

**MINUTES OF THE  
SANTA FÉ COUNTY  
COUNTY OPEN LAND TRAILS AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
(COLTPAC)**

**March 7, 2018**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Santa Fé County Open Land, Trails and Parks Advisory Committee (COLTPAC) was called to order on the above date at approximately 6:00 p.m. by Chair Dave Dannenberg in the Projects, Facilities and Open Space Conference Room, 901 West Alameda St., Suite 20C, Santa Fé, New Mexico.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Roll Call indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

**Members Present**

Dave Dannenberg, Chair  
John Parker, Vice Chair [arriving later]  
Greg Betts  
Sandra Madrid Massengill  
Sue Murphy [telephonically]  
Ernesto Ortega  
Jean Pike  
Linda Siegel [arriving later]

**Members Absent/Excused**

Rubén Cedeño [excused]

**Staff Members Present**

Maria Lohmann, Open Space and Trails Planner  
Paul Olafson, Planning Projects Manager  
Peggy Darr, Open Space Resource Management Specialist

**Others Present**

Jan-Willem Jansens  
Rich Schrader  
Carl Boaz, Stenographer

**3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Member Murphy moved to approve the agenda. Member Betts seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.**

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 7, 2018**

Member Pike asked for a change on page 4, where it should say, "Member Pike asked if there is a reason why the presentation needs to be wrapped up immediately and not rolled out on the same schedule." Further down, same page, she clarified: "Member Pike asked what the funding source cycle is... when the decision gets made," that her point was "*if the presentation is for the next funding cycle then why is there a rush right now to get it done?*"

She clarified that on page 6: "Member Pike said we need specific goals on completing it" she was asking what *the specific goals are for the Strategic Management Plan* – not what the goals are to complete the plan.

Member Madrid Massengill noted on page 3, at the bottom, where "sent" should be "send."

**Member Betts moved to approve the minutes of February 7, 2018 as amended. Member Massengill seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.**

**5. MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN - None**

**6. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Presentation on development of Best Management Practices from Ecotone Landscape Planning (Jan-Willem Jansens)**

Mr. Jansens and Mr. Schrader had to leave by 6:45 and planned a 20-minute presentation with questions and answers afterward. He introduced himself and Mr. Rich Schrader from River Source and explained their team included Molly Walton, Tamara Jaeger Stewart and members of the Forest Guild. They took on four projects including developing Best Management Practices Manual, developing Grassland and Riparian Management Plans, and doing a Forest Health Evaluation for all open space properties. Integrating the four projects worked out well for the crew.

They provided the geographical assessments with a focus on Los Potreros, La Cieneguilla, and San Pedro Open Spaces and prioritized the forestry component to determine which needed more scrutiny and wrote two detailed prescriptions for Talaya Hill, Tesuque Creek and La Piedra Open Spaces.

Member Siegel arrived at 6:17 p.m.

Mr. Jansens reviewed the Best Practices Manual components and made comments on each chapter in it. Management plans for Grasslands and Riparian areas at Los Potreros, San Pedro and La Cieneguilla Open Spaces and the Forest Health evaluation were a separate task. In conclusion, he acknowledged the project work of the team members.

Member Pike asked for an overview on the status of drought conditions going into summer and Mr. Jansens' take on long-term severe precipitation events, higher temperatures, open space and what they can do as stewards of the land.

Mr. Jansens characterized the area as a brittle environment with stressed vegetation. Due to poor management of property conditions most properties have issues of invasive species. Much of the forest land is too dry and dense and needs to be thinned and is invaded with mistletoe - a symptom of long-term degradation of the forest eco-systems. The northern grasslands are dry, and the ground water tables go up and down on most of the land making it additionally vulnerable. What he proposed in his report is important and they should continue to monitor that in the larger context of climate change and drought.

Member Parker arrived during the presentation.

Ms. Darr added that climate models show significant forest cover loss in New Mexico. Collaboration with neighboring agencies is important to determine what would happen and prioritizing what will remain forest in the future and getting the land to a better condition.

Ms. Lohmann introduced Ms. Peggy Darr as the new Open Space Resource Management Specialist.

Chair Dannenberg asked how long the training is and the training planned for maintenance crews.

Ms. Lohmann explained training was 8 days.

