Save Our Bosque Task Force

EMNRD, Forestry Division, Socorro District Office

1701 Enterprise Street

Socorro, NM

Hwy 60 West (in back of Ark of Socorro Veterinary Clinic)

**Tuesday, September 5, 2017**

9:00 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Board session (Business Meeting)

9:30 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Meeting

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Tom Zegler, Matt Mitchell, Gina Dello Russo, Carlos Vega, Miranda Kersten, Annalily Lopez, Mike Comiskey, Kristen Cornelius, Jeannine Kimble, Brennan Radulski, Maggie Sinner.

1. Approve Agenda *Motion by Matt to approve, second by Carlos; approved.*

2. Approve Minutes from meeting of August 1, 2017. *Motion by Matt to approve, second by Gina; approved.*

3. Treasurer’s Report

a. Balances: Bank balance - $11,459.32; ROR Balance = $60,310.36. We received our regular $2 donation. Thanks for their support.

b. Bills: Program Director salary checks cashed this month = $4706.92. One payment to UNM for housing for the two interns for the summer = $1, 600.00.

c. Fundraising update: A $10,000 check from NM Ranch Properties (grant submitted through 4H) for a greenhouse, a partnership between SOBTF, 4H and Socorro County Extension Office. McCune Foundation Grant will be submitted by September 15. Miranda and Gina are working on this grant request for $25,000 through this funding source. We are applying for a Water Trust Board grant that is due October 3. Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District will be the requestor with partners including Reclamation and SOBTF. This grant will take care of analysis, planning, site preparation (to some degree) and compliance. Our next grant requests would handle implementation of priorities.

4. Director’s Update – Attended local NRCS work group meeting and the NRCS State Technical Committee meeting. Gina and Miranda went to a Wildlife Corridor Workshop in Taos NM. Miranda wrote the grant to Turner Enterprises, Inc. for the greenhouse for the partners who submitted it. We are a subcontractor now with TetraTech to work with the Tamarisk Leaf Beetle project, with Miranda the lead for that work. We are subcontractor’s with $10,000 coming in to offset Miranda’s time spent on the project over the next two years. Miranda organized and hosted the second synergy meeting. Miranda and Annalily have assisted Gina in compiling the information for the Rio Grande Trail resources. Miranda joined USFWS, Doug, Gina, who went out Ed Christopher, Gwen Kolb, and Angel Montoya to Escondida and Tiffany Burns.

5. Intern Update – Annalily reported that the interns presented on Confluence Park plan and their work for the past 3 months. They have worked on Sevilleta NWR and have completed the FEMA monitoring. This is the beginning of her next 3-month period. She will be helping with TLB monitoring, Tiffany Fire monitoring, trails spreadsheet, and helping with BCD and clean up days. She and Miranda are still working on refining all of her tasks for this time period.

6. Project Updates:

a. **Socorro Valley Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Project**: Gina reported that the Project Team has their project assignments and will be going out to meet with landowners to finalize treatment plans. The contractor has submitted a draft treatment summary for their review. Things seem to be on schedule.

b. **Partners for Fish & Wildlife Projects and Partnership**: Miranda reported that she is going out the Perry project tomorrow with Angel Montoya. Taliaferro project will be planted in February. The Task Force will volunteer to help with this. Devers-Lawrence is starting to plant seeds. These are the three active projects at this date. Two new projects are in design phases, with hopefully FEMA funds going to tamarisk control and Partners funds to cover the native plant establishment.

c. **SNA:** Mike reported some Boy Scouts are coming through to stay at the SNA. He is working with others at BLM to spend deferred maintenance dollars. They are working on some removal of old infrastructure prior to newer facilities being installed. They have done a sample of a dryland swale and SWCD supplied some shrubs. **Riverine Parks**: Trash Pick up day now scheduled for September 29, with a MRGCD-led work day on October 19, and Highway 1 pick up on November 11 before Festival of the Cranes.

d. **Rio Grande Trail, Socorro Valley Trail Efforts**: We are working to gather information of the Resources along the possible trail alignment. Next Commission meeting is Oct 17.

e. **Sevilleta NWR** **Cooperative Agreement:** nothing new to report.

f. **Central Socorro Bosque Severance Project**: They are mobilizing and will start at the flood control and work south. As they go we will find places this winter where we can plant, based on where State Forestry said they would plant in their mitigation plan.

g. Other projects: 1) Tiffany Fire project – applying for WTB grant. 2) Nursery at Bosque del Apache NWR: Bosque del Apache NWR is supplying land and water, SOBTF and other partners in the Tiffany Fire project will be harvesting end of September. Need to get dates tied down for the harvest and then, after soaking for 10 days, the planting day. 2) BCD October 6, team working Annalily, Miranda, Carlos, Jon, Doug, Nick, Jeannine **(update: BCD postponed to a later date)**.

6. Restore our Rivers Initiative: Miranda will be receiving our second funding request from the Friends of Bosque del Apache NWR on Saturday, September 16, at their Annual Meeting and then providing a longer update for them at the October board meeting. Fundraising workshop offered by Tamarisk Coalition and a consultant they have hired on September 19 will help area non-profits including SOBTF learn about fundraising.

7. Planning for Fall 2017 Bosque Trash Pickup Day: County will supply a dumpster. Volunteers will meet at Otero Street Park at 9:00 am on Friday September 29. Miranda will contact NM Tech clubs to invite them to join us. Picnic lunch provided.

9. Other Agenda Items: none.

10. Website and Facebook items: Working on ROR website info. Will get the Gonzales Family highlights on the website.

11. Calendar items: Tomorrow Wilderness Society 5:30 at Library – 21st of October Celebrate Sevilleta, October 7 San Antonio Harvest Festival, ~~BCD Oct 6~~ (postponed).

12. Individual reports: Yasmeen – says she’s sorry she missed today, there is a meeting tomorrow to discuss a road from Escondida to Socorro. Miranda said there are bot flies in NM. Annalily went to Austin this last weekend, Jeannine went camping. The two Sevilleta NWR interns Brennan from Maine, and Maggie from Wyoming are working on the elementary school age project that is part of Celebrate Sevilleta. Mike thinks the beetle is prolonging the fire season, something to consider in terms of fire staffing for different agencies. Kristen reported NRCS is wrapping up fiscal year work and then will be starting back up for next year’s EQIP and CSP programs. Gina reported she is planting native grass seed; September is a great time to plant Buffalo and blue grama grass. Matt gave a Bosquecito report: they got regular rain this last month, no arroyo washers, and Pecos sunflower is a week or two away on Rhodes Property. Tom is getting to know Silver City, checking out the Gila river system. He believes the beetle will eventually get to the Gila River.

Next meeting October 3.

13. Adjourn 10:45 a.m. *Motion by Carlos, second by Matt; meeting adjourned.*