

Save Our Bosque Task Force

Tuesday, February 2, 2016 Minutes

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Gina Dello Russo, Fred Hollis, Matt Mitchell,
Dave Johnson, Mark Mercer, Connie Robnett, Renee Robichard, Nick Smokovich, Dominic Otero,
and Yasmeen Najmi

9:15 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Meeting

1. Approve Agenda. *Motion made by Fred to approve, second by Connie, approved.*
2. Approve Minutes from December 2015. One correction from last month: spelling of Dominic's name. *Motion made by Nick to approve, second by Matt, approved.*
3. Treasurer's report
 - a. Balance - \$ 6,275.57 in SOBTF funds and \$7,712.50 remaining in the Gonzales Project. \$22,400 is available for the Perry Project. There is a \$2.00 donation and \$188 dollars were donated at our roundtable, thank you.
 - b. There is one bill: \$1000 for Goodding's willow poles for the Gonzales property project. *Motion made by Connie to approve this bill, second by Matt, approved.*
4. Project Updates
 - a. Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Project: For Phase I the proposal is finally completely in FEMA's hands. Probably a conference call with them and the Tech team soon. There will be a meeting of the Technical Team on Friday afternoon at the County Annex office from 1 – 3 pm. Phase II of the Socorro Valley Bosque Hazard Mitigation Project will be discussed as well as acquisition and restoration. Capital Outlay \$40 k will be used as match! We will end up having three years to get this first Phase done. There will soon be a call for additional state funds for this work. Question: are CEs part of the option? We'll look into that!
 - b. Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program: There is still work to be done on Gonzales, planting date is set for February 10 and 11. Gina, Connie, Matt, Nick, Doug, Nicole, Renee, Dave, and Dominic can make it! Please bring shovels and buckets if you have them. Perry project update: Amendment to Cooperative Agreement might be necessary because of this delay. Jon Erz, Gina and Angel Montoya will work together to develop a proposal for Task Force and FWS approval to collaborate to hire an SCA or equivalent intern to serve work to develop Partners projects. Tentatively scheduled for February. We currently have three in development phase, and it would be a good time to have an intern assist with outreach, design, and follow through to plantings. This committee will get back with the Task Force in March.
 - c. Riverine Parks/SNA: SNA – No report on the riverine parks but State Forestry did get \$40,000 to continue Inmat and then from Brown Arroyo down to Highway 380. This work will begin in the next week or two. Yasmeen will check with FWS on bird areas to avoid, Doug will send Yasmeen maps. Agreements between MRGCD and State Forestry SNA: road needs grading.
 - d. Other Projects: 1) **Doug will call Jerry Nieto and see when we can schedule a meeting** . We would like to talk to him about all the parks in the levee footprint area. There was a question if the culverts across the LFCC could stay in place. This access is something to consider for fire protection, access to the river for pedestrians, bicycles and horses. Yasmeen will update us on the levee project, MRGCD management had a tour out there recently. 2) RG Trails Commission: let's look at this 3) CRI project on Sevilleta NWR, planting on the project on a large scale has been put on hold. Tentatively, there will still be a planting project, at a smaller scale. Contact Jon if you want to plant. CRI money expires, so would the Task Force be interested in helping Sevilleta NWR in terms of planting and an internship through a cooperative agreement. Funding needs will be discussed as well as timing for the plant purchase and planting.
5. Fundraising: Fundraising Plan discussion –Notes will be sent out to group attending and other board members so we can continue to work on our plan. Follow up meeting on this after the meeting in March?

6. San Acacia Reach Roundtable summary: On January 13, 2016, the Save Our Bosque Task Force led a discussion with stakeholders on the following topics.
 - Each entity represented gave a short 5 minute overview of their focus area: restoration, monitoring and research, outreach, public use, land and water management, and/or planning efforts in the reach,
 - Attendees included: the Task Force, County, COE, BOR, ISC, private lands programs (SWCD, NRCS and Partners), private landowners, Refuges, Bureau of Geology, others,
 - We then had a question and answer session to clarify and expand on some of what was presented,
 - There was limited time to discuss strategies for getting this work done, but the Task Force will follow up with a number of suggestions presented and our ideas for building both coordination and partnering on projects,
 - We ended by taking suggestions on the design for a collaborative public outreach event to follow this roundtable. County annex as possible venue.
7. Other agenda items: none
8. Website/Facebook: Connie is working on updating/revising/and moving our website to this new location. It is looking good with a new format and opportunities for including the history of our organization and highlighting the work we do. Renee reported on our new Facebook page. There are 84 new likes on facebook page as of this morning. If you are on Facebook, like our site and follow it. These outreach efforts will help with our fundraising, but first we need to build a big base of friends and likes. Facebook helps us creates a presence, spotlight members, community, photos of pretty places. Maybe put some accomplishments for the Task Force on our Facebook page. Thanks Connie and Jon!
9. Calendar: MRGCD meeting on Monday, February 22, 3 pm; Doug will present at this meeting. February 29 is next Task Force meeting, planting project dates February 10 and 11 at the Gonzales Property. Tentative date for Trash Pickup April 15. Seedlings are available from State Forestry and March 11 is New Mexico Arbor Day, Hazardous Flood and Preparation Course is March 9 and 10 at the County Annex. Just go on Preparing NM website and register. May 7 is Fire Preparedness and Outreach Day in Socorro County, event is in the planning stages.
10. Individual Reports: Matt reported that on his restoration project, after clearing the thick debris, the javalina have been eating the sweet clover and his prickly pear in his yard. Connie has two questions: Where is the ribbon? The ribbon is part of the bosque that is between the LFCC to the east and the Riverside Drain and the farms to the west. Where is Pueblito? It is east of the river at Escondida Bridge. Yasmeen, forwarded request to pick up trash landowner found along the ribbon by Hope Farm Road. Thanks. Suggested we put the wood permit information on the facebook page, website. "Pick up your free permit at State Forestry and find out where to cut wood." Fred has a question for Matt: There aren't feral pigs out in the bosque are there? No, they are javalinas. Mark is going to come to Task Force meetings when he can to represent the Fire Marshall's office. Fred will still represent as the County Emergency Manager. Renee announced that there are going to be volunteers from Sevilleta NWR available for Environmental Education, keep this in mind for BCD. We'll get Bosque Conservation Day lined up soon. Bear, we are up to 93 likes on Facebook now! California was 40 degrees at Christmas. He is building a cold frame at his house.
11. Adjourn: *At 11:00 AM, Bear made a motion to adjourn, second by Matt, approved.*

Website presentation: Connie showed us where the website is to date. We are going live when Connie and Bear can get together to make the transition. Doug, Nick, Gina and Connie will meet for an afternoon with pictures and reports so that those can be formatted and loaded on the site. Connie will schedule this meeting.