

**Candelaria Farm Preserve
Technical Advisory Group**

Rio Grande Nature Center State Park • 2901 Candelaria Rd NW
Education Building

December 14, 2017 • 2:30pm – 4:45 pm

Minutes - final

Participants

Members - Brian Hanson – Chairman, Peggy Norton, Christianne Hinks, Carolyn Siegel, Steve Cox, Christina Sandoval, Kent Swanson, Nathan Todd, Alan Reed, Dave Parsons, Judy Kowalski

Additional technical assistance - Matt Schmader, Dave Hutton

Community – Linda Shank, Richard Barish, Kathleen Hall

Introductions

Approval of Agenda all approved

Approval of Minutes December 7 Dave Parson submitted a comment via email. It said Add to page 2 below the bullets under “Kent had some responses to the review” – “Dave Parson requested that in the spirit of collaboration set forth in City Council Resolution R-17-159, representatives of OSAB and TAG be included in reviewing and selecting the contractor”. The TAG approved the addition and approved the minutes.

Announcements from TAG Members

Steve Cox informed the group that the Audubon Christmas bird count started today December 14. It includes the area around the Nature Center.

Brian informed the group that he will present our group work at the NM Wetlands Roundtable Meeting January 18 in Santa Fe from 9 AM to 4 PM. Address - Toney Anaya Building, 2550 Cerrillos Road, Rio Grande room, 2nd floor. It is open to the public.

Brian announced that TAG agendas and meetings are documented on the Open Space Advisory Board website at

<https://www.cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/our-department/boards-commissions/open-space-advisory-board/open-space-advisory-board>

Public comment – no public comment.

Discussion: Draft Scope of Work, Resource Management Plan prepared by Albuquerque Open Space

Kent Swanson revised the previous draft, and sent out a revised scope this morning, Dec 14. The only copy of the scope we had copies of was dated December 8 but Kent thought it was pretty much the same. The group approved the following actions –

Page 1 The fourth Whereas – after (the Predock plan”) remove the rest of the sentence and replace it with “however, there is no record of approval by the LWCF.”

Page 2 first bullet - After “The Council Resolution R-17-159” add “and R-17-147”.

Page 3 bullet 7 “Identify the levels...” . The TAG voted to remove this bullet because it was confusing. Page 3 second to last bullet, replace the entire sentence with “ an evaluation of the funding necessary to implement alternative development schemes”.

The group approved the Scope with the above changes.

Discussion: Contractor selection. During our last meeting the TAG appointed Brian Hanson to coordinate with James Lewis on contractor selection. Also during the last meeting, TAG members were

to send Kent Swanson their selection of contractors. The group really felt passionate about this and wanted to become more involved. Early this morning many received an email that had a list of possible contractors. Because of this confusion, the group wanted another chance to give their input. So the group agreed that they would review the list and send their ideas to Brian Hanson and then Brian would forward concerns to James Lewis who is the lead for contractor selection. Brian will send out the list to everyone for their comments. Other contractors can also be recommended if individuals want.

Discussion: Define habitat actions that will meet the requirements of the LWCF – Farmland Area

Brian summarized habitat actions that were offered during the 2 day October 2017 workshop and provided them to the group via email December 13. After asking the group the best way to proceed, the group decided to go through each item and agree or disagree or make changes. Each item was explained. Alan Reed numbered the items and kept the results of our discussion, item by item. Brian circled areas on the farmland aerial map and put the corresponding number in each circle. Each item was explained and voted on by the group. In all there were 11 actions, and all actions were approved except for #4 Create waterfowl nesting area north of the ponds. This one was removed because the only waterfowl that may be nesting was mallards.

#5 Create wildlife shelterbelts throughout the area. The word “shelterbelt” was confusing and it was suggested replacing the word “shelterbelt” with “hedgerow”.

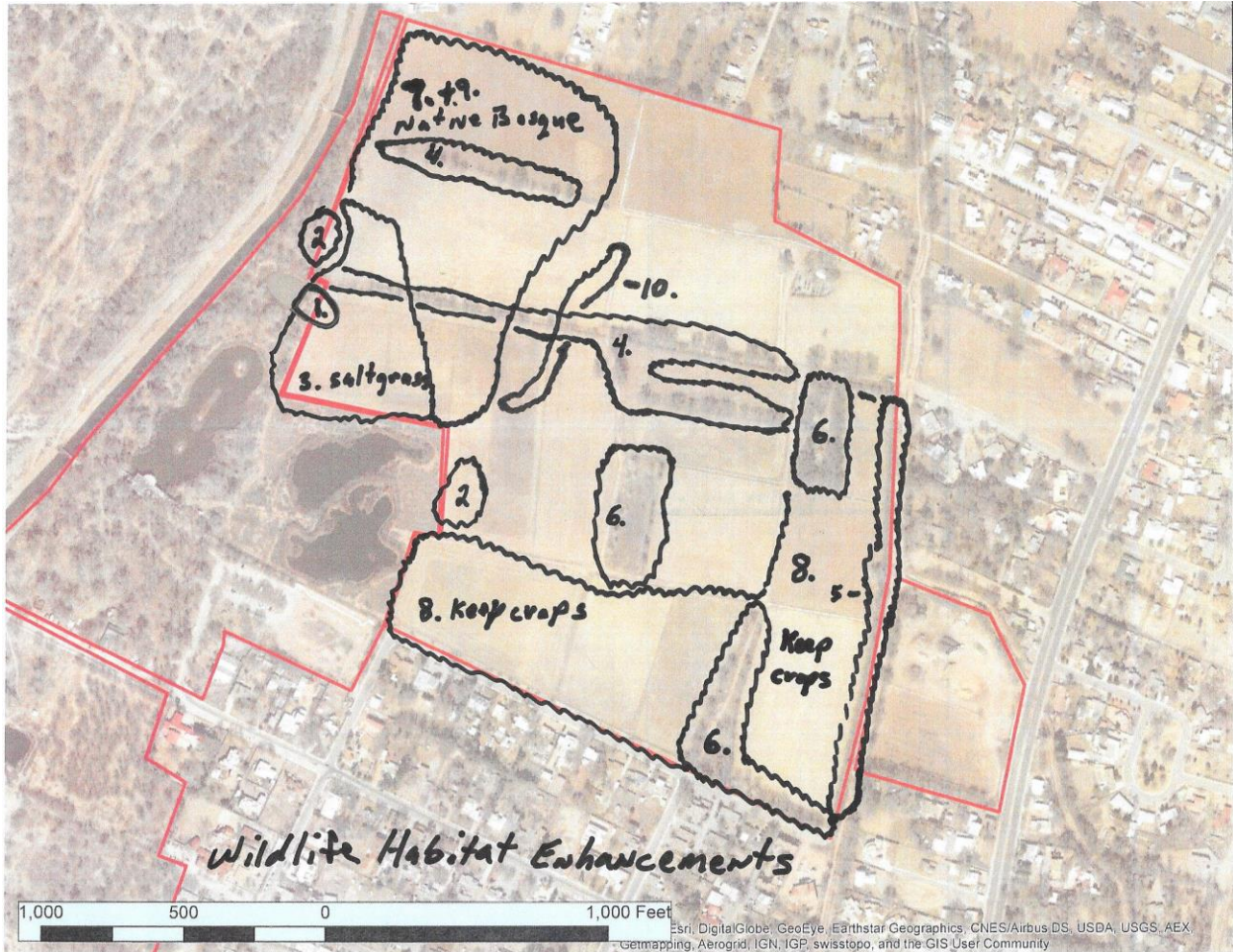
#8 Create native bosque habitat replacing crops. This indicated that all crops would be removed everywhere. This one was removed. The group voted this out because everyone, except for 1 person, wanted some crops for wildlife.

#10 Create a permanent or intermittent flow area for aquatic plants and animals. This one was rejected and a new #12 was created. Everyone did not like establishing a permanent flow because it would be near impossible.

New # 13 Create an intermittent flow area for aquatic plants and animals. Everyone agreed with this.

To avoid confusion, I have renumbered the approved suggestions with changes. See the below map. Our final approved habitat suggestions are -

1. Expand groundwater wetland to the east with shallow areas
2. Create a new wetland, groundwater, or lined- maybe north of present groundwater wetland
3. Create salt grass area near ponds
4. Create wildlife hedgerows throughout the area
5. Gradually remove the present elm trees and Russian olive along the east fence and within the fields; replace with native trees and plant native shrubs
6. Expand several areas of vegetation (trees etc within the fields) and gradually remove exotic vegetation in those areas and replace with native species
7. Create native bosque habitat in the farming area in the northwest area – create variable ground elevation, and plant native trees, shrubs, grasses that will maintain themselves after establishment
8. Keep farm fields near the fences on the east boundaries and south boundaries valuable for wildlife viewing – 3 crop types valuable to wildlife – corn or other crops to attract winter cranes; moist soil management for winter waterfowl; summer crops for wildlife. All of the crops will be for wildlife.
9. Create native bosque habitat selectively replacing cropland
10. Create an intermittent flow area for aquatic plants and animals



Discussion – Guiding principles. A suggestion was made to develop general guidance for habitat improvement to help the contractor and TAG. We will address this at our next meeting.

4:45 pm Adjourn

For further information contact the Chairman, Brain Hanson at bhanson5@comcast.net or 505-856-1386