

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
BOSQUE WORKING GROUP
JULY 29, 2016
1:43 p.m.
City/County Government Center
One Civic Plaza
7th Floor, Room 7096

REPORTED BY: Beverly Ann Schleimer, RDR, NM CCR #66
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A P P E A R A N C E S

Mr. Richard Barrish, Bosque Working Group, Sierra Club

Mr. Michael Jensen, Bosque Working Group, Sierra Club

Ms. Yasmeen Najmi, Planner, Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District

City Personnel:

Mr. Keith Reed, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation, Co-Chair of Bosque Action Group

Ms. Barbara Taylor, Director of Parks and Recreation

Mr. Matt Schmader, Parks and Recreation, Open Space

Mr. Robert Ramirez, Parks and Recreation

1 CO-CHAIR REED: Welcome everyone. I'm
2 going to call this meeting of the Bosque Working
3 Group to order. It's Friday, July 29th, 2016.
4 It's approximately 1:41 p.m. My name is Keith Reed,
5 and I'm the co-chair of the Bosque Working Group, and
6 also Deputy Director with the City of Albuquerque
7 Parks and Recreation Department. We'll just go
8 around the table real quick and have other folks
9 introduce themselves, starting with you Michael.

10 MR. JENSEN: Michael Jensen. I'm here
11 today representing Camilla, who is on maternity
12 leave.

13 MR. BARISH: And I'm Richard Barrish. I'm
14 a member of the Bosque Working Group, and I am here
15 representing the Sierra Club and the Bosque Action
16 Team.

17 MR. SCHMADER: And I'm Matt Schmader. I'm
18 the City of Albuquerque Open Space Superintendent.

19 MS. NAJMI: Yasmeen Najmi. I'm the planner
20 for the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District.

21 CO-CHAIR REED: Okay. Thanks everyone.
22 And I want to point out that absent at today's
23 meeting is Camilla Feibelman, Mike Hamman, and Mary
24 Beresford.

25 So, with that, I want -- we're going to go

1 to Item Number 2 on the agenda, and that's the public
2 process and schedule for the Bosque Multiuse
3 Accessible Path Phase 3 project that begins at
4 Campbell Road and terminates at Montano Boulevard.

5 MR. BARISH: I'm sorry, before we move on,
6 could we just reflect that Barbara Taylor is also
7 present, and --

8 MS. TAYLOR: I was about to say my name and
9 because I'm going to get into the schedule and the
10 meeting information.

11 CO-CHAIR REED: So for the public process
12 and schedule on the Phase 3 project, I'm going to
13 turn it over to Barbara Taylor, the director with the
14 City of Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Department.

15 MS. TAYLOR: So, the schedule and public
16 process is that there were three walking tours;
17 June 11th, June 18th, and June 25th, conducted
18 by the Open Space Division. The first two by
19 Dr. Matt Schmader and last one by Bill Pentler.

20 The Bosque Working Group meeting is today,
21 July 29th. The public meeting is at Los Duranes
22 Community Center, August 11th from 6:00 to 7:30.
23 In between the -- well, following the public meeting,
24 there, we will finalize the route between Campbell
25 Road and Montano, and we expect to be in construction

1 by mid-September, roughly.

2 MR. BARISH: And, Barbara, when is the
3 deadline for written comments?

4 MS. TAYLOR: Well, I would suggest that the
5 ideal time to get written comments in would be the
6 week after the public meeting.

7 CO-CHAIR REED: So, to set a time for that,
8 with the public meeting being on Thursday,
9 August 11th, I think we can give until Friday,
10 August 19th at 5:00 p.m. to turn in all written
11 comments. Any objections?

12 MS. TAYLOR: I agree. I think that's fine.
13 I do want to state on the record, we're not going to
14 turn away any comments at any time.

15 MR. BARISH: And is there a projected date
16 when an alternative will be selected? I mean,
17 obviously, comments after the alternative would not
18 be very useful.

19 MS. TAYLOR: Matt?

20 MR. SCHMADER: I think what we would do is
21 we would compile all of the comments received and
22 then evaluate them, and publish the final selective
23 alternative within a week or so after the closure of
24 the comment period.

25 MS. TAYLOR: That works.

1 MR. SCHMADER: It wouldn't be done before,
2 of course.

3 MS. TAYLOR: Yeah. That works. And then
4 that gives us time to be in construction by
5 mid-September. Yeah. That's good.

6 MR. BARISH: And is there any environmental
7 review that will be conducted?

8 THE REPORTER: I'm having a hard time
9 hearing you.

10 MR. BARISH: And would -- I'm asking
11 whether there would be any environmental review done
12 in conjunction with this phase.

13 MR. SCHMADER: Well, there's ongoing
14 environmental monitoring. So, nothing beyond what's
15 already been conducted. We can have --

16 MS. TAYLOR: Nothing beyond what's already
17 been done. Southwest -- SWCA did an extensive
18 environmental review and we continue to rely on that.

19 CO-CHAIR REED: Okay. Thanks, Barbara, for
20 that. I'm going to move on to item number 3, which
21 is the alternatives discussion for the Phase 3
22 project. And for that, I'm going to turn the floor
23 over to Matt Schmader.

24 MR. SCHMADER: So you can let this show
25 that I'm passing out some maps.

1 MS. TAYLOR: And this will be available
2 electronically for you.

3 MS. NAJMI: Oh, Mike's not going to be
4 here. I wasn't aware that his dad passed away. It
5 was his funeral today.

6 CO-CHAIR REED: Oh, that's terrible.

7 MS. NAJMI: Yeah, it must have been fairly
8 sudden or recent.

9 MR. SCHMADER: As Barbara had indicated, we
10 had conducted three public hikes in this area during
11 the month of June. But the collection of the
12 existing conditions for the area is something that
13 Open Space Division has been doing for a much longer
14 period of time.

15 What I passed out is a set of four maps.
16 And the first map is the existing conditions
17 highlighting the area from Campbell Road, north to
18 Montano.

19 So, in that area, it also includes the
20 access from the Rio Grande Nature Center. And what
21 the existing conditions map shows is that there is a
22 very extensive network of user-made trails, official
23 trails, unofficial side trails, developed asphalt
24 trail, within the Bosque.

25 We calculated the amount of existing trail

1 surface in the Bosque. I should have looked it up.
2 I think it's something on the order of 15,000 to
3 20,000 linear feet of existing trails.

4 MR. JENSEN: Just in this section?

5 MR. SCHMADER: Just in this area. And this
6 overall length from Campbell -- the overall existing
7 length from Campbell Road to Montano is just under
8 10,000 linear feet, straight measurement. So, when
9 you add on all of the other side trails, it easily
10 gets up to 20 or so thousand linear feet.

11 It's notable -- two things are notable as
12 well. One, is that this area contains probably the
13 only asphalt trail that exists inside of the Bosque.
14 It's about a mile long -- I'm sorry, a quarter of a
15 mile long, and it's called the Aldo Leopold Paved
16 Loop that comes from the Rio Grande Nature Center.

17 And the other thing is that there are a
18 number of jetty jacks that exist in this area, long
19 rows of jetty jacks that are in the Bosque.

20 So this is part of the existing condition
21 that we are looking at.

22 When you look at the configuration of the
23 existing trails, there are several logical ways to
24 select which ones would be used for the primary
25 newly-constructed improved trail. And the first one

1 of those is reflected in Alternative A, or
2 Alternative 1. We walked these routes at various
3 times on the public hikes. The overall distance was
4 too much really to cover in a single hike, so we
5 covered most of these areas on all of the hikes.

6 The Alternative 1, the primary focus here
7 is to take off from and utilize the end of the prior
8 phase at Campbell Road and then select what is the
9 most central portion of the existing trail system,
10 which hooks up to the existing asphalt trail, and
11 then continues north to Montano.

12 The reasoning behind this one then is to
13 follow on existing trails and to capitalize on the
14 asphalt trail.

15 Alternative 2 utilizes a route that is
16 further west than Alternative 1 and splits the
17 difference between Alternative 1 and the river edge.
18 And when it gets to where the asphalt trail is, it
19 skirts off and bypasses it and then continues up to
20 Montano.

21 MS. NAJMI: So, Matt, I guess with any of
22 these alternatives, are we looking at closing off
23 some of these side trails that aren't part of this
24 new lead trail and the paved trail?

25 MR. SCHMADER: Correct. And I should have

1 prefaced all of this by saying that the purpose of
2 trying to select a single primary use, multiuse
3 crusher fine trail is for user management and to help
4 protect the habitat by not having users going
5 everywhere. And the way that is accomplished is by
6 closing off a number of the redundant or unwanted
7 side trails.

8 When you look at the map, there are a
9 number of locations where there are parallel trails
10 of unneeded cutoffs, side trails that don't go
11 anywhere, and it benefits the habitat and it is
12 better land management to eliminate unwanted,
13 unneeded, undesirable side trailing.

14 So this area from Campbell to Montano
15 probably has some of the most intensive user-made
16 side trailing that really needs to be managed.

17 MS. NAJMI: You know, I guess I would
18 suggest, Matt, that because we've run into the issue
19 of a number of people, a number of the members of the
20 public saying that they want to retain some of the
21 primitive trail, and we did that in the last phase,
22 that I think we need to be clear about it. If you
23 are going to do that, where that is and where we're
24 going to definitively close them off, or we -- well,
25 I shouldn't say "definitively." Where we're

1 proposing to close them off.

