

Save Our Bosque Task Force
EMNRD, Forestry Division, Socorro District Office
1701 Enterprise Rd.
Socorro, NM
Tuesday June 5, 2018



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

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Matt Mitchell, Sammie Vega-Finch, Gina Dello Russo, Jon Erz, and Yasmeen Najmi.

1. Approve Agenda – *Matt moved and Yasmeen second, passed.*

2. Approve Minutes from February, March, May 2018 – *Doug moved and Matt second, passed.*

4. Treasurer's Report

a. Account activity and bills received – SOBTF funds: \$84,203.50 including a check from TetraTech \$6895.00 for service in 2017 associated with the Tamarisk Leaf Beetle Research. \$10.63 from Amazon Smile donations. \$ 7,221.72 in Task Force Funds, \$74,544.47 in ROR account, \$2437.31 in Turner Youth Grant, one check \$287.19 to Raks for cement for the Greenhouse under the Turner Youth Grant.

b. Fundraising update –Submitted grant for seed for Greenhouse through RSF Bank seed fund for new projects. We have received word that we were awarded funds as part of the Water Trust Board grant submitted by the Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District. We will serve as co-project manager with the Sierra SWCD on the Tiffany Fire Rehabilitation project. Waiting stage for Clif Bar (to fund tables & signs), NFWF (trail extension), Watersmart (CRP update). New opportunities: Nuscenda (grant cycle open until September through Share NM site) ~\$10,000. Wells Fargo opens in August 15, environmental category through Wells Fargo Foundation.

5. Director's Position Update – The program director position will be starting on June 18, 2018.

Monitoring Intern Program: we will give the new program director a month to get settled, but would like to start monitoring mid-July. Stipend will be same as last year. Jon will assist us again this year on our Internship program. We will meet with her at 8:30 am at the Socorro County Annex for orientation. Miranda is enjoying her work and living in Albuquerque. All say hello.

6. On-Going Projects – Important Updates

a. Socorro County Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Projects Status – in a waiting period for the Phase 1 compliance work to be completed on 4152 and working on the SOW for these treatments. The County will send out a Price Agreement for treatments. Inspectors continue to go out and look at the different properties. No update on the 4197 North Bosque project.

b. Partners for Fish and Wildlife Projects status – Doug will work on reporting for the existing projects. Doug is working with Angel on the new Cooperative agreement (F18A for approximately \$80,000). We are hoping to work with FEMA-funded fuels reduction landowners after initial clearing is done on these lands.

c. Riverine Parks/SNA update: Doug has firefighters this summer and they are working on some maintenance of riverine parks. The County's YCC program will assist as they can over the summer with Riverine Parks work. MRGCD is going to cover fire restrictions in the bosque at their next board meeting, Monday on 2nd Street in Albuquerque. If Doug wants to provide suggestions, John Romero will call him to discuss. They are considering closing the bosque for a short period. This is difficult in the Socorro Division because we do not have gates. Who would enforce this closure? There would need to include law enforcement of some kind, State Forestry could assist with contact. We will post signs with no open fires for the month of June into July unless we get substantial rains. **Jon will post something for us on Facebook after the MRGCD meeting.**

d. Rio Grande Trail, Socorro Valley Trail Efforts: Matt will draft a letter to RGTC asking for a meeting. **Matt wrote the letter but needs addresses.** Update on NPS proposal. Final Board approval to submit grant, *Matt moved and Sammie seconded, all approved.* We will need letter of support.

e. Sevilleta NWR update – Jon reported that they are moving forward with the Unit B project as modified. The refuge determined that more plant materials would be needed and Black Widow Nursery has determined that they would have plant materials for those additional needs, approximately 6,000 additional poles for 2020 and 2021. Would the Task Force or other entity have the ability of hiring a crew to assist with this work? This is possible. Rocky Mountain Youth Corp or Indigenous Work Crews are a possibility. They could also contribute to housing for the internships. Possibly the YCC for short duration planting work in the early spring. The County will be an option as a lead for this work through YCC and **Sammie will check on this idea. Jon will work with Doug on cost estimates for these ideas. They will present this to the Board at the July meeting.**

f. Central Socorro Bosque Severance Project Status: Spraying will be done in November and December 2018. The tamarisk sprouts are coming up but not to a great degree. Native plants are responding well. When Amy arrives, she will work with Doug and Gina to look at other planting requirements; need to identify other planting areas in Severance 3 and 4. Have got planting areas determined for Severance 2. There is watering in the contract as well. Doug said that there is 1 million for 2019 Severance projects, but he is not sure of anything for our area at this time.

g. Tiffany Fire Rehabilitation Project – there are residual funds from fire suppression that Reclamation owes to NM State Forestry, \$1.2 million for this. The funds might go to some non-federal partner to work on the TFR project short-term goals. The Analysis Team and Site Prep

Team met in May and have started defining scopes of work under each task. We will have the next meeting for the Analysis Team on June 28.

h. 4H/Task Force Greenhouse Status – working to put the greenhouse up this month either with 4 H or with YCC.

i. Bosque Conservation Day – tabled.

7. Synergy Group Update - tabled.

8. *Other: a)* Yasmeen is going to present to the Board in June and needs some totals of MRGCD lands work by the SOBTF or what we have supported like Severance, the ribbon, around Escondida Lake, about 1200 acres.

Invite: July meeting, come meet the new Program Director.

Next meeting is July 3.

10. Adjourn at 11:25 am. *Matt moved and Yameen second, passed.*