**Save Our Bosque Task Force**

EMNRD, Forestry Division, Socorro District Office

1701 Enterprise Rd.

Socorro, NM

Tuesday September 4, 2018

**9:22 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Board Session (Business Meeting)**

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Amy Erickson, Gina Dello Russo, Fred Hollis, Willie Lucero, Sawyer Hitchcock, Shannan Snyder, Kristen Cornelius, Matt Mitchell, Sammie Vega-Finch and Yasmeen Najmi (by phone).

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

2. Approve Minutes from August 2018 – *Fred moved and Matt second, passed.*

*To Do List:*

* *Amy will draft letter to County and City for support of BCD, Doug will present – not done yet!*
* Amy will look at the Share NM site to look for grants for our needs.
* Interns will make a one page summary for each park to help us to prioritize work at the parks – not done yet will be done this month.
* Doug will check on Turner youth grant language for possible flash card funding
* Fred will check with John on Turner Youth Grant funding for flash cards.
* Doug will follow up with Fred on trail materials for volunteer work.
* Doug will get cost share form to Gina and Amy.
* Amy will write up the draft bylaws and roles and responsibilities for an Advisory Council for us.
* Yasmeen will send us her comments on trail specs – not done yet.
* Yasmeen will ask the POC at MRGCD on the Levee maintenance schedule (O&M manual) and get this information to Dustin, Doug. Brian Sanchez is lead at COE. **Still needs to be done SOON!**
* Yasmeen will let Amy know when she is going to present to MRGCD board so she can invite us up to the board meeting - Pending.

3. Treasurer’s Report

a. Account activity and bills received – SOBTF funds ending balance for August $4,800.34. There is $77,070.00 in the Program Management Account as of August 31, 2018. There is $2,724.50 in Turner Youth Grant. Total balance of $80,752.78. We are sponsoring RGALT’s harvest dinner with a $500.00 donation. We reimbursed interns and PM for their mileage while working and using their own vehicles, a check went to Aqua Systems for the Sevilleta project and a check to Matt Mitchell to cover his Partner’s parking.

b. Fundraising update – New opportunities: none presented.

4. Program Director’s Update – Mainly Amy has been working with the Interns to complete vegetation mapping La Joya State Wildlife Area (funded through Rio Grande Return as a partner to NMDGF). Report will be sent in this week. The Interns will also finish setting up the monitoring transects for the FEMA North Bosque and Socorro Valley project. The PM and Interns got their defensive driving UTV training done. She is working on other supplies for the monitoring program. The PM and Interns have been working with the FEMA project contractor to monitor Yellow-billed cuckoo and cultural sites. Tour tomorrow with Gina, Amy and Interns to the Rhodes property, Bosque del Apache NWR, and Tiffany Fire Project. Tiffany fire work is also coming up this month.

5. ACE interns update – Completed their work at NMDGF. Worked on their individual projects. Shannan is working on her plant list. There are twenty-five species so far. She is taking pictures of her species. Printing is being considered. We are considering flash cards, already learning a lot about our organization. For her personal project, she will make a list of the most common plants along the trail and add the ones they see in the valley and how prevalent they are, non-native or native, and a fun fact for each. She will have an introduction in the front of the arid land plants characteristics. She will create a brochure that we can share with our community, maybe translate to Spanish. *Matt made a motion and Fred seconded, passed* to use the Turner Youth Grant funds for this work if possible. Sawyer is working on a project that will survey to gage people’s attitudes towards the bosque and nature in general, using word association. He plans to go out to NM Tech and other sites in the area or at one of the parks to get a local perspective-will gage what people know of their area and compile into something interesting. He will work on this throughout the month. Side project of “transect sonnets” as a more human engagement project. He read Wolfberry Sonnet for us, great! Next month, Mesquite?

