

## Save Our Bosque Task Force

Tuesday, February 4, 2014 Agenda/Minutes

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Gina Dello Russo, Cynthia Connelly, Nick Smokovich, Matt Mitchell, Priscilla Gwin, Bear Albrecht, Santiago Misquez, Don Kearney, Renee Robichaud.

9:00 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Meeting

1. Approve Agenda. *Motion made by Priscilla to approve, second by Matt, approved.*
2. Approve Minutes from January 2014. *Motion made by Matt to approve, second by Nick, approved with the following corrections.* Priscilla's last name is spelled Gwin; under 5.a. first paragraph, Removal of this old fence ~~could~~ cannot be paid for out of Partners funds available to SOBTF ~~but is not currently delineated as a project for those funds.~~ 5.b. The other three existing, funded projects (begins inserted text) being considered for funding (end inserted text) include the Saavedra (corrected spelling) parcel, the Mitchell parcel, and the Gonzales parcel.
3. Treasurer's report: Remaining balances in Rhodes Property Project fund: \$1,800.00; in SOBTF fund: \$2,400.04. Overall balance of: \$4,200.04. Task Force Board thanks the Treasurer Fred Hollis and Nyleen Stowe for compiling Treasurer's report.
  - a. Changing banks: SOBTF will be changing banking institutions because of increasing fees. The transition is expected to take two months while checks clear from current account.
  - b. No new bills this month.
4. Project Updates
  - a. Rhodes Project: Santiago reported 2400 willow whips have been planted. Next, 800 cottonwood poles; planted in the center of the north parcel and towards the existing stand of cottonwood. Eight hundred containerized shrubs will be planted. These shrubs will include golden currant, three-leaf sumac, silver buffalo berry, amorpha and others. All shrub plantings are being done near or in the swales next to the river. Fencing work is awaiting approval from NRCS. South parcel work will include containerized plants put near the existing willow plantings (except the southernmost willow planting area). This work is funded with the remaining Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program (FWS) cooperative agreement funds. *Matt moved and Gina seconded to utilize the remaining funds for shrub plantings.* Contracting for south parcel tamarisk removal waiting for WRP easement signing. This will include 67 acres of mature tamarisk. South parcel fence removal, may need volunteers to help with this removal. Stay tuned. Landowner is going to then contract with someone to maintain all fences once initial work is done.
  - b. Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program: change in the scope of work for existing funds (in addition to the Rhodes Property work mentioned above), there will be two landowners only this cycle. *Gina moved and Fred's proxy, Bear, second a motion to accept this change in scope.* Conservation Services, LLC is the contractor on work for these two

property owners; work should begin in February. It is hoped that additional funds will be available through an amendment of the cooperative agreement in 2014.

- c. Riverine Parks/SNA: The “ribbon” Wildland/Urban Interface or WUI project to clear salt cedar and Russian olive from the strip of land between the Low Flow Conveyance Channel and the Riverside Drain is close to getting started. Endangered species clearance has been granted, the Bureau of Reclamation Socorro Field Office is going to help with mulching and Socorro County is helping with chipping. NMT community garden would still like some of the chips, Fred will work with them. Bosque del Apache NWR has old round posts that could be useful for fence repair in the park. State Forestry said they could be stockpiled at their office. Gina will ask Kevin Cobble, refuge manager about delivery or pick up. If the public is picking up wood chips, the only requirement is to have a permit (free) from State Forestry in the vehicle when picking them up. This is the same for the firewood available.
- d. Healthy Kids Socorro: Cynthia said the grant to help connect biking trails, roads, and bridges is on hold until after the Corps of Engineers Levee Project in the area of the nature trail is completed. She also mentioned that the City is interested in working with MRGCD on using ditches within the city itself to connect trails through town.

**Announcement: Healthy Kids Socorro and Socorro County Stakeholders are hosting a potluck on Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:00 pm at Cottonwood Valley Charter School to come together and talk about walking and biking trails, the Farm to School program, school gardens, community gardens, and other opportunities to promote wellness. Please call Cynthia at (575) 518-8043 to RSVP. Space limited.**

- 5. Other Agenda Items: 1) Should we do a Bosque Benefit Brunch this spring? Discussion around this included the idea of combining this event with other community events to gain interest and participation. Gina will talk with Deb Caldwell of the Chamber of Commerce about this and ask her to come to our next meeting to discuss with us. Other ideas were presented and will be considered over the next few months including ecotourism events to raise money, contacting the local radio station for possible assistance, working with organizations like American Rivers on combined events. 2) April 4<sup>th</sup> was tentatively chosen as the next Bosque Clean Up Day, meeting at Otero Street and working priority areas, with lunch at Escondida Lake to follow. 3) State Forestry is still taking applications for native plants. Delivery for our area will be April 11<sup>th</sup> this year. 4) The Corps of Engineers Levee Project program manager will be invited to talk with the Task Force during our March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting about this project. *Gina has invited him and he said he or one of his staff would be there.*
- 6. Individual Reports: Don Kearney said he would come to our meetings more often as a community member, Bear said he had an eagle sighting at his house, Doug mentioned the website, and the need to update projects in the accordion format. Doug will contact Susan and see how much this might cost us. ALL of us should work on updates and get them to Doug. *Doug did contact Susan and the price should be reasonable if we have information ready to go, pictures formatted to her specifications.* We will discuss at next meeting. Matt reported that he saw javalina near his property and hunters as well. There is a season for javalina in our area through a draw. Santiago reported that he is working with landowners at the north end of

Bosquecito on flooding issues, and potential to work with adjacent landowner to address arroyo alignment. Landowner is going to look into ownership of this parcel. Santiago and Gina will work with them on options. Renee reported that Sevilleta NWR had their first ever horseback tour in the wetlands area. It went well. Sevilleta NWR has approximately 500 Goodding's willow poles available for harvest. Contact Jon Erz if interested in utilizing this material for a planting project. The Task Force would like to reserve the option to use some of these if available next year. On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Volunteers for the Outdoors will be assisting them in additional plantings. Priscilla announced that Matt and Stephanie Mitchell have been chosen as the Chamber of Commerce Volunteers of the Year. Congratulations!

7. Adjourn: *At 11:00 AM, Matt made a motion to adjourn, second by Priscilla, approved.*