

**Save Our Bosque Task Force**  
EMNRD, Forestry Division, Socorro District Office  
1701 Enterprise Street  
Socorro, NM  
Hwy 60 West (in back of Ark of Socorro Veterinary Clinic)  
Tuesday November 7, 2017



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

Board approved establishing a liability insurance policy for the Save Our Bosque Task Force. If under \$1,000 per year, have approval; if over \$1,000 a follow up discussion needed. *Doug moved and Yasmeeen second, passed.*

**9:30 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Meeting**

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Gina Dello Russo, Miranda Kersten, Annalily Lopez, Rafael Sierra-Castro, Kristen Cornelius, Matt Mitchell, Fred Hollis, Carlos Vega, Nick Smokovich, Zach Saavedra, and Yasmeeen Najmi (by phone).

1. Approve Agenda – *Fred moved and Matt second, passed.*
2. Approve Minutes from October, 2017 *Fred moved and Gina second, passed.*
3. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Account activity - \$4.00 in donations, Save Our Bosque Task Force bank balance at \$69,742.16. The Restore our Rivers balance is \$49,213.48.
  - b. Bills - Bosque Trash pickup day lunch at \$71.46 and rental of trencher from Acosta's Equipment for \$174.90 (used for nursery planting). Two invoices paid to Miranda Kersten \$1,702.89 and \$1,644.06. One bill to American Conservation Experience at \$14,500.00. \$57.24 check outstanding for the San Antonio Crane for lunch for the nursery planting day. Lawrence-Dever sent in invoice for well \$4,712.50, paid.
  - c. Fundraising update – Miranda is looking at grants for natural resources support and tree planting.
4. Director's Update - Miranda reported on monitoring activities that she and Annalily have been completing. She and Nick raked the trail on the agency workday. Miranda and Annalily went to the Conservation Day at Valle de Oro NWR. This was a good outreach event for the Task Force. Miranda and Annalily have been assisting the HMP project in their archaeology surveys, the Severance Project (Central Socorro Bosque clearing) with monitoring. Miranda will be doing the Wildlife Zone on November 18 and 19 at the Festival of the Cranes. Miranda attended a Maintenance Program meeting on November 6.

5. Intern's Update – Annalily reported on her contributions to the Tamarisk Leaf Beetle monitoring project. She is enjoying the cottonwood bosque's fall colors. The interactive map on the website is working to help people find the parks. The Spanish translation on the website is coming along, should be done next week. Annalily helped with the agency workday at Confluence Park moving rock and will work on signage and other aspects of that park improvement. She expressed thanks to all for working with her, and all certainly have appreciated her help!

## 6. Project Updates

a. Socorro County Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Projects (HMP) Status - The Socorro Valley Wildfire HMP, Phase 1 continues with a draft Environmental Assessment due out for public comment within a week. The Task Force is assisting the County with the North Section Socorro County Wildfire HMP by working with partners to finalize Phase 1 Environmental Compliance project locations. Both projects will add greatly to the fire protection of the bosque on the east side of the river within Socorro County. There is a possibility of having BLM masticator available for some of this work. Look at this as a potential agreement between County and BLM.

b. Partners for Fish & Wildlife Projects Status – We are awaiting final environmental clearance through the HMP project Phase 1 to move forward with the Thomas and Dewey projects. This should be done by January of 2018 and final design and work can begin after that.

c. Riverine Parks/SNA Updates – SNA no update. Polvadera Park has some trash issues. Nick suggested a possible fuels reduction project here. Something we could talk about in planning future projects. Reclamation did grade the park roads. Agency cleanup occurred on October 19 with assistance from Reclamation, Socorro County, MRGCD, and NM State Forestry. The Task Force's Miranda and Annalily assisted with work at confluence, mowing down weeds and grass around the picnic tables, and lining out where parking places were put over the bar ditches. Rocks placed to limit traffic. They installed a parking spot in the center island of the driveway at Sand Bar. Need to do some pruning of cottonwood limbs at parks. Nick, Miranda, and Annalily raked trail from Confluence to Otero Park. There is a section where it was masticated and the trail disappears. Need to delineate these sections with carsonite signs and tractor with rake. Fred said we could borrow his tractor and rake. Zach said he and Mike can be contacts for BLM assistance for trash pickup or other workdays.

d. Rio Grande Trail, Socorro Valley Trail efforts - Yasmeen attended the Alignment workgroup meeting. She reported that Director Tafoya may be presenting to the MRGCD board. We may want to invite them to meet with us as a group sometime to hear from Socorro partners.

e. Sevilleta NWR Project Status – waiting for final design of gate. Jon will get with us on their Intern needs for 2018. We may want to meet as a separate group to look at monitoring needs for everyone for 2018. January 2018 tentative date for this.

f. Central Socorro Bosque Severance Project Status – Severance 1 – treatments almost done, no planting planned for this area. Reclamation is planning a high flow channel for this area. Wait

to see after they complete this project. They will not be doing any revegetation in their project area. Severance 2-5 contractor is working on the fuels reduction. This project is located on the west side of the river from Escondida Bridge downstream to the Luis Lopez area. Contractor, Forest Fitness, Inc., is working below Otero Street now, moving south. They are down across from Hope Farm now. State Forestry is the lead on this project and Doug is overseeing the progress and quality of the work. Miranda and Gina are assisting the project by delineating planting areas and advising contractor on planting requirements.

