

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 January 2, 2018



9:00 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Board Meeting

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Gina Dello Russo, Nick Smokovich, Fred Hollis, Miranda Kersten, Angel Montoya, and Yasmeen Najmi (by phone).

1. Approve Agenda – Fred *moved and Doug second, as amended to put Partners project first, passed.*

2. Approve Minutes from December 2017, *Gina moved and Fred second, passed.*

3. Treasurer's Report

a. Account activity – We received two \$2.00 donations in December. Thanks for the contribution. Thanks to Miranda for updating the spreadsheet for us.

b. Bills – \$10.00 for Secretary of State Public Regulation Commission. \$50.00 reimbursement to Gina for Annalily's present. Checks include Program Director's salary, UNM for housing for intern \$800. \$62.00 for mailbox rental for 2018. Miranda will check if Wix will cover the domain name if we transfer it to them before we pay that bill to our usual carrier.

c. Fundraising update – WaterSmart Grant: Collaborative Watershed Program could go towards updating our CRP. Can be up to \$100,000 over two years. We need an official resolution for this grant. Board approved a resolution that we have the capacity to provide the requirements under this agreement. Fred made a motion and Yasmeen seconded, it passed. Doug and Miranda will draft. NFWF Five Star and Urban Watersheds grant for improving Community Involvement in our work. Can apply for up to 10% for administration fee, we need five partners to do in-kind (can be soft match), could include County, SOBTF, MRGCD, SWCD, 4H Club, Extension Service, State Forestry. \$20,000-\$40,000 funding for parks and restoration on restore native plants to Severance Project area. Proposal is due January 31. Cliff Bar Foundation Grant focusing on preserving open spaces; may be used for Park improvements, due February 1, 2018. Average award \$7,000. We could ask for \$10,000 and see how it goes. Other suggestions, inventory of signs needed at parks.

4. Director's Update - Travel for TC conference, *Gina moved and Doug seconded, approval for travel expenses for the TC conference, passed.* Had a Bosque Conservation Day planning meeting, March 8 is the day. Sixteen stations. Bus scholarship funds are being sought. Three more planning meetings are scheduled prior to event. Mapping products for both FEMA projects: RfP for north FEMA and updated

project area map for FWS completed. Grantwriting for the grants described above. Cross-Watershed network workshop planning. Completed monitoring for Tiffany Fire Rehab project. Willow tour at BdA, permit is done. Dates for harvesting January 19-22 and 26-29. Need to do contract with Darrel, include 3-4 deliveries during planting time. Volunteers to help with harvesting for our nursery. Friday Feb 16 is a Sevilleta NWR volunteer day that Friends and Amigos are participating in – we could join them on that day. February 13 will be our planting day at the nursery. She is still working on our insurance. Miranda will respond to requests for information. Audit, we need a CPA. Doug will contact Rick Penner about doing this work.

5. 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 the next month or two. For the Socorro County North Bosque HMP, we have locations for project work and Phase 1 Environmental Compliance RfP is now being evaluated. Both projects will add greatly to the fire protection of the bosque and homes on the river within Socorro County. Save Our Bosque Task Force continues to be a strong partner in this project.
- b. Partners for Fish & Wildlife Projects Status – Angel attended to discuss next steps with us. We can do a new agreement with Partners this FY. Lawrence-Devers is completed and final payment will be done this month. FEMA compliance that affects the Thomas/Brook and Dewey should be done by April 2018 and they are a priority for on-the-ground work. We discussed other potential projects that will have invasive species clearing done through the FEMA project.
- c. Riverine Parks/SNA Updates – SNA – tabled. Riverine Parks – levee mowing update: started at the flood control working south. Yasmeen will check in with Lorenzo on this needed maintenance. Thank you MRGCD for this work!
- d. Rio Grande Trail, Socorro Valley Trail efforts - Next meeting January 9 in Santa Fe. Miranda will reach out to Christy Tafoya to see about them coming down here. The Commission presented to the MRGCD Board in December. Yasmeen thought it went well in terms of working with them for trail alignment and conditions.
- e. Sevilleta NWR Project Status – Started with \$117,000, overhead, contract for 3000 willows last year has been spent. Obligated \$24,000 for 3000 from Black Willow Nursery for early 2019. Darrel Reasner and Johnny Munno will be harvesting the next 4000 this year. We need to work up a schedule for any monitoring needs on Sevilleta NWR for 2018. Have until 2021 to complete work under the agreement.
- f. Central Socorro Bosque Severance Project Status – should be done with Severance 4 mastication this week. Hand crews working next week. Seeding and planting to wait until later in 2018.

g. Tiffany Fire Rehabilitation Project Status –There is a meeting on January 18, 10 a.m. meeting at Bosque del Apache NWR to continue work on this project.

h. Goodding’s Willow Nursery Project Status – Plan to harvest and plant again in February 2018, see dates above under Sevilleta NWR project.

i. 4H/Task Force Greenhouse Status –Carlos is working to get the site prepared. BLM is donating crusher fines for this work. Footings should be in this week and construction should start next week.

j. Other Projects: 1) Santa Ana Nursery –Miranda will help schedule field trip for us to look at their nursery (Deb, Kathy, Cyndie, Gina, Fred, Doug all said they were interested). February maybe?

6. Restore Our Rivers Initiative Update – tabled.

7. Other agenda items – 1) MRGEDA - Yasmeen made a motion to join as a member pay for membership, Doug seconded. Passed. 2) Cross Watershed Network – The workshop will happen April 4 and 5, 2018. We are looking for local sponsors of this event – food, lodging, scholarships?

9. Calendar items

- Next board meeting February 6, 2018.
- BCD March 8.
- Tiffany fire meeting January 18 with tour of potential Partners projects to follow.
- Starting this month, the Task Force Board meeting schedule has been amended. We will meet as usual on the first Tuesday of each month but cover more board actions and business. Those meeting times and agendas will still be available along with notes on the website. Anyone wishing to present at this meeting time should contact Miranda to schedule. A Public Meeting is scheduled for March 2018 and will be posted on the website, widely advertised. We will have these each quarter from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the County Annex. We will present our projects and invite a guest speaker to each of these quarterly meetings. First speaker: MRGCD CEO Mike Hamman.

10. At 11:53 am. Adjourn *Doug moved and Yasmeen second, passed.*