

Candelaria Nature Preserve
Technical Advisory Group (TAG)
 Rio Grande Nature Center State Park • 2901 Candelaria Rd NW
 Education Building
 April 11, 2019 • 2:30pm – 4:30pm
Minutes - Final

Participants

Members: Brian Hanson, Chairman, bhanson5@comcast.net; Christianne Hinks, James Lewis, Judy Kowalski, Steve Cox, Heather MacCurdy, Carolyn Siegel, Colleen Langan-McRoberts, Alan Reed, Michael Jensen, Peggy Norton, Dave Parsons
 Additional Technical Assistance: Dave Hutton, Santiago Misquez, Steve Glass
 Community – Kelly White, John Busmeyer, Matt McMillan, Dave Lightfoot, Ken Romig, Becky Noland, Matthew Peterson, Brandon Gibson, Tricia Keffer, Melinda Moffit, Mike Dexter, Richard Barish, Oscar Simpson, Connie Adler, Judith Nelson, Denise Wheeler, Bill Pentler

Review of Agenda –

Brian proposed some additions to the agenda. He wanted to have the official members of TAG to ask questions after the alternatives were presented, then have the public ask questions. He proposed to leave 10 minutes at the end of the meeting for the public at least and also say that the public could provide email comments to Colleen Langan-McRoberts. Also, Colleen wanted to specify that SWCA consultants would present the alternatives not Albuquerque Open Space. Brian asked if anyone would propose a motion to accept the changes, it was proposed and seconded. Then when asked “all in favor” all TAG members raised their hands in acceptance. Only 2 TAG members were not present – Jennifer Owen-White and Jeannie Allen.

Announcements from TAG Members – Peggy talked about funding provided by the NM legislature for \$110,000 for Candelaria Nature Preserve that she worked on. The North Valley Coalition proposed the funding to reconstruct hedgerows using native plantings, restore farmed fields to a diverse mosaic of native habitat, build two viewing platforms and improve and build fences. She also said another group got approval for \$300,000 for the same work including funding to purchase land.

Colleen informed the group that Open Space was having various cleanups in the foothills and other scheduled events.

Alternatives for the Resource Management Plan

SWCA consultants presented 4 alternatives for the group to look at that included a map along with a powerpoint. The habitat types were taken from the maps.

Option 1 - All Native Habitat Restoration

Habitats included wetland marsh, salt shrub, ephemeral wetland, salt grass, sand bar, blue grama, arroyo shrub, bosque. Tree farm would be for parking and tree nursery. South Candelaria contained bosque, salt shrub, arroyo shrub

Option 2 - Native Habitat Restoration with some wildlife crops

Habitats included wetland marsh, salt shrub, ephemeral wetland, salt grass, sand bar, blue grama, arroyo shrub, bosque, triticale, sunflower vetch, corn/vetch, herb garden. The tree farm would be a nursery for CNP and Parks. South Candelaria contained bosque, salt shrub, arroyo shrub and fencing.

Option 3 - Farming as Management and Operations Strategy - Appears to contain detailed trails with large general habitat types (salt grass, salt shrub, arroyo shrub, corn/vetch, perennial sorghum/vetch/alfalfa, meadow pollinator habitat. The tree farm would have parking and nursery. South Candelaria would contain a developed trail with bosque, salt shrub and arroyo shrub.

Option 4 - TAG alternative of 2018 with very general habitat types bosque (includes grasses, shrubs, trees, wetlands in a mosaic), arroyo shrub, ephemeral wetlands, 2 new ponds, saltgrass, replace elm and Russian olive with native species, and agriculture (corn and vetch).

David Lightfoot said that the habitat types were partially based on 8 references which he displayed and visits to 4 wildlife areas – Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, Ladd S Gordon Waterfowl Complex, Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area and Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge. They propose a 20 year development plan.

Issues discussed included – costs, reasonable public access, soil types, community involvement, flow between the current ponds, pond/wetland values, drought, how to transition, what’s feasible, what’s next.

Since the meeting, Albuquerque Open Space has posted information at - <https://www.cabq.gov/candelaria-nature-preserve>
<https://www.cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/documents/swca-cnp-alternatives-presentation.pdf>

All TAG members wanted another meeting to discuss these alternatives. Brian asked if anyone would propose a motion for another meeting addressing alternatives; it was proposed and seconded. Then when asked “all in favor” all TAG members raised their hands in acceptance. Only 2 TAG members were not present – Jennifer Owen-White and Jeannie Allen. The date has been established for April 29 from 10:00 to noon at the Open Space Division Office at 3615 Los Picaros SE, 87105.

We tentatively decided upon a meeting of the wildlife subcommittee. It was scheduled for April 22 but was later changed to April 17 to accommodate individuals.

Next TAG Meetings:

April 29, 2019 at 10:00 - noon – Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center, 6500 Coors Blvd NW 87120. The topic is review of the alternatives for the Resource Management Plan.

May 9, 2019 at 2:30 PM at Nature Center. Topic - Review Draft Resource Management Plan

Next public meeting: June 22 at 8:30 AM at Woodward House - Alternatives in RMP

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.