2 MR. BARISH: There really are a lot of
3 these remaining trails in this section.

4 MS. NAJMI: Right.

5 MR. BARISH: They're not even all reflected
6 on the map.

7 THE REPORTER: It's hard to hear you.

8 MR. BARISH: I was just saying there really
9 are a lot of user-made trails in this section. They
10 aren't even all reflected on the Matt's maps here.
11 So there's lots of opportunity for closing off some
12 trails.

13 MR. SCHMADER: Partly that's a matter of
14 when some of the data collection was done a couple of
15 years ago, there have even been new user-made trails
16 that have occurred since them.

17 MS. NAJMI: I mean, would we want to just
18 kind of propose an alignment and not propose that
19 primitive trails would be left and then to see what
20 people say, and maybe make some accommodations and
21 then -- or make -- or will we want to propose
22 specifically what we would like to do -- we would be
23 willing to leave, I guess.

24 MR. BARISH: You know, I don't really know
25 which of these trails are actually used a lot, but

1 when Brian Hansen did his survey and how trails were
2 used in the Bosque, he said a lot of these side
3 trails really get very little use. So, I'm guessing
4 that -- especially the ones that aren't right along
5 the river, probably won't be any great constituents
6 for it, but that's just a guess.

7 MS. NAJMI: Probably.

8 MR. SCHMADER: I suspect that the answer to
9 what Yasmeen is asking is that there be three levels.
10 There would be the primary interior multiuse trail
11 that will be improved. There will be the existing
12 trails that will be left open. And then there will
13 be a suite of trails that would be selected for
14 closure.

15 And as with the Phase 2 on the final
16 alternatives map that show the selection, we can
17 indicate proposed trail closures as well. We did
18 that on the first phase.

19 So I think there will be kind of three
20 levels of trail designation when the final
21 alternative is decided.

22 CO-CHAIR REED: Matt, one thing that occurs
23 to me is that the proposed crusher fine path, there's
24 no crusher fine path linkage between it and the
25 paved -- existing paved trail. Is that something

1 that we ought to consider at more than one location
2 so that we maintain a level of acceptable
3 accessibility.

4 MR. BARISH: Are you talking about the
5 Paseo del Bosque trail or --

6 CO-CHAIR REED: No, just the Aldo -- I'm
7 talking about the Aldo Leopold trail.

8 MR. SCHMADER: And that's a good
9 suggestion. There are two very short connections at
10 the north and south ends of the asphalt trail that
11 can be added to this.

12 I also wanted to be sure to note in the
13 existing conditions, that there already are
14 crusher-fine trails in the Bosque in the nature
15 center area, and the difference really is, how they
16 were originally installed, and whether they have any
17 stabilizer in the crusher fine, because back sometime
18 ago when the crusher fine was laid down, that there's
19 no stabilizer added to it.

20 MR. JENSEN: But they are -- I mean, they
21 get so much use, and they're so packed down. The
22 last time I was out there was after there had been a
23 fair amount of rain the previous week, and then a
24 slight dry period, and then rain overnight the
25 morning before I went in, and they were in great

1 shape. There was -- I walked this whole area here.
2 And there were two small areas of five or six feet
3 long, and maybe a foot wide in the -- where the -- a
4 couple of the hard-packed Earth trails were cupped a
5 little bit, but the crusher fine trails were
6 completely dry. And that was after, you know, it had
7 been saturated a little bit and then dried out, and
8 they got, you know, sort of reclaimed. So I think
9 they're in pretty good shape personally, but I
10 mean --

11 MR. BARISH: And my observation is the
12 same, they are handling that very well.

13 MS. NAJMI: So, Matt, just to help my
14 memory here. This Alternative 1, is this following
15 the existing -- what we were calling the crusher fine
16 trail in the --

17 MR. SCHMADER: Yes.

18 MS. NAJMI: An approved trail. Okay. But
19 these other alternatives don't follow that?

20 MR. BARISH: Sorry. What are you saying?

21 MS. NAJMI: This follows that existing kind
22 of improved trail that was in there?

23 MR. BARISH: So, this is not an approved
24 trail. This is that central trail --

25 THE REPORTER: You have to speak up.

1 MR. BARISH: Sorry, I talk softly.

2 So the trail coming north of Campbell is
3 not a crusher fine trail. It does meet up here with
4 the Bosque Loop Trail. This is the Bosque Loop Trail
5 here. So this is an improved trail.

6 MS. NAJMI: Okay. Yeah. That's the one we
7 walked.

8 MR. BARISH: Yeah. That section.

9 MS. NAJMI: Okay. Then we did walk down
10 here?

11 MR. SCHMADER: Yeah.

12 MS. NAJMI: So, Matt, do any of these
13 alternatives incorporate the idea that we talked
14 about with Brian and other folks on the walk about
15 skirting around, like, some of those large paths of
16 the habitat, like the willows and that kind of thing,
17 or are we just following existing alignments?

18 MR. JENSEN: Alt 1 skips a lot of that.

19 MR. BARISH: And Alt 2, I think -- to me,
20 Alternative 2 is the best at avoiding the sensitive
21 areas. There aren't any -- there aren't too much in
22 the way of sensitive areas.

23 MS. NAJMI: Right.

24 MR. BARISH: There is one restoration area
25 that it skirts somewhere around where these parallel

1 lines are here, some are around here. I believe
2 there's a restored area there.

3 MR. JENSEN: Yes, there is.

4 MR. BARISH: Yeah. And it does skirt that
5 and get moved away from that.

6 MR. JENSEN: There's a little swale or
7 something there --

8 MR. SCHMADER: Yeah.

9 MR. JENSEN: -- that just goes -- you know,
10 it's like a high-water channel or something like
11 that, I think, or backwater channel. But there's a
12 little kind of swale.

13 MS. NAJMI: Is that the silvery minnow
14 channel?

15 MR. BARISH: No.

16 MR. SCHMADER: No. That's not what he's
17 talking about.

18 MR. JENSEN: No. That's farther south;
19 right? I mean, I could be confusing this with other
20 places that I walked, because it was six or eight
21 months ago or something, but I'd have go back and
22 look at the photos. But I took some photos, and
23 there's some kind of swale or something in that area
24 right there kind of at where Richard was saying at
25 the end of the sort of two parallel tracks, because I

1 walked from the nature center down the asphalt to
2 this trail here and kind of roamed around here, and
3 walked -- kind of rambled through various of these
4 sort of little side trails and up and around.

5 MS. NAJMI: Well, isn't this the channel
6 right here?

7 MR. BARISH: Yeah.

8 MS. NAJMI: So that's probably a swale that
9 was done with that silvery minnow channel that comes
10 down and comes around.

11 MR. JENSEN: This whole thing right here?

12 MS. NAJMI: Yeah. But what I was thinking
13 in particular, Matt -- I don't remember exactly where
14 it was we walked. I can't point to it on the map,
15 but do you remember when we went to the river and
16 then just to the north of that big, large willow
17 area -- area of willows, and we talked about closing
18 off the primitive trail that went into that. It was
19 close to the river. And meandering the trail around
20 that. And -- but I can't remember exactly where it
21 was.

22 MR. BARISH: So, from my perspective, the
23 Alternative 2 trail really does a pretty good job of
24 avoiding the really sensitive areas. In Alternative
25 1 -- at the north part of Alternative 1 it has this

1 loop trail, and the part that is right along closest
2 to the river there -- it really isn't along the
3 river. There's such a lot of vegetation between the
4 trail and the river, but the part that's closest to
5 the river there, that part really is hardly even a
6 trail at all. It is barely a footpath. And, in
7 fact, at some point the path is actually overgrown
8 with grasses and with willows. I mean, it really
9 barely exists.

10 And this whole area in the north, and
11 really is an area that from my observations,
12 including the bird habitat -- and I was worried about
13 putting even one trail there, but two -- having a
14 loop there, really, I think, would disturb that area.

15 The place where I see the most important is
16 along Alternative 3, the river bank, you know, coming
17 north from Campbell. That area is a grassy meadow.
18 Of course, they're aren't that many grassy meadows in
19 the Bosque anymore, so that, I think is an important
20 habitat.

21 And when I was there yesterday, there were
22 incredible numbers of birds and butterflies, and
23 dragonflies in that area. There must have been at
24 least 20 ash-throated flycatchers down there. There
25 were lots of clean butterflies, if you know what

1 cleans are. They're kind of a very pretty butterfly.

2 There were what I think were common
3 whitetails, which are a bolded-pattern dragonfly down
4 there. It was a great area. There was just lots of
5 stuff there.

6 So that's an area that I think is important
7 to avoid. And I think that the Alternative 2, from
8 my perspective, does the best job of avoiding those
9 sensitive areas.

10 I do want to ask, though, in terms of the
11 actual route you're going to select, is there the
12 possibility of having mixing and matching, so that we
13 can suggest other things? Because I was curious in
14 particular as to why in Alternative 2, you avoided
15 asphalt. I know that asphalt trail does get used by
16 people with walkers and that would certainly be a
17 reason to avoid it then, and certainly because of
18 asphalt bicycles could get a good rate of speed on
19 that trail, but it does seem like an obvious trail to
20 me.

21 MR. SCHMADER: So what Richard has asked is
22 a very important question, and this gets to the heart
23 of the reason why we are doing the planning the way
24 we're doing it, and getting input the way we are.
25 And that is that in the end it's highly likely that

1 there will be elements of the best portions of
2 several different alternatives that would be pieced
3 together to create what would be the most desirable.