g. Tiffany Fire Rehabilitation Project Status – The Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District, Bureau of Reclamation, Turner Enterprises, Inc., and the Task Force submitted a Water Trust Board Watershed Restoration Grant on October 3. We, as a group, are applying for Phase 1 of a two or more phase project to address the wildfire risk, water delivery, and riparian habitat quality on 9,200 acres burned. Travis Day from the Sierra SWCD and Gina presented our group's project to the Water Trust Board on October 24. We will hear if we made the "cut" and are being considered for funding by December 2017. Final word on funding would come around June 2018. Next Tiffany planning meeting tentatively scheduled for the week of January 15. Miranda will follow up with our team. Miranda will begin monitoring on the private lands and is working on the permit for Bureau of Reclamation lands.

h. Goodding's Willow Nursery Project Status – We harvested whips from a field at Bosque del Apache NWR on October 4 with the help of the Inmate Work Crew. Planted Goodding's willow whips in Unit 1 at Bosque del Apache NWR on Oct 20. Fifteen members and volunteers assisted. Thanks to all who helped plant and Bosque del Apache NWR for the space and the water to get our trees growing, Socorro County for operators and the use of equipment needed to plant, and NM State Forestry for their assistance in planting. The NM Tech Climbing Club helped us plant!

i. 4H/Task Force Greenhouse Status – Greenhouse is ordered – it is 11x24 x 8 foot tall, coming in on Monday November 14. The county staff will help unload it. Next step is for the County to clean yard and put crusher fines down. The 4H will build the greenhouse and do the planting and maintenance of the greenhouse. John might come next meeting to present the timing and steps to get it started. There are funds left in the grant for outreach, education and supplies.

j. Other Projects:

1) Bosque Conservation Day – Carlos reported that he got emails from schools that end of February would work for them. We will try February 22 or March 1, 2018, and see which work best for them. Carlos will follow up with the schools to pick a final date. The committee is being formed.

2) YCC grant was awarded to the County for 2018. It will focus on two park improvements at San Antonio and Polvadera. Trails are included in the project for San Antonio linked to the new school.

7. Restore Our Rivers Initiative Update – Miranda submitted our fall accounting for this partnership to the Tamarisk Coalition in October. Our match to date is \$54,000 and \$32,000 in-kind. Miranda is

following up with the Tamarisk Coalition's advice on Strategic Planning and Board development. She has sent out draft documents and is waiting for Board review and comment on those documents. Miranda will be presenting to the Friends of Bosque del Apache NWR in December. Once the monitoring season is over (this month?) she will be working on our website and looking at grant applications for our priorities under this partnership. The next dispersal of TC funds to the Task Force should be in March 2018.

#### 8. Other agenda items –

1) Cross Watershed Network – We are hosting a workshop with them at Sevilleta NWR next year. Workshops are designed to bring people from different watersheds together to talk about related subjects, learn from each other. We need to assist them with finding sponsors for this event. The workshop will happen April 4 and 5, 2018.

2) Maintenance Program Evaluation – Gina and Miranda met with Adrian Oglesby from the UNM's Transboundary Utton Law Center, graduate student Anjali Bean, and Ecologist Todd Caplan on November 6 to discuss the potential for the Task Force to serve as long-term monitoring and maintenance partner for habitat restoration projects in our focus area. There is usually limited follow-up on restoration projects after the initial funding is spent. We believe there is a need for this work, but want to evaluate it thoroughly to be sure the Task Force is not liable for expenses that we cannot afford. This evaluation will continue into next year with a report to the Task Force and other potential partners coming at that time. Stay tuned for next steps in the evaluation.

9. Facebook and Website items – We have 242 likes on Facebook; Website has a link to the Restore Our Rivers. On Facebook, our park series is ending this week. Next up will be a project update series. We are considering a "Highlighting Partners" series next. Wes is our Facebook famous "Like."

#### 10. Calendar items

a. Nov. 7 – Community Forum on Beautifying Socorro. Episcopal Church on Leroy, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

b. Nov. 11 – Festival Trash Pickup – 9 am meet at the east side of the Owl Bar. This is a partnership with the Friends of Bosque del Apache NWR. Lunch follows our work.

c. Nov. 14-19 - 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of the Cranes at Bosque del Apache NWR

d. Nov. 16 – Potluck Lunch for Annalily – Noon, at the County Commissioners Conference Room.

e. Dec. 5 – Monthly SOBTF meeting, Christmas Potluck – ALL WELCOME after December meeting at the County Commissioner's conference room.

f. Starting in January, the Task Force Board meeting schedule will change. Those meeting times and agendas and a draft Public Meeting schedule for 2018 will be posted on the website.

11. Individual reports - Carlos has put in for another position in Colorado. His wife has applied for a position with the Arapaho County in Colorado and Carlos will follow in June 2018 if this all works out.

Rafael of NRCS is working on EQIP and CSP projects, in the middle of rankings for proposals. EQIP deadline is December 15 for this coming year's funds. Matt moved to 500 Bosquecito Road so come and visit him! He is still going to keep 265 and it will be his AirBnB. He would like to plant some cottonwoods this spring at his new home. There was a nice article on Matt and Sal Gonzales in the Tamarisk Coalition newsletter. Fred wants to invite everyone to see the County's new Bull Dog truck. It will be stationed at the Fire department down to San Antonio. Annalily is going to the wolf capture at the facility at Sevilleta NWR tomorrow. Miranda reported that Ollie, her dog, got skunked. She's working through this issue.

12. At 11:50 am. Adjourn *Matt moved and Fred second, passed.*