

Save Our Bosque Task Force
Tuesday, February 29, 2016 Minutes

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Gina Dello Russo, Fred Hollis, Matt Mitchell,
Dave Johnson, Connie Robnett, Jon Erz, Nick Smokovich,
and Yasmeen Najmi

9:15 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Meeting

1. Approve Agenda. *Motion made by Connie to approve, second by Matt, approved.*
2. Approve Minutes from February 2016. One correction from last month: date on last month's meeting minutes approved. *Motion made by Fred to approve, second by Nick, approved as corrected.*
3. Treasurer's report
 - a. Account activity - \$ 6,279.57 in SOBTF funds and \$7,712.50 remaining in the Gonzales Project. \$22,400 is available for the Perry Project. There was \$4.00 total in donations and, thank you.
 - b. There are no bills this month.
4. Project Updates
 - a. Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Project: Waiting to schedule a conference call with them and the Tech team soon. Phase I has been approved. County is now working on Notice of Interests (NOIs) to do additional work on the river, flood restoration, and to purchase generators for the county fire stations.
 - b. Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program: Gonzales planting project went well and there are pictures up on Facebook and Website. Perry project update: Logs are moving. We need to complete an amendment to Cooperative Agreement because of this delay. Jon Erz, Gina and Angel Montoya will work together to develop a proposal for Task Force and FWS approval to collaborate to hire an SCA or equivalent intern to serve work to develop Partners projects. Tentatively scheduled for March. We currently have three in development phase, and it would be a good time to have an intern assist with outreach, design, and follow through to plantings. This committee will get back with the Task Force in April.
 - c. Riverine Parks/SNA: SNA – No report on SNA. On the riverine parks, Doug, Connie and Gina got a tour of the Levee Project Phase I from Jacob Chavez, the project inspector. We figured out the ramps for the existing parks between Otero and the flood control. We will probably need to fence the area from around Bosque Park south to Sandbar at least to keep vehicle traffic cross country through the bosque in those areas. Hopefully, we can get in before they open the parks to the public to do some maintenance. **Yasmeen will check on this** and see if they still have some cable and posts that MRGCD could supply. Maybe a large volunteer project to get the parks up and ready for the public again. Could we get in to the parks and do an inventory? **Doug will ask Jacob this.** In Phase II, the contractor has been hauling big trees to a pit near Brown Arroyo and people have been coming to harvest firewood. IWC – working two crews right now, they started at Escondida Lake and working towards Flood Control (Unit 3). People are taking firewood and slash is being left for BOR to mulch. They are working fast so we will probably have funds enough to work Unit 5 starting from Brown Arroyo and working south to San Antonio. Will work until April 15 then start back up in the fall.
 - d. Rio Grande Trail, Socorro Valley Trail efforts – Gina reported that the Commission meeting will be held in our area, either in Albuquerque or possibly Socorro. We haven't heard from the City of Socorro's contractor on the trail proposals he presented to us. **Gina will contact James McNeil** to see about the public interaction planning sessions.
 - e. Other Projects: 1) CRI project at Sevilleta NWR. Sevilleta NWR is considering a cooperative agreement with SOBTF to supply 10,000 Goodding's willow to their Unit A' project. Ross may have 5K. We should look at options for these plant materials. **Gina will work with Jon on the scope of agreement and what we would be supplying**, bring it back to the Task Force in April.

May be able to work in some funds for the SCA intern (estimated at \$18,000 total for 8 months).

2) Facebook page is up and running. The site will be focusing on one of our river parks weekly or monthly to highlight the different parks. 3) Website – **Gina is going to look at verbiage on the website.** New pictures will be taken of all the parks this spring, San Antonio School will go out to clean their park before it is highlighted. 4) Fred announced that their office and other cooperators

will be putting on a program on May 7 which is National Wildfire Awareness Day. Should be a great celebration – food supplied. Maybe the Task Force could put a booth for the day.

5. Fundraising: Fundraising Plan discussion –tabled to afternoon session so we can continue to work on our plan.
6. Public meeting planning – tabled until the afternoon
7. Other agenda items – 1) Any small grants out there – Walmart has a new process, but will now go to the regional branch. 2) Doug presented to the MRGCD board, went well. Mike Hamman (CEO) said that he appreciated our work. 3) Fire season – could be intense in the months to come, let’s keep it on the agenda in case we need to get ahead of things. County has 14 wildland units so they are now geared up with staff to cover it.
8. Calendar items – Next Task Force meeting is on April 5. Bosque trash pickup day is on April 22, Earth Day! Where should we work on the Trash pickup day? San Antonio Park rendezvous and work both north and south from here. May 7 National Wildfire Awareness Day.
9. Individual Reports - Dave: he set up the dropbox and Gina can send you that link. Take things off once they are uploaded to the website. Connie reported that the website adjusts for mobile access. We should check this out. Doug: Potential fundraising: Amazon Smile is possible. Do we have a motion to accept we share required financial information to Amazon Smile and PayPal. *Matt made the motion, Nick seconded, approved.* **Connie or Doug will set this up.** Yasmeen: said she talked to her boss recently because they are understaffed right now, there are many demands on their staff. One idea is an MRGCD mentoring program through UNM to assist with planning. The update of the CRP would be a great first step. They have general board support for this. Budgets are impacted by state revenue shortages. Gina: there are opportunities around for small businesses in our field of riparian restoration. Can be difficult to find qualified individuals for this work though.
10. Adjourn: *At 11:00 AM, Connie made a motion to adjourn, second by Yasmeen, approved.*