**Save Our Bosque Task Force Board Meeting**

Socorro County Annex Office

198 Neel Ave.

Socorro NM

**Tuesday December 10th @ 3:30-5:30 PM
Meeting Location: Socorro County Annex, West Conference Room**

**In attendance: Yasmeen Najmi (on phone), Amy Erickson, Sarah Anderson, Gina Dello Russo, Matt Mitchell, Sandra Noll, Jack Dickey, and Kyle Trujillo**

**Meeting began at 3:35.**

**1. Approve Agenda -** Mattmoves, Sandra seconds, passed.

**2. Approve Minutes from November Meeting -** Mattmoves, Amy seconds, passed.

**3. Action Items:**

* **Gina will visit First State Bank with the November minutes to get Doug taken off and Amy and Sandra on the bank account.**
* **Gina will coordinate the delivery of Goodding’s Willow poles to Sevilleta**
* **Gina will finalize draft of CRP update public notice**
* **Jack will talk to Laura McCarthy to discuss NM State Forestry funding some of the Task Force’s work under a 5-year agreement**
* **Jack will send Sarah information about the Forest and Watershed Restoration Act**
* **Amy will put a notice of the special fundraising meeting on the January agenda**
* **Amy will contact Sue and Al Conklin about doing a small Partners Project**
* **Yasmeen and Sarah will talk with Mayor Baskar about the $5,000 for the riverine parks**
* **All - Create a list of holiday card recipients**

**4. Treasurer’s Report**

Beginning balance $24,473.98, ending balance $11,999.22. A bill for $1,052.70 was received from Miranda for work in October plus mileage. Reimbursements are pending to Gina for Sarah’s laptop, external hard drive, extra monitor, laptop case, and 4 year warranty.

**5. Fundraising update**

Matt and Gina met with Mike Hammond (Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District) to talk about a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to support the Task Force’s work (including the Project Manager position and summer internship program). Matt gave a summary of their meeting– Mike is supportive of the Task Force’s mission and Matt is optimistic that they will provide annual support under a 5-year agreement. Mike will send examples of existing MOAs for us to review. SOBTF will present to the MRGCD board to talk about our partnership efforts over the past 20 years.

NFWF (National Fish and Wildlife Federation) grant – This grant could potentially provide funding for project management to cover some of Sarah’s salary – Applications are due in January.

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) – we have $2,000 available through them and Donald Auer asked if we would like to keep that contract open and we agreed to.

We received a $1,000 donation from Doris Rhodes – thank you Doris for your generous donation!

Water Trust Board and WaterSmart grant applications are coming up. The WaterSmart Grant would be used to fund Phase II of our Conceptual Restoration Plan update.

Nusenda Credit Union - $1,000 community grant that could be used to fund Bosque Conservation Day or other community outreach events.

Yasmeen put together a legislative request (capital outlay fund) of $20,000 for signage on the parks, noxious weed treatment (including retreatment of Severance project footprint), and general trail work and maintenance. She will keep us updated on the status of this request.

**6. Project Updates**

**Rio Grande Trail / Socorro Valley Trail**

Next meeting is Dec 17th 3:30-5:30 at the Socorro County Annex. This meeting is for the core group to refocus our efforts and get the project back up to speed. Afterwards we will plan a public meeting in January which we will advertise on the radio and/or in the newspaper. Sarah is pulling together our mapping efforts from the last meeting as well as the Avenza maps data. Trash pickup day update – about 10 people picked up trash from Otero Park to Confluence Park. Russ Thrun and the State Forestry crew cleaned up some downed limbs at the parks and will go back later and work on the limbs down on the trail. MRGCD provided dump truck and backhoe and picked up a few large items. Felipe is no longer doing a bosque patrol, but is still available to help with bosque work. Maybe BLM could help with bosque patrols.

**BOR Cooperative Agreement**

2 upcoming meetings – January 6 will be a technical meeting to prepare a list of priorities for 2020, and Jan 23 will be a meeting to discuss management priorities. .

