**Save Our Bosque Task Force Board Meeting**

Socorro County Annex Office

198 Neel Ave.

Socorro NM

**Tuesday January 7th @ 3:30-5:30 PM
Meeting Location: Socorro County Annex, West Conference Room**

**In attendance: Sarah Anderson, Bob Markwell, Chad McKenna, Matt Mitchell, Gina Dello Russo, Kathy Granillo, Amy Erickson, Willie Lucero, Yasmeen Najmi, Deb Williams, Galen Hecht (on phone)**

**Meeting began at 3:33 pm.**

**1. Approve Agenda –** Kathy requested moving Sevilleta to the top of the project updates due to time constraints. Mattmoves, Amy seconds, passed.

**2. Approve Minutes from December Meeting -** Mattmoves, Yasmeen seconds, passed.

**3. Action Items:**

* **Gina will go to First State Bank after she gets Sandra’s signature.**
* **Jack will talk to Laura McCarthy to discuss NM State Forestry funding some of the Task Force’s work under a 5-year agreement – Gina to follow up with Jack.**
* **Matt will contact the Conklins to ask if they are interested in a small project on their property.**
* **Matt will contact Ken Hart about a potential Partners project**
* **Yasmeen will keep us updated on the capital outlay funding request to maintain the parks.**
* **All – Send Amy or Sarah calendar items to put on our website calendar. Send Amy or Sarah updates, stories, pictures, etc to put on the Facebook or Instagram page.**
* **All – Review our letter to the governor and provide comments/suggestions**

**4. Treasurer’s Report**

Beginning balance $11,999.22, ending balance $29,736.18. We are getting caught up with our project drawdowns and reimbursements which is why the beginning and ending balances are so different.

**5. Fundraising update**

The board had a special fundraising meeting prior to this meeting. We discussed current and future needs, and potential avenues to pursue funding for on-the-ground projects and Program Director costs. Our general reoccurring funds are about $78,000 which covers all of our operating costs and programs.

The Task Force may receive support from MRGCD for 25K per year – we will know by July 1.

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. Will know by February sometime.

**6. Community Outreach**

Outreach is occurring through the CRP update plan. The SOBTF and Tetra Tech had an outreach meeting in Veguita and a meeting with Sevilleta regarding the CRP update. We will send info out on our listserv about our CRP plan update. We need to improve our outreach to northern Socorro County needs to happen.

For the springtime (good weather time) we need to brainstorm outreach ideas. How do we engage the community and get them interested in our work? In the past we have had fundraisers and trail walks, at Gina’s house, Escondida lake, and on the plaza. Willie suggested partnering with the NMDGF / Socorro County fishing derby on April 11. This could be an opportunity for outreach for the SVT – Can we print a few big maps to showcase?

Chad suggested a community planting day. We could make it a regular event to keep the community engaged. We do have to provide maintenance on project sites so we have to follow up on our projects.

**7. Advocacy**

Galen gave an update on the Living Rio campaign. Wild Earth Guardians are doing more community outreach to understand local needs and to create policy to support the river and rural communities. They want the governor to build an agenda around supporting a healthy Rio Grande watershed in New Mexico. The Task Force drafted a letter to the governor and sent it around to the board (previous board). New board members need to look at the letter again and provide additional comments or changes. There is not a timeframe for getting the letter in, but legislative session starts on Jan 21 of this year. 2021 is a likely session for shifts in water policy.

All board members will review our letter before the next meeting and provide comments.

Jan 31 – end of comment period for Holloman AFB training expansion.

**8. Project Updates**

**Rio Grande Trail / Socorro Valley Trail**

Sarah gave an update – the core team met to discuss the current state of the SVT project. We are hoping to meet before the end of the month with more fleshed out deliverables, alignments, and things to present to the public. The core team will meet again in January. February or March will be another public outreach meeting (date to be determined).

Sarah is going to submit our official $6,000 funding request to the city of Socorro tomorrow. Is it a grant or is it reimbursable? Do we need to sign any kind of agreement?

February – Bob is going to start spreading crusher fines again.

**BOR Cooperative Agreement**

Sarah, Gina and Chad met with BOR earlier this week. GSA presented their monitoring findings and we discussed monitoring needs for 2020. Next meeting on Jan 23rd is to talk about maintenance needs.

**Partners for Fish and Wildlife**

Taliaferro – Sarah and Matt inspected the planting site and Matthew got everything planted but had not watered yet – it rained the day after planting though. They may pump water out of the San Juan drain and water the plants with sprinklers. Matthew sent in his in-kind contributions and the project is ready to close out.

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 – Matt, Sarah and Gina went out to the site today. It is a 9.5 acre parcel, and the agreement is ready to sign. SWCD will start the saltcedar clearing soon. Matt says there is a lot of native vegetation present and he is confident that the project will be very successful. They dug some holes to look at the soil type. Sal is going to use a solar water pump with a tank on-site to water all the plants.

Conklin – Matt will try to call them. Amy called twice and didn’t get a response.

2016 and 2016A agreements will be spent out by the end of this calendar year.

**Sevilleta**

Our cooperative agreement expires in 2021. There is $39,000 over 2 years obligated to Black Widow Nursery to supply 4875 Gooddings Willow poles. We have remaining funds of $12,820.04. Tree planting is planned on Sevilleta for Feb 14th (a good day for SOBTF to go), 15th, 21st and 22nd. Anyone that is interested in helping can meet at the Sevilleta headquarters at 9am. Work will be done by 3:00 each day. Snacks and drinks are provided – bring lunch and boots. About 3,000 trees will be planted primarily in A-prime.

Ideas for the remaining $12K? We could hire an ACE crew to deal with invasives, or do more tree planting next year. The project needs to be focused on riparian restoration. Ravenna grass is showing up on A-Prime and Kathy would like to get it addressed this year before it gets worse.

Sevilleta covered the SOBTF interns housing in the past and that could be a use for some of the remaining funds. We could use some funds to pay for SOBTF interns to monitor salt cedar regrowth and beetle effects.

Amigos de Sevilleta annual meeting – January 18th from 12:30-4:00. There will be a talk on Mountain Lions.

Kathy gave an update on SunZia. If you want more information, please ask Gina to send you an information packet.

**Tiffany Fire**

Not many updates - Tetra Tech is working on the project. We have some new LiDaR data for the project site. Jack said that funds are being encumbered. They are still waiting for BOR to respond to State Forestry revisions to their license/access agreement. Once funds are in place, State Forestry will advertise for applications from private landowners and get access agreements.

**WaterSmart Grant**

Outreach is continuing – we are trying to find a time/date to do outreach to NMDGF and Audubon. Analysis of current conditions is ongoing and results should be coming to us soon. Geodatabase draft will be presented to the Task Force on January 14th.

The state of the river reach report for Phase 1 is due in July. Then we can complete this project and apply for Phase II funding through another WaterSmart grant.

**NMC Grant**

Jerry will get with Gina and Sarah to do a site visit. It is 50 acres on Charles Mandeville’s property that could be followed up with a Partners project.

**Website, FB, Instagram**

Everyone can add photos or calendar items to the facebook page – send to Amy or Sarah.

**9. Other**

Calendar item – RiversEdge West riparian restoration conference is in February in Grand Junction, CO

Possible agenda item – how can we interface more with RiversEdge West? They provide a lot of on-the-ground support to watershed groups.

Next SOBTF board meeting: Tuesday, Feb 04, 2020

**10. Adjourn**

Amy moved and Matt second. Passed. Adjourned at 5:40 pm.