4 So, for the purposes of planning and trying
5 to lay out as much difference as we can between
6 different considerations, we lay them out in these
7 draft alternatives. But in the end, it's highly
8 likely that we'll take the most desirable parts of
9 several different ones and create the best result.

10 MS. NAJMI: So, I mean -- there's a couple
11 of comments that I have are -- I would like to see us
12 pursue the strategy of avoiding those major habitat
13 areas -- patches of the habitat.

14 And, then, you know, I'm not too favorable
15 to having two improved trails in the Bosque, parallel
16 trails. You know, I think where we have one that's
17 already existing I think it would be good to utilize
18 and tie into it rather than creating a whole other
19 one. It's just going to get essentially, the similar
20 or same usage.

21 MR. JENSEN: Also that asphalt needs repair
22 anyway.

23 MS. NAJMI: Might be a good reason to do
24 it.

25 MR. JENSEN: Or just to be completely

1 redone.

2 MS. NAJMI: Yeah. To redo it. If we're
3 going to retain it. I don't know how people feel
4 about retaining it.

5 MR. JENSEN: Is that about 8 feet right
6 now?

7 MS. NAJMI: Is it about what?

8 MR. JENSEN: I'm sorry. Is that trail, the
9 asphalt trail about 8 feet now?

10 MR. SCHMADER: The existing asphalt trail
11 is 8 feet; correct.

12 MR. JENSEN: And do you think that it needs
13 to be completely redone, or just patched?

14 MR. SCHMADER: Just patched.

15 MR. JENSEN: Okay.

16 MR. BARISH: So what is the thought,
17 though, about how you can slow bicycle traffic down
18 instead of -- it really does get a lot use. School
19 kids go down there and go in the Bosque, and --

20 MS. TAYLOR: I know it, Richard. I think
21 you need to think very hard about making the asphalt
22 part of the main trail precisely for that reason.
23 Bikes on asphalt, then you'll have people going
24 30 miles an hour.

25 MR. JENSEN: You could put small speed --

1 MR. BARISH: So you think it should be part
2 of the trail now?

3 MR. JENSEN: -- bumps on it that are ADA
4 compliant, but not so appealing to somebody going
5 fast on bicycle.

6 MS. TAYLOR: You just haven't seen the
7 lawsuits that I see from the bumps.

8 MR. BARISH: The Bosque loop part of the
9 trail, but that's where you probably get the most,
10 you know, hiking traffic in where the school kids go,
11 and it's -- you can't really avoid that in this
12 trail, so you have to think of some strategy for
13 slowing those bikes down on that part of the trail.

14 MR. JENSEN: You could have a sign saying,
15 "Walk your bikes on this trail."

16 MS. TAYLOR: Okay. I'll do it.

17 MR. BARISH: And I really thought the
18 Paseo del Bosque trail, just to skirt that would be
19 the best idea.

20 MR. JENSEN: Because I'm kind of with
21 Yasmeen. We've got a big section of trail that's
22 already there. It would minimize the cost of trail
23 building in general, and utilize something that's
24 already there if we did it and just patched it and
25 put that sign up, you know, because the -- anybody

1 seen entering that trail at the nature center end,
2 which is where most people would come up, to see they
3 have to walk on that, they may just stay on the
4 Bosque del Apache -- Paseo Del Bosque trail, or just
5 head down, you know, where they can ride their
6 bicycle on the crusher fine trail and just ignore
7 that.

8 MR. BARISH: Another possibility is to have
9 a -- since it is 8 feet wide, would be to have a
10 pedestrian lane and a bike lane.

11 MR. JENSEN: But that's only one direction.
12 I mean, people are going in two directions and you've
13 got --

14 MR. BARISH: Pedestrians are always on one
15 side and bikes are always on the other side.

16 MR. JENSEN: Right. But you've got two
17 bicyclists on a four-foot lane.

18 MR. BARISH: Well, they can go in the other
19 lane when they have to.

20 MR. JENSEN: But then they'll just stay on
21 that lane, because, you know --

22 CO-CHAIR REED: So to --

23 MR. BARISH: I mean, it would help to keep
24 them separate. I mean, it's not going to be the best
25 solution, but --

1 CO-CHAIR REED: So what if --

2 MR. JENSEN: If you walk a quarter of a
3 mile -- sorry, Keith.

4 CO-CHAIR REED: That's all right. What
5 Yasmeen was saying was, limit to one -- instead of
6 having parallel paths, which I would see having a
7 bicycle dismount zone on the existing Aldo Leopold
8 asphalt path for pedestrians only. And try to sign
9 it so that you have a crusher-fine path parallel to
10 it that allows bicycles. So you give bicyclists an
11 option, and hopefully you are encouraging them to use
12 this other route and avoid the higher pedestrian-use
13 route like you were saying the children and everybody
14 else that use that so frequently, that might help to
15 minimize the problems there.

16 MR. BARISH: And just to clarify, my
17 understanding of the area that's really used a lot by
18 the kids and so forth is not the asphalt. It's the
19 Bosque -- the southern Bosque.

20 CO-CHAIR REED: Okay.

21 MR. BARISH: And a portion of this trail is
22 going to go on one or the other part of that Bosque
23 Loop.

24 CO-CHAIR REED: Okay.

25 MR. JENSEN: Yeah, you're talking about

1 this stuff right here.

2 MR. BARISH: Exactly.

3 MR. JENSEN: It does.

4 MS. NAJMI: Okay.

5 CO-CHAIR REED: Do you want to explain,
6 Matt, any of the differences with Alternative 3? I
7 think we kind of jumped ahead on you, and you didn't
8 really have a chance to formally present that
9 alternative and to highlight anything that you wanted
10 to highlight on that, or should we move on to the
11 okay next item on the agenda?

12 MR. SCHMADER: No. I think we have gotten
13 some feedback already from Richard on 3. The primary
14 reason for 3 was just to show that there are routes
15 that can be done further to the west and follow the
16 river bank more. We do have to be aware that none of
17 the alternatives, 1 or 2, really have any or much
18 direct line of site or visual access or experience of
19 the river at all. They're all inside of the Bosque,
20 and not alongside the river.

21 CO-CHAIR REED: So what I would see as
22 being a reasonable way to proceed with this is,
23 Richard has proposed, you know, taking some elements
24 of the alternatives and, you know, having those be
25 incorporated into a new or a hybrid alternative that

1 is not currently mapped out on these exhibits. So is
2 that something we would want to do and to publish
3 prior to the public meeting so folks have a chance to
4 comment on things, or --

5 MS. TAYLOR: And have it available at the
6 meeting.

7 CO-CHAIR REED: And have it available at
8 the public meeting so there's public comment that can
9 be received on some of that? And, you know, trying
10 to keep the alternative -- because you can come up
11 with an infinitant number of alternatives based on
12 which elements you want to select. So trying to
13 whittle this down to avoid the sensitive habitat, as
14 Yasmeen suggested, and coming up with some reasonable
15 alternatives that are in addition to the ones that
16 are presented here today. Is that how we're
17 proposing to proceed?

18 MR. SCHMADER: I think that that's the best
19 way to go, because we're getting the advice and input
20 of the Bosque Working Group. And when we're looking
21 at Phase 2, we had several of those that were
22 Alternative 2A, Alternative 2B. We want to make sure
23 that we keep the number of those to just a couple,
24 but I would welcome any drawings or any -- just even
25 marked-up hard copy that I can -- yeah, you know.

1 CO-CHAIR REED: So that's kind of what I'm
2 trying to do is to promote conversation in this
3 meeting so that we can take away from it some good
4 suggestions so that we can work on some good
5 alternatives to propose prior to the public meeting
6 that can be discussed further at the public meeting,
7 and encourage that dialogue.

8 MR. BARISH: So in terms of Alternative 2
9 access to the river, the one thing -- you know, I
10 don't really know how much wheelchair -- how much
11 wheelchairs use the asphalt part of it. But it does
12 actually get its -- yes, to have that connection down
13 to the river, access for both wheelchairs and others.
14 The only thing in this stretch, there are a lot of
15 areas that are -- that aren't really good river
16 views. In the south part there are good river views,
17 though, I guess that really is probably the most
18 environmentally sensitive area as far as I can tell
19 looking at this sketch. And I would not want the
20 trail to be along the river there. You could create
21 a link down to the nature center. That's a wide
22 trail. So that would be a good place.

23 MS. NAJMI: I think another -- I don't know
24 if it was here or not, Matt. I think --

25 THE REPORTER: Can you speak up?

1 MS. NAJMI: I think it was a little farther
2 south. You know the place that we went to the river
3 and you could see that there were primitive trails on
4 either side ran along the river bank, both through
5 willow habitat, one through that really extensive
6 willow habitat. And so there may be some
7 opportunities to -- other opportunities to get close
8 to the river and then close off those other trails
9 that go into those big patches of really good bird
10 habitat, big willow patches and stuff.

11 MR. JENSEN: Right. Matt, you were talking
12 about some areas that people might want to keep sort
13 of more primitive. And my experience from walking in
14 this area is that it's incredibly nice. It's almost
15 a tunnel, a canopy. And if you -- again, if you
16 could sign it, and just make it pedestrian only, or
17 walk your bikes, or something, because when I was
18 there, a couple of bicyclists did come by. And even
19 there where, you know, it's pretty narrow, there's
20 branches, they were like zooming through and yelling
21 at me from behind, you know, not too loud, but
22 nevertheless, you know, you startle when you -- you
23 know, "bicycle," you know.

