

Save Our Bosque Task Force

Tuesday, September 6, 2022 @ 3:00 pm
Save Our Bosque Task Force Monthly Board Meeting
Meeting Location: Socorro County Annex & virtual via Zoom



Minutes

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88112697953?pwd=QXlHYXhBdjFWYmg5NzIMQ2dxc3BhQT09>

Meeting ID: **881 1269 7953**

Passcode: **033183**

Call-in Number: **(646) 568-7788**

Action items:

Held over: Danielle will bring to the next meeting the compiled June 18 Farmer's Market questionnaires

Held over: Jerry will contact a possible new project with a landowner near Escondida Bridge & Pueblitos re Fish & Wildlife projects.

Held over: Danielle will talk to Jerry or Mr. Hawkes re signage for the parks re possibly getting the County, City or MRGCD involved with personnel, funding, or pick-up trucks. She will work on trying to find grants for signage.

Held over: Danielle will present a Google Earth map and actual signs for examples at the next meeting

Danielle: will send out packets to board members with 1) information from public outreach on Rio Grande trail and 2) signage examples and mock ups

Danielle: will send Jeff and Gina contact information for head of MRGCD Socorro Division

Gina and Matt: are working with Partners for Fish and Wildlife to organize the tour on October 18 with Congressional staff.

Matt: is working with Socorro Consolidated Schools to schedule Bosque Conservation Day.

Meeting started, 3:05 PM

1. **Approve Agenda** – motion to approve: Matt; second: Ron; approved.
2. **Introductions:** Gina Dello Russo (Treasurer), Danielle Hensley, Colton Bjerke, Kate Burley, Christie Smith (Secretary, on zoom), Ron Thomas, Jerry Wheeler (President), Jeff Havlena (VP)

3. **Approve Minutes for July 2022**—motion to approve as edited: Matt; second: Jeff; approved.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

a. **Budget Summary**

As of August 1, 2022 our budget was \$46,372.64. As of August 31, 2022 our budget was \$36,526.09. We had one reimbursement deposit from Reclamation and one reimbursement deposit from NMDGF under our FY2022 contract with them. Withdrawals included payroll, state and federal taxes.

b. **Fundraising –**

SunZia/Pattern Energy – A draft agreement has been sent to SunZia/Pattern and board members for review.

Carroll Petrie Foundation – invited proposal due September 15, Danielle has drafted the proposal to provide outreach to those working along the bosque. We would be working to look at alternatives to using herbicide on restoration projects and developing Best Management Practices for this work.

USFS Community Wildfire Defense Grant – to NMFD they will manage the grant. Proposals are due next month. Jerry and Danielle will schedule a meeting with the District Forester on this topic. There is a match requirement.

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant – Tied to the fire south of Belen this year. We can apply since we work in the bosque in the area of the fire, northern Socorro County. There is a match requirement for this grant as well.

5. **Program Director update—**

Interns –August was the last month for the interns, thanks to all who attended their going away picnic. The interns worked on vegetation monitoring on multiple projects, worked on the evaluation of the Rio Grande Trail outreach held this summer, drafted the newsletter that will go out soon, and assisted the Task Force with numerous other projects. Thanks to them it was a successful summer season.

6. **Project Updates**

a. **August Projects Update**

- Reclamation Cooperative Agreement –Danielle is working with GSA and Reclamation to finish vegetation surveys on the Rhodes property and other restoration sites. Danielle is working with NRCS, BOR, and Doris Rhodes to clarify what is needed in terms of native vegetation plantings. Historical note: this is the biggest restoration project we've ever led; 500+ acres; NRCS holds the easement. The recent floods have deposited sediment

in the Reclamation riverside project here, will most likely need some excavation next year.

- New Mexico Counties updates—Jerry is working to get the final reporting for the FY 2022 grant to close that out. For the new grant, working with SOBTF to get Phase IV project going this fall. We may be able to use mechanical methods under cottonwood canopy to limit chemical use in the future.

