Logo

Description automatically generated

Working collaboratively to support a healthy Rio Grande Bosque and riparian ecosystem while celebrating its benefits to the communities of central NM

**Save Our Bosque Task Force**

Save Our Bosque Task Force Monthly Board Meeting  
Socorro County Annex Office  
198 Neel Ave, Socorro NM

----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Tuesday, October 5th @ 3:00pm   
Meeting Location: Socorro County Annex**

In attendance: Gina Dello Russo, Matt Mitchell, Rex Myers, Ron Thomas, Jeff Havlena, Amy Erickson, Sandra Noll, Jerry Wheeler

**Board Member Action Items** –

* + Matt will contact San Antonio school district about a San Antonio park cleanup in November
  + Matt and Rex will make a list of things to purchase for the parks with the $5,000 from the city
  + Amy will update the membership contact list
  + Sandra and Rex will check the trash status of the parks prior to the trash pickup day on the 28th
  + All – Please talk with potential board members and remind them to submit their intent to serve on the board in writing at least 10 days before the November election
  + All – Check parks for trash status prior to 10/28 trash pickup day
  + All – Send Amy calendar items to put on our website calendar
  + All – Please send Amy a post for the Facebook page so we can keep everyone engaged in our work. We would like to have a post from each board member.

Meeting began at 3:15 pm.

*Approve agenda and minutes from last month’s meeting*  
The agenda was approved with a couple additions from Gina. We added “request board to accept the amended bylaws” after approving the agenda and minutes. Under other we added “planning the annual meeting in December”. Rex motioned to approve the changes to the agenda, Sandra seconded, passed.

Minutes from September – no changes or additions. Matt motioned to accept the minutes as written, Rex seconded, passed.

Resolution of the bylaws  
Travis sent the revised bylaws to the board for review last week. We will vote on the resolution now and vote on the bylaws at the annual meeting in December. Sandra motioned to approve the amended bylaws, Matt seconded, passed. Gina (Board Chair) and Amy (Secretary) signed the document.

*Public open forum*  
We all gave a brief introduction. There was no input from the public.   
  
*Treasurer’s Report*  
Matt gave the treasurer’s report. As of last meeting our balance was $54,441.54. As of this afternoon our balance is $41,761.46. We have had minimal activity on the budget this past month. Matt is working on the budget spreadsheet since Sarah took a new job.

*Current grant applications*  
Matt applied for a $2500 Nusenda grant to cover Bosque Conservation Day and other community events. If we receive this grant, it will be awarded in December.

*Fundraising efforts*SunZia update – there will be a followup meeting with SunZia soon (with SOBTF and RGALT). We would be funded under “community benefit” and not “mitigation”.

We have two new paid members for September.

Project updates –

*Partners for Fish and Wildlife*  
We have closed out all spending for FY17. Final reports are due at the end of December. This includes Ron Thomas and a couple of others. Barclay is the only currently pending project. Matt still needs to work on their budget and asked if anyone would like to help him with that. Once we get the budget, we can submit it to Angel.

*Parks and Trails*  
The park cleanup at Bosque Park on September 18th was successful. There were 14 volunteers and 5 weed whackers. One pickup truck load went to the dump so the park wasn’t too bad. Gina made a list of other needs for the park. For example, grading the road, regular weedeating, removing unnecessary concrete slab, and making a new entrance to one of the tables that is hard to access. The city crew can help us with those things. The city will need invoices and receipts for whatever we buy for the parks and the invoice must include links to items we purchase online. Matt and Rex will start thinking about what we need to purchase for the parks with the $5,000. We are still needing new signs at the park and those can be paid for with the city money.

MRGCD has $30,000 in Capital Outlay funding that can be used for improvements at the parks and bosque, including purchasing signs.

Rio Grande Trail / Socorro Valley Trail   
We are still waiting to hear back about the story map. There may be a video coming as well.

*Sevilleta*  
There are a series of interim managers filling in the position until someone is hired. The position will be open until Nov 21.

New Mexico Counties grant   
Jerry said there are no updates, just working on timelines for getting the on-the-ground work done.

BOR Cooperative agreement  
We have drawn down the money and paid for the interns. We can see about doing the drawdowns for the truck payment quarterly instead of monthly.

Review of board action items  
Amy, Sandra and Gina discussed the membership lists and Amy will make sure it is organized and up-to-date.

Board elections will take place on December 7th.

Community outreach and social media  
2021 BCD is scheduled for October 14th. Socorro schools are all on board and transportation has been set up. We are just providing snacks and water and all of the students will bring their own lunch. Magdalena schools are coming as well - they have their own fund for the bus transport, and their school will provide lunches for all of the students. Matt let BLM know that we are having the event at the Socorro Nature Area. They are doing a lot of construction out there but it will be fine for busses and the station rotation. So far we have 4 stations confirmed.

Monthly Park Cleanups – San Antonio park cleanup in November? Matt will contact the school. We can do a different park if that does not work with their schedule. We should go ahead and make our schedule for all of the parks going forward ie) a different park cleanup will take place on the 3rd Saturday every month.

Any other outreach - At some point, we will have Rio Grande Trail outreach event again.

Advocacy  
Rio Grande Basin Study – the study is moving forward. They have had the first of 7 sessions of “adaptation workshops”, there were 38 participants at the first meeting.

Other  
Policy and Procedures vote will take place at the November meeting.

Open positions on the board – the timing and frequency of board meetings is something the new board can decide on. Currently we do once a month at 3pm but if the new board would rather meet after work hours, it can be changed.

Program director update – we interviewed one candidate (Danielle) and let her know we are flying the position for another 30 days. We have not gotten any other applications for the position. Sandra made a motion to offer Danielle the position for $23 an hour, with a $700 one-time moving expenses and up to $400/month health insurance stipend. Rex seconded, passed. Gina will send Danielle an e-mail with the offer and also let her know that the board is currently going through a transition phase and she will only get a limited amount of training from Gina, so she can make an informed decision on whether or not to accept the position.

Annual meeting in December – Amy will send out the notice in November with an agenda and a brief bio for the board members who might want to serve. Do we want to serve food at this event? We can have it in the commission room in the annex, just let Jerry know so he can reserve the room. We can have the meeting later than the regular meeting time at 3pm to allow more members of the public to attend.

Rex motioned to adjourn the meeting, Jerry seconded, passed. Meeting ended at 4:58pm.

**\*\*\* Our next board meeting will be on Tuesday, November 2nd at 3:00 pm \*\*\***