

**Candelaria Farm Preserve
Technical Advisory Group**

Rio Grande Nature Center State Park • 2901 Candelaria Rd NW

Education Building

August 16, 2018 • 2:30pm – 4:30pm

Minutes - Final

Participants

Members: Brian Hanson, Chairman, bhanson5@comcast.net: Peggy Norton, Judy Kowalski, Kent Swanson, Heather MacCurdy, Dave Parsons, Trudy Merriman

Additional Technical Assistance: Dave Hutton, James Lewis, Carolyn Siegel

Community – Linda Shank, Matt McMillan, Ken Romig, Kathleen Hall

Review of Agenda – approved with added topic of Public Engagement Plan

Minutes July 26, 2018: approved with corrections from Brandon Gibson

Brian mentioned that any interactions during meetings or email should show respect for all participants. If a situation occurs, Brian will address it.

Announcements from TAG Members

- Peggy Norton said that her comments and suggestions during meetings and email were the position of the North Valley Coalition and she constantly informs them of TAG developments.
- Trudy Merriman is the new president of the Alvarado neighborhood association and will be attending meetings. Carolyn was the previous president.
- Brian asked about any developments concerning a transition plan and several mentioned that Michael Jensen was addressing it. This addresses the letter from NM State Parks to Albuquerque Open Space requesting compliance with the Land and Water Conservation Fund that includes progress reports. The topic will be discussed at the next meeting July 30 and Brian will contact Michael.
- Peggy mentioned that there are 2 parts to Transition- those actions that have been completed and those that are planned.
- Kent Swanson mentioned that Brandon Gibson wanted to add the following to the minutes of the last meeting July 26 – *A transition towards 100% wildlife crops will begin in January 2019. Just to clarify, Open Space's goal will be to have a full plan, design and contract to convert the fields into 100% wildlife crop by the time the new RMP is in place. However, we do not have the contract or budget allocation to have the fields in 100% wildlife crop in January.
- Peggy and Carolyn are concerned with the use of pesticides and want the RMP to address the issue, preferably managing without the use of pesticides.
- Heather added to the discussion by informing the group that Rio Grande Nature Center State Park does not use pesticides or herbicides.

Table of Contents Review for the Resource Management Plan, Matt McMillan

Individuals brought up their concerns with the draft document. The TAG voted to accept the Table of Contents with the discussed revisions.

Public Engagement Plan (August 15), Ken Romig

Ken summarized the plan and clarified specifics. Some comments were:

- Heather was concerned with the proposed hikes and wanted to make sure they did not disrupt wildlife use of the area. She will consult with expert volunteers at the Nature Center.
- Heather wanted to add State Parks to the list of contacts for public issues.
- Other comments were furnished to Ken for inclusion in the draft plan.
- Everyone seemed to like the details of the plan.

Next Meeting:

August 30, 2:30 PM – Rio Grande Nature Center. Topic – Transition Plan and Community vegetation project, Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District.

The TAG looks forward to the day when the City of Albuquerque proudly advertises that the City has a wildlife preserve within the City limits. This sets our city apart from other large cities and demonstrates to all that Albuquerque values the natural environment and its wildlife.