6. On-Going Projects – Important Updates

a. Socorro County Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Projects Status – we would like to invite everyone to the **public meeting we are having on September 18, 2018 from 4-6 pm at the Socorro County Annex. We have completed the Environmental Compliance draft documents, which are available at the Socorro County Manager’s office and the Socorro Public Library.** Inspectors have finished their treatment plans for all Socorro Valley treatments; we are just missing four signatures from landowners. For the 4197 North Bosque project, compliance contractor is working on surveys and the PM and interns are establishing monitoring transects on these sites. Treatment plans are being developed and there was a tour of NMDGF sites on August 24.

b. Partners for Fish and Wildlife Projects status – There will be a tour of the Taliaferro property later in the fall after farming season is finished. Mitchell property project for PFW is underway, next steps are making piles for burning piles in December. Then ready for planting. He was very happy with the Contractor he chose for cutting salt cedar. The $44,000 will go to Armendaris Ranch and Thomas/Brook. Thomas/Brook plan is with FWS for review. Armendris Ranch project is being developed. Cooperative Agreement for FY18 grant for PFW is completed.

c. La Joya /NMDGF mapping update – reported earlier in Intern and PM programs.

d. Rio Grande Trail, Socorro Valley Trail Efforts – no word back on NPS grant, tabled. Trail - Bob Markwell has gone out to the trail to review the trail maintenance needs. If we could get some dump trucks of material, Bob and his friends would work to spread out the base course or gravel. They will start with the regular trail maintenance and then work on the handicapped-accessible trail when we get the right substrate for that section.

e. Sevilleta NWR update –Doug is working withJon on expenditures.

f. Central Socorro Bosque Severance Project Status**:** Doug will speak to Vicky Ryan from FWS on planting within the bosque because of the grazing issue there. Grass seeding will happen after the spraying this winter. Dustin is working on an additional $50,000 to go to this project.

g. Tiffany Fire Rehabilitation Project – Amy reported on the team meetings –both Analysis team and Site Prep team met. Both are coming along with SOWs and next steps. Site Prep may be addressing approximately 1,700 acres.

h. 4H/Task Force Greenhouse Status – tabled.

i. Bosque Conservation Day – October 11, 2018 guaranteed date. Matt will be there. Amy is working with a team to schedule. Tentatively all participants were invited to meet on September 13. Have gotten some responses by participants but Amanda will sent out another invite. We are doing lunch again. Budget will be presented to the board at our October 2 meeting.

j. Fall Trash Pickup – October 4. Get the word out to interest our public in other parks. Yasmeen will check on dump truck and back hoe, Sammie will check on the dumpster at Otero Park.

k. Social Media – Amy is working on updating out website project descriptions. Amy could use some postings on Facebook page. Announce that we are working to get some trail maintenance done to see if there is interest in helping.

l. WaterSmart grant received. Tabled

7. Synergy Group Update –tabled.

8. Possible Cooperative Agreements with Reclamation. Table until next fiscal year.

9. *Other*

a) New board members, we are missing one or two now. Amy reported on our meeting last month to discuss our Advisory Council. We worked on defining the roles and responsibilities. She followed up by reading through suggestions online: Suggested size, 4-6 persons; large professional network in the area; individuals that can act as a liaison to other groups of people (someone from NM Tech as example); someone who could help with grants or fundraising from donors; and maybe someone with an accounting background. What we would expect of them? Meet informally occasionally, have someone from our board to attend their meetings. Suggest we assign individuals with tasks. Next steps to develop roles and responsibilities. Notes: make sure we have capacity to oversee the council, what training they would like to have (workshops, tours to inform them), create a written bylaws – how frequently to meet, what we expect of them, length of time, how they would be asked to leave, removal procedures. Amy will draft written bylaws, roles and responsibilities.

b) Fred and Sammie presented the YCC project for this year, where they will be planting many native plants.

c) Thursday at 1 pm Socorro County is hosting a Hazard Mitigation Project Scoping meeting at the Socorro County Annex. There are a number of RFPs out right now.

d) Amy is going to be at the Festival of the Cranes children’s day. She was thinking of having a bird identification game. She reserved a booth so if we would like to help it is November 17, 9-4 pm.

d) New logo for the SOBTF – Amy is working on some ideas for us to consider.

10. Next meeting is October 2, 2018.

11. Adjourn at 11:15 am. Matt *moved and Yasmeen second, approved.*