**Save Our Bosque Task Force**

EMNRD, Forestry Division, Socorro District Office

1701 Enterprise Rd.

Socorro, NM

Tuesday October 2, 2018

**9:07 AM Save Our Bosque Task Force Board Session (Business Meeting)**

Attendees: Doug Boykin, Sawyer Hitchcock, Amy Erickson, Shannan Snyder, Matt Atencio, Russell Thran, Carlos Vega, George Smithson, Gina Dello Russo, Fred Hollis, Robert Mariano, Bob Markwell, Matt Mitchell, Zach Saavedra and Yasmeen Najmi.

1. Approve Agenda – *Fred moved and Matt second, passed.*

2. Approve Minutes from September 2018 – *Fred moved and Matt second, passed.*

*To Do List:*

* Doug will follow up with Fred on trail materials for volunteer work.
* Yasmeen will let Amy know when she is going to present to MRGCD board so she can invite us up to the board meeting - Pending.
* Matt Atencio from BLM will assist us to get a template for the Tiffany Fire Project plan that is needed.
* Amy will get us a written estimated budget (will be around $1,096) for the RiversEdge West conference.
* Amy will draft roles and responsibilities for the Advisory council.

3. Treasurer’s Report

a. Account activity and bills received – SOBTF funds ending balance for September $3,613.77. LThere is one error from this month, the 1,215.70 for the plant flash cards is coming out of the Turner Youth grant not the SOBTF general funds, so the actual balance for the SOBTF funds is $4,829.47. There is $74,692.07 in the Program Management Account as of September 20, 2018. There is $1,508.80 in Turner Youth Grant after correction. Total balance of $80,854.82. We reimbursed interns and PM for their mileage while working and using their own vehicles. A check to Matt Mitchell to cover his Partner’s project of $375.00 and a checks to PM for salary were made. New reimbursement for Gina Dello Russo $23.40 for a reference book. A payment of $1,215.70 was sent to the vendor for the plant flash cards, paid for by Gina Dello Russo and reimbursed by check.

b. Fundraising update – New opportunities: Amy is looking at two grants that will fund internship program and an outreach project.

4. Program Director’s Update – Amy has been working with the Interns this month. They will give a presentation next. They are working on the Tiffany Fire project and Rhodes Property monitoring program. Most other updates are under the other projects. Amy has worked for us for over 3 months, has met the initial goals of her position, and has received a raise.

5. ACE interns update – Shannan and Sawyer presented their work over the last 3 months. Great presentation of their many projects including Tiffany Fire, FEMA mitigation projects and other pretreatment transects. They did a survey of the parks and trail that we will use to prioritize our work on the Trash Pickup day. They assisted with other projects including sensitive species and cultural surveys, and a few tours of different restoration efforts like Bosque del Apache NWR. They both did individual projects. Shannan developed a plant guide and we have developed a set of flash cards for teachers at the Bosque Conservation Day. Sawyer developed a public survey and did outreach to our public. He came up with words that referred to nature, the bosque, and conservation. He went to NM Tech, the plaza, and the post office. Results were presented and very interesting. He also did sonnets on the plants that he visited along his transects. Thanks so much to both of them! They are staying for Bosque Conservation Day. Both are moving on to interesting experiences, Sawyer may be heading to an advanced degree in conservation, Shannan on to a work assignment in Santa Fe for BLM. They were asked how their sense of the desert has changed after being here. Both shared their changed views of how diverse and vibrant the desert truly is, how wide open. We closed with a poem from Sawyer, his Coyote Willow sonnet.

