

Save Our Bosque Task Force

Tuesday, May 3, 2016 Minutes

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Gina Dello Russo, Fred Hollis, Matt Mitchell,
Connie Robnett, Dominic Otero.

9:27 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Meeting

1. Approve Agenda. *Motion made by Connie to approve, second by Matt, approved.*
2. Approve Minutes from April 2016. *Motion made by Matt to approve, second by Fred, approved.*
3. Treasurer's report
 - a. Account activity – Treasurer's report for April: no bills and one \$2 donation so balance is \$6263.57. One check was written for Trash Pickup, it will be in the next month's report. There are no bills this month.
4. Project Updates
 - a. Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Project: Waiting to schedule a conference call with FEMA and the Tech team soon. Phase I has been approved and the sub agreement is now signed. County has submitted applications to NM Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (NM DHSEM) to do additional work on the river in the northern section of the county with the Task Force as a partner.
 - b. Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program: Perry project update: Two contracts signed for building fence and to construct flood drain construction and buffer feature, both done by end of May. **Doug will request that Nyleen draw down funds for these contracts.** Thanks Nyleen. We need to complete an amendment to Cooperative Agreement because of this delay to end of 2017. Doug has the draft for review. A new agreement has been drafted to provide \$120,000 total for new Partners projects with the Task Force as fiscal agent. \$60,000 available in 2016 with other funds provided as available. Administration costs can be up to 10% of total. We currently have three projects in development phase. Doug will review this contract, work with Nyleen, Angel, and Gina to clarify any questions, and then sign and send back to Angel.
 - c. Riverine Parks/SNA: SNA – No report on SNA. Parks within the Levee project footprint: **Doug or Yasmeen will check to see if they still have some cable and posts that MRGCD could supply.** Maybe we need a large volunteer project to get the parks up and ready for the public again. Could we get into the parks and do an inventory? **Doug will ask Jacob this to see if we can get in to do a recon.** IWC finished Unit 3, Flood Control to Escondida Lake. Unit 3 will need another treatment in the fall. This was accomplished with State Forestry and MRGCD funds. Thanks to both agencies for spearheading this work. Doug will get with Dustin Armstrong of Bureau of Reclamation to schedule slash pile mulching in Unit 3. The next stretch will be started in the fall, in the Brown Arroyo to Hwy 380 stretch, Doug will decide if they are going to start at north or south end. San Antonio Park needs some tree trimming for safety reasons. The San Antonio school went out and cleaned the park, it looked great, and piled debris to either mulch or burn. The County will assist with this work. The Trash Pickup day was a success once again with eleven volunteers working both sides of the Low Flow Conveyance Channel from Highway 380. Raks again generously supplied the trash bags for us. The County supplied the dumpster and Bosque del Apache NWR brought a dumptruck in case we needed it. Thanks to all our sponsors. The trash level wasn't extreme but many tires : (and plenty of household items. We all agreed that this fall it would be good to start at Brown Arroyo and work north and south from there. Lunch provided by the Task Force.
 - d. Rio Grande Trail, Socorro Valley Trail efforts – Gina reported that the Commission meeting will be held in Socorro on May 19 at the Socorro County Annex. Matt will be presenting for the Task Force, **Doug will write up a bit about the trail for Matt. Gina will send Matt the powerpoint template. Gina contacted James McNeil** to see about the public interaction planning sessions. He

reported that the City is in the process of hiring someone to work on the plan. We haven't heard from the City of Socorro's contractor on the trail plan yet.

5. Restore Our Rivers Initiative: mapping product shows the watershed we work in, not necessarily just our project areas. **Doug will send bumper sticker logo to Gina. Conference call with them on Thursday May 5, at 2 pm. Gina will send Doug link for this call.**
6. Fire Danger: Moderate but people should be very careful. We are getting some moisture but human caused fires are happening, and things are very dry.
7. Public meeting planning – the County is going to assign someone to do outreach on a number of their emergency management issues. That person could assist us on our activities and help plan our next public meeting. We will work with them when they are ready.
8. Other agenda items – 1) Gina reported that Turner Adventure Partners Ecotours had contacted her about offering the Jornada Bat Cave as fundraiser again this year. Board decided to do this event again this year; Gina contacted them and the estimated cost for the tour and lodging is \$3,507.60. This is down from last year. July 30 is first choice for the weekend, August 6 is second choice. We can get on the radio to advertise, put it in the paper, it will be on Eventbrite. Tamarisk Coalition would probably send it out to their NM email list. Friends of Bosque del Apache will be requested to send out a note to their list. We'll put it on Facebook too. The Tech emailing list would be a good idea, **Connie will look into this for us. Connie will ask Ronna at PAS about distributing this on her email list.** 2) There were left over silent auction items from our last Bosque Benefit Brunch stored at the SWCD office. Nyleen got them together and Gina brought them to the meeting. We will put some of them on our website for possible purchase. Others were purchased by board members, thanks for the contributions.
9. Calendar items – May 7, which is National Wildfire Awareness Day, Socorro County is having an event at the Plaza. Free food for the event. May 19 Rio Grande Trail Commission is here in Socorro at the Socorro County Annex, time to be announced. Next Task Force meeting June 7th.
10. Individual Reports – Gina will be attending Tamarisk Coalition Leaf Beetle Conference on June 2. Matt said the Friends of Bosque del Apache had their yearly Field Day recently, similar to our Bosque Conservation Day, it was well attended.
11. Adjourn: *At 10:40 AM, Matt made a motion to adjourn, second by Connie, approved.*