

**Candelaria Farm Preserve
Technical Advisory Group**

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

January 11, 2018 • 2:30pm – 4:30 pm

Minutes - final

Participants

Brian Hanson, Heather MacCurdy, Dave Hutton, Christianne Hinks, Peggy Norton, Christina Sandoval, Alan Reed, Dave Parsons, Jeannie Allen, Kathleen Hall, Nathan Todd, Carolyn Siegel, Bill Pentler

Approval of Minutes January 4, 2018 Approval was suggested, and seconded and all approved as written.

Announcements from TAG members –

Christianne said only two crop fields have seed heads, all others do not. Hopefully, in the winter, food for wildlife should be provided during the entire winter months. This brings up the need to have a good management plan to provide food for wildlife.

TAG voted J. Allen (Rio Grande Compound representation) become a voting member of TAG. Alternate representation will be by Lisa Feierman (lisafeierman@gmail.com).

Scope to Hire a Contractor for Resource Management Plan, James Lewis Scope dated Jan 5, 2018

Page 2, bullets near bottom, bullet 3 – replace with –

“Wildlife and vegetation – such as restoration of native flora and fauna while phasing out non-native and invasive vegetative species.”

Page 2, bullets near bottom, bullet 4 – replace with –

“Improve habitats for pollinator species and migratory birds in accordance with Albuquerque becoming a “Bee City USA” and named an Urban Bird Treaty City in 2014.

Page 2, bullets near bottom, bullet 5 - Woodward House. The TAG suggests this item be deleted because it will take an enormous amount of time and money. We are not sure it should be a historic landmark.

Page 3, first paragraph, sentence 2, suggested change - “...overall goal of the RMP is to define wildlife preserve management and develop several wildlife conservation alternatives.”

Page 3, last bullet - Add “and financial feasibility”.

Attach to the Scope for Contractor, an exhibit that contains the names of the various areas i.e. Cropland, Candelaria South etc.

Brian: Does James want contractor to set out Alternative A, B, C?

Nate: Planning process will influence that. If public gets involved, people might come with different requests, resulting in different alternatives. So that changes the draft plan, then another public meeting occurs...At end we figure out how we can implement alternatives.

Christina: This group comes up with alternatives; contractor does analysis and refines them re cost, etc. Contractor looks at feasibility of alternatives, then come to us with results of analysis. Based on that, we come up with alternative that becomes basis for RMP.

So TAG can lay out what the vision is, then as you get funding, projects can be completed. Plans typically aren't set in stone, RMP is a framework.

Public gets to see the alternatives and the evaluation by the contractor so they can make educated opinions. All will have influence.

Consultant function: Take our desires and our work, organize that and provide analysis so we can determine feasibility of options.

Nate: Public will comment on alternate plans before the final RMP.

So does Open Space expect TAG to come up with our favored alternatives?

Nate: The better you can define what outcomes you want, the less work the Contractor will have to do. The process will have several alternatives. But the RMP will have one that's recommended. It will be presented to City Council.

NPS designed their plans with multiple alternatives. They use "preferred alternative." So does Valle del Oro plan.

Vision

After much discussion we all agreed with the following Vision statement.

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.

Habitat Improvement for Candelaria South: Desirable activities (not listed by priority):

- Gradually remove Russian olive and elm; replace with native trees and shrubs
- Remove cut logs
- Remove asphalt road
- Plant young cottonwoods
- Create habitat for amphibians
- Plant grass in dirt areas
- Construct fence
- Ensure firebreaks near houses

Additional suggestions by Bill Pentler:

- Replace any removed vegetation with native grasses.
- Dig out and remove pool, dig near to 8 ft water table to make a swale for native species.
- Break largest brush piles into smaller ones for wildlife habitat. Ideal smaller size would be something like 8 ft x 4 ft.

Discussion:

- Note salt bush area could be left alone and best if kept from expanding.
- Access: Note locked gate at the end of Decker.
- Nathan: Use the lowest-cost options possible. Open Space staff and budget are minimal.
- Small diameter elms are fire fuel, can become small brush piles.

Other Items discussed

- During the contracting process, we should prioritize our list of land and water management strategies, and perhaps in the RMP also.
- Nate will talk with James regarding where we are in the process of identifying a contractor.
- Timeline and roles: Christina S. offers to draft "bubble diagram" about stakeholders and timeline.
- Brian will present a CFP summary at a wetlands meeting January 18 in Santa Fe.

Next meeting: January 25, 2018