

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

June 6, 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
Greg Betts
Rubén Cedeño
Sandra Madrid Massengill
Sue Murphy
Ernesto Ortega
Linda Siegel

Members Absent/Excused

Jean Pike [excused]

Staff Members Present

Maria Lohmann, Open Space and Trails Planner
Paul Olafson, Planning Projects Manager
Robert Griego, Planning Manager
Erin Ortigoza, Senior Planner

Others Present

Carl Boaz, Stenographer

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Member Siegel moved to approve the agenda as published. Member Murphy seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 4, 2018

Member Siegel moved to approve the minutes of April 4, 2018 as amended seconded by Member Cedeño.

Member Murphy, page 4 near the bottom of the page: the second line states biology and should be *ecology*.

The motion to approve the April 4, 2018 minutes as amended passed by unanimous voice vote.

5. MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN – None

Member Madrid Massengill and Robert Griego entered the meeting.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Presentation on Agriculture Implementation Plan progress and project update (Erin Ortigoza)

Ms. Ortigoza said she is a senior planner. She was present to provide an update on the work that has been done the last few years on the Agriculture and Ranching Implementation Plan.

In 2016 the Agriculture and Ranching Implementation Plan was adopted. The focus areas were divided to protect land and natural resources, support agricultural operations like connecting farmers/ranchers to resources, explore innovative methods for food production on unknown properties and to understand the capacity of the food system.

The County developed a priority matrix of high, medium and low items, including a project related to describing what is happening in our food system. They discussed creating a clearing house to have all of the information in one area, so members of the community could understand what is happening.

That has now evolved into what is called "The AgriGate of Santa Fe County". They are working on branding a welcoming, open, web-based platform of sharing information for food producers, food buyers, agricultural resource providers like nonprofits or financial micro-loan organizations, etc.

In addition they are working on the efficiency of communications for training and events so various groups that support the farmers and growers can avoid double booking, or recreating events, etc. They will connect with people one-on-one about why they are doing what they do and help people become aware of the passion, innovation and opportunities that exists

The web site design will have a map feature showing food production sites that will be searchable, so a person can type in criteria like *where to find a farm to harvest carrots* and see the profile of a farm, the

contact information, hours, etc. Also a buyer who wants to source local food can find specific items.

They are working through the Santa Fe Food Policy Council (SFFPC) to raise awareness about access of where food banks are located or a so a grower with excess produce can donate food. This evening will be the first viewing of the film about farming and ranching in Santa Fe County that highlights how to get the word out. The film will also be featured on the AgriGate and used in various ways to get the message out.

Member Betts asked if this is also intended for the general public, i.e. could he look under the heading of "honey" to find a beekeeping farm to take his kids.

Ms. Ortigoza replied yes and the more farms they find to invite and the more diversity in food production like beekeeping, etc., the better the opportunity for people to find them. They are looking for and talking with people in those educational or demonstration type activities.

They recently worked with the Santa Fe Community Farm. The farm is looking for people to help with food production and rely a lot on volunteers and workshare opportunities. The farm produces mostly for the Food Bank and Food Depot. Community awareness to engage with existing operations is the main goal of the project.

Ms. Lohmann asked members to share places with Ms. Ortigoza that should be on the website they take their kids to because they want to highlight and encourage more activity.

Ms. Ortigoza explained that will be a long process. The goal is to get a sampling of producers, buyers, nonprofits etc. and take the website to them and see if they would like to join.

They call this a clearinghouse to provide general information to find resources for food banks and food production etc. but how to bring this into one place has been discussed for years. It is now being implemented.

Member Cedeño asked if Ms. Ortigoza considered collecting data on Farm to Table and where they exist.

Ms. Ortigoza explained that Farm to Table is a nonprofit and the County works closely with them. They are also on the SFFPC and offer various programs like Farm to Cafeteria talking to schools with farming, gardening or nutrition programs. There is also Farm to Restaurant that has become a social enterprise called Squash Blossom where farmers sell to restaurants in bulk and all are included in the project.

Ms. Ortigoza added that long-term this will paint a picture of where there are gaps and where buying is happening and aggregate and cold storage sites. With better representation they can begin to think strategically about how to make connections stronger and show all of that on the map.

Member Parker pointed out agriculture does not deal exclusively with food. He asked if this will also target vineyards or breweries, etc.

Ms. Ortigoza replied it will and they are working with several vineyards bringing bulk grapes into the community and Santa Fe Spirits whose products are from local fruit. There could also be in years of

excess, a way to bring apples and peaches in for use in ciders, etc.