Mr. Jansens said among needed training topics for each year was an urgency for chainsaw certifications, noxious weed management and erosion control. Plant knowledge is needed and requires books with imagery and printed material on native plants and noxious weeds. Field training on inspections and photographs followed by a review of their observation sheets with their supervisors. He provided further details on training procedures.

Chair Dannenberg agreed that training is a huge component for staff and volunteers.

Member Parker liked the emphasis on data. People could be given manuals but need to exercise the knowledge and acquiring data is a good way to do that. Monitoring more frequently would help.

Member Siegel pointed out that equipment would also be needed.

Mr. Schrader agreed and understood that tablets have been requested that could help identify noxious weeds and location by GPS technology for choosing what to do about it. He explained the value of the picture post as a way to take repeat photos of the same place and load into a website. Each post is given a page and viewed as a photo series and helps show the impact of management practices or wildlife. The web site and photos are accessible to anyone.

Member Pike asked Mr. Jansens to expand on the importance of erosion control.

Mr. Jansens said it varies with the property; grasslands and Savannah areas with sloped terrain or historic activity, e.g. San Pedro or La Cieneguilla, or the erosion on heavily used areas of Talaya Hill. He suggested a lop and scatter technique to put slash on the ground to cover the soil. They have discovered slash creates a microclimate that gives a greater biomass diversity and density of native grasses to grow and create a nursery for the plants to rebound.

Member Betts noted a discussion in developing the Master Plan on using partners for grassland monitoring and maintenance. Some of the tasks would be done by partners. He asked how Mr. Jansens envisioned the division of duties among maintenance staff, stewards, neighbors or other partners.

Mr. Jansens said they gave techniques on communication and tools and how to work with each other. How to deal with a specific issue and location should evolve from a procreation of the project because there are complexities of sites. A healthy way is with the consultants and different parties within the County.

Chair Dannenberg thought the management plan should address how to work with partners generically and be site specific.

Ms. Lohmann said they could discuss that later, but she and Ms. Darr did discuss how she would focus her time and that was part of it.

Mr. Jansens noted that the manual describes opportunities for developing and bringing in a master naturalist program. Groups are listed that were involved in the properties. In Los Potreros they dealt with immediate neighbors and residents and La Cieneguilla had community groups and schools. San Pedro was the neighbors and there may be others.

Member Murphy asked if the priority trail corridors included the Madrid property.

Ms. Lohmann agreed and since it is more complicated, they have a specific contract for that project.

Ms. Darr asked how the property was sampled using the bull's eye method.

Mr. Jansens explained it was mostly random, or in grasslands some moving around but was important the area be somewhat homogeneous. Riparian generally focused on areas with the greatest use or impact.

Chair Dannenberg asked Mr. Jansens if he knew what the forester's scope would be as to the health issues of the forest.

Mr. Jansens explained each forest property had details on how to go proceed with cost estimates.

Chair Dannenberg asked if he referred to fuel load measurements or other things also.

Mr. Jansens replied the forester would need to focus on ecological health and fire hazards but also the surrounding public land and how it connects to the neighborhood, the drainage, etc. He had written specific plans for San Pedro, Los Potreros, Talaya Hill and Tesuque. The last two are ready for a thinning crew, but he suggested a consultant oversee the San Pedro and Los Potreros work.

Mr. Olafson said regarding working with a crew, how better to allocate resources and personnel, etc. to start implementation. They have a strong commitment and approach the work jointly through their management structures.

Chair Dannenberg assumed that Ms. Darr's job would be to decide what, when and where, however, the forest pieces appeared as something that should be at the top. He noted some need additional work.

Mr. Jansens said 5 or 6 forest properties have higher priority but also complexity. He provided clear suggestions for San Pedro such as putting wildlife drinkers out to encourage elk and deer grazing of the grasslands there. That will improve the grasslands and reduce the fire hazard and decrease the erosion and set them up for managed grazing. Fire crews should thin the Junipers that have invaded the grasslands. That must be done so the entrance to the property is not open to people they do not want on the property.

He invited them to call him if they had questions.

*Mr. Jansens and Mr. Schrader left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.*

Ms. Darr shared her background. Most recently she came from the Department of Game and Fish but has worked in Natural Resource and Wildlife Management all over the country. She managed a nature reserve in Texas and went to school in Vermont where she is from and received her master's at Louisiana State University. Ms. Lohmann explained this position is new and had been approved with the four maintenance positions last July, three of which have been filled. The last position should be filled soon.

