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Working collaboratively to support a healthy Rio Grande Bosque and riparian ecosystem while celebrating its benefits to the communities of central NM

**Save Our Bosque Task Force**

Save Our Bosque Task Force Monthly Board Meeting  
Socorro County Annex Office  
198 Neel Ave, Socorro NM

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**Tuesday, September 7th @ 3:00pm   
Meeting Location: Socorro County Annex**

In attendance: Gina Dello Russo, Matt Mitchell, Rex Myers, Abigail Plecki, Travis Day, Jeff Havlena, Sandra Noll, Jerry Wheeler, Russ Thrun (phone), Yasmeen Najmi (Phone), Ben Bauer (Phone)

**Board Member Action Items** –

* + Amy and Sandra will update listserv and contacts list
  + Matt and Gina will follow up with BLM regarding updates to the Socorro Nature Area and Bosque Conservation Day
  + Gina and Yasmeen will discuss City funding issues
  + Gina, Matt, Rex and Amy will meet by phone on Tuesday, Sept 21 to discuss Program Director applications
  + Gina, Matt and Sandra will meet via phone to discuss BCD on Tuesday, September 21
  + Gina and Amy will give Sandra and Matt a checklist of tasks to complete for Bosque Conservation Day setup
  + All – Please talk with potential board members and remind them to submit their intent to serve on the board in writing at least 10 days before the November election
  + All – Check parks for trash status prior to 10/28 trash pickup day
  + All – Send Amy calendar items to put on our website calendar
  + All – Please send Amy a post for the Facebook page so we can keep everyone engaged in our work. We would like to have a post from each board member.

Meeting began at 3:00 pm. Attendees gave a brief introduction.

*Approve agenda and minutes from last month’s meeting*  
The agenda was approved with the change of moving the presentation from Travis after the fiscal report.

*Public open forum*  
There were no members of the general public in attendance. Sandra identified San Antonio Park as being in need of cleanup and a potential location for a November trash pickup. Matt will check with San Antonio schools to see if they want to be involved in a trash pickup there. Our big annual trash pickup day is on October 28th starting at Otero Park.   
  
*Treasurer’s Report*  
Matt gave the treasurer’s report. As of last meeting our balance was $35,520.35. As of this afternoon our balance is $54,441.54. The budget spreadsheet will be updated and sent out soon.

*Current grant applications*  
Abigail (State Forestry) submitted a Water Trust Board grant for $750K. We discussed the Tiffany Fire Rehabilitation Project.

*Fundraising efforts*Gina had a discussion with the Turner Foundation representatives and made the case for funding nonprofits working in the area. We have donation and membership buttons on our website.

Matt is working on small grants from Nusenda and Wal-Mart to fund Bosque Conservation Day. Friends of Bosque del Apache may be able to help with some of the costs including bus transportation of students. The Nusenda grant can also include our work at the riverine parks.

*Bylaws Discussion*Travis oversaw a lengthy in-depth review of the bylaws document with suggested changes from the board incorporated. There were many small changes made to the text for clarity or accuracy. Some of the more substantial changes were:

Article 1 Section 2 “charged a fee” was changed to “charged a minimum fee”

Article 2 Section 5 “quorum is considered those in attendance” was added

It was agreed that anything to be voted on by the board must appear in the agenda. Travis encouraged us to review the policies document, but since it is exclusively for the use of the board and to be approved by the board only it was up to us to discuss, amend, and approve.

We determined that our first annual membership meeting will be on December 7 (our regular board meeting date). We will develop an agenda for that meeting during our October board meeting.

Project updates –

*Partners for Fish and Wildlife*  
Matt gave the update. We are working with two deadlines, one to spend out the last of the money by the end of September and the other to complete all the final reports by the end of December. We are on schedule. Sandra asked the status of the Barclay project and Matt said it will be ready to submit to Angel Montoya (FWS) and the landowners for final comment as soon as the budget is completed.

*Parks and Trails*  
Rex said the parks committee has not yet met but will soon. Yasmeen committed to interact with the City as lead for the Task Force until a new PD is hired. Yasmeen suggested that if we start doing smaller monthly clean-ups in the parks we should focus on non-City parks. In the discussion Gina said she was the only person named on the truck insurance but would be fine with putting someone else on as a second driver

*Sevilleta*  
Kathy has retired. We are all going to miss her help and her presence at the meetings.

Because of time considerations we went through our other agenda items very quickly without discussion.

Rex motioned to adjourn, Matt seconded. Passed.

**\*\*\* Our next board meeting will be on Tuesday, October 5th at 3:00 pm \*\*\***