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Working collaboratively to support a healthy Rio Grande Bosque and riparian ecosystem while celebrating its benefits to the communities of central NM

**Save Our Bosque Task Force**

Save Our Bosque Task Force Monthly Board Meeting  
Socorro County Annex Office  
198 Neel Ave, Socorro NM

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**Tuesday, November 2nd @ 3:00pm   
Meeting Location: Socorro County Annex**

In attendance: Gina Dello Russo, Matt Mitchell, Rex Myers, Jerry Wheeler, Jeff Havlena, Yasmeen Najmi (phone), Sandra Noll (phone)

**Board Member Action Items** –

* + All – please see the list of to-do items for the annual meeting below
  + All – send January newsletter articles to Gina
  + All – contact Danielle after November 15th for an introduction and discuss projects
  + Matt will finalize PFW report by December 1

Meeting began at 3:00 pm.

*Approve agenda and minutes from last month’s meeting*  
Reviewed and approved without change.

*Public open forum*  
There was no input from the public.   
  
*Fiscal Report*  
Matt gave the treasurer’s report. The beginning balance for last month was $41,161.92. As of this afternoon our balance is $58,335.51. An updated budget spreadsheet was sent to board members for review. The Task Force received the first installment of funds from MRGCD under our MOA. We have had minimal other fiscal activity in the last month.

*Community Outreach and Social Media*Tentatively the SOBTF Annual Meeting will take place at the County Annex December 7, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Agenda will include the following at a minimum:

Previous fiscal year financials - Matt

Reports on Projects completed during the fiscal year - various

Suggestion: Bosque Conservation Day – Matt & Sandra

Annual Election – Amy to serve as election official

Recognition of outgoing board members: Amy, Sandra, Yasmeen

List of candidates for election to the Board:

Continuing Board members in 2-year terms (no election): Matt & Rex

Current Board members up for re-election: Gina & Jerry

New Board candidates: Jeff Havlena & Ron Thomas

Nominations from the floor

Election by secret ballot

Refreshments (catered) – Gina will secure

Speaker: Fred Phillips and Nelia Dunbar suggested if possible. Jeff will contact Fred, Gina will contact Nelia.

Rex/Jerry: Motion to authorize Jeff and Gina to make contacts and Gina to secure catered refreshments. Motion passed.

**Items to be done before Annual Meeting:**

Secure room for the Annual meeting - Jerry

Update memberships contact list – Amy and Sandra

Prepare notice/invitation to meeting – Amy and Gina

Send out notification of the annual meeting by November 7 or 10 - Amy

List of candidates and bios on the website – Amy

Note: Refer in email out to members that they can see list of candidates on the website and remind them that as members they can vote on trustees if they attend the meeting.

Meeting notice uploaded on website, listserv, Facebook - Amy

Announcement sent to newspaper - Rex

Secret ballots prepared – Amy and Gina

*Project Updates*

Partners for Fish and Wildlife – final report for FY2016 and FY 2016a is due by December 1. Matt is the lead on getting this report finalized. Gina to work on budget reporting.

Riverine Parks: Clean-up of Socorro City riverine parks took place October 28 with help from MRGCD. All parks cleaned within city limits except Island Park where grill covers and any “No Fires” signs need to be removed. Monthly riverine parks clean-up suspended until 2022. Matt reported that the San Antonio schools are unable to help in November and would prefer a time next spring to join us for a park cleanup at that park. Work on new signage for riverine parks will be put off until 2022. We need to complete our inventory of all parks, then Gina & Yasmeen and others will map out next steps for riverine park work, capital outlay funds and signage.

Rio Grande Trail Segment: Atilla from NPS sent out materials for the Rio Grande Trail. Gina forwarded this to all board members for review and heard from Yasmeen with comments. Gina will discuss the project and next steps with him on Thursday.

County Wildfire Risk Reduction Project - Jerry reported that we can move forward now that we have approval from US Fish and Wildlife Service. He will be meeting with the contractor soon to get the 2021 project completed.

*Advocacy*  
Gina, Jeff & Rex have attended Rio Grande Basin Study meetings. Jeff & Gina are participating in an Adaptation Workshop as part of the basin study. It is a seven-week course to aid land managers in determining best practices under changing climate conditions.

*Other*

Updated Board policy documents and by-laws are complete. We have received final products from the contractor and Gina is adding insurance documentation to each binder then they will be available to all board members.

Program Director Danielle Yoder will start work on or before November 15. The advertisement for the position needs to be taken down from website - Amy.

Board members will contact Danielle after she arrives and schedule time with her to assist with training on programs they are leading.

Board members need to continue to solicit new Board members and new officers for the

2022 year. Elections for board officers will be done at the January 2022 meeting.

Ideas for the January Newsletter articles need to be sent to Gina. She will work with Danielle to get this product out. One suggestion was outgoing board members writing a short article on their experiences, our work. Gina requested Yasmeen write a longer article about her experiences as a long-time board member from MRGCD’s perspective.

Matt motioned to adjourn the meeting, Jerry seconded, passed. Meeting ended at 4:10pm.

**\*\*\* Our next board meeting will be on Tuesday, December 7th at 4:30pm and is our annual meeting as per the by-laws \*\*\***