

## ECIA Conservation Committee Minutes

March 2, 2021

1. 1. Call to Order at 7 a.m.
2. 2. Appointment of Recording Secretary: Susan Will
3. 3. Roll call: Paul Butt (Chair), Carol Beidleman, John Parker, Susan Will, Thom Bredenberg, Jürgen Lehman, Tom Brimacombe, John Reynolds (excused absence), Carol Sanguinetti (Board Liaison), Mike Rogers HOAMCO Liaison; quorum established. Visitors via Zoom: Eddie Dry, Elizabeth Maclaren, Karen Ebler, Paul Fink, Jonathan Turkle, Melinda Espinoza (HOAMCO Zoom Assistant).
4. 4. Agenda change to place equestrian access issue under Old Business requested by Paul; motion Carol Beidleman, seconded by Thom Bredenberg. Approved.
5. 5. Announcements:

Meeting is being streamed on ZOOM with the following rules:

Guests are muted until recognized; guests should type in name, full address and topic to speak during the OPEN FORUM. Residents will be recognized on a first come, first served basis.

Private messaging during the meeting is disabled.

An audio recording of the Zoom meeting will be made, and will be available after the meeting upon request to [conservationchair@gmail.com](mailto:conservationchair@gmail.com)

6. 6. Approval of February Minutes: moved to approve by Susan Will, seconded by Carol Beidleman. Approved.
7. 7. Board Liaison Report from Carol Sanguinetti:
8. A) Coffee with Co. Commissioner Hank Hughes will be on Wednesday, March 10 at 5:30 p.m.
9. B) If anyone is interested in applying for the ECIA Board, please follow ALL the applicant instructions in order to be considered.
10. C) Thanks to Paul for getting other committees involved in sharing ideas for a standardized approach to format and presentation for input to the Five Year Plan. \*Need Volunteer of the Year nominations to Carol.
8. 8. HOAMCO Report from Mike Rogers:

(A) NM State Trust Lands access meeting will be held Thursday with Mike, Craig Johnson, NM State Recreation; Warren Thompson, the lessee; Paul Butt, Cathy (?), Carol Sanguinetti, and David Sorkin to work on access from the west side of Eldorado to the adjacent State Trust Lands.

(B) Maintenance tomorrow for 201 project in the main arroyo from 201 to where the target practice site was and fences were pulled up. Maintenance will mend the fence, pull the bottom wire back down so people can't crawl under, and post no trespassing signs. Smooth, rather than barbed wire will be used.

(C) The side fence at the 100 Trailhead keeps getting cut and it looks like people are using it for trail access, rather than going a few yards further to the opening in the fence for the approved trail.

Subsequent discussion led to the following suggestions for HOAMCO:

- 1) extend the split-rail fence down the side,
- 2) put up signs directing people from social trails to/from the parking lot, and

3) put up "social trails are bad" and "do not trespass - private property" signs (with red markers to indicate the private property).

4) Document this process for a future VISTAS article so people understand why we are doing this.

(D) From Paul to Mike: can maintenance stub or dig out the U-channel post about 15(?) yds west of the gate on the 400 Trail where everyone walks.

\*CC members: Provide ideas on a plan for the 105 trail steps

9. 9. Open Forum:

(A) Jonathan Turkle: sighted cattle showing up again along the 403 trail (Hidden Canyon area):

Paul: ECIA needs to 1) get permission from the Miller family to access the line, get maintenance to repair the fence line, and get the cattle out. (Fence repairs will be added to the April Agenda)

Note that there was a numbering error in the agenda and there is no #10.

11. 11. Project status updates:

12. A) Letter of Engagement with Ecotone for 2021: This is primarily to manage expectations for the consultation and contracts. The Phase 2 & 3 of 401 dam site initial site evaluations were completed today. It is primarily for the rock rundown and one-rock dams on the north and the trail re-route volunteer project on the south. It will go to the Board for approval and then to Nancy for signing.