24 But it's a really nice area to walk, and
25 you get little glimpses through the trees, but it's

1 just incredibly peaceful in there, really nice there.

2 MR. BARISH: And the area where I
3 particularly saw that is in your alternative 3 where
4 it goes down to the river on a nature center trail,
5 ande then proceeds north --

6 MR. JENSEN: It goes right through that.

7 MR. BARISH: -- right in there where
8 there's an area that really is exactly what Michael
9 is talking about there. Very narrow trail,
10 overhanging branches. It's a lot like that area
11 along the river south of Campbell that people like so
12 much.

13 So it's a -- it's not -- you know, it's a
14 lot of exotics, but still it's a very pleasant space.

15 MR. JENSEN: A really good habitat.

16 MS. NAJMI: Yeah. And that's okay. I
17 mean, I think there's lots of trails in here that we
18 could look at for primitive trail access. I mean,
19 the areas that I'm really concerned about are the
20 ones right on the river bank where that's the only
21 place really that's good, dense habitat for birds,
22 like willows in particular. And those are the ones
23 I'd like to -- there's trails going through them now
24 and I don't think people really need to be there.
25 But they do go in there. They run through there with

1 their dogs.

2 I mean, if we want wildlife to have any
3 chance in any of these areas, we've got to have some
4 areas that we keep people out of, a few at least.

5 You know, so -- and they might as well be
6 in the areas where we have the really dense, good
7 native vegetation.

8 MS. TAYLOR: May I ask a question?

9 MS. NAJMI: Yeah.

10 MS. TAYLOR: How did those trails get
11 there?

12 MS. NAJMI: I don't know. People walk
13 through.

14 MS. TAYLOR: Exactly.

15 MR. JENSEN: But they're pretty big. I
16 mean, it would take some --

17 MS. NAJMI: No, they're not. Not the ones
18 I'm talking about. They're very small footpaths.

19 MR. JENSEN: In this area right here?

20 MS. NAJMI: Along the river bank.

21 MR. JENSEN: You're talking farther -- no,
22 we're talking about the same area.

23 MR. BARISH: I mean, in terms of all of
24 these small trails, I think people are always on
25 those trails, it's always going to be a challenge for

1 Open Space if they want to reserve that habitat and
2 make sure the birds are there for us all to look at
3 and enjoy and to try keep those good areas of habitat
4 fairly isolated. It's just part of the job, I think.

5 MS. NAJMI: Yeah. And I'm not talking, you
6 know, about huge stretches of the Bosque. I'm
7 talking about pretty distinct areas.

8 MR. SCHMADER: So the real question is, how
9 do we make sure that enough of the right -- that all
10 of us get to go and see some of it, because --

11 MR. JENSEN: Isn't it just for us here?

12 MR. SCHMADER: -- we have a concern about
13 the areas along the river bank that are densely
14 wooded, that have narrow trails, but then we also
15 have concern about areas along the edge of the river
16 that are open, because they're grassy. So by the
17 time you rule out all of them for better
18 accessibility, there's almost no places to go.

19 I mean, I understand about habitat
20 considerations. I'm just saying, we may be winnowing
21 out every form of complete experience for --

22 MS. NAJMI: I mean, I disagree that the
23 south end is that good. We walked through there, and
24 it's on a lot exotics.

25 MR. BARISH: So it's true, there's a fair

1 amount of Russian Olive and a fair amount of elm, but
2 there's grassy areas, and I can't tell -- I don't
3 know grasses. I don't know if those are native or
4 exotic grasses. There was all of these birds and all
5 of these butterflies --

6 MR. JENSEN: It's a nice area.

7 MR. BARISH: -- and we can use it a lot.

8 MS. NAJMI: Yeah, I mean we can -- that
9 doesn't look like a great habitat to me.

10 MR. JENSEN: No, but it's in this area
11 around here.

12 MS. NAJMI: If that's the area with
13 exotics, and the older canopy, is not the same as
14 areas with dense shrubs like willows for the habitat.

15 MR. BARISH: But the grasslands are also
16 really important to have.

17 MS. NAJMI: But if people stay on the
18 trail, then you shouldn't have a problem.

19 MR. SCHMADER: So what I'm going to suggest
20 is that if the members don't mind, if they can make
21 just marked-up hard copy suggestions wouldn't be too
22 hard, and then we can compile them, because we won't
23 be able to really -- I don't think do it verbally and
24 within the meeting time today, and -- or I'll offer
25 to meet with people to go over it, but I think with a

1 little bit of fine-tuning and a little bit of field
2 checking and crosschecking amongst us, we'd be able
3 to add an Alternative 2A or an Alternative 1A, and
4 something that would give the public a better mix and
5 match of the best of what there is in the
6 alternatives.

7 CO-CHAIR REED: And I would encourage that
8 possibly we allow people an opportunity to get into
9 either some of the pedestrian-only-type suggestion,
10 but also the multiuse path opportunities to get in
11 close to the river, but maybe not stay along the
12 river for long lengths, get them there and get them
13 out, so -- because if you don't give them an
14 opportunity to see the habitat and the things there,
15 they're going to make road trails, and we're not
16 going to be controlling folks and they're going to
17 want that opportunity so they're going to do it
18 anyway would be my perspective.

19 MS. NAJMI: Yeah. And that's fine. I
20 agree with that. I think it's just the what and
21 where.

22 CO-CHAIR REED: Right.

23 MS. NAJMI: You know, I disagree that
24 having -- that open areas with exotic species are
25 more valuable to protect from pedestrian traffic than

1 the dense shrubs and willows, which we have a lot
2 less of in these sections.

3 CO-CHAIR REED: So I like Matt's
4 suggestion, and if everybody's good with that, then I
5 would propose to move on to the next agenda item and
6 get into some of the GeoSystems' work.

7 MR. JENSEN: Can I just ask a really quick
8 question?

9 CO-CHAIR REED: Yeah.

10 MR. JENSEN: What sort of connection is
11 there going to be between the Campbell trail and this
12 new section right here? Because right now there's a
13 pedestrian trail, and a crusher fine trail that meet
14 at this point, but the new trail doesn't -- it starts
15 here.

16 So, one, you are going to have to shut
17 people off, but then what's the connection from here
18 to here?

19 CO-CHAIR REED: Right at the end of
20 Campbell Road and Bosque.

21 MR. JENSEN: Right. To get across --

22 MS. NAJMI: Where the current trail ends.

23 MR. JENSEN: Yeah. To get across that
24 big -- that open area where it was clearcut for the
25 Water Utilities Authority's pipeline.

1 CO-CHAIR REED: Right.

2 MR. JENSEN: There going -- my
3 understanding from the Corps is that they are going
4 to have some sort of trail going down through there
5 to this viewing platform, and did they kill that
6 platform?

7 THE REPORTER: The what platform?

8 MR. JENSEN: Down Campbell Road, down this
9 bare area down to the river where they had proposed a
10 platform --

11 CO-CHAIR REED: A viewing.

12 MR. JENSEN: A viewing platform.

13 MS. NAJMI: That's still in the works as
14 far as I know.

15 MR. JENSEN: Yeah. I know that they
16 canceled some things, but I think that that's one
17 thing that's still there.

18 MS. NAJMI: I didn't hear otherwise.

19 MR. JENSEN: And they talked about putting
20 some sort of trail all the way down there.

21 MR. SCHMADER: So the answer is that their
22 proposed trail along -- we ended up building it.

23 That's what this southern part --

24 MR. JENSEN: That's this pink thing --

25 MR. SCHMADER: Yes.

1 MR. JENSEN: That's their trail?

2 MR. SCHMADER: Basically.

3 MR. JENSEN: Okay.

4 MR. SCHMADER: And they will build the
5 viewing platform as planned.

6 The connection -- really this mapping --
7 there's a "Y," there's a split right over here and
8 there's two sections of it. So we would just take
9 off of the northern. There is a connect.

10 So regardless of which alternative is
11 chosen, we'll make sure there's a logical connection
12 between the north end of the phase 2 and the south
13 end of the Phase 3.

14 MR. JENSEN: Right. I mean, they'll
15 connect on the riverside of the levee?

16 MR. SCHMADER: Yes.

17 MR. JENSEN: Right.

18 MR. SCHMADER: Not up on the --

19 MR. JENSEN: You don't have to go up it and
20 come back down.

21 MR. SCHMADER: Right.

22 MS. NAJMI: And it looks like, Matt, all of
23 your alternatives so far have trails starting from
24 that eastern end of the --

25 MR. JENSEN: From Campbell.

1 MS. NAJMI: We're at the side of that
2 pipeline there again. So maybe that's the place to
3 make the connection. I guess it depends on how this
4 all flushes out in the end.

5 MR. JENSEN: It's just there was a gap
6 there, but everything -- you know, the pedestrian and
7 the crusher fine trail meet here with, you know, the
8 alternative 3 -- oh, no, even alternative 3 doesn't
9 start down there.

10 MR. SCHMADER: No.

11 MR. JENSEN: Yeah, so -- okay.

12 MS. NAJMI: That's a good point.

13 CO-CHAIR REED: Your point's well-taken.
14 Thank you for pointing that out.

15 Let's move on to item number 4, which is
16 the status of GeoSystems Analysis Incorporated's
17 Restoration Study. And for the update on that work,
18 I'm going to turn it over to Matt. I could take a
19 shot at it, but you're going to do it better justice
20 than me.

