

## ECIA Conservation Committee Minutes

May 4, 2021

1. Call to Order at 7:01pm
2. Appointment of Recording Secretary (Susan Will)
3. Roll Call: Paul Butt (Chair), Tom Brimacombe (Vice Chair), Carol Beidleman, Thom Bredenberg, Jürgen Lehman, John Parker, John Reynolds, Susan Will. Quorum established.

Carol Sanguinetti (Board Liaison), Mike Rogers (HOAMCO Liaison), Melinda Espinoza (HOAMCO Zoom Assistant).

Visitors via Zoom: Jonathan Turkle, Stuart, Joan Mitchell, John Roby, Andra Nyman.

4. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Thom Bredenberg, 2nd by Susan Will. Motion carries.
5. Announcements:
  - Meeting was streamed on Zoom with the following rules:
  - Guests are muted until recognized; guests should type in name, full address and topics to speak during the Open Forum.
  - Residents will be recognized on 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. Approval of March Minutes: No changes. Motion by Carol Beidleman, 2nd by Thom Bredenberg. Motion carries.

Approval of April Minutes with correction that the Tr401 S reroute does not need ECIA Board approval: Motion by Thom Bredenberg, 2nd by Susan Will. Motion carries.

7. Board Liaison Report, Carol Sanguinetti:
  - Three Board positions are now open.
  - Joe Gutierrez was elected Volunteer of the Year.
  - Paul asked about getting safety vests for the ECIA volunteers. Paul will get with Julie to make sure they are approved and place an order. He will cc Carol.
8. HOAMCO Liaison Report, Mike Rogers:
  - Access points to State Trust Lands moved to New Business.
  - Maintenance will meet Thom on Thursday, May 6 at 9:30 am at Enebro Place for tumbleweed removal and to put up Greenbelt access posts.
9. Open Forum:
  - Paul received two emails concerning ATV's in the Preserve between 3D and 3E. This section of the Preserve is not fenced. Be aware of these incursions and thank people who report them. We need to fence these areas.
  - Meeting guest Stuart reported ATV use on Tr 301 but no further indication of use when he checked it today and no real damage done. He thinks they came in from the I-25, over the top of the ridge, or along the road from TH 2. He saw them around 3B. he thought posting a sign might help. He frequently walks the Greenbelt and wanted to know about accessing it from the community center. That is county property and they have been reluctant to allow access. Paul will talk to Co. Commissioner Hughes about it.
10. Project Status Updates:

- Report on SF Conservation Trust tour in the Preserve with Jan-Willem Jensen. Susan felt it had been successful in providing SFCT with insight to the work Jan-Willem and the CC had done. Paul mentioned that Jan-Willem is under contract to SFCT and they will be holding three rock structure workdays at the Thornton Homestead property. Contact [Tim@SFCT.org](mailto:Tim@SFCT.org) if you are interested. The dates are Thursday, June 10; Friday, June 11; and Saturday, June 12.

John Reynolds stated his realization that:

1) public grant money had paid for quite a bit of Preserve restoration work when we did not emphasize our private property status that is now preventing us from getting funding [This is incorrect. See attached report on the project, "**Summary report for "Cañoncito Riparian Restoration Project."**]

and

2) the SFCT would be an excellent resource for addressing legal liability issues concerning opening the property to the public. Paul will prepare a presentation on the new liability policy that was issued April 15 and what the implications are for the June meeting.

- Willow planting plot. Paul Butt and Thom Bredenberg planted 13-14 willows along the margins of the arroyo at the bottom of the hill on Tr 201 and want to put more on the west side. Volunteers may be needed to water them once or twice for the next couple of weeks.
- Sign vandalism - Tr 105 "Not a System" Trail. Jürgen Lehman reported there are two trails going up Vista Grande overlook: one from 1K (a social trail) and one from the Tr105. the problem is that people come to the social trail off Tr 105 and tend to use it. A "Not a System Trail" sign was installed but when Jürgen returned a few weeks later the sign was completely gone, along with the post. Paul suggested we put up a new one again. If that is removed, we'll let be.
- ECIA Preserve Tour, Tr 401S dam site, south gully area trail reroute will be Saturday, May 8 at 9 am. This is a chance to show the Board the reroute and N Gully erosion issues, give them a chance to get out into the Preserve and get exposure to the "why" and "how" we are doing things. Paul will lead the tour, beginning with a safety talk. CC members are welcome to join.

#### 11. 11. New Business:

- Vote on new member application: Jonathan Turkle. Motion made by Susan Will, 2nd by Thom Bredenberg to recommend approval of his application to the ECIA Board. Motion passed. If approved by the Board, he will join the June meeting.
- Brief discussion concerning staging of additional doggie stations along Greenbelt trails. There are currently 13 in Eldorado and one at each of the trailheads in the Preserve. Thom took a request to install one at the Camerada Loop trailhead but that easement access has not been surveyed. No further action will be taken until the survey is completed.
- Discussion of new signs for NM State Trust Lands west of Tetilla Rd. Mike Rogers worked with the NM State Land Manager and they decided it was best to use signage to keep trespassers out of the private lane using yellow sign posts (stay off) and green sign posts (stay on this trail) at both the Windmill access site and at Tetilla. CC agrees in principle to the signage. The marker posts, the official sign, the Eldorado sign asking people to abide by the rules, and, at Tetilla - a specific sign to use the main trail and stay off the private property will be installed. Carol Beidleman pointed out that the descriptive sign at Windmill is very visible from the surrounding Eldorado homes so an attempt will be made to 1) place signs in a less-visible location; 2) angle them so they would not impact the list; and 3) use a more appropriate background color (rather than white). Paul will work with HOAMCO on it.
- Discussion of improvement of the social trail from Ave Torreon to Glorieta Rd. John Reynolds asked the CC to start this consideration - using neighborhood volunteers, sanctioned by the CC in

a process similar to that of the ECIA Architectural Committee (review, approve, track, + train?, supervise?). Paul asked John to review the Greenbelt trail SOPs and Standards and prepare a summary of what he proposes that does not lie within them for CC consideration.

- Discussion of improvement of the Gallinas Park social trail(s) west of Avenida Azul. Thom Bredenberg: the existing trail is on a drainage access and needs to be rerouted to the north out of the drainage; he would like to get the CC and the neighborhood to walk the trail, look at the trail system, get ideas and rendezvous to come up with a proposal. Paul will contact the Roads Committee to see about getting a survey of the easement in the queue, in order to start the process.

## 12. Old Business

- Discussion of CC meeting format for June (live, Zoom, Live + Zoom): We will continue to adhere to current NMDOH orders. Carol Sanguinetti reports ECIA has the capability to do Zoom and live simultaneously (hybrid). John Reynolds moved and Tom Brimacombe 2nd the June meeting be hybrid. Carol and/or Mike will report back if the classroom location has enough space to work for a hybrid meeting.
  - CC action by motion to build the Tr 401 S site reroute. Susan Will moved and Thom Bredenberg 2nd. Motion passed.
  - Set workdays for Tr 401 S site reroute (sawyer crew, tree transplanting (May 8), mechanical, and touch-up.
  - CC action by motion to remove the two old picnic tables (Tr 203 and TH1). John Reynolds made motion to remove, Carol Beidleman 2nd. Motion passed.
  - Set day for continued planting of willows in Tr201 area and possibly the Tr 404 meadow remediation site. Thursday, May 13 meet at 9 am at TH2. Paul will put to a call to the listed volunteers.
  - New benches in the Preserve: discussion of recommendation to the Board by motion. Motion made by Carol Beidleman to recommend benches NOT be installed in the Preserve. John Reynolds 2nd and Motion passed.
  - Discussion of draft SOPs for Greenbelt wildfire risk management: follow-up on site visits to the area northwest of Monte Alto Pl. Review the draft SOPs.
  - Paul wants to focus on completing the Tr 400 projects and the Library trail so if you want to take the lead on new projects, let him know. Also, please send your scheduled absence dates to him.
13. 13. Adjournment motion by Thom Bredenberg, 2nd John Parker. Adjourned at 9:01 pm.

May 11 9:00 am. Tr 401 S Tree transplant pilot. Meet at TH4.

May 13 9:00 am. Continue planting of willows in Tr 201 area. Meet at TH2.

May 13 9:00 am. Tr 401 N reroute site tour. Meet at TH 4.

May 29 8:30 am. Fire Risk Mitigation site tour at Pueblo Cañon Park, Monte Alto Place area. RSVP: If it's only 2-3 or us we can park at the end of Monte Alto Place. If it's more, we should meet at the parking area off Vista Grande on the rail trail and walk to the site. Paul will announce the chosen meeting place on May 28.

## Summary report for "Cañoncito Riparian Restoration Project."

**The riparian restoration project that lies east of Trailhead 3 between Trails 201 and 202 was started in 2006 and principal work concluded in 2012. The Project was initiated and managed by Earth Works Institute, which ceased operations late in 2011.**

The Project consisted of landscape scale restoration and education in several places in the northern Galisteo River watershed, including the Galisteo Basin Preserve, Village of Galisteo, Galisteo Creek east of Cerrillos, and in the San Marcos Creek area. The work in the Eldorado Preserve was part of this watershed-wide strategy.

Numerous area entities were involved over the course of the Project. part of in the Project included extensive contributions of planning, organization and labor by the Conservation Committee. Eldorado Community School assisted in the organization and participation of Eldorado students under the name "Eldorado Elementary Green Team" in educational and hands-on activities in the Preserve restoration area. The Eldorado Boy Scouts troop participated in a number of work days in the restoration area.

**Earth Works applied for, was awarded and managed several grants that helped cover costs for the Project, both in the Eldorado Preserve and elsewhere.**

**Grants from the Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation and US Fish and Wildlife Service were used for educational activities in schools in the northern Galisteo Basin, including Eldorado Community School.**

**Grants from Partners for Fish and Wildlife (US Fish and Wildlife Service), US EPA Wetland Program Development funding and the NM Environment Department Surface Water Quality Bureau were used for the actual restoration work.**

Earth Works Institute was able to use federal and state funds in the Preserve and in other areas on private land treated during the Project because those funds are explicitly available to private landowners for landscape scale restoration projects that will have a beneficial impact on lands surrounding the project areas.

In their grant applications, Earth Works argued successfully that the work would benefit water quality, wildlife habitat, and people throughout the Project area.

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife is geared toward wildlife habitat restoration on private lands. The US EPA Wetland Program Development programs, as well as other government agency programs, continue to offer grant monies for projects on privately owned land when the benefits extend to the surrounding area. This is something the Conservation Committee may wish to consider when planning projects in the future.

Paul Butt

ECIA Conservation Committee Chair