- City of Socorro updates—There has been some vandalism on the new tables that have been recently installed. The city staff will work with Danielle to look at options for this and other maintenance. There are trees down at Bosque Park and couches at Confluence to be removed. Jeff has been working with our monitoring cameras to get ready for installation. We are ready to install one to test it in the field. Maintenance will be needed on a monthly basis.

- MRGCD/Capital Outlay; 60 acres have been delineated as priority areas between Escondida Bridge and Island Park. Danielle and interns finished assessing the density of salt cedar from Escondida Lake to Otero Park. It was suggested that the area between Escondida Lake and Confluence Park may be a lower priority due to limited use and biodiversity in the area. Focusing on the area between Confluence Park and Otero Park might be more important at this time.

- NMDGF –We are working on a new contract (\$4999) with them, just need signatures from Jerry and Christie. There is substantial work going on at Bernardo and La Joya state refuges. Danielle will be assisting with monitoring this work through wetland delineation and other tasks. There is an opportunity to assist NMDGF with native plantings at their Escondida property. We would have access to up to \$60K for this. Gina asks if we can have any funding for watering for the revegetation over a three-year time frame. What are prices for plant materials? We want to be sure to cover our time and personnel with this plan. They have been helpful and flexible. NMDGF has an *America the Beautiful Grant* so there may be some money we can use for this project. FYI for board members: Our employee's salary is partially funded thru NMDGF; MRGCD covers some of it, as does Bureau of Reclamation (which has also paid for the interns).

b. Partners for Fish and Wildlife

- F18 project status updates

1. For a property owner in between Lemitar and Polvadera—working to secure a elm tree removal contractor, they have been cleared on the archaeology clearance;
2. Another property owner near Pueblitos – has been approved by FWS and next week the Task Force will meet with him. Ron, Danielle, Matt will go on a tour of his project.
3. On the Gonzales project, completed under PFW, Matt made a motion to host a planting day on the Gonzales property on October 10, at 9:00 am with Nusenda staff

assisting as a part of their outreach program. There may be as many as 12 volunteers from Nusenda. We will send a call out to our members to see if any are interested. Tasks would be planting grass plugs, seeding grass, lopping saltcedar sprouts, and weed whacking.

4. Jerry will contact a possible new project landowner near Escondida Bridge & Pueblitos. **This task is held over from previous meetings.**

A tour with US Congressional staff of Partners for Fish and Wildlife projects is scheduled for October 18th. Armendaris Ranch, Thomas/Brook and possibly Gonzales projects. Gina will find out how many will be attending. Matt, Gina, Jerry and Ron are going to try to attend as well as Danielle.

c. Parks and Trails

- Park and trail opportunities—Danielle is going to send out a packet of information to the board, updating our efforts on the Rio Grande Trail segment in our valley. Our monthly park cleanup for September 17, will be at Island park, we will meet at Otero Park.

- The usual twice-yearly pick-up is October 20. Jeff or Gina will contact MRGCD Socorro Field Office to see if they would be available with equipment to assist. Danielle will send us that contact information.

- Park and trail signage-- Danielle will send out the three draft stages of signage and how we could interface with others working on consistency.

e. Outreach

- Nusenda Community Rewards Opportunity—they would like to attend the Bosque Conservation Day. Our tentative date for this is October 27. Matt is working with the schools to finalize date.

-New Mexico Uplift – working with local communities to work towards greater recreational opportunities. Danielle is working with their staff to date, they have had an initial meeting and going to set up a zoom meeting for later in the month with local organizations and citizens invited.

f. Website, Facebook, and Instagram accounts— there will be a Socorro Valley Trail Segment page on the website, look for that. The newsletter is coming out this week.

10. Other agenda items -- Let's not forget our Tour plan of the SOBTF projects so the Board can see our past, present, and possible future projects. November 5th is the proposed date

11. Adjourn 4:35 PM *Matt and Ron.4:41 pm.*