

Candelaria Farm Preserve
Technical Advisory Group, TAG
 Rio Grande Nature Center State Park • 2901 Candelaria Rd NW
 Education Building
 April 26, 2018 • 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm
Minutes - final

Participants

Members: Brian Hanson, Chairman, bhanson5@comcast.net: Christianne Hinks, Peggy Norton, Judy Kowalski, Alan Reed, Dave Parsons, Kent Swanson, Christina Sandoval, Carolyn Siegel, Steve Cox

Additional Technical Assistance: Dave Hutton, Matt Schmader

Community – Kathleen Hall, Linda Shank

Review of Agenda – approved

Minutes March 29, 2018: Approved with minor adjustments

Announcements from TAG Members

- Christianne informed the group that the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District is thinking about planting grass inside the irrigation ditch around Arbor and planting pollinator plants on the west side of the ditch as an experiment.
- Peggy brought up the cropland issue of spraying herbicides. Candelaria Farm Preserve (CFP) was sprayed the same day Open Space was advised. Local residents were not informed until 3 days later. Also, the crop plan which was due January 31 is still not completed. The contract is not being complied with and the Management Plan should consider a different farmer. (not that Open Space should terminate it.
- Peggy said that a new bench was installed on the bike path on the levee that overlooks Candelaria Farms.
- Christina said that on May 12, 10 am to noon, in Santa Fe, a playground event was going to explore the idea of a natural park to encourage youth to play outside.
- Christina said she knew a person that knows agriculture and could talk to TAG.
- Kent said there were many activities planned by Albuquerque Open Space.
- Kent mentioned some of the management activities that take place near the Open Space Visitor Center
- Dave Hutton reminded the group that CFP will be discussed at Herbfest at the Nature Center May 13; Wes Brittenham presentation, open house and perhaps a field trip
- Dave mentioned that Albuquerque Open Space has a contract for wildlife monitoring in the CFP area.

Announcement from Public

Kathleen stated that evasive plants should not be planted in the Albuquerque nursery area next to Rio Grande Blvd.

Status of hiring contractor for the development of a Resource Management Plan (RMP):

Alan Reed wasn't sure if the contracts had been finalized but wanted to refrain from stating who the selected contractor is until Albuquerque Open Space made an announcement. Brian asked

Kent and Christina if they knew the status of the contract and they didn't know. Brian asked them to keep the TAG informed of the status at each TAG meeting.

Site specific Management for the Resource Management Plan (RMP)

Brian wanted to further develop TAG recommendations for the plan, specifically the topics of the Albuquerque Tree Nursery on Rio Grande Blvd, Cropland Area and Recreation (Land and Water Conservation Fund and specific suggestions). The selected contractor could develop our ideas for the RMP.

Albuquerque Tree Nursery on Rio Grande Blvd

The group would rather leave the nursery where it is, instead of relocating it as discussed before.

1. Maybe develop trails around the nursery and connecting to the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park
2. Maybe plant native plants and have a walking path through them
3. Plant native plants for the benefit of wildlife
4. Ensure evasive species are not planted and are not in the nursery
5. Plant native species around boundary of the nursery
6. Hide or remove the huge compost piles
7. Maybe have ADA parking only near the area
8. Parking for the public should not be constructed at the nursery, the public should park at the Rio Grande Nature Center
9. Recreation could include informational signs about Candelaria Farm Preserve
10. Recreation could include viewing areas to the Nursery and/or cropland to the west
11. Develop an arboretum, although the Nature Center has an area where plants are grown and labeled just south of the visitor center
12. For the Albuquerque Parks Department to continue to do their work they need to have the area fenced off and secure
13. Examine earlier meeting minutes of CFP that addressed this area since specific groups were formed to develop mgmt. for wildlife

Cropland Management

1. Need minimum viable size, acres, for agriculture, perhaps a minimum number of acres to make it feasible for a farmer to grow for wildlife
2. Minimum size, acres, to attract sandhill cranes
3. Use Albuquerque Open Space expertise
4. Cropland rotation to attract cranes. For example, Bosque del Apache suggested rotating corn for 2 years then 2 years of vetch
5. Cost for growing crops only for wildlife, leave seed heads and plants for wildlife with primary concern for wintering cranes and geese
6. Are the fields next to the east and boundary fence enough for cranes, or do we need more cropland, primary corn, for cranes and geese
7. Where can access for viewing cranes and geese be located
8. Examine earlier meeting minutes of CFP that addressed this area since specific groups were formed to develop mgmt. for wildlife

Next Meeting:

May 10, 2:30 PM - Contractor status, Site specific management; recreation, Land and Water Conservation Fund, cropland