**Partners for Fish and Wildlife**

Taliaferro - Matthew Sais agreed to purchase and pick up plants from Santa Ana Nursery. He may have already planted them but if not, we may do a planting day this Thursday or Saturday. We need to do a site visit to check on the plantings.

Ron Thomas – Ron has been reimbursed for part of his project and Matt says the project site is looking very good. He still has some big Russian Olives to remove.

Sal Gonzales – We have a draft contract in place. Will and Nyleen (Socorro Soil and Water Conservation District) will start clearing the salt cedar around the beginning of January so we need to get Sal’s contract finalized before Christmas.

Conklin - If they want to do a project, this will spend out FY16 and FY16A funds. Theirs will be a small (~3 acre) project to establish native grass and shrubs on a dry upland site on their property.

Ken Hart wants to meet with Matt to discuss a potential Partner’s Project on his property. Jan Gribble is still an option for another project as well.

**Sevilleta**

Gina will coordinate with Will regarding the deliver 3,000 Goodding’s Willow poles to Sevilleta. We may want to plan a volunteer planting day for this.

**Tiffany Fire**

BLM has signed the supplemental fire project agreement that makes the funding available to State Forestry. State Forestry will do outreach (access agreements) to the affected private landowners. Jack will start working on this as soon as he gets approval from the State Office. It’s possible that this work could start before the holidays.

**WaterSmart Grant**

A public meeting is scheduled for tomorrow from 4:00-6:00 in Veguita. The meeting is focused on agencies working on private lands. Sarah is meeting with USFWS at 9:00 and Sevilleta at 1:00.

**NMC Grant**

No updates, tabled until Jerry’s return

**Website, FB, Instagram**

Sarah updated board member bios on website. Please send any information or calendar events for the website to Sarah or Amy.

**7. Other**

Sandra talked about the Holloman Air Force Base regarding expansion of Air Force training areas. The last day for public comments is January 31, 2020. Sandra asked board members to read comments she submitted under the board’s name with a request for members to advise whether they are comfortable with letting the “representative” comment stand as is or would prefer that SOBTF’s name be removed from the comment. Future meetings will have an agenda item for Advocacy Issues.

APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) Tamarisk Leaf Beetle lawsuit will provide funding for restoration work due to the damage caused to Southwestern Willow-flycatcher habitat by the presence of the leaf beetle. The 1300 acres of FEMA projects could be restored to suitable flycatcher habitat under this funding opportunity. There is also the opportunity for State Forestry to get funding for projects through this APHIS program.

Next phase of Bosque ribbon work – money was appropriated to work on 45 acres using the inmate work crew (50 crew days) to cut, pile, and possibly masticate salt cedar. Work will take place after the holidays from Brown Arroyo south. The crew won’t be in there after April 15 due to migratory bird presence.

Breakfast in the Bosque – The idea is to make this a regularly occurring event, maybe after the Saturday Farmer’s market, to get people out to the bosque and serve as outreach to the community. This will help our community to have better contact with us and to be informed about what we are doing. We know that people want to get involved with our work but need a way to do so. Other outreach ideas we discussed were an SOBTF newsletter or updated information pamphlet, and increased use of our social media and website to deliver information to our community.

SOBTF will have a 30-second radio spot (donated by Dennis Engineering – thank you!) on 102.1 to talk about our work. We could use radio ads to do outreach for the Socorro Valley Trail – we have $2500 to use for outreach for that project.

Next meeting is Tuesday, January 7th from 3:30 to 5:30pm. We have scheduled a special fundraising meeting at 1:30 the same day – all board members should attend this meeting if possible, but all others are welcome to attend if you would like to discuss fundraising opportunities for the Task Force.

Friday Dec 13 – Bosque del Apache holiday open house from 4:30-7:30

**8. Adjourn**

Gina moved and Sandra second. Passed. Adjourned at 5:14 pm.