Chair Dannenberg asked the status of the Community Farm.

Ms. Ortigoza explained the family is working with Reunity Resources Composting to manage the farm and the farm will be in production this year. They are looking at ways to combine land management, composting and production.

Mr. Olafson added another opportunity is connections with entrepreneurs, e.g. if someone brings their kids to learn about bees it could propagate new ideas on how to extend agricultural resources to other income streams.

Ms. Ortigoza agreed. The more they discuss the more things are happening and opportunities such as all-season production, micro-grains, aquaponics and hydroponics, etc. and alternative ways of producing food.

Member Ortega asked if there was opportunity for people in other counties to work with Ms. Ortigoza in the areas of Santa Fe County with closely adjoining farms and orchards.

Ms. Ortigoza replied yes, and they are interested in a community food shed and people that grow food in Rio Arriba or Taos Counties and there is a lot of local food and resources that are unique. Taos Economic Development Center has trucks on the road and cold storage and the infrastructure and their mission is to support agriculture throughout Northern New Mexico.

Member Parker asked if there is a defined strategy to preserve bottomlands for agriculture and TDR (Transfer Development Rights) programs. He thought part of the equation should be to pursue properties available.

Mr. Griego explained they have developed criteria for County acquisition.

Ms. Ortigoza noted in addition they are working with the Acequia Association to develop best practices for underutilization and to support property owners getting their land back into production.

Ms. Lohmann added there are some options in the SLDC that allow for clustered housing and standards for how the home is located on properties to create open space.

Ms. Ortigoza said they will be working to connect people to landowners who are not able to farm their land to those who want to produce but have no land and will be building profiles this summer.

Ms. Ortigoza discussed demonstration projects:

- The first example is a partnership with New Mexico State University and Senior Services Centers on the Edgewood Senior Center garden. They are trying to bring in community groups to make the garden sustainable and the kickoff event will be June 16 with music and food. There will be opportunities to build frames and also build a hoop house later in the summer.
- Pojoaque Sports Complex is another example of integrating edible landscaping and is in phase

three of production. They are looking at an orchard , and small ag' demonstration site and a forage forest and that will also provide opportunity to work with the schools. There are grapevines and native berries etc. along the walking paths and a great opportunity to work with the layers of production and use that to explain the concepts of permaculture.

Ms. Lohmann said Pojoaque is along the water and has a direct connection from the middle school and a lot of history and there is a location for a community garden in a future phase.

- Los Potreros is another opportunity on open space and they are partnering with New Mexico Acequia Association on developing best practices. They were hearing concern about the use of water effectively and are demonstrating how to get the landscape to the point they did not have to worry about losing water rights. The County owns the land and is starting with revegetation and getting the soil and the acequia healthy. The process will be documented to share with people in similar situations of irrigation or revegetation, etc.
- The last example of County owned property is La Bajada Ranch and the County is currently working on an agricultural lease. They have conducted a feasibility study for a wine incubator facility and is working with the community and adjacent property owners to understand the options.

Chair Dannenberg asked to hear more about the balance among new or younger farmers versus the senior retired farmers.

Ms. Ortigoza explained they want to support the intergenerational connections because the senior skill sets and knowledge that is critical to working in the landscape and producing food. At the same time there is a whole new generation of technology and new ideas and they want to find a way to bridge that with the older landowners. There is more demand than land available, especially wholesale and a lot of diversity but not a lot of quantity of one crop. Shifting to a wholesale model requires more quantity to handle large orders consistently.

The Farmers' Market Institute has farmers have been established there for generations and it is hard for a new grower to enter the market. They are looking at how to create an attractive space for new growers to come into the market, so New Mexico becomes a place for new growers.

A five-minute film was shown on AgriGate at this time.

Chair Dannenberg offered to send a contact for 10,000 Waves that has a unique model of procuring their produce.

Member Cedeño talked about growing for individual consumption. He is looking forward to having the AgriGate as a resource to find answers to his questions on his garden.

7. MATTERS FROM COUNTY STAFF

A. Review and discussion of OSTP Strategic Plan and Timeline

Ms. Lohmann reported on Saturday they had a great event at El Camino Real trail head with food and music. There were about 75 people, some on horseback, some riding bicycles, some people with dogs and everyone had a lot of fun.

All trails adjacent to USFS including open spaces are now closed, but from the river to the Headquarters Well trail head is a great ride that is paved and smooth; even the soft dirt when getting off the pavement was manageable.

Closed signs are at all of the trailheads and the Forest Service (USFS) has taped off access points.

Chair Dannenberg added the USFS Manager did a good job of explaining in the newspaper that people caught in a closed forest would have to appear before a federal judge.

