



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, May 3rd @ 3:00pm

Meeting Location: Socorro County Annex

In attendance: Amy Erickson, Danielle Hensley, Jerry Wheeler, Gina Dello Russo, Matt Mitchell, Jeff Havlena, Ron Thomas. On zoom: Luke Martin, Christine Smith.

Board Member Action Items –

- **Jerry** will send Christie the SOBTF by-laws, board packet, and other information she needs as Secretary
- **Jerry** will send fire/burn ban updates to post as well.
- **Amy** will work with Christie to get her up to speed on secretary duties
- **Matt and Jeff** will set up trail cams at the riverine parks
- **Danielle and Gina** will send an invite for the project site tour on June 11th
- **All** – We have an open position on the board so spread the word to interested folks
- **All** – Send Danielle photos, short blogs, etc for social media posts

Meeting began at 3:03 pm.

Approve agenda and minutes from last month's meeting

Gina motioned to approve agenda, Matt seconded, passed.

Matt motioned to approve the April minutes as written, Jeff seconded, passed.

Attendees gave a brief introduction.

Election of a new board secretary

We discussed filling the vacant secretary position. Our board officer positions are for one year and elections are in December. Gina went over the secretary duties. We also have an opening for another board member and we can have more than 7 board members according to the bylaws. Matt asked if Christie Smith would accept the nomination for secretary and she accepted. Gina seconded the nomination, all voted and passed. Welcome Christie to the SOBTF board, and thank you!

Treasurer's Report

Gina gave the treasurer's report. As of last meeting our balance was \$32,318.97. As of the end of April our balance is \$33,767.55. Activity for the month included payroll, taxes, health insurance stipend, and a Paypal deposit of \$7053.05 which is from our membership drive to date. Gina recently requested a BOR drawdown of \$4696.07. Today we received \$10,000 from MRGCD which finishes their commitment for this FY and will be deposited in our account this week.

Fundraising update: LSR Large Scale Restoration – a grant opportunity through NM Forestry Division. SOBTF assisted Armendaris ranch and Sierra SWCD in applying for a \$300,000 grant to continue our work on the Tiffany fire rehab. Matching funds will come from Sierra SWCD and/or State Forestry.

Membership – 14 members have renewed already this year and 27 need reminders for renewal. We would receive \$2,210 if the remaining people renew at their current level.

Program Director's Update

Danielle gave an update – she is out of the office on Thursday and will be attending the SWFL field training for a few days over the next couple of weeks so will be out of the office for that as well.

Project updates –

ACE Internship Contract

Job posting is up now and we have authorization from BOR to use our cooperative agreement money to fund the internship program this year. The interns will stay at the Sevilleta field housing. Danielle is in communication with ACE and will get the contract within the next few days. Currently the start date is May 30th but we may change the start date to June 6th depending on people's schedules. We raised the stipend to \$475/week per intern.

Bureau of Reclamation Cooperative Agreement

Danielle gave an update of the BOR Rio Grande Silvery Minnow habitat project. Most of the project sites got inundated with the recent increased flows coming out of San Acacia. We did start using drones to monitor the sites. Knapweed and pepperweed is not coming up yet but we will continue to check throughout the season.

New Mexico Counties

FY22 and FY23 grant – Jerry gave an update. FY22 project is completed – a 96-acre fuel break in the Bosquecito area. This work included mastication and hand crew work along the fenceline. We will get the project report written and closed out by the end of June. We applied for a new grant at the end of March for \$75,000 mainly to apply herbicide on previously treated sites. There will also be a 20-acre mastication strip down to the river for a fuelbreak.

City of Socorro FY22

We are scheduling a workday sometime in the next few weeks to install tables and grills. Bosque Park has a lot of damaged infrastructure and could use work. Matt still has the 6 trail cams that we can use for surveillance at the parks. We need to decide where to put them. Jeff volunteered to check the trail cams.

MRGCD / Capital Outlay

Danielle will meet with Yasmeen next week to finalize retreatment of Severance project (the north 3 segments).

April Park Cleanup Day

We had a successful trash pickup with about 12 volunteers. MRGCD is aware of the tires, fridge etc to come pick up. Multiple loads of trash were hauled out of the area. We still need to clean up the parks south of Brown Arroyo.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife

Barclay – Danielle gave an update. We are waiting to finalize our plant list order. They have 3 sand point wells that they want to dig a little deeper and install solar pumps on. We will use these to water islands of native plants. Also we will do some Siberian Elm control.

Hart – Matt gave an update. Matt completed the writeup and cost sheet. Danielle will complete the budget sheets and map and get the approval from the landowner and from Angel.

Armendaris – Gina gave an update. She made a draft proposal but Armendaris Ranch decided to hold off on the project because of fencing concerns and their ability to water the site. We have been watering the other planting site there and it has about 80% survival.

Since Armendaris is off the table we are looking for a new project to fund fairly quickly if we want to plant something this fall. Angel wants to wait to sign a new cooperative agreement until we spend down the existing ones. We brainstormed a few ideas for new projects.

Gonzales – Matt gave an update. We purchased \$816 worth of grass plugs to plant in the fall. The project is completed and closed out but we still need to put the plants in the ground.

Parks and Trails

Rio Grande Trail – Gina gave an update. Gina is organizing a meeting and has invited the county manager, the Mayor's staff, the MRGCD CEO and Rio Grande Trail commissioners. The meeting will be on May 20th at 2pm here at the County Annex and on Zoom and in person. The meeting is to talk about liability, management, maintenance, construction, and who is taking on what roles for the trail, etc.

June 4th at the plaza during the farm market is our tentative time for a public information/feedback meeting on the maps created by National Park Service. **Update: June 18th is the date.** There will be a questionnaire for people to fill out. We will send out more information when this gets finalized.

Social Media

Danielle gave an update. Danielle posted images of the park cleanup on social media and will post the job update once ACE gives us confirmation. Jerry will send fire/burn ban updates to post as well. Please send Danielle photos or anything you would like posted on social media.

Project tours with members

We need to find a time that works for everybody and figure out vehicle access due to poor road conditions. We can invite other folks such as the county manager, mayor and other city employees, city tourism board employees, etc. NMC grant fuels reduction would be a good one to visit. **Update: scheduled for June 11th, 9:00 am meeting at the Socorro County Annex parking lot.** Danielle and Gina will create an invite to send out. We can do this multiple times, one on the weekend and one during the week so more people will be able to attend. Ron offered to host a site visit to look at his project.

Other Business

We are in fire season right now. We currently have a fire burning in Bear Trap Canyon and another burning in the Gila. We will put up "No Fires" signs at the riverine parks. The Rio Grande Basin Study is still not active currently in terms of community involvement, stay tuned. No other business was brought up.

Jerry motioned to adjourn, Ron seconded, passed. Meeting adjourned at 4:36pm.

***** Our next board meeting will be on Tuesday, June 7th at 3:00 pm *****