21 MR. SCHMADER: Thank you, Keith.

22 The City of Albuquerque in order to guide
23 future restoration activity from Central Avenue to
24 Campbell, where the first two phases of trail have
25 been built, contracted with GeoSystems Analysis to do

1 site evaluation and to assess the restoration
2 potential in this area.

3 And so we have a report, a 62-page report
4 that is being handed out, distributed to the Working
5 Group, and it also has been published online.

6 The fieldwork that was done by GeoSystems
7 Analysis covers 170 acres. And what they did was to
8 examine the existing conditions in the Bosque, which
9 resulted in them creating 72 mapping units. And the
10 mapping units are based on differences in the
11 existing vegetation types, the existing soil
12 conditions, and the existing depth to groundwater in
13 that area.

14 From -- they also looked at the
15 distribution of invasive weeds and trees and compiled
16 the information into a series of maps.

17 Based on the mapping, they were able to
18 then summarize areas that are in need of weed
19 management and to suggest areas that would be the
20 prime need for restoration.

21 So, if, for example, you look on page 38 --
22 I'm not going to go through the whole report, because
23 I think it's important for people to assess it on
24 their own. But beginning on page 38 is where a lot
25 of the more critical information is presented, and

1 you can see there are crosshatched areas that are
2 shown. And those crosshatched areas are the areas
3 that are the most open or barren. That is, they have
4 the least amount or no vegetative cover.

5 So, they have suggested to the City that
6 there would be -- those areas, that would be the
7 primary ones to begin with restoration activity.
8 That totals 22 acres.

9 MS. NAJMI: And those areas jibe with other
10 conditions like groundwater and things like that?

11 MR. SCHMADER: And, so, we'll go through a
12 little bit on the groundwater I guess, if you want to
13 now.

14 MS. NAJMI: I have a little trouble
15 understanding the difference between some of their
16 different colors. They have a couple of yellow ones.
17 It looks like yellowish-blue and one that's yellow,
18 so I can't -- okay, I can see now.

19 MR. SCHMADER: Which page --

20 MS. NAJMI: The difference.

21 MR. SCHMADER: -- are you on?

22 MS. NAJMI: I'm on page 18, Predicted Depth
23 to Groundwater. I think I can see a little bit of a
24 difference now.

25 MR. SCHMADER: Yeah. The Predicted Depth

1 to Groundwater -- this is page 18 of the report --
2 the reason it all looks fairly similar is because the
3 depth to groundwater is almost uniform with the
4 same -- it's five to seven feet in almost all of the
5 area, with the exception that it's three to five feet
6 where it's greenish. So...

7 MS. NAJMI: Lot better than I would have
8 thought.

9 MR. SCHMADER: Yeah. Right. The good news
10 here is that there's not extreme depth to the
11 groundwater that's over seven feet, which means that
12 for many of the restoration activities we would hope
13 to engage in, that depth to groundwater is not a
14 great limiting factor.

15 If we go to page 38, again that mapping
16 shows the areas that are bare, barren areas. And as
17 I said, the GeoSystems Analysis suggests that the
18 restoration activity really ought to begin with those
19 barren areas as far as attempting to establish
20 seeding, and installing shrubs, they are the areas
21 that have the least amount of biological activity at
22 all. Just open and barren.

23 MS. NAJMI: Would those areas also have
24 weeds?

25 THE REPORTER: I'm sorry?

1 MS. NAJMI: I was asking if those areas,
2 those barren areas also had a weed problem or not.

3 MR. SCHMADER: Not necessarily. On page
4 25, it shows the annual weed -- the distribution of
5 annual weeds, and so some of the barren areas are --
6 actually, quite a few of the barren areas have high
7 weed management problems. In fact, now that you have
8 asked that question, Yasmeen, the answer is almost
9 entirely, yes. Yeah.

10 MS. NAJMI: All the more reason to do
11 something in the area.

12 MR. SCHMADER: Okay. So good question, and
13 the answer really is there's pretty much -- there's
14 an overlap between the bare areas and where the weeds
15 have come in.

16 Page 39 shows us the areas that are the
17 best potential for planting shrubs.

18 And page 42 shows the areas that would have
19 the best potential for planting cottonwood poles.

20 So based on all of the information that we
21 have, and it's a very thorough study, and it gives us
22 an indication of which areas need the greatest amount
23 of attention in terms of restoration activity, and in
24 terms of weed management, and where to begin with
25 restoration activity.

1 It's a 170-acre area, and there's quite a
2 bit of both management and restoration that is called
3 for. So the best way to begin is to prioritize in
4 terms of where to start the activities and which
5 areas to begin those activities.

6 And that set of recommendations starts on
7 page 47 and runs for some -- there's a table that
8 runs some number of pages and covers suggested five
9 years' worth of activity.

10 MR. BARISH: See where it says, "year one,"
11 and so forth, that's calendar years?

12 MR. SCHMADER: Yes -- oh, no, those are --
13 well, the way they have it set up is it begins with
14 the end of their report. So it's more like a fiscal
15 year. So when they say, "Year one, the initial
16 treatment of annual weeds," that is actually right
17 now, this growing season, which we have already begun
18 to implement.

19 MR. BARISH: So I see under step 3 -- of
20 course, I haven't had a chance to read this yet -- it
21 says, "Irrigate a portion of the areas seeded during
22 2016," so you are going to irrigate --

23 THE REPORTER: I'm sorry. You have to
24 speak up.

25 MR. BARISH: So you're going to irrigate

1 the areas that you see with grass seed?

2 MR. SCHMADER: To the best that we can.

3 And that's not with drip irrigation. It's with --

4 MR. BARISH: Yeah.

5 MR. SCHMADER: Yeah. We've had Bosque
6 Youth Corps hand watering and spraying the seeded
7 areas already this summer.

8 MR. JENSEN: Do you bring trucks in that
9 have the water, or you put a pump in the river? That
10 was a joke.

11 MR. SCHMADER: Actually, what we have --

12 MS. TAYLOR: That's okay. Is that like
13 sarcasm?

14 MR. JENSEN: Well, actually, during the
15 phase 1 of the trail construction, the crew had a
16 pump in the river that they were using water to dust
17 control with.

18 MS. TAYLOR: And we had a license. Rats.

19 MR. JENSEN: You had a license to pump --

20 MS. TAYLOR: MRGCD getting us to license
21 the river.

22 MR. JENSEN: To pump from the river?

23 MS. TAYLOR: Yup. From the siphon.

24 MR. BARISH: Matt, is the entire --

25 MR. JENSEN: I like sarcasm.

1 MR. BARISH: I'm sorry. What?

2 MR. JENSEN: I like sarcasm.

3 MR. BARISH: Is the entire plan then
4 summarized in this implementation schedule, so
5 everything that's recommended is in this
6 implementation schedule, which goes through five
7 years?

8 MR. SCHMADER: Right. They have laid out a
9 suggested schedule of maintenance and restoration
10 activity that covers s a five-year period.

11 MR. BARISH: And does this, for instance,
12 include -- there were a few areas they recommended
13 for -- I don't know what they called it -- but
14 getting closer to the water table. Is that included
15 in this implementation schedule?

16 MS. NAJMI: You mean swales or --

17 MR. BARISH: Swales, yeah. As I recalled
18 they were actually by the -- they're more like
19 terracing by the river bank.

20 MR. SCHMADER: This is a map that's
21 called --

22 MR. BARISH: Excavation, page 44.

23 MR. SCHMADER: Yes. Thank you. Page 44 is
24 the excavation potential. And you can see the
25 excavation potential, there's very few areas that

1 have good -- that have high potential for excavation.

2 MR. BARISH: A few.

3 MR. SCHMADER: Really, the primary one is
4 what's known as the Duranes Outfall. So it's a pump
5 station out north of I-40. And that would require a
6 design to implement that, and I have to look on
7 their --

8 MS. NAJMI: These are already factored in
9 the process that were already done, the bank line
10 process and all of that kind of stuff?

11 MR. JENSEN: Yeah. I hope so, because on
12 the north of Central that area that they've got
13 marked as high is like there was already some bank
14 lowering.

15 THE REPORTER: I'm sorry. Some what?

16 MR. JENSEN: I'm sorry. Some bank
17 lowering, some excavation.

18 MS. NAJMI: There certainly was south of
19 I-40, too, I would say.

20 CO-CHAIR REED: So I have a question. What
21 would that mean with this area just north of I-40 in
22 this Duranes Outfall Zone, when you have a barren
23 area that has high noxious weed potential or annual
24 weeds that grow there, and it has a high excavation
25 potential, what would be the -- what would be the

1 proposed or recommended way to handle that area?

2 MR. SCHMADER: If it's high for noxious
3 weeds, then the excavation would end up eliminating
4 the noxious weeds, and then we have to do very active
5 overseeding both with grass and with shrubs. So you
6 have to combat the existence of the noxious weeds
7 with pretty intensive native revegetation.

8 CO-CHAIR REED: So am I reading this
9 correctly that that's a zone of high need for
10 intervention and restoration activity?

11 MR. SCHMADER: Yes. It's both a high need
12 for intervention and a high potential for
13 restoration. So, when you have that overlap, then
14 those areas end up on rising to the top when you're
15 selecting where to do the work.