Ms. Lohmann noted that Santa Fe County has an ordinance that allows closure in an emergency and there is also an ordinance that allows citations to be issued if needed.

She will confirm the date for the River Trail grand opening and send that out in a week or so.

Ms. Lohmann shared her notes from the discussion at the special meeting in April regarding the strategic plan, the draft and things members want.

- In terms of goals they talked about health, climate change, economic development, etc. but not a lot about policies or strategies.
- She heard three major things from the conversation: 1) more high-level goals 2) for COLTPAC to align with other groups 3) and to talk more about conservation.

Ms. Lohmann indicated she had pulled everything from the SGMP relevant to open space and most they had already discussed. She has created a diagram with the high-level goals. The directive from the SGMP is vague and large and the goal in the open space chapter 9 is to: *"Acquire, preserve and maintain a significant amount of land to support a network of public and private open space parks and trails throughout the County"*.

She has broken that into three additional directives that are the overarching goals to reach the directive of the SGMP: 1) Leadership in innovative land management, 2) contribute to regional identity and pride and 3) offer diverse and unique outdoor experiences.

Colorado has adopted Shift principles which are components of success and COLTPAC is aligning with the SHIFT group in Colorado and Jackson Hole Wyoming because they are leaders in outdoor recreation.

That leads into the three action elements of Management, Stewardship and Experience.

The 8 components to achieve success are: 1 - Working Together; 2 - Mutually Beneficial, 3- Broad Support,

4- Minimize Impacts - all recreation has impacts, 5- Management and Education, 6 - Cultural Values, 7- Science-based Decisions, 8- Stable, long-term funding.

Chair Dannenberg acknowledged Ms. Lohmann's excellent work in encapsulating the groups discussion.

Member Parker thought it good that both conservation and recreation were acknowledged.

Ms. Lohmann said all of this leads into their action elements and each element is tied to the directive and has an associated strategy and are interrelated.

Chair Dannenberg said the policy piece is the working framework for funding and if approved it is a guideline for how to frame what is done and when and where.

Ms. Lohmann felt the policies were so vague that there would be no reason this would not be consistent.

Chair Dannenberg noted there was discussion about the County's efforts to determine the best management practices and how to disseminate information to the public, but education is not specifically outlined. He asked how that will be addressed.

Ms. Lohmann explained education is throughout and they might need different educational practices for management than stewardship, etc.

Mr. Olafson explained that education cannot be on its own because having staff learn better management practices to thin trees for fire protection in a way that does habitat maintenance that is then learned by volunteers; and signs telling what was done for fire protection; and Audubon conducting a tour and pointing out what has been done for birds to have a better nesting site - the education is intertwined in all of that.

Ms. Lohmann pointed out the document has been reorganized and she is creating an executive summary of what is in the plan.

The first chapter talks about how the programs began etc. and the plans that exist.

Chapter 2 is strategy with the action elements.

Chapter 3 pulls the actions out into priorities and addresses funding and the action plan.

The appendices will list management plans that will need to be updated periodically; signage will guide how they brand Santa Fe County open space property as the properties are opened.

The plan is to finalize the document by August and target their outreach to partners, experts, community stakeholders in July and August. In September they will do a public outreach and the BCC presentation will be in October.

Chair Dannenberg requested an update on the public outreach pieces at the next meeting.

Ms. Lohmann said the meetings will be all the ecologists, or all the trail users, , etc. to reduce the number of meetings. The objective will be to get good feedback and the targeted outreach sessions will provide specific topic-based comments. The public outreach is just to let the community know what they are doing and how it is being done.

Mr. Olafson acknowledged the new intern. Ms. Lohmann provided background. The intern is from Cornell and is working on final project for his graduate degree on water rights issues, etc. and will start Friday.

In addition they have had since March a paid resource manager who is incredible. Her goal is to have baseline reports for all of the properties along with a species list and list of projects by June.

Ms. Lohmann noted she received the PO for Ortiz yesterday and will start on that soon.

8. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

B. COLTPAC Communications (Revised Agenda Order)

Member Siegel talked about attending the outdoor Economics Conference in Las Cruces that had people from all over the state. Presentations were made by people from Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and California on how to develop economies with tourism and how to publicize and use public lands. The four states administration of government have a designated person for outdoor economics and tourism.

She noted that Senator Steinborn had called all of the candidates for governor to ask if they would pledge to create a coordinator to work with communities on what was being done. Michelle Lujan Grisham agreed, and they are working on legislation. There was a panel that talked about the various aspects of that.

