

Save Our Bosque Task Force

Tuesday, January 14, 2014 Agenda/Minutes

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Gina Dello Russo, Cynthia Connelly, Nick Smokovich, Chris Hill, Matt Mitchell, Priscilla Gwin, Fred Hollis, Willie Lucero, Santiago Misquez, Karin Bailey Bowman, Will Kolbenschlag, Nyleen Troxel Stowe, Yasmeen Najmi (by phone) and Mark Meyers.

9:00 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Meeting

1. Approve Agenda. *Motion made by Nick to approve, second by Chris, approved.*
2. Approve Minutes from January 2014. *Motion made by Matt to approve, second by Priscilla, approved.*
3. Treasurer's report: Remaining balances in Bosque Conservation Day fund: \$100.00; in Rhodes Property Project fund: \$1,800.00; in SOBTF fund: \$2,475.65. Overall balance of: \$4,375.65. *Motion made by Chris to approve, second by Nick, approved.*
 - a. Changing banks: SOBTF is considering changing banking institutions because of increasing fees. Doug suggested moving bank account to First State Bank. Waiting on one check from 4H to clear from Bosque Conservation Day. Officers will be on signature card. *A motion was made by Priscilla to approve this move, second by Chris, approved.*
 - b. Bills-post office, website bills are due. *Motion made by Matt to approve payment, second by Fred, approved.* Doug will pay these bills due at the end of the month.
4. Election-nominations from the floor: Nick presided over board elections for 2014, where Gina Dello Russo was elected to fill a vacancy on the board. By acclamation, Doug Boykin was reelected President, Matt Mitchell was reelected Vice President, Fred Hollis was reelected Treasurer and Gina Dello Russo was elected Secretary. **Doug will contact Catherine to see if she still wants to serve as a substitute board member when others are not present.**
5. Project Updates
 - a. Rhodes Project: Santiago reported results of a fence survey at the Rhodes Property. The NRCS will be able to assist the landowner with a one-time maintenance of the northern parcel fence that was damaged in the flooding of September, 2013. This was allowable under WRP because the fence was purchased and installed originally using state funds and the damage was not normal wear but due to flooding. A short portion on the east side of the southern parcel will need to be repaired through SOBTF Rhodes Property funds, possible with Partners funding, Santiago will get a bid on this work. Finishing the new Southern Parcel fence will be included in the discussion following the closing of the conservation easement on this parcel and the awarding of WRP funds for extraction, fencing, and restoration. For extraction work, an old interior fence will need to be pulled out in sections to facilitate access. Removal of this old fence cannot be paid for out of Partners funds available to SOBTF. Santiago will consider this option and discuss with Partners Program. Gina will be presenting Rhodes Property Phase II general

design to the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program to begin discussions on possible support from that program with project implementation.

- b. Partners for Fish & Wildlife Projects: There is \$11,923.65 balance available from Partners to work on SOBTF projects. Nyleen is working with Partners to make sure this funding is allocated soon. Santiago will get her an estimate on the Rhodes Property fencing needs. The other three existing, funded projects being considered for funding include the Savaadra parcel, the Mitchell parcel, and the Gonzales parcel.
 - c. Riverine Parks/SNA: The “ribbon” Wildland/Urban Interface or WUI project to clear salt cedar and Russian olive from the strip of land between the Low Flow Conveyance Channel and the Riverside Drain is close to getting started. Notice to proceed has been submitted. Start date approximately February 1. They will first work from Otero Street south to the Hope Farm crossing, then north from Otero Street to the North Flood Control, then south from Hope Farm crossing to Brown Arroyo, then north from North Flood Control to Escondida Bridge. It is assumed there will be remaining funds to work in the areas of the riverine parks. This work is funded through state severance funds. Some cabling and fencing in parks could also be done while they are there. NMT community garden would like some of the chips, Fred will work with them.
 - d. Healthy Kids Socorro: Cynthia is working with the City on another grant to help connect biking trails, roads, and bridges. They would like to assist with connecting river parks to bike paths. She asked for and received SOBTF support for this project.
 - e. Other: 1) Cottonwood pole harvesting will be done on February 12th and 13th at Bosque del Apache NWR. Poles will go to various properties in the valley. Nyleen and Will are the leads on these planting projects. Volunteers are welcome to assist. 2)the Memorandum of Understanding or MOU between agencies participating in the SOBTF is now with BLM to review and hopefully sign. The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District is also reviewing. Socorro County has signed, thanks to Fred for taking care of that. Doug will send out final version to all agencies for signature. 3) The SOBTF has been asked to host raffles for the County Firewise committee to assist them is bringing more interest to their events. The discussion centered on how well the two efforts dovetailed because all but one firewise locales are in the bosque. *A motion was made by Nick and seconded by Chris to support the Firewise committee in this way. With one amendment putting a one year timeframe on this partnership, the motion was approved.*
6. Other Agenda Items: The Corps of Engineers Levee Project in the Socorro area is said to be starting in March. No one from the Corps has contacted the SOBTF yet about the riverine parks and possible impacts or improvements possible while this project is being done. Doug will follow up with them on this.
 7. Individual Reports: Cynthia reported that there is a Healthy Kids Socorro community stakeholders meeting at Findley Gym on February 27 from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Soup provided. Matt reported that he has established and signed a conservation easement on his floodplain property. Congratulations Matt and Stephanie. Santiago reported that the NRCS reorganization is underway. A new acting District Conservationist for our area is Stan Towner. Karin reported

reorganization at the Defensor Chieftain as well. She will be freelancing. Gina and Matt will work to get Calendar items on the website.

8. Adjourn: *At 11:00 AM, Matt made a motion to adjourn, second by Fred, approved.*