16 MS. NAJMI: And is that how this
17 implementation schedule is organized that the high
18 priority projects are in the first year? It looks
19 like several of them are open barren areas, so...

20 MR. SCHMADER: Right.

21 MS. NAJMI: Okay.

22 MR. SCHMADER: That's how this is laid out.
23 And because there are also appendices where they have
24 notations on each of the mapping units that we
25 don't -- they didn't publish all of the appendices.

1 But, yes.

2 MR. BARISH: So, do I understand correctly
3 that this year's work is being funded from the 2013
4 appropriation; is that correct?

5 MR. SCHMADER: This year's work?

6 MS. TAYLOR: The pathway?

7 MR. BARISH: No, no, the GeoSystems study.

8 MS. TAYLOR: We just got through this
9 report. I don't think we've priced each individual
10 segment, and I don't think we've had an opportunity
11 to discuss that.

12 MR. BARISH: So, I guess my more general
13 question is, I think it's a great plan. You guys
14 should be commended, I think, for doing this. I
15 think it's a really good idea, and have something to
16 look at and make a plan for restoring the whole area.
17 That's great. But I am -- I do like to see funding
18 actually put into effect, so I'm wondering where the
19 money is going to come to fund the plan for this year
20 or two years.

21 MS. TAYLOR: I agree.

22 MR. BARISH: Is there an answer?

23 MS. TAYLOR: Not today.

24 MR. SCHMADER: Some of the initial
25 implementation of it is being done through the --

1 MS. TAYLOR: Yeah.

2 MR. SCHMADER: -- mayor's Bosque Youth
3 Corps, and through our ordinary maintenance. But
4 beyond what we do our -- use our regular staff to do,
5 then we have to have -- we have to cost out the
6 actions.

7 MR. BARISH: I mean, is it possible that
8 there can be a commitment to do this from that
9 \$2.9 million 2013 appropriation?

10 MS. TAYLOR: Richard, as I think you know,
11 a lot of that 2013 appropriation has been spent on
12 the work that's already been done. I just don't have
13 it in my head how much of that money is left. But
14 the first priority is to finish the path. But those
15 are -- as I said to you before, those are not the
16 only sources of funding. We have some funds that
17 came out of the 2015 general obligation bond program.
18 We have some generic park money.

19 The -- so, the \$2.9 million is -- if I
20 remember correctly, is a revenue bond, not a general
21 obligation bond. It's --

22 MR. BARISH: I think it's an appropriation
23 from the general budget, I think.

24 THE REPORTER: An appropriation from what?

25 MR. BARISH: It was originally a bond, and

1 then it was --

2 MS. TAYLOR: It might be an operating -- he
3 said he thought it was a general appropriation.
4 There's a general fund. The general obligation bond
5 program, which is a bonding program, and there are
6 revenue bonds. And all three sources of money have
7 been used in recent years for travel expenditures,
8 and I just don't remember off the top of my head
9 exactly what the source of all of this funding was.

10 It could have been a general obligation --
11 I mean, it could have been a general fund
12 appropriation. I just don't remember. It could have
13 been a revenue bond, which is part of the general
14 fund appropriation process, but which is put out for
15 bonding and paid off over a 20-, 22-year period of
16 time. I just simply don't remember. I can look it
17 up easily enough, but off the top of my head, I don't
18 remember.

19 MR. BARISH: So you're saying that's true
20 for the whole project including the trail
21 construction?

22 MS. TAYLOR: Well, the --

23 MR. BARISH: Are we just talking about --

24 MS. TAYLOR: -- the whole project is the
25 trail construction; right?

1 MR. BARISH: Well, plus the restoration.

2 MS. NAJMI: Well, but it -- I mean --
3 correct me if I'm wrong, Matt and Barbara, but, you
4 know, you used your existing resources like the
5 mayor's YCC crew, or Bosque crew, and your staff,
6 Matt, to do a lot of the work. Cost to you is really
7 in the plant material -- I mean, in terms of the need
8 for things; right?

9 MS. TAYLOR: So the Bosque crew is paid for
10 out of the -- the 2015 was paid for by the mayor, who
11 has funds.

12 MS. NAJMI: Okay.

13 MS. TAYLOR: 2016 is budgeted in the Park's
14 operating budget, as that program, specifically for
15 that purpose.

16 MS. NAJMI: In other words, I mean --

17 MS. TAYLOR: And then --

18 MS. NAJMI: -- you do a lot of in kind -- I
19 mean, you are doing kind of your in-kind normal work,
20 but you have to purchase the plant materials and
21 things like?

22 MS. TAYLOR: That's right.

23 MS. NAJMI: Plus the additional --

24 CO-CHAIR REED: Right, our --

25 MS. TAYLOR: We have to pay the -- the

1 Bosque Youth Corps is -- they get paid.

2 MS. NAJMI: Right.

3 MS. TAYLOR: They're temporary minimum-wage
4 employees.

5 MR. SCHMADER: What Yasmeen is asking,
6 though, our ordinary Bosque management --

7 MS. TAYLOR: Yes.

8 MR. SCHMADER: -- our maintenance crews
9 happens all the time, but what we have to realize is
10 that if we take all of their work and focus it into a
11 170-acre area, then we don't do anything anywhere
12 else. So if we're going to go above and beyond
13 ordinary maintenance of effort, then we have to
14 either fund ways to have additional people come on,
15 other than material -- the cost of the material. We
16 have to find other ways to get added labor.

17 MR. JENSEN: There's an initiative that's
18 just getting off the ground. It's being coordinated
19 by Jennifer Owen-White from the Valle de Oro National
20 Wildlife Refuge to put all of the different youth
21 corps under one umbrella, and with a sort of central
22 coordination function that might make it easier to
23 shift around, like, where they work, and the kind of
24 work they do, so they get sort of more variety, so
25 they can sort of mass a lot of effort in places that

1 need it. Maybe help get funding, because of one big
2 program.

3 She's just started talking about this with
4 the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps. And then she's on
5 vacation right now, I think. But in the out-years
6 here it might be something to get with her about as
7 it takes better shape. I don't know if the City
8 wants to have their youth corps serve under a larger
9 umbrella or not. But to me it makes sense to be able
10 to leverage a large number of summer youth or even
11 youth -- some of those programs are year-round.
12 So...

13 MS. TAYLOR: I know the Rocky Mountain
14 Youth Corps is working with Matt down by Bridge and
15 we try to take advantage of all of those programs as
16 well. Open Space has the most robust volunteer
17 program, with trail watchers, all of that.

18 CO-CHAIR REED: So I know we are running
19 over our time. But --

20 MS. TAYLOR: I'll do the report. We'll
21 give Matt a break here.

22 CO-CHAIR REED: So, on -- is there a
23 closing remark on the restoration here to -- that we
24 can -- I think that it's -- what Barbara is saying,
25 is there's -- we haven't had a chance to figure go

1 out exactly how the restoration is going to be
2 attacked and trying to, you know, approach it in a --

3 MS. TAYLOR: Systematic.

4 CO-CHAIR REED: -- systematic. Thank you.
5 That's the word I was looking for.

6 MS. TAYLOR: -- and well-funded way. We're
7 also in the process of putting together our 2017
8 general obligation bond program. And this is the
9 sort of thing that we want to be -- you know, just --
10 you got the earliest copy of the report. We just got
11 the report also. So we just need a little time to
12 organize it systematically.

13 MR. BARISH: So, I saw that this was a
14 draft report. Does that mean that we're taking
15 comments, or what does that mean?

16 MS. TAYLOR: We put it on the web. We want
17 your comments. It's out there, please feel free to
18 comment.

19 MR. BARISH: Just one other restoration
20 question. There has been this commitment by the City
21 to do another restoration project that started back
22 in March of 2015, and you confirmed that the City
23 would go ahead and do that at an earlier Bosque Work
24 Meeting, and I just wanted to find out, you know,
25 what -- you know, when we could determine that the

1 procedure for selecting what that is, and how we
2 would move forward on that at some point?

3 MS. TAYLOR: This report tells us. That's
4 the purpose of this report is to identify all of the
5 restoration projects that need to be done.

6 MR. BARISH: So my understanding is that in
7 those original maps that Matt passed around in
8 December of 2000 -- 2000 -- 2014.

9 MS. TAYLOR: Whatever it was.

10 MR. BARISH: 2014. There were those green
11 blobs that were to be the restoration. My
12 understanding is that kind of morphed into this,
13 which is a much better plan. The green blobs was
14 great, until you did this.

15 MS. TAYLOR: That's exactly the point.

16 MR. BARISH: But my understanding was that
17 there was also a commitment to do another restoration
18 project that came out of our meetings in February and
19 March of 2015. So what is the process --

20 MS. TAYLOR: So what is that project? I
21 don't know what project you're talking about.

22 MR. BARISH: Well, that's what I've been
23 trying to get this group to discuss for quite a long
24 time, and the group has not done that.

25 CO-CHAIR REED: The intent was to --

1 MS. TAYLOR: I don't understand, Richard.
2 Why doesn't that report identify all of the possible
3 projects? That was the purpose of this report.

4 MR. BARISH: Well, there are plenty of
5 other possible projects. This is -- my understanding
6 this is the green blob project.

