

**Candelaria Farm Preserve  
Technical Advisory Group**  
August 10, 2017

**MINUTES**

*TAG & Related Technical Assistance Members Present*

Steven Cox  
Beth Dillingham  
Brian Hanson  
Yolanda Homann  
Michael Jensen (Facilitator)  
Judy Kowalski

Peggy Norton  
David Parsons  
Bill Pentler  
Christina Sandoval  
Kent Swanson

*Community Members Present*

Kathleen Hall  
Richard Barish  
Brandt Magic

Larry Shore  
Andrew Stone

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The meeting began at 2:38 with introductions.

**Announcements**

- The Valle de Oro Environmental Assessment draft is available for public comment until August 18<sup>th</sup>
- Peggy Norton and Betsy James spoke to the City Council on August 7<sup>th</sup> regarding farming practices and questions on which fields are wildlife vs commercial crops; Barbara Taylor and Brandon Gibson responded
- Michael Jensen gave the Council a quick update on the TAG's work

**Public Comment**

There was no Public Comment

**Purpose of TAG & Resource Management Plan**

There was a discussion of a draft document describing the work of the TAG. Several TAG members wanted more clarification on how "outdoor recreation" and "commercial agriculture" would be defined in the final Resource Management Plan. Since this would be defining what needs to be resolved, the suggestion was to make clear in the document that the TAG's purpose centers on defining these two terms and how they would be implemented at Candelaria Farms Preserve. Specifically: what is "appropriate" 1) access/recreation; 2) farming; 3) function of a wildlife preserve.

**Sub-Committee Reports**

- *Tree Nursery* (Christina Sandoval, Christianne Hinks, Dave Parsons)

The Nursery can get potable water from the ABCWUA. This would have to be sufficient to provide water for the improved nursery (trees and understory planting), the greenhouses if relocated, and any planting done for CFP

- *South Candelaria SMA* (Peggy Norton, Kathleen Hall, Brian Hanson, Larry Shore, Kent Swanson, Caroline Siegel)  
Kent Swanson is looking for a replacement on his subcommittee because of his increased responsibilities at the OS Visitor Center through the end of the year. The SMA Management Plan “vegetation study” for South Candelaria covered only “the leased area” (the area managed by the RGNC around the Discovery Pond); there was not a site-specific biodiversity study. Brian Hanson relayed some thoughts from the State Game and Fish Department: 1) the Valle de Oro draft plan is a good reference; 2) there is no young growth in South candelaria, so poles would be a good place to start; 3) Discovery Pond water might be spread into the South Candelaria SMA via swales that already exist and/or are developed; 4) what is the status and scope of the GW permit and is a new one possible?
- *Visitor Use Management & Outdoor Recreation* (Beth Dillingham, Steve Cox, Dave Hutton, Jennifer Owen-White)  
Began by assessing current Visitor Use/Recreation: 1) bird walks on weekends, junior ranger walks, monthly twilight hikes; 2) viewing from Veranda, along the Duranes lateral, and from the Candelaria Pond blind. The site needs more and more diverse wildlife to attract people to engage in outdoor recreation activities. Need to explore uses for Woodward House and any needed upgrades to make it useful. Should look at other tools, like portable blinds. Future guided activities will require more staff and (more likely) more trained volunteers, and possibly Open Space staff and/or volunteers. Outdoor recreation, farming (however that is done), and wildlife preserve functions will need an adaptive management plan that can provide the data necessary to assess impacts (positive and negative) and make changes as needed; this will need research, which can come from the Friends group, BEMP, Steve Cox’ work and others)

### **Final Comments**

- None

**Adjourn:** 4:00pm

**The next meeting date/time September 7th; Rio Grande Nature Center Education Building**