

**Candelaria Farm Preserve
Technical Advisory Group**

Los Griegos Health & Social Service Center • 1231 Candelaria Rd NW 87107

November 29, 2018 • 2:30pm – 4:30pm

Minutes - draft

Participants

Members: Brian Hanson, Chairman, bhanson5@comcast.net: Kent Swanson, Christianne Hinks, James Lewis, Judy Kowalski, Steve Cox, Heather MacCurdy, Christina Sandoval, Trudy Merriman, Carolyn Siegel

Additional Technical Assistance: Dave Hutton

Community – Linda Shank, Ken Romig, Colleen McRoberts

Review of Agenda – approved with addition of Land and Water Conservation Fund update

Minutes October 25, 2018: approved with the correct date of next meeting November 29.

Announcements from TAG Members

Brian announced a field trip to the Nature Center, 10 AM, Friday, Nov 30 to show what the Nature Center is doing for habitat restoration

Brian announced a field trip to Bernardo Refuge, NM Dept. of Game and Fish December 4, 1 PM to gain more information on management for cranes in the winter and other Refuge management

Interim work on east boundary of the cropland by Open Space

Matt Person with Albuquerque Open Space planted shrubs near a hedgerow in the cropland area. Heather – was concerned about a group of volunteers in the cropland that were walking around the ponds. The group was Matt Peterson's volunteers and Open Space will be more careful in the future.

Carolyn – was concerned with spraying in the hedgerow with herbicide without notice. Many at the meeting wanted advanced warning. In a later talk between Brian and Matt, Matt said he had not planned the herbicide use, but it happened and in the future there would be notice to the community.

Open Space has begun cutting the sorghum. It was delayed because of the wet soil and a bad tire on the equipment. There was some talk about how to cut the crops so that cranes can have food throughout the winter period.

Announcements from Ken Romig (DPSDesign, Public Engagement for RMP)

Ken has started discussions with various groups. Some of the public comments include:

- dogs should be excluded
- what crops will be grown?
- one adjacent landowner wanted crops near his property, he likes seeing cranes
- do not want to change his view of the area
- does not want the Woodward House expanded, does not want more people to visit there
- do not want pesticides
- do not want uncontrolled access
- opposed to overlooks

- wanted guided tours by an ecological person

Steve Cox – the public meetings should begin with the statement that this will be a nature preserve with the required work and management to make it so

Colleen – should make sure that others feel that they can be open and make suggestions

Someone suggested getting on the KRKE morning show

Progress toward the Resource Management Plan

SWCA is gathering information. A public flier was completed and can be handed out to the public. The first public meeting will be January 30.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

Although not discussed, Judy wanted everyone to know that funding for this program is in jeopardy. She provided me an email. Communicate with your federal representatives with your views. See below for a quick update.

“Originally created in 1965, the LWCF is a politically popular program that has touched nearly every congressional district in some manner using funds derived from offshore oil and gas activities. The fund has a balance of about \$22 billion that can still be used by appropriators to continue LWCF-related activities.

Overhauling the LWCF has been a perennial concern for some Western conservative lawmakers. Those efforts caused the program to lapse for the second time in a five-year period on Sept. 30. The program previously lapsed in 2015, but was ultimately resolved with a three-year authorization patch in the year-end omnibus spending bill.”

Next Meeting:

January 10, 2019 at 2:30 PM – Rio Grande Nature Center. Topic – Field trip reports, Progress report from SWCA, planning for the January 30 public meeting

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.