**Save Our Bosque Task Force**

EMNRD, Forestry Division, Socorro District Office

1701 Enterprise Rd.

Socorro, NM

TuesdayJuly 3, 2018

**9:00 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Board Session (Business Meeting)**

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Amy Erickson, George Smithson, Gina Dello Russo, Kristen Cornelius, Matt Mitchell, Jon Erz, Mary Ruff, and Yasmeen Najmi (via phone).

1. Approve Agenda –*Matt moved and Dougsecond, passed.*

2. Approve Minutes from June2018 –*Matt moved and Yasmeensecond, passed.*

3. Treasurer’s Report

a. Account activity and bills received– SOBTF funds $6,529.53including a deposit from United Way donation for $31.53. There was one bill for Raks for $225.32 (move to Turner Youth grant column) and $200.88 for a bus scholarship from Bosque Conservation Day. An admin charge for the Partners for Fish & Wildlife of $6,200.00 was deposited into our Program Management fund. There is $80,755.10 in the ROR account, now considered the Program Management/Intern funds. There is $2,742.50 in Turner Youth Grant.Total balance of $90,008.83. One bill to reimburse Gina for purchase of GPS units $937.47 was paid.

b. Fundraising update –Submitted grant for seed for Greenhouse through RSF Bank seed fund for new projects.We have received the Water Trust Board grant submitted by the Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District. We will serve as co-project manager with the Sierra SWCD on the Tiffany Fire Rehabilitation project, bringing $19,450 to our Program Director’s and Internship funds. Waiting stage for Clif Bar (to fund tables &signs), NFWF(trail extension), WatersmartGrant (CRP update). New opportunities: Nusenda (grant cycle open until September through Share NMwebsite) ~$10,000. Wells Fargo opens in August 15, environmental category through Wells Fargo Foundation.

4. New Staff Introduction and Program Director’s Update –Amy is from Kansas, settling in to Socorro, her first day was June 18. She is orienting herself with our programs. The first priority is the Internship program, their names are Sawyer and Shannon, and their first day is July 16. They will be staying at Sevilleta NWR and we hope that they will stay through the Bosque Conservation Day on October 11. She is working on getting set up with her tasks for the Tiffany Fire Rehab project and with monitoring techniques. She purchased three GPS units for our monitoring program. She is working to get us free or reduced price Esri GIS software and she got Office 365 for non-profits for their packet for $3/month.

5. On-Going Projects – Important Updates

a. Socorro County Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation ProjectsStatus –in a waiting period for the Phase 1 compliance work to be completed on 4152 and working on the SOW for these treatments. The County will send out a Price Agreement for treatments. Inspectors continue to go out and look at the different properties. No update on the 4197 North Bosque project.

b. Partners for Fish and Wildlife Projects status –Doug gave an update on the three existing projects. Angel is coming to meet with us on Thursday on the existing agreement and our next agreement. There is one possible project in Bosquecito, some saltcedar removal with native plantings. Maybe go out to this project area on Thursday. Doug is working with Angel on the new Cooperative agreement (F18A for approximately $80,000). We are hoping to work with FEMA-funded fuels reduction landowners after initial clearing is completed on these lands.

c. Riverine Parks/SNA update:Doug has firefighters this summer and they are working on some maintenance of riverine parks. They hung “no campfire” signs this month. They are working on a new trail alignment south of Otero Street. The County’s YCC program will assist as they can over the summer with Riverine Parks work. Doug has firefighters that will be roaming around tomorrow, July 4.

d. Rio Grande Trail, Socorro Valley Trail Efforts: Matt sent letter off inviting the RGTC asking for a meeting. The NPS assistance grant was submitted**.**

e. Sevilleta NWR update–Jon reported that he has worked with Black Widow Nursery to get an estimate for additional trees. $39,000 for 4,875 trees (for 2020 and 2021), then 9,000 for ACE crew, which would be one stint (in 2020). The remaining funds could go to housing for interns for the next three years ($4,800 for the housing). Sevilleta NWR is still seeking funds for assistance with planting. First step get contract with Black Widow nursery in place. Mountain Youth Corp or Indigenous Work Crews are a possibility. Possibly the YCC for short duration planting work in the early spring.Sammie checked on this and said there was potential here. *Matt moved and Gina second* that we will make the expenditure to Black Widow Nursery, budget $4800 for intern housing for 2019, 2020, 2021 and one stint ACE for $9,000, *approved*.

f. Central Socorro Bosque Severance Project Status**:** Sprayingwill be done in November and December 2018. The tamarisk sprouts are coming up but not to a great degree. Native plants are responding well. Amy, George,Doug and Gina will go out to look at other planting requirements; need to identify other planting areas in Severance 3 and 4. Have got planting areas determined for Severance 2 so we could seed this area after monsoons get started this year. Otherwise, seeding might be in the spring. Shrubs need to be ordered and grown out. Money expires December 2019. There is watering in the contract as well.

g. Tiffany Fire Rehabilitation Project – The Analysis Team and Site Prep Team met in June and have started defining scopes of work under each task. We have funding coming that will cover Amy and interns’ time when working on this project.

h. 4H/Task Force Greenhouse Status – tabled.

i. Bosque Conservation Day –October 11, 2018 guaranteed date. Amy will send out an email to presenters with a save the date. **Amy will lead the team effort this yea**r. Also, check with Nusenda and see if they will support us again this year. Will the County or City support our work. We had spoken about looking for local sponsors of our BCD, see where we are with that. **Amy to remind Carlos to make sure that it is on the schools’ calendar.**

6. ACE interns update –Amy is working with ACE to have the 13-week contract for the interns so that they can stay through the Bosque Conservation Day, they both said they were interested in Environmental Education. Amy is getting housing set up for interns with UNM-LTER program at Sevilleta NWR. Their first priority will be doing monitoring on La Joya Wildlife Management Area, NMDGF, with funding coming to SOBTF from Rio Grande Return. Amy is working with Chuck Schultz of NMDGF, meeting with him on Tuesday, June 19 with interns to set up their work. If others are interested in going out with the Interns, they are welcome to join.

7. Synergy Group Update –Sourdough Mine on July 31, 2 pm is the next meeting.

8. Possible Cooperative Agreements with Reclamation. There are three possibilities, one with the Task Force and two with State Forestry. 1) Monitoring ~ $56,000 for restoration projects in the Isleta and San Acacia reaches of the river, 2) Central Socorro Bosque project $50,000 for expanding and completing that project, and 3) the $1.2 million (minus overhead) for Tiffany Fire Rehabilitation project.

9. *Other:* a) New board members, we are missing one or two now. We are discussing an advisory board. **We need to develop the roles and responsibilities for them; Amy can assist** with this before we reach out to our potential advisory board members. Yasmeen suggested that after the next board meeting, August 7, we have a session after lunch on the advisory board roles and responsibilities.**Amy will put this on the agenda.** 2) Yasmeen is going to present to the MRGCD Board in late July of general bosque projects. **Yasmeen will let Amy know when this will occur so she can invite us up to the board meeting.**3) SOBTF letter to the MRGCD Board Members about the SunZia Transmission line. Discussed issues surrounding this project, Yasmeen will abstain from voting on this topic because it is before the MRGCD board. Edits will be submitted to Gina by the end of the day, she will address edits and send out a new version for approval. Approval requested for sending a letter to the board with community concerns about this project. *Gina moved and Matt seconded, approved.*

10. Website, Facebook, and Instagram accounts. **Jon will help Gina get Amy on as an administrator.** What goes on Facebook, websitewas discussed: highlight our efforts on a weekly basis. Small videos for Instagram.Website improvements needed. Facebook is a good platform to get people interested in us, then they can go to the website for more detail. **Matt will work Amy on his drone photos and videos for the Facebook.**

Next meeting is August 7, 2018.

10. Adjourn at 11:25 am. *Matt moved and Ginasecond, passed.*