

Conservation Committee Minutes— March 3, 2015

Attendees: Jim Daniel, Michael O'Farrell, Mary Clark, Greg Colelo, Jerry Gulseth, Tom Bredenberg, Tom Brimacombe, Mark Young, John Cannella, John Parker

Guests: Jan-Willem Jansen,

February minutes: reviewed and approved unanimously

Candidate Rob Egemeir: Mark shared that the board has formally approved Mark Egemeir's nomination to the Conservation Committee.

New Business: No new business brought before the committee.

Bluebird Houses: Mark has been in discussion with Jim Olsen regarding placement of the Bluebird Boxes he has made. The committee discussed pros and cons of various placement options. No strong preferences were identified other than that they should be placed at the margin of forested areas allowing for open space which the birds need to forage. Placement in proximity to trees would help blend the houses into the landscape. Mr. Olsen is said to prefer placement in the greenbelts rather than the preserve. The committee was ok with that. Mark agreed to accompany Mr. Olsen in the field and place the bird houses accordingly.

Bird Talk: John Cannella reported that Roger Clark has agreed to give a talk on birds at the Railroad Room on Saturday April 11 from 9AM to 12 PM. John will get Mark information needed to submit an announcement in the April Vistas.

Jan-Willem Jansens Work Prioritization: JWJ said that he had contacted Diana Cummings of the Army Corps. Of Engineers about the report he had submitted on behalf of ECIA regarding the wetland. She committed to get back to him regarding the reports sufficiency, The committee discussed with JWJ the prioritized list of the work that Jim distributed a summary table of. All agreed that the fourth item in the table, the Canoncito Wetland cleanup, should be the first project undertaken this spring. The project is slated for April 25th @ 8:30. It will be the committee's Earth Day project.

The project to reroute/rehabilitate Trail 101, between 1E and 1F was tentatively scheduled for June 06th, with June 20th as a back-up. JWJ suggested that the project could take three days if there were about 12 people working. John Parker mentioned that he had attended Jarrett Saums Eagle Scout ceremony. John met the new Troop Leader, Dennis Ritschel who said there were a number of young men in the troop who would be looking for a project to complete their Eagle Scout requirements this year. All agreed this would be an excellent Eagle Scout project. Rock for the project will be delivered by pickup instead of larger dump truck to avoid impacts to the preserve. Mark, Jim & JWJ will hike to site and flag locations for rock to be stock-piled.

The wetland crossing below Trailhead 3 was discussed. This work requires a high level of expertise in repairing the rock cross-vane structure that was damaged by a major downpour and resulting flood last summer. Craig Sponholtz is the best resource for this work in our area. He has indicated his willingness to do this work. It is estimated that he would charge between \$3,500 & \$5,000. This will be brought before the board for their consideration.

Mark will contact Offices of the SF Co. BCC regarding work on the bar ditch along CR 51 near Trail head 3.

Status of New Preserve Trailhead Signs: Mark reported that he had received 4 of the five large trailhead maps and that staff had placed one of the signs at Trailhead 1 behind the gas station. It was noted that one of the signs delivered had large "bubbles" in the lamination. He said that he would talk to Lee about having them repaired or replaced. Plans are underway to emplace the small signs in the preserve.

Greenbelt Trail Work: Tom, Jim and Steve Griego have continued working on the project in February. Much work remains to be done. Due to the fact that the work is all by hand, progress is slow. The committee discussed options, reaching a consensus to only treat those areas of the trail in greatest need as opposed to the entire length. Jim will share the committee's desire to adopt this new approach with Steve Griego.

COLTPAC: John Parker reported that the COLTPAC is currently developing some outreach initiatives for the coming spring/summer season. One of the outreach efforts will involve a commemoration of the completion of the rail trail improvements extending to Avenida Vista Grande. Date of event is expected to be early-midsummer. Committee members were encouraged to attend.

Update on Windmills and Dream: Jim sent language concerning the Conservation Committee and the Preserve to Pam Henline who is putting together revised edition .

Cactus "Class": John "Obie" Oberhausen has been scheduled for ?????offered to present a class on cactus and cactus gardening.

Other Classes: Mark asked whether there were other classes we could sponsor. A suggestion was made to do a class on herpetology as there were often questions about snakes. John Parker agreed to contact UNM zoology department to see if one could be arranged.

Next meeting: April 7, 2015 at 7:00 pm.