13. B) Bid package for 401 Gully Project (phase 2) pending.

12. 12. New business:

(A) Discussion of request for consideration of placing bench(es) in the Preserve: Elizabeth Maclaren requested information on placing a memorial bench in the Preserve. This led to a discussion on the need for a protocol/policy on such ideas.

\*Paul requested comments and suggestions be sent to him for future discussion. This would need to be approved by the Board.

(B) Discussion of selection of Recording Secretary for the future meetings led to the following volunteers: Thom Bredenberg - April, Susan Will - May, John Parker - June, and Carol Beidleman for July.

(C) Discussion of protocol for differentiating woody/brushy habitat from hazardous fuel accumulations in the Greenbelts, for wildfire risk mitigation: there is a need for a Board-approved policy for identifying to determine what needs to be removed, by whom, and how. This would identify the difference between fire hazards and environmental habitat. The widespread dissemination of the information is needed (VISTAS article?). Work was done in Los Alamos Park and that identification of material to be removed needs to be formalized. Paul emphasized the need for fuels to be chipped onsite and widely scattered so it does not become mulch.

\*Send additions and what should be SOP's to Paul.

(D) Re-seeding: After a brief discussion on the tumbleweed removal in Gallina Park and reference to the previous discussion on reseeding, it was recommended that a site or sites in that area be monitored, and photographed once a month (by "someone") to document tumbleweed and other invasive species in order to determine if the mowing was successful and/or if other steps need to be taken. Thom pointed out that the Russian Thistle removal in Gallina was huge - over 5 acres was mowed and is bare

dirt now. It was mentioned that the stable is doing a re-seeding and have invited us see how it works out.

\* Thanks to Thom Bredenberg for his Russian Thistle photo and article in VISTAS. Send in photos of "monster" plants to Paul, if you have them. We need more for future articles.

(E) Mention of annual review of Conservation Committee charter and question of whether changes need to be made. No further discussion.

### 13. 13. Old Business:

(A) Preserve signage project assignments: Need to make getting signs out a priority. Jürgen needs one person to help. \*Send Jürgen an e-mail on your availability. Tom Brimacombe thinks he can use his existing templates to get started on the signs for the 200 trails.

(B) Equestrian access issues: 1) problem with access off of Vaquero Road. Need a starter project for "Friends of the Preserve and this might be good one. Paul will get with Jon Turkle and Amelia Adair on whether or not/how to manage social equestrian trails. Will ride out on Mon. 3/8 to look at social trails between Tr 105-103 and try to start mitigating the long-standing issues with all parties.

(C) Discussion of 2021 project prioritization results: 1) Most responded with #1 401 South gully repair, #2 401 North steps, and #3 401 South dam site. Will set a workday for the 401 North steps, scout it for a reroute and then arrange for the Board tour. \*If interested set a date with Paul before the end of March. There was discussion on limited reroute, rebuild, or reroute through the Cactus Garden as options for the Tr 401 steps issue.

(D) Set workday for Tr 401 South re-route flagging: Some of this was done today during the recon with Paul and Jan-Willem Jansens. \*need to get out and look at the flagging by April 6 for handwork for the PNM truck access. This would involve cutting up downed trees, perhaps transplanting a single Piñon Pine and reroute before fixing the headcut.

(E) Set workday for Tr 404 meadow, north. This was tabled.

Paul will put out an email on the three prioritized projects. The Board needs to be invited to look at the proposed reroute on Tr 401S in order to educate them on what needs to be done and why. Since it is all volunteer and no materials will be needed for the short reroute, it should not need Board approval.

(F) Ecotone "Letter of Engagement" finalization for submittal for signatures

(G) Open Discussion: 1) 5-Year Plan - Paul brought up Jürgen's email on the 5-year Plan and discussed the constraints in relation to funding and labor. He felt that the intent of the plan was to allow for a pre-approval of some projects, as well as keeping them in the loop for future consideration, and given a somewhat standardized formatting. There was mention of the area SE of Trailhead 4 (east side of CR51) for future consideration.

Tom Brimacombe brought up the need to keep a list/map/location of projects for future reference.

### 14. 14. Adjournment: Motion John Parker, second Thom Bredenberg. Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.