

**Candelaria Farm Preserve  
Technical Advisory Group**

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

January 4, 2018 • 2:30pm – 4:30 pm

**Minutes - final**

**Participants**

**Members** - Brian Hanson – Chairman, Peggy Norton, Christianne Hinks, Carolyn Siegel, Christina Sandoval, Dave Parsons, Judy Kowalski, Heather MacCurdy

**Additional technical assistance** - Matt Schmader, Dave Hutton, David Mehlman, Bill Pentler

**Community** –Kathleen Hall, Jeannie Allen, Richard Barish

**Review of Agenda:** Christianne Hinks thinks James Lewis, CFP liaison, should be attending meetings—should we act on this? Bill Pentler, though, is attending on his behalf; Christina volunteers to tell James that TAG asks that he attend if possible

**Approval of December 14 minutes:** Brian received no comments. Move to approve the draft minutes, seconded and approved unanimously.

**Announcements:** Christina Sandoval noted that Barbara Taylor retiring tomorrow, Jan 5 2018; they don't know who the Acting will be, though Matthew Waylan (sp?) is deputy

Judy Kowalski has asked many times about the definition of agriculture pertaining to the Land and Water Conservation Fund from agency personnel countrywide, and has not received any response; She suggests the TAG come up with a definition when we get to the point of needing one

**Public comments:** Dave Hutton: working on setting up a festival, Herbfest, at RGNC May 13. He thinks we could have an hour session on the CFP planning progress which the community might be interested in hearing; TAG thinks it's a great idea; could be a speaker or a panel discussion

Brian to send out agenda for Jan 18 wetlands roundtable in Santa Fe—At the meeting Brian will present on CFP at end of day, 3:15 PM to give general outline of what we are doing to gain audience suggestions for habitat improvement work and funding possibilities.

**Contractor Selection:** Brian compiled a list of potential contractors, he sent the list to James and stressed Brian's interest in working with him on it and TAG's desire to be involved; but, Brian has not heard back yet from James; Christina says though typically a small contract would not have an RFP, perhaps we could have a few of the potential contractors give us a presentation or similar that does not require much work; After coordination with Brian, Brian suggested that James could come to a TAG meeting and explain what Open Space considers the top 2 or 3 contractors. Carolyn and Dave suggests contractor should provide both technical and planning sides of the work which should be included in scope of work. We briefly reviewed the scope of work and it included technical and planning components. Bill Pentler said that James Lewis was working on the scope and contractor issues.

**Guiding Principles:** Brian sent out a list of principles originally compiled by Dave Parsons (see attached list); these topics could potentially help the contractor; Judy points out that these are good, but we also need the overall vision/purpose statement; discussion that these need to be “under” some broader context

(e.g., Vision Statement -> Goals -> Objectives); Christina points out that the “I’s, i.e. improvement” [on the Principles list] are the vision and the rest are actions to get there. Dave said that his list was targeted for habitat improvement only.

Principles for habitat management

Improve ecosystem health -- goal

Increase biodiversity -- goal

Restore native species

Phase out exotic species

Keep vegetative cover, even if nonnative species until planned revegetation

Create mosaic of habitat types

Improve wildlife-oriented recreation and education while avoiding disturbance to wildlife

Improve pollinator habitat

Improve bird habitat (resident, breeding, migratory)

Farming to provide crops for wildlife

Additions during the meeting included:

Improve mammal habitat

Keep some cropland near the boundary for wildlife

Monitor the effectiveness of management actions such as native species plantings etc

Conduct native vegetative plantings over time and keep croplands until they are replaced

**Discussion of Mission/Vision statement:** The group felt that we should develop a vision statement, with goals and general actions. The purpose is to engage in a planning process which results in improved ecosystem health and increased biodiversity of Candelaria Farm Preserve and ensuring compliance with LWCF by providing opportunities for wildlife-oriented recreation [and public participation].

**Alternate:** Start with Section 1, first sentence of Council resolution R-16-147 as a Vision Statement: “The City of Albuquerque hereby reaffirms that the Candelaria Farm Preserve is to be managed as a nature study area and wildlife preserve providing access to outdoor recreational opportunities for all residents and visitors, as required by the LWCF Act.”

**Or, merge these two together:** Dave Mehlman’s attempt: “Candelaria Farm Preserve is to be managed as a nature study area and wildlife preserve providing access to outdoor recreational opportunities for all residents and visitors via a planning process which results in improved ecosystem health and increased biodiversity of Candelaria Farm Preserve and ensures compliance with the LWCF.”

Goal: improve ecosystem health and increase biodiversity and provide outdoor recreation opportunities.

Actions to accomplish this goal include [see above Principles list]

We briefly summarized possible recreational activities:

Education

Recreational events

Wildlife viewing (including blinds and platforms)

Developed sites for recreation

Low impact

Guided hiking

Volunteer restoration projects

[Tree Nursery activities, including current nursery, Woodward House “facility”]

Brian volunteered to put together a vision statement, goals and actions, then send it out for review and we will review them at the next meeting.

The group liked the following statement on one of Brian’s email –

I look 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.

Next meeting: January 11 to continue work on guiding principles and vision, discussion on improving habitat, discussion on progressive/phased nature of the plan.