**Save Our Bosque Task Force meeting**

**February 2, 2021**

Attending: Colin Barnett, Gina DelloRusso, Sarah Anderson, Sandra Noll, Matt Mitchell, Lia Atherton, Rex Myers, Russ Thrun, Nancy Spencer-Morris, Abigail Plecki, Kathy Granillo, Yasmeen Najmi, Jerry Wheeler.

Agenda approved: Matt made a motion to approve the agenda and Rex seconded.

Minutes from January 5, 2021. The changes Gina requested were made. Gina made a motion to approve the minutes, Matt seconded.

**Action List Review and Tasks**

Sarah and Gina will schedule meetings with landowners to discuss FAWRA grant submission.

PPP funding getting vote from and answering questions of the Board. Working with bank and Wendy accountant. We need our forms before we can do anything with the PPP. Gina will schedule a closed meeting for PPP program update – **Board was notified our accountant determined we are ineligible for this round of funding.**

Sarah take photos of Pack et al. property. Will schedule when Amy returns.

Sarah working with Attila and NPS intern on story map for RGT assessment. Hope to have product next month.

Sarah is working with Jerry and Gina on next funding for NM Counties grant. Have discussed ideas and grant has now been advertised.

Matt , Sarah and Gina will work with Sevilleta on planting days. February 25th and March 1st at partners for Fish and Wildlife projects, Conklins, Armendaris and Thomas, Gonzales properties.

Tree planting days at Sevilleta are Feb. 12th and 13th and 19th and 20th. Link and dates are on website must RSVP to volunteer. **Sarah will send notice of planting days and contacts to listserve.**

Matt and Sandra are working to distribute materials for Bosque Conservation Day. Received stickers and other materials from the County and State Forestry and video from BDANWR. Can go with 64 gig jump drives. **Gina will order jump drives.** Nancy asked what we’re looking for and says Sevilleta has posters available. Has 77 students who will be doing in person learning not counting Alamo.  **Rex will pick up posters from Sevilleta for distribution to students.**

Sarah will talk to Ancestral Lands this Thursday and would like to set up closed meeting for a short call on SOBTF summer internships.

Matt and Sandra and Gina will meet to discuss outreach to refuges and support.

Yasmeen will check again with Lorenzo on repairing fence at Otero Street park.

Yasmeen will forward information on bills in legislature MRGCD is following.

Jerry will send Gina treatment plan for Wildfire Risk Reduction BLM grant. Asked Sarah to forward what was proposed for those years for Bosquecito projects.

Sarah received lists of those who could become members. **Gina will send calendar items.**

Sarah will post Gina’s 2020 summary of Task Force work to the website - **completed**

**Treasurers report**

As of last meeting our balance $43602.73 as of today is $46062.76 Sarah sent out the budget spreadsheet. We’re getting contributions from donor page. Rex said since we’re using Paypal a $25 donation does not yield $25. Matt said Paypal takes a cut of 3% and that will go down to 2.2% after we verify we’re a charitable organization. Rex sent a membership to the P.O. Box and has not been reflected yet. Sarah has not yet checked the P.O. Box this week. You have to also factor Paypal transaction fees.

**Fundraising update and biannual newsletter**

Sandra said we have 22 members including three Board members and total $2,678.25, which includes $1000 Memorial gift, and sent 15 letters out. Some don’t provide snail mail but emails were sent. Most new members are people known to us and local to Socorro some are colleagues or Rio Grande advocates. We need to think about timeframe for preparing biannual newsletter. Gina did a summary review of 2020 work and Sarah will post on the website. End of year would be a good time for one newsletter, the other in June and we could talk about the summer interns/internships.

**PPP Program update** – Gina will schedule a closed Board meeting.

Watersmart Grant – was due 1/19 was intensive process but submitted a good grant. Funding not available until September. We requested $100,000 over two years. We held $20,000 to pay Sarah’s salary for administration and outreach.

NM Counties Grant (Wildfire Risk Reduction) grant due March 31st. Working on the grant next few weeks this is for private lands.

FAWRA grant – Abigail said grant is due in March focused on watershed, T and E species and neighboring projects and fire risk. State Forestry said there will more funding availability. Retreating and restoration on Tiffany Rehab, collaborating with NM Tech and Game and Fish, MRGCD. Jerry said it would be great to tie this grant with NM Counties grant work as part of a long term plan. We do have FAWRA areas on a GIS map should include areas interns GPSd and focus areas of interest and classify according to project purpose and goals. Could be a layer in our geodatabase. We will schedule a meeting with State Forestry and landowners/Board members to discuss the goals and big picture for the grant requests.

**Community Outreach**

All events are postponed until further notice except virtual Bosque Conservation Day. Matt and Sandra will distribute materials to schools asap.

**Advocacy**

Environmental Rights bill is a constitutional amendment in committee now. Prescribed fire bill #51 is going to House next. Yasmeen will send info on bills MRGCD is following.

**Project Updates**

Partners projects – Feb 25th and March 1st planting projects. Ron Thomas wants to plant his own poles - 50 trees. Matt will deliver. Conklin and Gonzales will be planted. Sol Gonzales is working on fence to exclude cattle. We will likely have more cottonwood poles than needed for these projects and they are available

Armendaris – March 1st planting day. Will plant 300 shrubs at North boundary. Matt will build watering tubes. Sevilleta will provide auger equipment and operator for 2/25 and March 1st plantings.

Barclay property – meeting with landowners next Tuesday for small group, socially distanced tour of BDANWR for restoration ideas and to highlight habitats. Barclays are thinking of establishing irrigation well. Matt said only consideration are salts built up over time using well water..

BOR projects - tabled

Sevilleta NWR – Will is going to start delivering plants next week. 3000 trees to plant. Contact Jeannine to sign up to volunteer – 15 total people per day. Sarah will get check ready for Will for February 16th.

NM Counties – Jerry is trying to contact Mark Myers at SLO on price agreement. Then we can get contract lined up. Need to develop scope of work. Might have to go out to bid, which is fine.

**Riverine Parks and trails update**

 Marcy has finished draft of story Map and Attila and Sarah are working on narrative. Yasmeen and Sarah gave report on RGT Commission meeting. Yasmeen requested commission meeting notes for meetings held in MRG and results of trail amenities survey which she will share with Board. Gina suggested we revisit notes from Socorro public meeting held on RGT trail. February 9th 2pm at Otero Street to meet with City of Socorro on installation of new picnic tables and grills at Sandbar.

**Social media and website**

Sarah posted membership info on our facebook page – request to share on Fbook. Sarah could post NM Tech flyer on Instagram.

Other – Sandra recommends Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

Rivers edge west restoration virtual conference February 17th and 18th, 24th and 25th.

San Acacia Fish passage EA - review and comment period January 15-February 15th

RG Basin Study – upcoming meeting Rio Grande Water Advocates organizing for community groups February 12th.

Rex made a motion to adjourn, Matt seconded.