

**Candelaria Farm Preserve  
Technical Advisory Group**

Rio Grande Nature Center State Park • 2901 Candelaria Rd NW

Education Building

October 25, 2018 • 2:30pm – 4:30pm

**Minutes - final**

**Participants**

**Members:** Brian Hanson, Chairman, bhanson5@comcast.net: Peggy Norton, Kent Swanson, Alan Reed, Christianne Hinks, Dave Parsons, James Lewis

**Additional Technical Assistance:** Dave Hutton, Carolyn Siegel, Matt Peterson, Matt Schmader  
**Community** – Linda Shank, Matt McMillan

**Review of Agenda** – approved

**Minutes September 20, 2018:** approved with adding – briefly discussed a name change from Candelaria Farm Preserve to something else, and Heather wanted to check with her experts on how to conduct a tour without impacts to wildlife.

**Announcements from TAG Members**

- Kent announced the Open Space Visitor Center is hosting music at the Center October 27 at 1:00 PM and a Cosmic Carnival Nov 3 at 1:00 PM.
- James announced that the planned public meeting for November 8 has been canceled. The first public meeting will be in January.
- The next Trail Watch training (Albuq Open Space) for volunteers will be December 15.
- Alan, speaking for the Open Space Advisory Board (OSAB), said the City approvals for the sale of the Poole property on the West Mesa has been delayed and the OSAB will revisit it at their next meeting November 27. The Poole property, 24 acres, is directly west of the Nature Center and adjacent to the Rio Grande.
- Dave said that he was bitten by a pit bull while riding his bike on Veranda. This may be an issue in the future.

**Field Trip to the East Boundary Fence October 24 at 3:00 PM**

We reported on the field trip. Ten individuals walked the boundary fence and discussed management. The vegetation is dominated by elm, large and small. There were some willows and several large cottonwoods.

Suggestions for improvements included

- a) Remove nonnative vegetation in two small areas to create viewing areas, maybe 2, where the public can see the fields to the west. One area could be near the irrigation ditch that goes west so the public could see 2 different fields. Since there is a low spot just west of the dirt road, native shrubs could be planted and not hamper viewing. In addition to seeing the fields, there will be great views of the volcanoes on the west mesa.
- b) Thin some areas by removing selected elms, small and large.
- c) Remove elms that are near a cottonwood.
- d) Plant shrubs, perhaps willows in the depression just west of the dirt road.
- e) Do not remove native plant species present.

Most of the elms are on Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD). Yasmeen said they do not do elm removal so Open Space will have to do the cutting.

### **Vegetation Management along the east cropland boundary and next to the Duranes Lateral**

- Matt Peterson with Albuq Open Space said he and a volunteer group will be planting shrubs along the hedgerows on October 30. The plants will be NM olive, silver buffaloberry, wood's rose and three leaf sumac. TAG discussions for the future included robust hedgerows so this is an approved step toward a nature preserve.
- Other dates for volunteer work at this site include Dec. 11, February 25 and March 5.
- Removals of nonnative plants along the boundary would include cutting them and applying a herbicide. He said notices would go up when it starts.
- Matt said the cut trees and branches could go to the zoo for animal food; the larger diameters could be milled at Open Space; some debris could be chipped and some could go to Senior affairs for firewood.
- James suggested monitoring the progress of the new planting so that future planting could benefit from the results.
- Many locals walk the area between the irrigation ditch and the boundary fence and they enjoy the shade and the views.
- Alan suggested that announcements to the public should have one agreed upon message and be used by all so communication can be consistent.
- We had a discussion about what to say and how to inform the local communities, The community group leaders, Peggy, Carolyn and Christianne agreed that an email should be sent from Open Space to the community groups informing the public of what Open Space and the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District is doing and why at the eastern border of the cropland.
- Brian said he would put together a community message and send it to Open Space and MRGCD for editing and distribution to the community via email to the 3 local groups. We established a deadline for informing the groups by Friday, November 2.
- Alan suggested that Brian give an announcement of the work to the OSAB at their next meeting November 27 at the beginning.

### **Progress toward the Resource Management Plan**

Matt said that SWCA was adding information to the draft plan such as bird information, wildlife monitoring. Todd Caplan finished his soil testing of the cropland soils. The interview process of the public and others has begun. They may have a website up and running within a week.

### **Possible Name Change for Candelaria Farm Preserve (CFP)**

Brian has seen some different names used instead of CFP, specifically "Candelaria Nature Preserve". The group wants to discuss a name change, but for now approved the use of "Candelaria Nature Preserve" temporarily.

### **Next Meeting:**

November 29 2:30 PM – Rio Grande Nature Center. Topic – Vegetation Work along the east cropland fence and Progress report from SWCA.

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.