

**Save Our Bosque Task Force
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 7, 2017**

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Connie Robnett, Matt Mitchell, Chris A. Hill, Carlos Vega, Darrel Reasner, Jon Erz, Nicole Gordon, Yasmeen Najmi (via telephone)

9:37 a.m. Save Our Bosque Task Force meeting convened.

1. Approve Agenda *Motion by Matt to approve, second by Connie; approved.*
2. Approve Minutes from meeting of January 3, 2017. Change to 3b., deleting mention of bill for sand on the Perry project ; will be addressed when purchase is made, *Motion to approve by Matt; second by Chris; approved.*
3. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Fred Hollis was not present and so no report was available. Doug provided copies of the 2017 accounting spreadsheet which includes bills paid in January 2017. See 2017 Task Force Funds spreadsheet for January bills. The Task Force received a donation \$1,000 from Connie Robnett toward the Restore Our Rivers Initiative goal.
 - b. Bills: Connie presented and was reimbursed for the 2016 bill for web hosting by Wix.com in the amount of \$77.50.
4. Project Updates
 - a. Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Project. Carlos reported that Gina has been hired as the project manager. He said also that there will be a kickoff meeting for Firewise activities on February 14 at the country annex, beginning at 3:00 p.m.
 - b. Partners for Fish & Wildlife Projects and Partnership report. Nicole reported that she has begun working on the treatment plan for the Thomas-Brook project and that Casey Dewey and other projects are on track for development. She added that Thomas-Brook may be a two-unit project, and that there is some leftover funding available from 2016.
 - c. Riverine Parks/SNA: It is now permitted to drive along the levee, which has been graded and cabled along the levee toe. The road to The Stumps needs to be graded. No parking area has been established at Confluence, and the consensus is that there is no point in putting an area by the low flow channel because vehicle access is so easy there that users will simply drive in to the area. Instead, it will be better to concentrate on controlling access to the trail at the southern end, with the Conservancy helping to put in a berm. Inmate crews have cleared and are now treating the ribbon where it burned north and south of the Escondida bridge, north of The Tubes, and on the fire scar on the west side of the river. Available funds for this clearing and treatment are nearly exhausted. Some Tech clubs have volunteered to work on cleaning up the parks on February 25, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Otero Street park. The work will mostly be to clean out deadfall and clearing leaves and overgrowth accumulated while the parks have been closed. The plan is to get as far as Island Park.
 - d. Rio Grande Trail, Socorro Valley Trail efforts: nothing to report.

- e. Sevilleta NWR projects: Jon reported that the first 3,000 have been cut and put in water, and that 800 were planted on Saturday, Feb. 4. Jon reported that the poles were already developing roots. Additional contemplated planting dates are February 10, 11, 16, and 18, and volunteers should meet at the visitor center at 9:00 a.m. Darrel Reasner proposes to top black willow trees at the north end of the cutting area at Caballo where the plants are healthier; those at the south end are largely dead. He added that it would be good to make a test trim and take photographs, trimming about 200 plants. The trimming would begin about the third week in March. BOR want the trimmed material to stacked as high as possible. Also, Darrel has seen good plants in the area south of Seco Creek and will try to get permission to do some harvesting there. It remains to be seen how pruning and flooding will affect the regrowth of black willow, and at least one long sprout will be left on each plant in the hope that this will enhance the survival of willows in the harvest area. Doug recommended that the Task Force commit to Will's quote for two years of growing stock. Jon said that Will's quote was \$24,000 for 3,000 trees. Jon also added that Sevilleta would like to retain some funds in reserve because the refuge does not yet know what the Unit B gate design and final cost will be. *Connie moved to approve Darrel Reasner's proposed expenditure of \$1,250 per day for days for pruning black willow at Caballo; Chris seconded; motion carried. Matt moved to approve a contract with Will Kolbensschlag for 3,000 trees at \$8.00 each, to a maximum of \$24,000; Connie seconded; motion carried.*
 - f. Bureau of Reclamation Escondida Fire Habitat Restoration: BOR has a lot planned, including lowering the riverbanks on either side of the bridge. Given the number of agencies and projects involved, good coordination will be necessary to avoid wasting money and duplicating restoration efforts.
 - g. Central Socorro Bosque Severance Project: There will be a meeting next week; everything but endangered species consultation with FWS and BOR is complete, agreement is signed and treatment plan is done and ready to go. The treatment plan is to lop and drop, spray, and then masticate. We must suspend activities on April 15 absent a waiver.
 - h. Other: nothing to add.
6. Restore our Rivers Initiative Gina is attending the Tamarisk Coalition annual conference in Colorado this week.
 7. Spring Trash Pickup Will be April 21, at parks along the river.
 8. Other Agenda Items Nothing to add.
 9. Facebook and Website updates Connie has started developing a SOBTF document repository on Google Drive and will regularly check the SOBTF Gmail account. Jon will post recent pictures taken by Kathy Granillo.
 10. Calendar
 - 2/10 and 2/18 Tree planting at Sevilleta NWF; Sevilleta is looking for volunteers
 - 2/14 Kickoff meeting for Firewise activities at the country annex
 - 2/22 Fire chiefs meeting to set dates for Firewise and Ready Set Go program
 - 2/23 & 24 Xeriscape Council meeting in Albuquerque; Gina will be presenting

11. Individual reports Jon reported that Tech clubs have reached out for tree planting at Sevilleta. Carlos reported on the mentoring program that has begun with Tech students mentoring 3rd graders. Chris said there will be a Leave No Trace program at Cottonwood School on February 27. Chris also reported that BLM has a new engineer, who she anticipates will work first at Datil Well.
13. Adjourn about 10:50 a.m. *Motion by Carlos, second by Chris; meeting adjourned.*