Mr. Olafson said evident from the Colorado experience is their 25- year funding stream. They have combined Game and Fish and the Parks Department, and they work hand in hand.

Chair Dannenberg asked who is funding the report on the outdoor recreation industry, but no one knew.

A. Meeting Updates

Chair Dannenberg noted as a follow-up on the presentation for the BCC they also want to do individual meetings. They met with Commissioners Anna Hansen and Anna Hamilton and both were very positive and supportive of their open space program. Neither Commissioner knew many details but were interested in the community elements. Ms. Hansen liked the educational aspects- particularly the interface to the schools on the south side and Ms. Hamilton liked the physical science projects.

Member Murphy thought the details from Chair Dannenberg brought the Commissioners further into what is happening, and it was helpful. She recalled that Ms. Hansen was concerned about the use of Boulder Colorado as an example for Santa Fe, but the meeting went very well.

Ms. Lohmann indicated she is trying to schedule with Commissioners Roybal and Moreno.

Chair Dannenberg said the third meeting was with the Finance and Budget Director for the County, Ms. Shardin-Clarke. He thought the message for COLTPAC was as the program progresses that more onus will be put on them to assist with public support for alternative funding methods. The status quo for the budget five years out is 2% a year.

Member Parker said he got the message, "leave us alone" and he is not sure they are receptive to trying to leverage money.

Chair Dannenberg replied his understanding is there will be a bond issuance every 4-5 years.

He read a list of future agenda topics and indicated he will work with Marie for the next meeting.

Ms. Lohmann said the USFS will be releasing a draft in October or November.

Chair Dannenberg said he personally has encouraged Staff to give the Committee updates on the Thornton Ranch property and ways to accelerate the entire development. His rationale is that it is a high-profile project and centerpiece for the open space program and showing speed, success and execution will create momentum. They have made zero progress on that.

He asked how far the Committee should push or if they should let the matter go.

Member Betts agreed with Chair Dannenberg wanting tangible evidence for the public of recreational opportunities - the fruit at the end of the acquisition line - and to start giving people something. The ranch is in a good location and they have a good plan and he thought they should push for it.

Chair Dannenberg will draft an action item to the BCC for the next meeting to recommend doing a program review for Thornton Ranch and recommending the BCC request Colleen and Mike Kelly get in front of them to discuss.

Mr. Olafson responded he has been working to get Colleen and Mike in the room with Chair Dannenberg. He is not sure COLTPAC has the responsibility or role to become engaged in County operations. That is important to acknowledge, however he cannot tell the Committee what to do or not to do. He suggested creative engagement would be more fruitful rather than a demand. He and Ms. Lohmann and Ms. Baker have tried to bring a succession to get the project done.

The Bonds were scheduled for two sales in two-year increments and this was targeted for the bond sale. They discussed the consultation to ensure they were doing the proper outreach and that changed the time frame and put them on the current schedule.

There is possibility there is some creative financing to move the effort along and he is not sure making a request that could be viewed as demanding or incompetent or disregarding is beneficial to the Committee's objective of advancing the project efficiently.

Chair Dannenberg replied they only make a demand as a last resort because COLTPAC prefers working with County staff, but they have had little response from County management. As far as where this falls within their charter - it is in line regarding open space.

Member Cedeño said it falls in line but it is now 8 o'clock and this discussion will be shortchanged. He suggested putting it on the next agenda.

Secondly, the Committee should re-examine their role in the matter because it is a strategic move they are about to embark on and need to give it time for discussion.

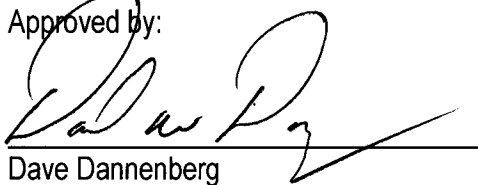
Chair Dannenberg said that is what he wanted- a discussion of whether it should be an agenda item next time. He asked everyone to consider the issue for the next month. He added he did not want to be a personal agenda item. He would share his thoughts at the next meeting but there are many factors that weigh in. One is there has been a lot of feedback that when things go into program management, it goes into a black hole.

ADJOURNED

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

9. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, July 11, 2018

Approved by:


Dave Dannenberg

Submitted by:


Carl Boaz for Carl G. Boaz, Inc.


ATTEST:


GERALDINE SALAZAR
COUNTY CLERK

COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

COLTPAC MINUTES
PAGES: 10

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 10TH Day Of September, 2018 at 08:21:22 AM
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Deputy  Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Geraldine Salazar
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

Santa Fe COLTPAC

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