7 MS. TAYLOR: I think that's just --

8 MR. BARISH: So there's no other project?

9 MS. NAJMI: I think the green blobs were
10 absorbed in this.

11 MS. TAYLOR: There are --

12 MR. BARISH: Yeah, yeah, exactly. The
13 green blobs were with the other project. It just
14 wasn't --

15 CO-CHAIR REED: Everything.

16 MS. TAYLOR: All -- the purpose of this was
17 to get a scientific analysis of what projects we
18 should be doing instead of sitting around and saying,
19 well, maybe we can do this, and maybe we can do that.
20 And this report is a consequence of that discussion
21 to help us identify in a scientific way what it was
22 important for us to do.

23 MR. BARISH: There is not going to be
24 another project, restoration project?

25 MS. TAYLOR: There are going to be -- how

1 many projects are identified here? 40, 50?

2 MR. SCHMADER: It's one large project.

3 MS. NAJMI: So, I mean, you can see
4 priorities that are here and are identified. That's
5 a place to start.

6 MS. TAYLOR: Right. That's what I think.
7 I think that's absolutely meeting our commitment.

8 MS. NAJMI: Otherwise, we were just kicking
9 around ideas, guessing what was the best thing to do
10 without really having the information.

11 CO-CHAIR REED: Bingo.

12 MS. NAJMI: That's why we did this report.

13 MS. TAYLOR: Exactly. That's my
14 understanding.

15 MS. NAJMI: This conversation was about a
16 year or two ago and that's what this report came out
17 about.

18 MR. BARISH: Well, let me just say that my
19 understanding was always, from back in early 2015,
20 that there was going to be another restoration
21 project that was not -- did not involve restoration
22 in this area. And my understanding --

23 MR. JENSEN: You mean someplace else in the
24 Rio Grande Valley State Park?

25 MS. NAJMI: I don't think that was ever

1 committed to, Richard. I think that was -- I think
2 what we talked about was that, you know, the City was
3 going to do some restoration kind of as part of this
4 trail project. And then, you know, we said -- we
5 kicked around the idea of doing it within the
6 footprint of the trail project. But then we also
7 said, well, if those aren't the best places to do
8 restoration, if they turn out to not have the
9 conditions, we would consider doing them elsewhere.

10 But now that we've had this report done we
11 can see that there's plenty of opportunities within
12 this 170 acres to do that. It doesn't mean that the
13 City is not going to be doing restoration elsewhere
14 in the Rio Grande State Park. They will be, you
15 know, and we will be, too.

16 MR. JENSEN: Presumably, yeah, the Corps
17 could get more money to do another phase beyond their
18 current one. And, yeah, there are other entities,
19 other restoration projects.

20 MS. NAJMI: There's been lots of stuff
21 done. But this area, I think -- I mean, first of
22 all, it coincides geographically with the trail
23 project. But, secondly, it's a section in need of
24 some love, because, you know, we do have some open
25 barren areas to work with, so...

1 MR. JENSEN: I have a very quick question.
2 On page 45, there's two herbicide treatments
3 suggested. One is optional, if chemical control is
4 preferred. The other one just seems to be, there
5 will be herbicide treatment.

6 Is that absolutely going to happen? I know
7 sometimes it's the only thing we can do, but I'm
8 really reluctant to have, you know, herbicides
9 sprayed a lot.

10 MS. NAJMI: For what in -- I mean, for what
11 in particular? Which kind of plant are you talking
12 about?

13 MR. JENSEN: Well, it says right here. One
14 is for Whitetop, rosette to bolting period. The
15 other one is for Ravenna grass. One is May 1st
16 through 30th. And the other one June 15th to
17 September 1st.

18 MS. NAJMI: My understanding is with
19 Ravenna grass, that it's shallow enough that if you
20 have the opportunity with equipment you can remove it
21 with shovels or equipment.

22 MR. JENSEN: Right.

23 MS. NAJMI: You may not have to use
24 herbicides. The other stuff, you pretty much do.

25 MR. JENSEN: Okay. So how is that going to

1 be --

2 MS. NAJMI: Like, the noxious weeds, the
3 Siberian Elm, the Tree of Heaven, the Russian Olive.
4 Those kind of things can't be controlled, you know,
5 without a cut stump or some other kind of treatment.

6 MR. JENSEN: Well, yeah, they talk about
7 cut stump for Siberian Elm and later on there's some
8 hand excavation for Ravenna that's a year-round
9 thing. I'm just sort of concerned about how
10 widespread the herbicide treatment's going to be or
11 if people are going to go around and be really
12 careful about it.

13 MS. TAYLOR: So, let me say, for Parks and
14 Rec generally, we can't -- we would like to, but we
15 can't get away without some use of herbicides. We
16 prefer integrated pest management. This is -- we're
17 talking everywhere now, parks as well as open space.
18 But on the other hand with 29,000 acres of open space
19 and 300 park parks, from time to time we had no
20 choice but to use herbicides.

21 The numbers are going down, which we're
22 really happy about, and if we had to use herbicides
23 in the Bosque, we would be -- if we had to do that,
24 we would be exceptionally careful with that.

25 I'm speaking for Matt now, but there are

1 none of us that particularly would want to introduce
2 widespread use of herbicides in the Bosque, period.

3 MS. NAJMI: Except, you've been doing that
4 for years already.

5 MS. TAYLOR: Widespread use?

6 MS. NAJMI: No, by "widespread," I don't
7 mean, you know --

8 MS. TAYLOR: We're not --

9 MS. NAJMI: -- we're not doing broadcast
10 spraying of herbicides.

11 MR. JENSEN: I realize that.

12 MS. NAJMI: But we've used herbicides in
13 the Bosque for decades, because that's the only way
14 to kill all of these trees, okay? Otherwise -- if
15 you cut them or burn them, they just come back.

16 MR. JENSEN: Right.

17 MS. NAJMI: But, you know, it's done it's
18 done in a targeted state according to label and
19 manner. It's not broadcast all over the ground.
20 They're very careful about the application.

21 MR. JENSEN: Okay.

22 MS. NAJMI: They have to be. And it can't
23 be sprayed within water, with certain feet of water
24 if it doesn't have a certain label.

25 CO-CHAIR REED: Okay. With that, let's

1 move on to item number 5, which is a quick update on
2 the other Bosque projects, and I think Barbara's
3 going to do that in lieu of Matt.

4 MS. TAYLOR: Yes. It's been a lot for Matt
5 this afternoon.

6 Bridge over the siphon, Open Space Advisory
7 Board funded as an extraordinary facility. The
8 engineers and Matt are working with the Corps and
9 MRGCD to get the proper licenses and approvals, and
10 the engineers to get the drawings to take to EPC for
11 approval, and that will move rapidly; right? Yes,
12 okay.

13 MS. NAJMI: When you say "rapidly," what's
14 the time frame.

15 MS. TAYLOR: I wish I could -- what do you
16 think?

17 MS. NAJMI: You said it had to go to EPC?

18 MR. JENSEN: Yes.

19 MS. TAYLOR: Well, we need your approval,
20 and we need the Corps, and we need -- we need the
21 Corps and --

22 MR. JENSEN: And then there has to be final
23 design documents because that's all the EPC will work
24 with.

25 MS. TAYLOR: Right.

1 MS. NAJMI: So right now, Matt, I think you
2 told me before that they were working on some
3 revisions in the designs because of the flood issues,
4 the Corps' requirements for having it withstand a
5 certain flow; right?

6 MR. SCHMADER: Actually, between the Corps
7 and the District, they have come up with a design
8 flow, Bohannon Huston is trying to get a hydrologic
9 modeling from the Corps, but the Corps said we, the
10 City, had to formally request it. So I requested the
11 hydrologic modeling be released to Bohannon Huston so
12 that we can finalize the design.

13 MR. JENSEN: And then -- but then so you
14 made the request to the Corps to do the modeling and
15 give it to Bohannon Huston so that they can modify
16 the design, but you just sent the request to them,
17 they haven't done the model yet?

18 MR. SCHMADER: No, the modeling exists, but
19 they --

20 MR. JENSEN: Oh, they just had to get your
21 permission to give it to somebody else?

22 MR. SCHMADER: Yes.

23 MS. NAJMI: So then it has to go through
24 another internal review before it goes to the EPC,
25 right, okay.

1 MS. TAYLOR: So, then there is the question
2 of handicapped access to the deck. The Corps of
3 Engineers deck south of I-40.

4 CO-CHAIR REED: Central.

5 MS. TAYLOR: South of Central.

6 CO-CHAIR REED: Tingley Beach.

7 MS. TAYLOR: Yeah, Tingley Beach. Thank
8 you. And you may not be aware that the City of
9 Albuquerque went on a search and hired a new general
10 manager for the management of the BioPark, and
11 particularly to manage the master plan that was
12 recently completed for the zoo. The parking area
13 there -- ideally we get together and design the
14 parking area completely in the dusty bowl and the
15 swimming pool.

16 MR. JENSEN: So east of Central, or south,
17 whatever direction.

18 MS. TAYLOR: South of Central, west of
19 Tingley Drive.

20 MR. JENSEN: Right, yeah.

21 MS. NAJMI: Probably around one of the old
22 swimming ponds that's over there.

23 MS. TAYLOR: Well, it's supposed to be
24 Marty's Swimming.

25 MS. NAJMI: Before it was Marty's Swimming

1 Pond it was Conservancy Beach.

2 MS. TAYLOR: And in the '30s it was Tingley
3 Beach.

4 MR. JENSEN: Those barren areas that have a
5 few piles of rubble and stuff on them.

6 MS. NAJMI: Right.

7 MS. TAYLOR: So that's quite a large area.
8 The BioPark needs parking. If this is imminent, it
9 would be sensible for us to combine. If it's not
10 imminent, then we're going to go out and put in, you
11 know, a little bit of asphalt so that vans can park
12 and a handicapped accessible bridge. And that is a
13 conversation that I have responsibility for with
14 the -- the new guy is? I'm going to -- when we're
15 done, I'll tell you. His name is -- he just got
16 here. And so he and I have to talk about what his
17 priorities are. But either way, this has gone on too
18 long, I agree, and we'll do something temporary if
19 he's not ready to do the parking lot.