#### **B. Review and Discussion of OSTP Strategic Plan goal setting**

Ms. Lohmann started with the final outline which she reorganized after sending it to the members. She reviewed the purpose and reason for the Plan - what has changed and how it will be used; how public outreach is done and the mission and vision. There is a section on program history and accomplishments, program phases and existing conditions and also a section about other plans they could collaborate with and incorporate into their planning and large projects. The Committee doesn't have the last two sections.

Ms. Lohmann directed members to their packet with the strategic focus section and said they wouldn't discuss funding tonight. The Strategic and Action Plan was reviewed by the Committee last month. She highlighted information on slides of sections the Committee did not have in their packet. She described the items in the handout. In response to Member Parker, she explained the difference between a preserve and a conservation area. Mr. Olafson added that the table on the next page would help.

Ms. Lohmann shared the priority areas and associated landscape management unit maps.

Some properties do not fit into the landscape management units and were pulled into priority trail corridors and there were also properties that did not fit into the landscape units. Partnerships outline places to focus on developing partners There are land preservation partners, management partners and access and education partners. She asked for help with that. The Strategic Plan is included, and the Action Plan needs to be added.

Chair Dannenberg noted half a dozen topics for the Committee to consider.

Ms. Lohmann showed a time chart and commented there is a short time line to get this to the BCC in July. This discussion is on milestones (that will inform the strategic plan) and metrics, partnerships (because they will target outreach meetings in April), and the internal operations and priorities. There could be further discussion in April because she wanted to review the milestones and metrics and internal operations after feedback now. They should discuss the Strategic Plan and Action Plan in April and the document in its entirety before the public review in June.

Chair Dannenberg suggested adding managed landscapes because it was not clear.

The Committee brainstormed their feedback and Staff captured the comments to process later. Ms. Lohmann thanked the Committee and said would refine the list and transform it into goals.

Chair Dannenberg suggested improvements in interagency communication. Member Betts asked if benchmarks in similar agencies should be considered. They may be able to borrow metrics and how they could compare the Committee's measurements with others. Chair Dannenberg wondered how agriculture could be integrated; or they should explain why it is not integrated. Member Murphy suggested talking about their accomplishments and forward thinking in the upcoming public sessions would be helpful to the public. Ms. Lohmann agreed and would include that section of the plan on her priorities list.

Member Madrid Massengill noted in the long run it is a matter of money in terms of measuring economic benefits from the recreational and conservation standpoint. The BCC would want to know that when they go before them for a bond. Member Pike noted other cities have conducted studies on stormwater, landscape and the economic benefits for that. Ms. Lohmann asked that they email her with other suggestions and she would work on this.

#### Management Landscapes

Members agreed on the information on Madrid (page 20) La Cieneguilla (page 22) and San Pedro (page 24). Chair Dannenberg expressed confusion on the major trail connections.

Ms. Lohmann explained her rationale for the priorities: the Santa Fe River Trail is being worked on and they want to complete that soon. For the Arroyo Hondo, they hope to leverage the success and build quickly. The Rail Trail was almost done, and the New Mexico Central planning had started. They are starting to conceptualize ATSF Lamy to Cerrillos because of the development of Thornton Ranch. There is a section that would be built with the ranch trails but is a bigger project with a lot of connections and part is called out in the landscape, but not all of it. That is the same for all; part is in the landscape areas, but not all the trails.

Chair Dannenberg thought the focus should be on the major trail corridors and avoid making everything the same category as a catchall. He asked if those could be folded into the metric.

Ms. Lohmann disagreed. She removed it because there will never be trail connections to Ortiz and although it is important to work on, it is outside that landscape. It did not seem to have the same momentum as others.

Member Parker thought she should go with the geography concept and allude to pieces of trails like "this is part of the New Mexico Rail Trail Corridor", etc. Member Siegel suggesting including Lamy. She was told Lamy was in the Thornton-Lamy area.

Mr. Olafson agreed landscapes are geography should be included. They could say exactly what they are - priority trail corridors and the same with the priority projects. He suggested reworking those and identify higher priorities out of the landscapes. Ms. Lohmann explained other properties are being worked on that are not within these landscapes. She explained why she did not call it out as a priority landscape.

