**Save Our Bosque Task Force Board Meeting**

Socorro County Annex Office

198 Neel Ave.

Socorro NM

**Tuesday November 12 @ 4:00-6:00 PM
Meeting Location: Socorro County Annex, West Conference Room**

**Attendees: Sarah Anderson, Matt Mitchell, Jack Dickey, Russ Thrun, Bob Markwell, Kyle Trujillo (Southwest Conservation Corps), Sandra Noll, Gina Dello Russo, Chad McKenna, Amy Erickson, Mick Tenorio (NM Volunteers with the Outdoors) and Yasmeen Najmi (by phone).**

**1. Approve Agenda** Yasmeen moves, Gina seconds, passed.

**2. Approve Minutes from September meeting, no meeting for October–** Matt moves, Yasmeen seconds, passed.

**Review list of tasks for Board members from last meeting.**

* **Jerry will let us know the fall schedule on the Mandeville Fire project and schedule Task Force assistance. Tabled until Jerry’s return.**
* **Need someone to lead board officer elections, November 12th date 4-6 pm. Sarah will do this.**
* Sarah, Attila, and Yasmeen are going to meet with the City on support for our existing trail.

**3. Welcome to new board members, any others interested.** Matt provided a short history of his time with the Task Force: When Matt first joined the Task Force board, it was primarily agency people, he was the only private citizen. Starting in 2013, we started transitioning to a more community member-focused board, and welcome new members: Amy Erickson, Sandra Noll, and Chad McKenna.

**4. Board officer elections:** Gina gave a summary of the board officer positions. Sarah requested nominations for the Chairperson position. Matt nominated Gina Dello Russo as Chairperson, she accepted this nomination, Yasmeen Najmi and Matt Mitchell would consider Vice Chairperson position, Amy Erickson and Yasmeen Najmi would consider Secretary position, Matt Mitchell would take on Treasurer if needed. Chad McKenna would like to serve as a board member for a two year period and then consider an officer position, same with Sandra Noll. Officers elected are as follows:

**Chairperson – Gina Dello Russo**

**Vice Chairperson- Yasmeen Najmi**

**Secretary – Amy Erickson**

**Treasurer – Matt Mitchell**

**5. Treasurer’s Report**

a. Account activity and bills received. Funding opportunities. Gina gave a summary of the balance in our bank account: $22,258.99 as of November 12, 2019. Gina also reported on the other funds available and efforts to build capacity for the work we do. Board members will be involved in these efforts.

**6. Project Updates**

a. Rio Grande Trail / Socorro Valley Trail – Russ said he had fire training coming up and the firefighting training can go out and help with fallen limbs. Sarah reported on the Trail meeting that she, Yasmeen and Attila Bality had last week. They would like to reinvigorate our trail planning effort. They would like to have a project team meeting the week of December 16 (note: December 17 was chosen as the date for the meeting, 3:30 -5:30 pm). At this meeting they will update the team on what volunteers came up with in terms of alternate trail alignments. We also want to ask the public what they would like to see in terms of interpretation. Attila reported that there seems to be NM Governor Rio Grande Trail support under her administration. Yasmeen reported that two pieces remaining is to review alignments in terms of environmentally sensitive areas and management and maintenance of the trail. Sarah, Attila, and Yasmeen are going to meet with the City. We will have two requests, one for the existing trail and river parks within the City limits and asking about their interest in the longer trail system. The City offered funding to help with the existing trail and parks. They will talk to the mayor about this. Chad has some of the layers that he did when he was helping the Rio Grande Trail Commission with looking at alternative trail alignments. It is an exciting exercise and the Task Force is taking the lead in scoping out this potential trail. There is more work to do. Hope to have a public meeting in January. There is funding to help with outreach.

 b. BOR Cooperative Agreement. Kick off meeting in November in ABQ. Chad, Gina and Sarah attended and Gina updated the board on this new partnership for on-the-ground work in our area.
c. WaterSMART Grant update - Gina updated the board on the work the contractor is doing under this Grant program. A public meeting will be held at the Veguita Fire Station on December 11 at 4:00-6:00 pm. Everyone is invited and this meeting is geared towards reaching out to landowners in the northern part of Socorro County.

d. NMC Grant update – tabled until Jerry’s return

e. Partners for Fish and Wildlife – Matt reported on the FWS program that we partner with, there are five current projects, most along the river on the east side. The Socorro SWCD will be doing work on these lands as well, so they will provide some of the non-federal match if we can get agreements in place. Sarah will work with Matt to get the agreement for the Gonzales property in place by December 5. Amy reported that her position with Audubon NM is to work with NRCS on riparian restoration. This is work on agricultural lands including ranch lands and there could be projects in out years that follow after Partners projects. We can put this on the agenda for a more thorough discussion.

f. Tiffany Fire Rehabilitation – Jack reported that the Site Preparation on-the-ground work is waiting for finalization on agreements that allow funding to get to the contractor awarded the project. A legal advertisement will go out to allow landowners to apply for this work on their lands. The selection criteria will be in the legal advertisement. The Task Force can assist with getting information on this opportunity out to them. There is a project team meeting on November 26, 2019 at 1:00 pm at State Forestry in Socorro.

**7. Board Development: Support, best meeting times, tasks, interests, training.** Gina reported that each board member has stated what Task Force programs they would like to be involved with. This is great because it balances involvement by board members and allows all to feel engaged and helpful. Sarah will make sure that board members are alerted and kept abreast of what is happening in their chosen programs. Sarah will send out a doodle of possible times during the week that it works best for board meetings in the future. A future agenda item will be board training in outreach, advocacy, and fundraising, tabled for this meeting.

**8. Other: Trash pickup day November 21, 2019. 9:00 am at Otero Street Park.** Sarah will get with the MRGCD and Socorro County that usually assist with this event by bringing heavy equipment and a dumpster. Update: the November 21st event was rained out, YEAH we got rain! We have now scheduled the trash pickup day for December 5, 2019, 9:00 am at Otero Street. All welcome.

**9. Adjourn** Gina moved and Yasmeen second. Passed.