

Save Our Bosque Task Force
Tuesday, October 7, 2014 Minutes

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Gina Dello Russo, Priscilla Cora Gwin, Nick Smokovich, Isaac Burleigh, and Dustin Armstrong.

9:24 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Meeting

There was no quorum for this meeting so the following notes summarize the discussions we had that morning.

We will have Save Our Bosque Task Force elections in November. Isaac Burleigh will lead election proceedings. Doug reported that modifications to the Saavedra property project will be necessary because he has decided to use alternate equipment. Owner will work with Partners for Fish & Wildlife personnel on this modification.

Bosque Conservation Day (BCD): Save Our Bosque Task Force will work with Socorro County to provide funds to cover expenses for buses and drivers to the event. So far there are 5 station leads that have gotten back with Nick and said they will be there. Gina and Nick will get with those who have not responded and get a final decision from them.

Website: Gina will take the lead to get more pictures of restoration projects for the website. Nick will write up something for BCD to make sure that is on the website as well. We will work to get levee project updates on the website.

Trash Pick Up Day: We will be meeting at Otero Street at 9:00 a.m. and heading south from there. Doug will arrange a County dumpster for Brown Arroyo or San Antonio and contact MRGCD and County crew leaders to see if they will be able to help. Doug will contact other agencies as well. Priscilla will contact the newspaper with an announcement for the event. Lunch will follow in San Antonio and then at 1:00 p.m. those interested can go on a tour at Bosque del Apache NWR (see blurb below). Should be all done by 4:00 p.m. at the latest.

It was noted that the Tamarisk Leaf Beetle is evident as far south as Sabinal. Monitoring should be completed and updated information available by this fall.

Private Lands Projects: On the Mitchell property, contractor will be working within a week, is hand clearing under cottonwoods right now, masticating what is cut and working in the open next.

Inmate Work Crew (IWC) will get started again soon. They will be working Otero Street North towards the North Diversion. Bureau of Reclamation forestry mulchers may be available this winter to assist with this project. This would be a great help, allow state funding to go further towards IWC time. Dustin noted that piles need to be off the road in the dirt, away from rocks.

River Parks: Confluence Park will be closing for good it looks like with the new levee design. There is a trail head there so we should discuss options for parking areas in the vicinity when the project is complete and start talking to the Corps of Engineers and others about how to connect trail below and above North Diversion. It was suggested that we move some tables from this park that are in good shape and ones in other parks that might be in the way of the Levee Project or are now too close to the river's edge (Bosquecito Crossing was mentioned). We will watch this and Reclamation might be able to

assist with moving them to new locations when time is right. It was suggested that we work to extend the trail to Escondida Lake as an alternative during levee construction and offer mileage markers, trail access there at this time. Gina will ask John Young of the Backcountry Horsemen about trail maintenance and, if they have been out there lately, any suggestions for maintenance. Dustin mentioned that there is someone working at Otero Street, cleaning up and repairing tables. *Doug and Dustin found out later that this is the MRGCD getting ready for the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Levee Project.*

Calendar: Bosque Conservation Day is October 17, Trash Pick UP Day is October 24, followed by lunch in San Antonio and the tour at Bosque del Apache NWR at 1:00 p.m. (see blurb below). New Mexico Vegetation Management conference in November (12-13) and Tamarisk Coalition conference in Albuquerque in February (10-12). Nick or Doug to get Bear calendar item when the IWC will start thinning this fall.

Bike to School week is this month. Isaac and others are working on the community garden, safe route signs around town for bike routes, and a pumptrack at Sedillo Park. They need a clay mix with hydrated lime to stabilize. He will get with Mike Lopez of MRGCD to see about clay mix available, they need about 70 cy.

Dustin reported that they are clearing at the Salas Arroyo near La Joya and working in San Marcial area to clear under the powerlines that cross the river there. There was a discussion of improving communication between agencies, especially with so much work going on right now and planned for the near future.

Meeting ended around 11:00 a.m. Next meeting will be November 4, 2014. All welcome to come so that we have a quorum for our elections.

Blurb on tour at Bosque del Apache NWR

Backwater Tour

Bosque del Apache Water Management

Experience the refuge from the perspective of water management.

Join Brian Greeves, refuge water manager, on a tour of the refuge and learn how water is moved, used and conserved to create the diverse wetland habitats that attract wildlife and people to Bosque del Apache. Learn the tools and techniques the refuge uses to mimic historic conditions to restore the wetland habitat of the Rio Grande. Discover how management of water is critical in providing this habitat for sandhill cranes, snow geese, endangered species and other wildlife.