20 MS. NAJMI: So -- sorry, Barb, before we
21 leave that, just to confirm, we're talking about a
22 connection to the existing paved trail and also to
23 the boardwalk?

24 MS. TAYLOR: We're talking about a
25 connection to the boardwalk, to the deck.

1 MS. NAJMI: Okay. Which would access the
2 trails, then?

3 CO-CHAIR REED: Correct.

4 MS. TAYLOR: And then there is another
5 project that arose as a result of Phase 2 and that is
6 connecting the Phase 1 trail, the north end of the
7 Phase 1 trail to the Phase 2 trail. It goes
8 underneath I-40, and in order to do that I need an
9 airspace agreement. That is the DOT right-of-way.
10 If you're under a DOT facility, you're in the DOT
11 right-of-way.

12 MR. JENSEN: That's airspace?

13 MR. SCHMADER: Even though it's on the
14 ground.

15 MS. NAJMI: What does that mean?

16 MS. TAYLOR: So when we did La Luz on the
17 Star Park on the corner of Tramway and -- we had to
18 have an airspace agreement. Even though there was a
19 park there for 30 years, before we upgraded it.

20 MR. JENSEN: Wow.

21 MS. TAYLOR: And that is very bureaucratic,
22 but we're working on it.

23 MR. JENSEN: Just in case somebody wants to
24 fly a very small plane underneath that bridge --

25 MS. TAYLOR: They're in big trouble.

1 MR. JENSEN: -- while they're towing
2 somebody on the trail.

3 MR. BARISH: No balloons under the bridge.

4 MS. TAYLOR: No nothing.

5 MS. NAJMI: You still have the issue of
6 connecting from Gabaldon down to the trail from the
7 parking at Gabaldon?

8 MS. TAYLOR: Robert and I went out and
9 looked at that the other day. We need to create
10 handicapped spaces, but it's handicap accessible.

11 MR. RAMIREZ: There's something I need to
12 talk about.

13 THE REPORTER: I can't hear him.

14 CO-CHAIR REED: Come on up and speak.

15 MR. RAMIREZ: That the area that we need to
16 connect won't show up on this map, though, from
17 Gabaldon into this camp, which would be right back
18 over here, is 215 feet of additional crusher fine.

19 MS. NAJMI: Okay. Are you going to do
20 something where you take it directly from the
21 Gabaldon access down the levee?

22 MS. TAYLOR: Yeah. Across the levee and
23 down to the trail.

24 MS. NAJMI: Okay. So that has it's own
25 issue, I guess. Maybe not.

1 MR. BARISH: So the new 215 feet --

2 THE REPORTER: I can't hear you.

3 MR. BARISH: The new 215 feet is that
4 gradual access down into the --

5 MR. RAMIREZ: We already have ramps that
6 are ADA complaint on both sides of the interstate, so
7 we're disconnecting the flat part of the levee that
8 comes off the Gail Ryba Bridge to the ADA accessible
9 ramp going down into Phase 2.

10 MR. BARISH: So that those ramps are ADA
11 complaint?

12 MR. RAMIREZ: They are all ADA complaint.

13 MS. NAJMI: And do you work people in our
14 office about that?

15 THE REPORTER: I'm sorry. We have so many
16 conversations going among people.

17 MS. NAJMI: Okay. I'm sorry. I was asking
18 you if they worked with the folks in our office about
19 any issues with the levee.

20 MR. RAMIREZ: We won't be doing any kind of
21 grading. You have base coarse already on the levee.
22 So all we would have to do is add a service -- a
23 surface to that base coarse which would be the
24 crusher fine, and we would get with you guys about
25 that, but we're not altering elevation of the levee

1 in any way.

2 MS. NAJMI: Or the slopes?

3 MR. RAMIREZ: Or the slopes.

4 CO-CHAIR REED: I think our critical path
5 on this whole thing is trying to get permission from
6 the DOT in this airspace agreement --

7 MS. TAYLOR: That's right.

8 CO-CHAIR REED: -- to get -- to connect the
9 two ends of the crusher fine path underneath I-40 and
10 at the same time we were proposing to come in and
11 talk to MRGCD about what we were proposing up on the
12 levee road.

13 MS. NAJMI: Yeah, that's good. I think
14 that's a good -- what's the word I'm looking for?
15 Interim. I mean, it would be permanent, but it would
16 be something, at least some access from the parking
17 area while you're dealing with DOT, which could take
18 who knows how long.

19 CO-CHAIR REED: Certainly.

20 MS. NAJMI: That's good. Okay.

21 MS. TAYLOR: Okay. The last little
22 announcement, just for the record, I handed out a
23 summary of ADA-compliant facilities for the -- to
24 everybody for -- to the Rio Grande Valley State Park,
25 Tingley Beach to Montano Road. I handed out a list

1 of Bosque Youth Summer Program notable
2 accomplishments 2015. I've handed out 2016 Bosque
3 Youth Corps accomplishments to date. And I handed
4 out web page addresses to find all of the maps and
5 GeoSystems report.

6 MS. NAJMI: That's helpful, because I have
7 trouble finding stuff.

8 MS. TAYLOR: Yes. Everybody seems to.

9 MS. NAJMI: I thank you for that.

10 CO-CHAIR REED: Everyone on the BWG has
11 this information?

12 MR. JENSEN: So I have a quick question.

13 CO-CHAIR REED: Okay.

14 MR. JENSEN: It says that access from the
15 nature center from the west side of the drain bridge
16 crossing up to Paseo is ADA compliant? It seemed
17 pretty steep to me.

18 MS. TAYLOR: The slope up is ADA compliant.
19 I can give it to you in inches if you would like.
20 We'd like to have the surface redone. The slope is
21 okay. The surface is a little difficult. And in the
22 process of fixing that surface we'd like to lengthen
23 it a little and make it -- so it's technically there

24 MR. JENSEN: Just relying on memory? It's
25 been a while since I was there.

1 MR. BARISH: We're talking about across the
2 bridge of the nature center going up to the levee?

3 MS. TAYLOR: Yes.

4 MR. JENSEN: Once you're across, yes.

5 MR. BARISH: It does seem steep.

6 MR. JENSEN: Yeah. But like I said I'm
7 just relying on my memory.

8 MS. TAYLOR: I thought so too, but, no, he
9 measured it, and it's --

10 MR. BARISH: I think we should talk to
11 Camilla when she gets back.

12 THE REPORTER: I can't hear you.

13 MR. BARISH: We should talk to Camilla when
14 she gets back because we did do outings with those
15 there. There were -- I think there were difficulties
16 with that.

17 MS. TAYLOR: Part of the difficulty is the
18 surface is difficult.

19 MR. BARISH: No doubt. Yeah.

20 MS. TAYLOR: But the slope has been
21 measured and is technically complaint. We would like
22 to improve the slope and lengthen the slope, which
23 would reduce the --

24 MR. JENSEN: Grade.

25 MS. TAYLOR: -- the incline. Thank you.

1 MR. RAMIREZ: By resurfacing that existing
2 slope, it will --

3 MR. JENSEN: You will just have it hit
4 farther down on the trail?

5 MS. TAYLOR: Right.

6 MR. RAMIREZ: I think the slope might
7 slouch in some areas, it might give you a different
8 reading, and we're talked minimal.

9 MR. JENSEN: Well, like I say, it's been a
10 little while. I'm just trying to remember it. It
11 just seemed kind of like it was -- I've never
12 measured it. So, if you measured it, I trust your
13 measurements.

14 MS. TAYLOR: He has a notebook with the
15 figures.

16 MS. NAJMI: So, Matt, would it be okay if
17 we could get out early next week, and I want to get
18 back on the ground and look at some of these areas,
19 glance at it, because I don't go down there regularly
20 to, you know, get some possible changes to the
21 alternative to you next week?

22 MR. SCHMADER: Were you asking to meet with
23 me there or --

24 MS. NAJMI: We can. I don't want to, you
25 know, take up your time if it's not necessary.

1 MR. SCHMADER: No, no. If sometime during
2 the week next week, if individuals are able to go out
3 and verify and come up with some good alternative
4 connections, that would be extremely helpful. And
5 I'll take the markup any way you want it. It can be
6 verbal, it can be a scan. Any way you want.

7 MR. JENSEN: Yeah. I'll send you a
8 marked-up digital -- I mean, a scan.

9 MR. BARISH: And I will be out Monday and
10 Tuesday.

11 CO-CHAIR REED: So while we're making the
12 arrangements here, I'm just going to end the Working
13 Group Meeting, and you guys can make arrangements to
14 do all of that.

15 So I want to thank you for your attendance.
16 And with that, look forward to seeing you at the
17 public meeting on August 11th, and the Bosque
18 Working Group meeting is adjourned. Thank you all.

19 (The Bosque Working Group meeting was
20 concluded at 3:14 p.m.)
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