

**Candelaria Nature Preserve**  
**Technical Advisory Group (TAG)**  
 Rio Grande Nature Center State Park • 2901 Candelaria Rd NW  
 Education Building  
 January 17, 2019 • 2:30pm – 4:30pm  
**Minutes - final**

**Participants**

Members: Brian Hanson, Chairman, [bhanson5@comcast.net](mailto:bhanson5@comcast.net); Christianne Hinks, Jeannie Allen, James Lewis, Judy Kowalski, Steve Cox, Heather MacCurdy, Carolyn Siegel, Colleen McRoberts, Alan Reed, Michael Jensen, Peggy Norton, Dave Parsons  
 Additional Technical Assistance: Dave Hutton, Christina Sandoval  
 Community – Jonathan Siegel, Brandt Magic

Review of Agenda – approved with addition of - Open Space schedule for Resource Management Plan (RMP); naming the Preserve and writing a progress report to State Parks  
 Minutes November 29, 2018: approved with minor corrections

Announcements from TAG Members – none

Announcements from Community – Jonathan Siegel informed TAG that the neighborhood was looking into making a gathering place on Veranda. He has also discussed this with his consultants.

**Field Trip to Bernardo State Refuge December 4, 2018** – Brian mentioned that 3 individuals took notes and they were sent out to TAG and are stored in Dropbox.

**Schedule for RMP in 2019** – Colleen McRoberts, the new Superintendent for the Albuquerque Open Space Division, gave a summary of planning to complete the RMP. She has worked out the schedule with their 2 consultants and will be sending out a summary to TAG.

Jan 30, 2019	Public Meeting 5:30 to 7:30 PM at the Nature Center
Feb 23	2 walks are scheduled in the cropland, not to exceed 30 people
Mar 23	2 walks are scheduled in the cropland, not to exceed 30 people
Apr 11	TAG meeting at 2:30 at Nature Center – review RMP alternatives
May 9	TAG meeting at 2:30 at Nature Center – review draft RMP
Jun 22	Public Meeting 8:30 to 10:30 AM – present draft RMP to the public
Aug 15	TAG meeting at 2:30 at Nature Center – review draft RMP
Sep 11	Public Meeting 5:30 to 7:30 PM – present final RMP to Public
October	after review from State Parks, the RMP will be submitted to the Open Space Advisory Board for their review and approval
November	The RMP will be submitted to Albuquerque City Council

Details of January 30 Public meeting

The meeting will begin with an open house with posters

Formal presentations include –

- Review of what has happened and goals of the RMP
- Public engagement
- Biodiversity/natural history
- Farm habitat
- Planning process

- Breakouts into smaller groups, probably tables; If large turnout, may do something else

#### Comments during the summary were –

- Colleen said that Liz Douglass-Gallegos from the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program will be presenting Nature's Notebook after the Discovery Hikes at Candelaria Farm on February 23 from noon – 1 p.m. for people to learn more about the citizen science program that may be established at the farm for ongoing monitoring
- Colleen wants to get input on the RMP from others such as school groups etc, may have a questionnaire
- Brian cautioned that activities in the Preserve must not impact wildlife populations
- Steve Cox has been banding birds for decades and has data on birds
- The issue of the budget to implement the RMP was brought up. Alan Reed said he would look into funding.
- Dave Parsons reminded the group that alternatives that included commercial sale of crops would not meet the rules of the Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Colleen mentioned that she might modify the summary sheet for the public meeting. It was requested that TAG review it prior to the public meeting.
- Michael Jensen stated that offering several options of farming practices resulted in the same situation we were trying to resolve.

#### **Name for the Preserve**

At the meeting we discussed having a new name for our wildlife preserve. Previously it had been called several names, including in May 1979 - Rio Grande Nature Center and Preserve. When we started TAG it was called Candelaria Farm Preserve. Lately we have been calling it Candelaria Nature Preserve. The new superintendent for Albuquerque Open Space, suggested we also get some ideas for names at the upcoming public meeting Jan 30. So we want you to send your ideas to Colleen McRoberts and James Lewis so Open Space can develop a display that will ask the public for their ideas.

At the meeting some of the names were - Candelaria Preserve, Los Candelarias, Albuquerque Wildlife Preserve, Rio Grande Preserve. Others talked about calling it a Refuge, or Conservation Area. When asked, many of the TAG liked the idea of including the word "wildlife"

#### **Progress report to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**

Previously NM State Parks sent a letter requesting the Open Space Division work on the new RMP and inform them of their progress. State Parks is the liaison between Open Space and the National Park Service that administers the LWCF. TAG sent a progress report in 2018 and needs to send another letter. Michael Jensen volunteered to write the letter. If anyone has input into what we have achieved, please send your comments to Michael.

#### **Comments made during the meeting**

- Michael said that TAG information is stored in his Dropbox account and is waiting for Open Space to tell him what they want to do about storage. Some requested that material be posted on the Open Space website. Colleen said she would check with Phillip on staff.
- Michael reminded TAG that BEMP (Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program) is having a large meeting at UNM February 15 addressing the bosque. You need to register for it at [bemp.job@bosqueschool.org](mailto:bemp.job@bosqueschool.org). It's free

- Someone asked for a report from the consultant of the comments that were received during the stakeholder meetings.
- There may be other TAG meetings if necessary before April 2019.

**Next TAG Meeting:**

April 11, 2019 at 2:30 PM – Rio Grande Nature Center. Topic – Review of RMP alternatives

Minutes and agendas can be found at <http://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.

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.