6. On-Going Projects – Important Updates

a. Socorro County Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Projects Status – having some issues with the Socorro Valley Wildfire Project. We will keep you up to date. SOBTF is all done with pre-treatment monitoring on both FEMA projects. Environmental Compliance is completed for the valley project.

b. Partners for Fish and Wildlife Projects status –waiting on feedback on the Armendaris Project, Mitchell project is moving ahead, Thomas/Brook project is ready to go. Jake Chavez might be interested in a project, he has land on the Canas Arroyo.

c. Rio Grande Trail, Socorro Valley Trail Efforts – Our Bosque Trail: Fred will assist Doug to get the gravel at different trail heads along the trail and then volunteers, led by Bob Markwell, will spread it. NPS Rivers, Trails and Communities grant was awarded to us. Congratulations to all in our partnership! SNA – they are doing some analysis of opening the gate full time and putting in a new vault toilet. There has been some vandalism and illegal shooting in the area. They hope to rehab the pond as well.

d. Sevilleta NWR update –We are starting to use the rest of the funds, things are underway.

e. Central Socorro Bosque Severance Project Status**:** State Forestry did receive $50,000 from BOR to continue this project. Hopefully, work on Severance 5 sites with these funds will start within the next two weeks. Contractor should start spraying soon and planting design is underway with temporary fencing to protect plantings.

f. Tiffany Fire Rehabilitation Project – Amy reported that she and Gina have been working on the SOW for the planning part of the project. Interns have finished the site prep priority area monitoring. Doug made up a budget for the priority areas and we are working to narrow down the areas to treat. An estimate of $990,000 is available for this in addition to the WTB grant funds. Next step is a project plan to submit to BLM, Matt from BLM will assist us to get a template for what is needed. BLM is working with the landowners to keep the cows out. They have sent letters to let them know that we will keep cows out of there during rehab.

g. WaterSmart Grant – we had a call with them this week, we will probably get started on this early next year. We are updating our CRP from 14 years ago.

h. 4H/Task Force Greenhouse Status – now that school events are slowing down, we can organize to erect the greenhouse. This should be soon.

i. Bosque Conservation Day – **October 18, 2018** is new date. Matt cannot be there. Amy is working with a team to schedule. Socorro County, State Forestry, NRCS scavenger hunt, USFWS Angela James fisheries, SOBTF Amy and Interns will develop a game. BLM may be there with an Archaeology booth and NMDGF may be there. MRGCD may be there for water conservation. We will have On a Wing and a Prayer will take over Matt’s spot. We are doing lunch again. We got $1000 from Nuesenda for the event that will cover food and stipend for On a Wing ($150 approved) and a Prayer. Friends of Bosque del Apache are giving funds for the buses. On Friday October 5, there will be a trash pickup at the SNA (not a public event for this one).

j. Fall Trash Pickup – October 4. 9:00 am meet at Otero Park. Interns made map of parks and will get the word out to interest our public in other parks. Yasmeen will check on dump truck and back hoe, Fred will check on the dumpster at Otero Park. Amy will bring trash bags and George will bring shovels and rakes. There will be a trash pickup day on November 10, Highway 1 to Bsoque del Apache NWR.

k. Social Media – Amy is working on updating our website –adding project descriptions. Amy could use some postings for our Facebook page. Announce that we are working to get some trail maintenance done to see if there is interest in helping.

7. Potential Upcoming Expenditures

a. RiversEdge West conference. Amy will get us a written estimated budget (will be around $1,096). *Matt made a motion and Gina seconded that we will provide funding for this conference, passed*.

8. Other

a. SOBTF Advisory Council: Amy was tasked to write up advisory council bylaws, which she handed out as a draft for us to review. We will look at this and defining the roles and responsibilities. Suggested size, 4-6 persons; large professional network in the area; individuals that can act as a liaison to other groups of people (someone from NM Tech as example); someone who could help with grants or fundraising from donors; and maybe someone with an accounting background. What we would expect of them? Meet informally occasionally, have someone from our board to attend their meetings. Suggest we assign individuals with tasks. Next steps to develop roles and responsibilities. Notes: make sure we have capacity to oversee the council, what training they would like to have (workshops, tours to inform them), create a written bylaws – how frequently to meet, what we expect of them, length of time, how they would be asked to leave, removal procedures. Amy will draft written bylaws, roles and responsibilities.

b) Socorro Synergy Group update – talked about potential documentary and how that could help us with our outreach efforts.

c) Anything else – Yasmeen has been checking in on the weeds on the Levee. MRGCD will start to take care of it now. Mowing this fall and spraying next spring.

9. Next meeting is November 6, 2018.

10. Adjourn at 11:35 am. *Yasmeen moved and Matt second, approved.*