.”

10. Calendar items

- Next board meeting January 2, 2018.
- Open house at Bosque del Apache NWR this Friday 4:30-7:30 pm.
- Starting in January, the Task Force Board meeting schedule will change. Those meeting times and agendas and a draft Public Meeting schedule for 2018 will be posted on the website.

11. Individual reports – Miranda went multipitch climbing this last weekend. Mike just bought a property in Pagosa Springs, a summer retreat. Deb – please come to the party on Friday. She recently met a Sierra Club contact whose mission is to diversify the community members that come to onto our public lands. A recent family field trip at the refuge for Hispanic families was a success. Their next board meeting is December 16 and January in person. Yasmeen – local chapters of environmental groups are hiring diverse staff, that’s great. For our next meeting, maybe she can report back to us on BO projects led by MRGCD. Finished with her fall food processing, now baking. Doris – Bureau of Reclamation is working on a project on the Rhodes Property. Ashley Richards is the PM on this project. Their plans are being developed now. There was a fantastic crop of Pecos sunflowers this year. Matt – glad the cold weather is here. Gina introduced her friend Darla visiting from Arkansas. Doug – son graduating from Navy OCS in Newport, Rhode Island. Then on to California for Engineering Training. Other son coming back from Afghanistan, home for Christmas.

12. At 11:53 am. Adjourn *Doug moved and Gina second, passed.*