



Save Our Bosque Task Force

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 Monthly Board Meeting
Socorro County Annex Office
198 Neel Ave, Socorro NM

Tuesday, January 4, 2022 @ 3:30pm

Meeting Location: Socorro County Annex and via Zoom

In attendance:

Board: Gina Dello Russo, Matt Mitchell, Rex Myers, Jerry Wheeler, Jeff Havlena, Ron Thomas

Staff: Danielle Hensley (Zoom)

Guests: Amy Erickson, James Anzalone (Zoom), Peter Livingston (Zoom), Christine Smith (Zoom)

Gina called the meeting to order at 3:30pm

Approve agenda and minutes from last month's annual meeting

The motion to approve agenda was given by Matt, seconded by Jerry. The agenda was approved unanimously. The motion to approve minutes was given by Rex and seconded by Jerry. The minutes were approved unanimously.

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 \$49,806.13. As of this afternoon our balance is \$46,372.64. There were minimal transactions for the month. SOBTF received a \$2500 grant from Nusenda Credit Union to fund Conservation Day and river park cleanup.

Membership/Fundraising

Annual dues will run for 12 months from date paid. Members will receive two notices asking for renewal; membership will end when dues are 3 months past due. There were 54 members as of 01/04/2022. \$6,882 in dues were raised in 2021.

Program Director Update

Danielle reported that she is getting up to speed on SOBTF projects, contacts, and grants. She is working to complete a parks inventory.

Election of Board Officers

After much discussion, a motion was made by Gina, seconded by Rex, and passed unanimously that interim officers be appointed until the next monthly board meeting on February 1, 2022, at which time there will be a formal election. The interim board officers are:

President – Jerry Wheeler

Vice President – Jeff Havlena

Secretary – Rex Myers

Treasurer – Gina Dello Russo

Board Member Working Groups

Board members volunteered to work on various activities related to SOBTF projects:

Jeff Havlena – Advocacy/Basin Study, Parks & Trails

Matt Mitchell – Partners for Wildlife, Conservation Day

Rex Myers – Advocacy/Basin Study, Parks & Trails, Conservation Day

Gina Dello Russo – Interns, Parks & Trails, Advocacy/Basin Study

Ron Thomas – Partners for Wildlife, Parks & Trails

Jerry Wheeler – Wildfire Risk Reduction, Conservation Day, Internships

Project Updates

- a. Socorro County WRR Project with BLM: Jerry reported that work on the south end of project was completed as of 12/31/2021 and wrap up is underway. New focus on the north end will begin in 2022. There is a new grant available in February 2022 and SOBTF will apply.
- b. Partners for Fish and Wildlife: The FY16 projects have been completed. The FY18 project is in progress, and we are currently looking to enroll a second landowner.
- c. Parks and Trails: Danielle will meet with City of Socorro officials and Yasmeen Najmi of MRGCD about improvements to parks, specifically city parks in Socorro. SOBTF will attempt to implement a once-a-month park cleanup with more involved semi-annual cleanups. Peter Livingston discussed the Rio Grande Trail project and updated SOBTF on its status. He asked that SOBTF add its name to a letter urging the state Rio Grande Trail Committee to resume work on the project. Matt gave a motion to approve signing the letter, with Jerry seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. Central Socorro Bosque Severance Project: Work continues with the MRGCD on tamarisk control, park improvements, signage, and allocating the \$30,000 capital outlay fund.
- e. Website, Facebook, Instagram: Danielle continues to work on these outreach sites. Members were encouraged to submit materials. The semi-annual members' newsletter is almost ready and will be distributed this month.

Jerry motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Matt seconded, passing unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

***** Our next board meeting will be on Tuesday, February 1 at 3:00pm *****

Respectfully Submitted,

Rex Myers, Interim Secretary

Danielle Hensley, Program Director