Chair Dannenberg noted there was no management landscape for much of the county's northern part.

Ms. Lohmann explained that was the original version of the map. Mr. Olafson suggested if looking at a five-year window, they might consider taking this back to look at how to make the geographies work. The northern end of the county is not a focus but is where all the public land is, and much of the land is accessible. The communities there might have different needs; they may want a pocket park and a senior center more than access to the forest.

Chair Dannenberg felt not creating a northern geography would generate questions. He emphasized, focus on the major trail corridors.

Ms. Lohmann noted the one by itself is the Arroyo Hondo Open Space. A suggestion was that be under the Rail Trail with the assumption they may be connected one day or under the Thornton/Lamy area.

Discussion on Partners:

Mr. Olafson suggested they be strategic and opportunistic about their self-interest with the partners; who they could work with that would do the work and get things done as well as benefit the mission of the partner.

Ms. Darr recommended New Mexico Game & Fish. She has worked with their habitat people and they have the most progressive restoration techniques. They train the Forest Service and BLM and they have federal money available. Also, the Nature Conservancy should be considered because they are involved in a huge landscape restoration initiative in Northern New Mexico.

Other suggestions from the committee for partners were: Fat Tire Society, the National Audubon Society for education because they do a lot of educational programs, Agricultural projects for partnership because they are "doers" and would be good when working on the water shed.

Member Murphy offered to try to get information on equestrian partners. Tribes for plant gathering could also play a continuing role in education. The Native Plant Society has a local Cactus Rescue that has a web page.

Ms. Lohmann wanted to talk about the partnerships in the strategic plan and to describe what they would do with each partnership. She suggested having the conversations in April to get excitement and hit the ground running and then ask the partners to come to the table to implement the plan.

Member Madrid Massengill pointed out possible overlap with the City of Santa Fe. The Committee briefly discussed current collaborations with the City. Ms. Lohmann noted she currently communicates with the MPO staff about trails.

Mr. Olafson envisioned with the partnerships that they would implement management plans. They could try to get a group of representatives to help start the project the first year and add more in the following years. He suggested considering how they would manage volunteers. It could be task oriented, but it would be an open-ended partnership. Most of the volunteer organizations would not generate a lot of results, so it has to be target oriented.

Member Parker thought specificity was good, but also had problems and language could be crafted that would force them to do research. That would be good homework to craft the language and they would learn how other local governments worked with their partners.

Chair Dannenberg observed when a volunteer organization is given a task if they found the right groups they would find a way to accomplish the task. Member Betts asked who the partners would coordinate with. He was told that would need to be determined.

Chair Dannenberg asked if a separate session was needed to work on the strategic management plans. Ms. Lohmann offered to look at everything and possibly schedule a second session in April.

**7. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

**A. Prioritize Future Agenda Topics**

This item was not discussed.

**8. MATTERS FROM COUNTY STAFF**

**A. Strategic Plan priorities and schedule**

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

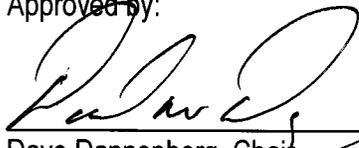
**9. ACTION ITEMS: None**

**10. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, April 4, 2018**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Member Parker moved to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. Member Madrid Massengill seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.**

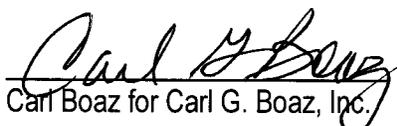
Approved by:

  
Dave Dannenberg, Chair

Attest

  
Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk

Submitted by:

  
Carl Boaz for Carl G. Boaz, Inc.



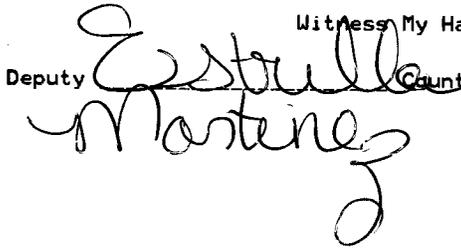
SFC CLERK RECORDED 09/10/2018

COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss

COLTPAC MINUTES  
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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 10TH Day Of September, 2018 at 08:21:20 AM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1867013  
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Deputy  Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
Geraldine Salazar  
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM