

Save Our Bosque Task Force
Tuesday, October 4, 2016 Minutes

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Gina Dello Russo, Fred Hollis, Carlos Vega, Connie Robnett, Dominic Otero, Kathy Granillo, Renee Robichaud, John Erz, Felipe Baca, Lorenzo Benevidez, Yasmeen Najmi

9:10 Save Our Bosque Task Force Meeting. Doug began the meeting by requesting a round of self-introductions by attendees.

1. Approve Agenda *Motion by Connie to approve, second by Fred; approved.*
2. Approve Minutes from meeting of September 6, 2016. *Motion by Fred to approve, second by Felipe; approved.*
3. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Balances: Bank balance - \$7,414.64; SOBTF Balance = \$6,769.47. Project funds include: Lawrence/Devers = \$15,199, Taliaferro = \$, 24,900, Armandaris Ranch = \$ 24,900 and Sevilleta, NWR = \$ 117,000.
 - b. Bills: SprayTech/David Wilson spraying on Gonzales property - \$3,135.00. Bill from Nyleen Troxel Stowe for the sprinklers and cattle panels for the plants from Los Lunas, to be paid from Partners Projects funds, came to \$323.48. Outlay was previously approved. Gina proposed that SOBTF pay the lodging expenses of \$160.00, at Dos Casitas en Socorro, for one of the speaker for the upcoming Tamarisk Leaf Beetle meeting. *Connie moved to approve the expense; Fred seconded.* Thanks to Judy Kurtz at the B and B for giving us a discounted rate for this lodging. In October, we expect bills for the Fall Trash Pickup day and snacks and bus scholarship for Bosque Conservation Day.
4. Elections: An amended slate was approved for the coming year, with Connie as secretary. The Board now stands as: Doug Boykin, Chairman; Matt Mitchell, Vice Chairman; Fred Hollis, Treasurer; Connie Robnett, Secretary; Gina Dello Russo and Yasmeen Najmi, members-at-large.
5. Project Updates:
 - a. Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Project: Fred reported that Tracy Hamilton has given notice that she will be resigning and that Delilah Walsh, County Manager, will be taking over as lead for this project. There are two positions associated with County Wildfire: one is Carlos Vega's work as outreach coordinator for Wildfire planning and mitigation, and one is for this \$1.7M project working as project manager and assisting with the completion of the Environmental Assessment. The County is looking for a person for the project management job. Jerry Wheeler from his office is working on the job description. An application has been submitted to FEMA for funds for work along the Socorro County Rio Grande Bosque, in the northern part of the County as well.
 - b. Partners for Fish & Wildlife Projects and Partnership: Gina is drafting project plans for habitat restoration on properties owned by the Lawrence-Devers's, the Taliaferros, and the Armendaris Ranch. Another project is within the Escondida Burn Scar at the Thomas/Brook property. Gina

described a developing plan for the Pack acreage, to include mastication followed by a cool season burn. Fred suggested this burn could serve as a training exercise for volunteer fire departments if it goes through.

