**­­Save Our Bosque Task Force Board Meeting**

Socorro County Annex Office

198 Neel Ave.

Socorro NM

**Tuesday, December 1st @ 3:00pm   
Meeting Location: Conference Call**

In attendance: Gina Dello Russo, Amy Erickson, Sarah Anderson, Rex Myers, Matt Mitchell, Rafael Sierra-Castro, Chad McKenna, Nancy Spencer-Morris, Jerry Wheeler, Sandra Noll

Meeting began at 3:05

**1. Approve Agenda –** Matt motioned to approve agenda and table items as they come up. Gina seconds, approved.

**2. Approve minutes from last month’s meeting –** Matt motions to approve November minutes, Amy seconds, approved.

**3. Action Items:**

* **Sarah will let Amy know which projects have updates for next month’s agenda**
* **Sarah will send the budget spreadsheet to board members before each meeting**
* **Sarah will schedule a fundraising meeting sometime during the week of Dec 14**
* **Sarah will schedule planting day(s) for PFW projects**
* **Sarah will contact the Barclays and update them on our site visit/project planning**
* **Sarah will add Nancy to the SOBTF mailing list**
* **Amy will send out most recent membership drive info to Rex and Sandra**
* **Rex will send Amy a photo and short biography to put on the website**
* **Gina will set a date for a closed meeting to discuss 2021 interns**
* **Gina will work with Sandra and Matt on outreach to refuges for financial support**
* **Sandra will research prices for new logo stickers**
* **Matt and Sandra will coordinate a time to pick up the tires and remaining trash along the trail**
* **Yasmeen will keep us updated about the guardrail repair at the riverine parks**
* **All – Send Amy or Sarah calendar items to put on our website calendar**
* ***All – Please send Sarah a post for the Facebook page so we can keep everyone engaged in our work. We would like to have a post from each board member***

**4. Treasurer’s Report**

Matt gave the treasurer’s report. The previous balance was $59,387.05. As of this morning we have $43,602.73. Matt is working on setting up a PayPal account for the SOBTF membership drive. He needs someone to set it up that doesn’t already have a PayPal account. We are in the process of transitioning from Excel to Quick Books for our financial accounting and Nyleen is helping Sarah get up to speed on that program.

**5. Elections**

This year we are voting for vice chair, secretary, and 2 standing board member positions. We have 6 board members currently so there is one unfilled standing board member position.

Yasmeen Najmi is the current vice chair. Yasmeen was not present at this meeting. Gina nominated her for another term with Matt seconding. All board members voted in agreement.

Amy Erickson is the current secretary. Amy would like to continue serving as secretary. Matt nominated Amy as secretary and all board members present voted in agreement.

Chad would like to continue serving as a board member. Matt nominated Chad to serve another term. All board members present voted in agreement.

Gina nominated Rex Myers as a board member. Rex has been involved with various nonprofits in the Socorro area and is a birder and hiker, and would like to contribute to our efforts. Matt motioned to nominate Rex and all present board members voted in agreement. Congratulations to our newest board member, and thank you for helping us serve the Socorro community!

**6. Fundraising update**

Agency report - tabled

Membership drive – everything is ready to go except the Paypal link.

Sarah made a major update to the budget spreadsheet. Now we can easily see where our funding is coming from and where we are lacking money for specific tasks. The new spreadsheet contains a projection for 2021 with funding sources and funding needs. Funding shortfalls include money for Sarah’s paid time off and general capacity building/admin work. We are predicted to be approximately $9K short for 2021. Hopefully these budget shortfalls can be filled by grants, but most grants are tied to specific projects. The budget shortfall is due to the fact that there isn’t funding for things like paid time off, outreach, grant writing, writing invoices, updating the budget, basic admin tasks, and internal SOBTF meetings. Ultimately we hope our membership drive will help make up the difference.

Amy asked - How can we cover a pay raise for Sarah and also 2 weeks of vacation/sick time? Some of our cooperative agreements can easily be adjusted for a pay raise (ie. BOR cooperative agreement). But some of our other funding sources (Sevilletta, NMDGF) are short-term and not stable.

New Mexico Counties grant – Jerry found out that we are not able to get two grants at once unless we are using leftover funds from another county’s grant. This is probably not a viable option for us.

**7. Community Outreach**

Virtual BCD – none of the refuges had any virtual material for us to use. Matt and Sandra submitted videos to the schools.

The virtual Festival of the Cranes presentations were well-attended, with around 200 people at each one.

All of our in-person community events are on hold due to Covid.

**8. Advocacy**

No updates.

**9. Project Updates**

Partners for Fish and Wildlife – Matt gave an update.

Gonzales had a survey done so there are new stakes on his property. He has not requested a reimbursement for the fence yet, but is moving forward with the project and has set a February planting date.

Thomas is working hard on his restoration project, and is pulling out stumps right now.

Conklin - Clint Eastwood is filming “El Macho” on the property so they have a lot going on right now. The plant order with Santa Ana is in.

Armendaris –We will schedule planting day(s) before the first of the year to make sure we have volunteers. Due to Covid we will keep group sizes small but it would be good to have at least 4 people.

Barclay property meeting/planning has been delayed due to Covid.

Rio Grande Trail – Tabled until next month.

BOR Cooperative Agreement – no update

Sevilleta – tree planting will start in February – probably the 2nd and 3rd weekends and they may need more volunteers. Trees will be delivered to the planting sites. Contact Nancy or Kathy for more information on how to get involved.

WaterSmart Grant – no funding left, we’re just finishing up paperwork. We will apply for another $100,000 WaterSmart grant in January.

New Mexico Counties grant – Jerry gave an update. He’s getting a copy of the new price agreement before starting work on the ground.

**10. Other**

Basin Study – Gina is keeping up to date on the progress.

Internship program – Gina will send a doodle pole for a meeting time - this will be a closed meeting for the board to discuss how to fill our 2021 internship spots. Sarah emailed ACE for a quote but hasn’t heard back.

Sandra received a comment from some folks who said the trail was cleaner than they had seen it in a long time. There is still some household trash and a pile of tires along the trail. Matt has a truck and said he would get that stuff.

**10. Adjourn**

Gina motion to adjourn with happy holidays – 4:38 pm. *Our next board meeting will be Tuesday, January 5th @ 3:00.*