**Save Our Bosque Task Force**

Board Session and Public Meeting

Tuesday February 12, 2019 9:00 AM

Meeting Location: Socorro County Annex, 198 Neel Ave., Socorro, NM

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

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Amy Erickson, Gina Dello Russo, Matt Mitchell, Bob Markwell, Renee Robichaud, Tom Zigler, Jerry Wheeler, Yasmeen Najmi (via phone)

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

2. Approve Minutes from January 2018. *Yasmeen moved and Matt second, passed.*

*To Do List:*

* Yasmeen will let Doug and Amy know when she is going to present to MRGCD board so she can invite us up to the board meeting
* Amy - Meeting on Feb 25th – will get agenda out the week before. Time and date TBD (in Socorro)
* Doug and Fred will make sure crusher fines get out to trail locations for volunteers. Status – Fred spoke to Lorenzo (MRGCD) and they will deliver at the North End and at the Stumps. Doug and Fred will follow up.
* MOU between County and Task Force – Jerry will follow up with Delilah. She is still in favor but Amy needs to send the write-up to her and Jerry again.
* Amy will work to get a more detailed landownership map from the County to send to NPS and ask if there are other tasks for us this month.
* Amy and Matt will schedule harvesting day and then a planting day at his property for February 2019. Materials have been harvested
* Gina will speak with ED and Carter on this donated lands and the opportunity to donate land to the ranch.
* Amy will draft a letter to the County concurring Miranda’s hourly rate for the Task Force.
* Amy will get with John Larson on an article for the Central Socorro Bosque project. We should invite him to the spring Bosque cleanup. He can call Yasmeen to get some quotes from MRGCD; they can talk about their role with the task force.
* Amy will send out the budget spreadsheet to the board members before the meeting.
* Amy needs to contact Stephanie at Sevilleta NWR about getting the field house reserved for the interns this summer
* Yasmeen will talk with Felipe and other MRGCD staff to see what they think of maintaining some parks open to camping.

3. Treasurer’s Report

a. Account activity and bills received – SOBTF funds ending balance for Jan 31 2019 is $57,606.95. Deposits since last meeting on Jan 8 2019: from Sevilleta account for intern housing ($1620.00). From PFW F16 for Matt Mitchell work ($659.40). From Sevilleta for pole harvesting ($13,050.00). Checks written since Jan 8 2019 (last meeting) : Program Director salary and Darrell Reasner (for pole harvesting, $6,300.00). There is a balance of $6,284.68 in the SOBTF general fund. There is $1,508.80 in Turner Youth Grant.

4. Fundraising Update

a. Potential Cooperative Agreement with Reclamation for 5 years: monitoring, planting and other tasks for Reclamation. Financial officers at this point would be Nyleen Troxel-Stowe and Doug Boykin.

**9:30 AM Public Meeting Session**

5. Project Updates

a. Bosque Trail improvement from Confluence to Bosque Park – Led by Bob Markwell. Started at flood control and working south. Have done about 10 hours of work so far, just moving debris from the trail location to define the trail and put out crusher fines. Trail will detour around the fenced-off planted shrub areas. Right after this, the trail will end up at the Stumps. Not sure what will happen with flooding around the area. Should be able to drive the fines in, instead of having to take it by wheelbarrow. Bob mentioned that some saltcedar is coming back and should be addressed soon as it is about head-high – it should have been sprayed but we will keep an eye on it. Yasmeen wants us to stay away from the pristine riparian habitat especially if it starts getting more traffic (if it is designated as part of the Rio Grande Trail). We have a release form for the project volunteers. Name the MRGCD and BOR as well as SOBTF as absolved. There is some language Bob is concerned about some language in release form. He is managing the volunteer form as well to track time. Bob is working on a volunteer introduction that he will have volunteers read and sign, this will complement the release form to the project for this spring and managing the volunteers that are working on this project.

b. Socorro County Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Projects Status - 1) Socorro Valley Wildfire Project. County is considering going to NMAC Wildfire Risk Reduction, $50,000 grant with the Task Force; these funds can go on private lands. Task Force can help write this application. Wildfire Risk Reduction Program for rural communities – up to 50K for fuels reduction that will benefit nearby BLM land – all of the south bosque properties fall into that. Must have at least a 10% match. Must be approved by BLM Mach 8th and be submitted by March 29. Has to be done by hand – no equipment if cultural compliance has not been done. It has been done on the lands we would like to work on. Doug suggests requiring a 5% landowner input. Grants awarded by June 2019. 2) North Bosque Project. Jerry reported there is another glitch based on consultation and who will implement.

c. Partners for Fish & Wildlife – Status of funds for each CA: there are $10,628.00 in FY16 funds. All these funds will be spent with Matt Mitchell’s project. Tomorrow is the final planting day. Part of the additional $44,000 in the FY16 CA is going to an Armendaris Ranch project. There will be remaining funds in this CA that we could do an additional small project. We have one project under the FY18 funds; we are looking at other projects. Amy is working with Nyleen on the budget spreadsheets so she can take over tracking our finances each month. Thanks Nyleen for taking the time to work with us.

d. Rio Grande Trail, Socorro Valley Trail Efforts – Kick off meeting February 28 from 4:30-6:30. Conference call before the meeting is planned between NPS and the Core Team. NPS are working on the list of tasks for us in our assistance program.

e. Sevilleta NWR update – site prep done and planting for this year is almost complete (alittle over 2,000 trees) with completion on Thursday. The Task Force negotiated contracts with Black Widow Nursery, Darrel Reasner, and Roy Armijo to make this year’s work possible.

f. Tiffany Fire Rehabilitation Project – Planning meeting this Friday. SOW for Outreach and Planning on this project is ready to go out.

g. WaterSMART Grant – Amy has not heard back from Darren Olsen. We are waiting on our funds.

h. 4H/Task Force Greenhouse Status – tabled

i. Social Media – Amy is working on updating our website. Amy could use some postings for our Facebook page.

6. Other Items: a) Amy will follow up with required Insurance renewals. b) Yasmeen reported that parks are now closed to camping due to the homeless population and vagrancy. We don’t have anyone policing the parks regularly. C) Our Advisory Committee is coming together. We hope that by next month we will have final responses from all our initial invites. Spring meeting or two to start the process and then our first official advisory committee meeting in January 2020.

7. Adjourn at 11:11 am. *Matt moved and Yasmeen second, approved.*

**Next meeting will be on March 5, 2019. Same meeting location.**