

Save Our Bosque Task Force

Tuesday, August 5, 2014 Agenda/Minutes

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Gina Dello Russo, Priscilla Cora Gwin, Fred Hollis, Jerry Wheeler, Bear Albrecht, Yasmeeen Najmi (by phone), Matt Mitchell available by phone. Many members on Fire assignments; be safe.

9:00 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Meeting

1. Approve Agenda. *Motion made by Fred to approve, second by Priscilla, approved.*
2. Approve Minutes from July 2014. Yasmeeen corrected minutes under 5c: she did not report that there was 4 x 4 use of bosque between north diversion and Escondida Lake. No one could remember who said, but did remember someone mentioned this as possible problem. Will be edited to say "It was reported..." *Motion made by Fred to approve, second by Jerry, approved with changes.*
3. Treasurer's report:
 - a. No treasurer's report is available, but Doug reports that the balances are most likely the same except for a monthly \$2.00 donation. Remaining balances in Private Property Project funds: \$1,800.00 (set aside for audit preparation this year if needed); in SOBTF fund: \$4,267.36. Again thanks to donors. Overall balance of: \$6,065.36.
 - b. No bills this month.
4. Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Project. The Socorro Valley WUI Mitigation Project was submitted on June 30, 2014. Primarily, this project would address WUI on the east side of the river, protecting the communities of San Pedro, Bosquecito, and Pueblito. Willing landowners would work with Socorro County and partners in the proposal to protect both homes and wildlife habitat from fire. The final decision on funding is due out in October, 2014. Jerry Wheeler reported on suggested improvements to the proposal. He and others will be working on that over the next two weeks to address suggestions and improve our proposal prior to FEMA review.
5. Project Updates
 - a. Rhodes Project: The conservation easement on the south parcel is completed. NRCS restoration work should begin this fall. Doris is attempting to purchase inholdings within the project footprint. She is also scheduling meetings with the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation to discuss potential partnerships in Phase II restoration work and the Interstate Stream Commission and NM State Engineer to address potential water depletion of the project.
 - b. Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program: Mitchell and Gonzales property projects are ready to go this fall. The third project was reported to be the Perry project that includes wetland enhancement and agricultural improvements in the area of Luis Lopez or what was known as Laborcito, NM.

- c. Riverine Parks/SNA: Socorro Nature Area (BLM) – no report available. Healthy Kids Socorro posted carsonite signs to act as mile markers on trails so kids and adults can track their exercise, but mileage needs to be added. Mike from the Socorro Division MRGCD did an inventory of wire, metal posts, and other supplies to assist with protecting bosque from offroad use. The District has done some pipe work down in the parks. Yasmeen reported that the MRGCD has been in contact with William DeRagon of the COE about the pipe and cable at the parks and the COE may replace these fences with wood and cable when the levee project proceeds. Gina asked about the Jetty Jacks and Yasmeen said she would follow up with the COE to see who gets the jacks and if there is the potential for some proceeds to come to the Task Force for park maintenance.
 - d. Healthy Kids Socorro: Cynthia has a new job with the Magdalena Schools, Congratulations Cynthia! A new member of the organization will try to attend future meetings.
 - e. Other: 1) There are large trash items between the north diversion and Escondida Lake, west side of the LFCC. Gina will speak to Mike Lopez at MRGCD to see if they can help with removal, 2) SunZia project was discussed following a look at a newspaper article Priscilla brought to our attention. The proposed river crossing is near Escondida Bridge. The FWS will be producing a mitigation plan for the project's impacts with input from SunZia and the BLM. At some point, stakeholder involvement should be possible.
6. Website – no update, Doug will review.
 7. Calendar: next meeting is September 2nd.
 8. Other agenda items: none
 9. Individual Reports: Bear will be traveling for his birthday, Happy Birthday Bear! Doug's son is graduating from the US. Army Ranger program next week! Congratulations Daniel!
 10. Adjourn: *At 10:50 AM, Priscilla made a motion to adjourn, second by Gina, approved.*