

**MINUTES OF THE SANTA FE COUNTY
COUNTY OPEN LAND TRAILS AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (COLTPAC)
2201 Conference Room
100 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe, NM 87501
Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at 6:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Santa Fe County Open Land, Trails and Parks Advisory Committee (COLTPAC) was called to order on the above date at approximately 6:12 p.m. by Chair Rubén Cedeño in the 2201 Conference Room, 100 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll Call indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

Members Present

Rubén Cedeño, Chair
Jan Cohen
Sandra Madrid Massengill
Jean Pike
Apple Snider

Members Absent/Excused

Greg Betts
Linda Siegel
Matt Piccarello
Sue Murphy

Staff Members Present

Maria Lohmann, Open Space and Trails Planner
Paul Olafson, Planning Projects Manager

Others Present

Carl Boaz, Stenographer

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Member Pike moved, seconded by Member Cohen, to approve the agenda as published. The motion was approved on a unanimous (5-0) voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - September 4, 2019

Member Pike noted on page 4 in the motion, *the recommendation is to approve the plan with the condition that the plan is updated within 5 years*, was clarified - the 5-year update is inserted into the schedule of the plan.

Member Snider moved, seconded by Member Massengill, to approve the minutes of September 4, 2019 as amended. The motion was approved on a unanimous (5-0) voice vote.

5. MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

Mr. Olafson described this new building, once the site of the old district court. The old building will be remodeled and is scheduled for completion in June.

6. MATTERS FROM COUNTY STAFF

a. 2019 OSTP SMP Updates

Ms. Lohmann shared a draft annual report including the 2020 draft work plan. The 2019 Strategic Management Plan (SMP) included revising the annual work plan so everyone is better informed. A rough draft of an annual report coordinates with the 2019 Strategic Plan and shows what was done and what is planned.

The report highlights the open space vision and why it is important. The 2020 workplan has goals similar to 2019.

- Accomplishments for 2019 will be highlighted: Los Potreros Open Space; the pasture restoration work that continues; the trail projects and improvements to parks; the Master Naturalist Program, and the Santa Fe River Restoration.
- Graphics will show how much work is completed with a legend using circles. A filled circle is a completed project; a half-filled circle means the project was started; an empty circle is a project not yet started.

Chair Cedeño asked about the impact on the management plan in the effort to coordinate with other departments.

Mr. Olafson replied they plan to coordinate more with other departments to understand what is asked of them before the budget process. The bottom line is to get the funding in place and to look at the funding stream that will make it happen.

Ms. Lohmann added the Open Space program has staff in 3 different departments with three department directors. Having an easier path makes things more efficient. She noted the vacant volunteer coordinator position and acknowledged Peggy for taking the lead and getting a lot done in education, stewardship and promotion, and the Naturalist Program.

The work plan for 2020 highlights project priorities in four categories; resource management, educational programming and stewardship, project development and implementation. Some resource management projects include: develop emergency response plans with Emergency Services; implement invasive species management protocol; and conduct surveys (because of focus on rare plants and endangered species). They also should start open space maintenance crew training. They will continue to implement existing management plans, specifically for projects that could be implemented this year. Another priority for Peggy is to implement the monitoring

research program.

In addition:

- They will install fencing and develop management plans for Little Tesuque Creek and Talaya Hill open spaces.
- There are three educational program projects.
- Provide regular updates on what is being done and keep COLTPAC informed.
- Under Programming and Stewardship - priorities are a messaging campaign about open space and the partnership for the Master Naturalist Program.

Ms. Lohmann said the goal is to make this a formal curriculum with the Santa Fe Botanical Garden and Santa Fe Audubon.

Member Snider asked if volunteers with communication skills could be recruited for the Naturalist Program. They could use their hours to help Staff.

Ms. Lohmann thought that a great idea. The Master Naturalists like doing things outside and are excited about the monitoring.

For Planning, she will continue to develop the policies for tribal communications; Thornton Ranch is a priority this year; and she will continue to develop an assessment for Parks and Recreation facilities the County can provide.

In addition:

- They will determine a chain of command and decision-makers.
- Lay the groundwork for interpretive ranger programs and the opportunities with other ranger programs.
- Build a database for each property of all available data that will be accessible to all three departments and collection in the field.
- Build relationships with BLM, New Mexico Fish and Game, and the U.S. Forest Service.

They will continue with Los Potrero's pasture restoration; and working with Wildland Fire Crew in Talaya Open Space on forest restoration and the discussion with the City.

Additional priorities include Ortiz Mountains Open Space forest health treatment and partnering in Madrid to address stormwater and flooding hazards caused by past mining.

A public outreach meeting will be held for the scope of NEPA. The engineering study is done for Madrid Arroyo and has been shared with AML.

