

Candelaria Farm Preserve
Technical Advisory Group, TAG
 Rio Grande Nature Center State Park • 2901 Candelaria Rd NW
 Education Building
 April 12, 2018 • 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm
Minutes - final

Participants

Members: Brian Hanson, Chairman; Christianne Hinks, Peggy Norton, Judy Kowalski, Heather MacCurdy, Alan Reed, Dave Parsons

Additional Technical Assistance: Dave Hutton, David Mehlman, James Lewis, Brandon Gibson

Community – Kathleen Hall, Richard Barris, Dan Collins, Yolanda Homann for Alvarado Neighborhood Association

Review of Agenda – approved

Minutes March 29, 2018: Approved

Announcements from TAG Members

- Question – is the crop plan completed? Open Space Jim Lewis said no. Dave Parsons mentioned contract for the farmer said it should be available by January 31.
- Judy mentioned her email to Dave Simon, Parks and Rec, mentioning the Land and Water Conservation Fund requirements. She is ok with releasing the email to TAG
- Dave Hutton reminded the group that Candelaria Farm Preserve (CFP) will be discussed at Herbfest at the Nature Center May 13.

Sandhill Crane biology and habitat - Dan Collins, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), NM Department of Agriculture and USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has created a management plan for the Rocky Mountain Population of sandhill cranes in NM.

80% of that population winters in NM from Cochiti dam to the south end of Elephant Butte Reservoir.

Management goal is 17,000 to 20,000 cranes

Cranes eat chile that causes problems

Cranes are harvested but hunters never take as many as is allocated

Corn and nut sedge are C4 plants that cranes need, especially later in the winter

Corn is 70% of crane diet

C3 plants, alkali bulrush and alfalfa, are eaten early in the winter season

Cranes prefer public areas

In rural areas, cranes like to be 500 meters away from bridges and structures

Winter period in NM for cranes is Nov 25 through February 19

Cranes need roost sites near the river in proximity to feeding areas

Dan suggests keeping open areas for cranes, if cropland is converted to bosque, then consider planting low plants near the cropland that will be planted for cranes i.e. corn. Corn must be cut or knocked down for cranes to use it

Open areas, including cut croplands and grass fields, is loafing habitat

Status of hiring contractor for the development of a Resource Management Plan (RMP):

Alan Reed said that the team, Brian, James Lewis and Alan met twice to discuss the three proposals that were submitted to Open Space. There was some confusion about the selection since Brian, Alan and James did not agree on the best contractor. A meeting took place April 11 with Dave Simon, Brandon Gibson, Brian and Alan to discuss the contractors. At that meeting all agreed to a contractor.

Alan Reed identified the three contractors that submitted proposals.

SWCA Environmental Consultants and Dekker/Perich/Sabatini

Sites Southwest and GeoSystems Analysis, Inc

Ecosystem Management, Inc

Members of TAG expressed their concern about Open Space lack of coordination with TAG and not keeping TAG informed. At the end of the meeting Brian stated that he was ok with the contractor arrangements.

Next Meeting:

April 26 - Contractor status, Site specific management

Questions or Concerns - Contact Brian Hanson at bhanson5@comcast or 505-856-1386

Minutes and agenda can be found at <https://www.cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/our-department/boards-commissions/open-space-advisory-board/open-space-advisory-board>

Vision - To engage in a planning process that results in improved ecosystem health and increased biodiversity of Candelaria Farm Preserve, ensures compliance with Land and Water Conservation Fund guidelines by providing opportunities for wildlife oriented recreation, and fulfills the requirements of City Council resolutions R-16-147 and R-17-159.