- c. Sevilleta has \$117K for construction of an outlet structure and gate and some planting. \$6K will go into SOBTF funds for administration, via an invoice from SOBTF to Sevilleta.
 - c. Riverine Parks/SNA: Task Force members will meet at the end of Otero Street today at 1:30, to drive along the levee project with a representative from USACE (Jacob Chavez is not available). Slated for discussion are how to spend the \$600 proceeds of the Armendaris tour raffle (maybe to repair picnic tables), ramp locations, and maintenance for the levee toe.
 - d. Rio Grande Trail, Socorro Valley Trail efforts: There have been two meetings. Gina will follow up on posting maps. She requested a 5-mile map corridor be considered so we could highlight the connections to other area trails and visitor opportunities.
 - e. Other: Central Socorro Bosque severance project. \$750K has been allocated for work to be performed on state- and federally-owned land. 1/3 of this amount is to be spent at the BLM inholding near the Rhodes Ranch; Doug is preparing a work plan, and Will has begun work. The remainder of the \$750K will be spent at other MRGCD and the Escondida Burn Scar.
6. Restore our Rivers Initiative: Gina provided a brief overview of the 5-state Tamarisk Coalition initiative to meeting attendees and an update on fundraising for the required \$45K. Friends of the Bosque del Apache have committed \$5,000 for 2017 and may be able to give an additional \$10K in 2018. Gina has submitted grant proposals to McCune for \$15K in 2017 and will do so again in 2018. Gina will provide a position paper at a later date.
 7. New Outreach Coordinator for Socorro County: Carlos Vega, the new Public Outreach Coordinator, introduced himself and discussed his vision to reach out to residents in Bosquecito, Hop Canyon, Alamo, and other communities in the County and to reach across to other agencies to spread the "Ready, Set, Go!" Firewise messaging. His contact numbers are: office – 575.835.2029, cell – 575.418.7977
 8. Fall events: Planting at Rhodes property will be conducted on October 12. SWCD has 600 shrubs from the Los Lunas plant materials facility. Bosque Conservation Day will be October 21; Nick is finalizing plans, and 4H is on tap to help; Fall Trash Pickup Day will be October 28; meet at San Antonio Park. Felipe Baca is the new MRGCD Bosque Patrol officer for our area; he reported that he has been having some success in citing people dumping trash along the river.
 9. Tamarisk Leaf Beetle meeting planning: Gina indicated that 25 people are signed up for the meeting on October 19, which will cover concerns about habitat, facts of beetle behavior, fire control in view of tamarisk defoliation, and larger scale restoration discussion. Yasmeen suggested inviting the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program. Gina will arrange lunch for about 30 people from Bodega Burger. Meeting will be at the County Annex, starting at 10:00 and going to about 3:00 or 4:00. Shannon Hatch and Vicky Ryan will be presenting.
 10. MRGCD Valley tour: Yasmeen is working on dates for a tour of projects, and hopes to garner attendance from the boards of directors of RGALT, MRGCD, SOBTF, Socorro County Commissioners

and Delilah Walsh. Gina suggested inviting McCune and Donald Monette, and including the Escondida Fire burn site on the tour. It was agreed that lunch will be Dutch.

11. Other Agenda Items: Facebook, Website updates. Connie and Jon are to add the information that wood cutting permits are required, free, and available at the State Forestry Office. A tentative date of February 8, 2017, (a Wednesday, at 5:00) was set for a public meeting on the tamarisk leaf beetle.

12. Calendar items:

10/8 San Antonio Harvest Festival

10/12-13 Juniper/Piñon symposium

10/19 Tamarisk Leaf Beetle meeting

10/21 Bosque Conservation Day

10/28 Fall Trash Pick-Up Day

11/1 Next Task Force meeting

11/12 Clean up along Hwy 1

13. Individual reports: Gina Dello Russo will be presenting at the UNM School of Planning on November 4 on the 20+ years of the Save Our Bosque Task Force. Carlos Vega will be at the San Antonio Harvest Festival, promoting Ready, Set, Go!, Firewise, and Fire Prevention. Fred Hollis put in a plug for Carlos's wildfire mitigation education emphasis at the fire station. Jon Erz reported that CRI grant funds and inmate work crews will help with clearing and trimming in January, February and March in preparation for planting. Kathy Granillo said that BOR is on Unit 7 clearing the drainage. Renee Robichaud reported that they have a new cooperative agreement with the Inmate Work Crew to assist with the plantings on the refuge. Felipe Baca reported on area Bosque patrolling. They are cleaning up dump sites as they go and encourage everyone to report dump sites that they find. Felipe's telephone number is 575.517.6761. Yasmeen Najmi reported that a new Biological Opinion has come out and that there have been some budget-caused layoffs, of the MRGCD biologist and public information officer. She further indicated that MRGCD has 4 interns; 1 college student and 3 high school students, and that they will look for another intern next semester. Lorenzo Benevidez said he looks forward to working with all cooperating agencies, that he is happy Felipe is working in his new patrol capacity, and indicated they may be able to expand their efforts with his help. Dominic indicated that fire training is going to be starting soon. Fire staff should let him know they need and he will line up instructors and materials.

14. Adjourn 11:25 a.m. *Motion by Gina, second by Yasmeen; meeting adjourned.*