Chair Cedeño asked about the proposed trail connecting Madrid to Cerrillos.

Ms. Lohmann said the trail has not been discussed in this project. This is specific to the Abandoned Mine Lands Program and what they can do. Their focus is mine hazard

reclamation and they have a defined area of interest that includes the county open space but not land acquisitions for the trail connection. Santa Fe County's job will be to ensure the connection remains in the plans and keep it in mind for the future.

Thornton Ranch Open Space contract is in place with a design team and a contract to conduct the tribal coordination and communications next year moving forward in parallel.

Ms. Lohmann explained she met with BLM. They own the underlying mineral rights of Thornton Ranch Open Space which requires NEPA to be done on all 2,600 acres of open space. BLM will review the NEPA submittal and make a determination.

The Taos Field Office Resource Management Plan guides how they manage their properties, and this is a special resource management area. They have rescinded the ability to graze and sale of precious metals mineral rights. Gravel mining was not rescinded but the County's assessment analysis found no value there. Currently there is no risk of mining or mineral extraction on Thornton Ranch or adjacent open space.

A survey for rare plants is required as part of the NEPA, but it must be done in May or June.

Mr. Olafson indicated Peggy has been coordinating with the Fire Department and Forest Management to combine the habitat issues process for the Talaya Hill open space forest restoration project. They are working with the Wildland fire crew to do forest thinning. They developed a wildland fire assessment and have thinning prescriptions for open space they work from in order to reduce the risk of fire. It is adjacent to the Santa Fe Watershed and used for hiking and nature area and removal of all the trees would not make sense. They have received good press and people are excited about what is being done. This will be a model for the West on how to conduct forest thinning and balance wildlife needs. They have also partnered with the City on a grant to continue this model in the same area but on private land and city open space.

They have grant funding to build segment 2 of Arroyo Hondo to connect the fire station to the Turquoise Trail subdivision. They also have FY2021 funds for segment 3 to connect the fire station to the Community College. Arroyo Hondo segment 1 should be open in the new year.

Ms. Lohman will finalize the report in the next few weeks and update the Board.

b. Project Updates

Ms. Lohmann oversaw the contracts for an interpretive plan on Thornton Ranch and created a video and thought they should do another. The plan this year is to develop a messaging and branding campaign for open space. She planned to show the video at Romero Park at their 20th anniversary but there were technical difficulties. This is a priority to get the word out about Santa Fe County open space and they plan to switch

out the old logo for the new County logo.

The video was shown to the COLTPAC members and they made suggestions for showing the video elsewhere.

Ms. Lohmann noted that Matt Wagoner has left and is now the Parks and Open Space Director in Park City Utah. His position has been filled by Matt Piccarello, the Assistant Director of the Forest Stewards Guild. He will attend the next meeting.

Ms. Lohmann announced also, that this was Greg Betts' last meeting and he also could not attend tonight. She wished him well. His position was advertised. They hope to fill the position in the new year.

c. Meeting Schedule for 2020

Member Murphy had suggested at the last meeting to consider meeting in February rather than January.

Chair Cedeño asked Ms. Lohman to explain her thoughts on quarterly or semiannual meetings.

Ms. Lohman explained, as volunteers, she wanted to honor their time. The original intent in creating COLTPAC was to inform but over time other things have been added, including input on planning, etc. Currently, there are several management plans and will develop a few more, but things are slowing down. There are a lot of things that move slowly and meeting monthly may not be the best use of their time. She would be happy to continue to schedule monthly meetings but thought they should discuss that.

Members discussed the idea of meeting quarterly.

Chair Cedeño suggested they could meet as needed. His concern was how to avoid a rolling quorum if they wanted to discuss the information from Ms. Lohmann.

Ms. Lohmann said she intends to communicate any updates via email as always and will avoid gaps in communication. The Committee would not be asked to do business by email and if a response was needed, she would call a special meeting. She could also communicate individually. Some interest has been expressed to present some potential acquisition of properties, which might require a special meeting.

Chair Cedeño confirmed the consensus of members was to meet quarterly on the first Wednesday of each month, after February.

Ms. Lohmann will develop a meeting schedule on Wednesdays starting in February and quarterly meetings thereafter.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

None.

8. ACTION ITEMS

Previously discussed.

9. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Chair Cedeño suggested Ms. Lohmann contact PBS, Colores regarding the video.

10. NEXT MEETING: February 5, 2020

11. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Member Pike and second by Member Cohen, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46.

Approved by:

Rubén S. Cedeño

Rubén Cedeño, Chair

Submitted by:

Carl Boaz (ED)
Carl Boaz for Carl G. Boaz, Inc.



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 11TH Day Of March, 2020 at 09:28:44 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1911465
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Deputy *E. Stalla*)
Martinez)
Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Geraldine Salazar
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM