

**MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FÉ COUNTY
COUNTY OPEN LAND TRAILS AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(COLTPAC)
April 5, 2017**

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
Jeannie Dodson-Edgars
Jean Pike [arriving later]
Linda Siegel

Members Absent

Sue Murphy [excused]
Ernesto Ortega

Staff Members Present

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

Others Present

Jonathan Hayden, USFS - Santa Fe National Forest
Karen Yori, USFS Recreation Director for Santa Fe National Forest
Carl Boaz, Stenographer

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Dannenberg asked to switch items 6 and 7.

Member Dodson-Edgars moved to approve the agenda as amended. Member Parker seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote. Member Pike was not present for the vote.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. March 1, 2017

Chair Dannenberg discovered several people did not get the packet so the minutes were postponed to the next meeting.

Member Pike arrived at this time.

5. MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN

There were no matters of public concern.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS**A. Presentation and Discussion Santa Fe National Forest Plan Revision**

Mr. Jonathan Hayden introduced himself and described his responsibilities at Santa Fe National Forest. Ms. Karen Yori is the Recreation Program Manager. Mr. Hayden said the Forest Plan addresses all the resources of the forest and presents goals and vision for what the forest should look like in the future - more guidelines and suggestions instead of a mandate. He is currently taking public feedback for the environmental impact statement. He listed agencies and organizations they seek input from, one of which is Santa Fe County. Santa Fe is a gateway to the forest with trail heads and roads and there is a big overlap.

The wilderness evaluation is the most contentious. It is not part of the actual plan but unfolding in parallel and considers suitability for wilderness designations. Part of the Pecos wilderness is in Santa Fe County. Wilderness areas prohibit mechanized uses such as mountain bikes. Chain saws cannot be used so communities worry about fires. The Windsor Trail has many wilderness characteristics. In the plan, we emphasize collaboration with more voluntary trail stewardship but it is unclear how to address them. Members of the Fat Tire Society have expressed what they want to see in the plan. He is encouraging other user groups to comment.

Chair Dannenberg mentioned a report on the economic impact of mountain biking in Santa Fe County.

Mr. Hayden said he would like to include that information in the plan. The USFS would like to have more single-purpose trails and would like to build them. It is hard to get proper certification for them.

Member Parker asked if the plan has a strategy on recreational users of the forest. Areas of pueblo sacred sites and the watershed make it constrained. To accommodate different users, having a concept of purpose of trails and additional trails is important. There are not many and the Windsor Trail is often in bad shape.

Ms. Yori explained they have no money to hire trail crews so it is only volunteers like Fat Tire or on

occasion, Rocky Mountain Volunteer teams or the Sierra Club.

Member Parker didn't see a lot of real management and the asset needs to be managed. He didn't want to go through NEPA as a volunteer. The answer may be how we mitigate the conflict and additional trails would help.

Member Cedeño said in Tijeras he met First Sgt. Richard Basil who has military recruits ready to ship out and they could help with trails on a two-week notification. They would have gloves and clothing and could get to work.

Ms. Yori said they have a volunteer coordinator who covers Española and Pecos and she could handle more groups.

Member Dodson-Edgars asked how the Forest Practice Act affects the wilderness areas.

Mr. Hayden said the Las Conchas fire was an example. Their work is in sync with the Wilderness Practice Act but the wilderness is separate from the Plan. Wilderness designation may be incorporated into the plan later but is not part of the initial outline. They are constrained by the Wilderness Practice Act but can suppress a catastrophic fire if it threatens a community.

In response to Member Siegel, Ms. Yori said they have had a hiring freeze since inauguration day.

Mr. Olafson asked about options for non-wilderness areas of the forest.

Mr. Hayden said the plans are forest-wide and components speak to smaller specific areas which are mostly cultural or geological sites. There is a recreation emphasis for Santa Fe and Pecos areas. USFS is looking at how to manage it differently and welcome the COLTPAC members' thoughts to prioritize the area.

Chair Dannenberg said simple maintenance is important. Member Pike suggested a regional trail system connecting with the County's. Member Dodson-Edgars said we need to find out what we can do locally since the federal government isn't going to.

Mr. Hayden said he would email web site information to Ms. Lohmann. He asked members to review the documents and provide feedback on how they want the areas managed differently, keeping in mind their constraints. He also invited members to attend one of the public meetings to be held in June and July at their offices near the Santa Fe Brewery.

6. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Chair Dannenberg mentioned the action items from last meeting and what the Committee did last year and the year before. Community Partnerships are trying to connect a group with an open space to do a task.

The Committee discussed how to make outreach more effective and expand community partnerships. Member Betts noted the presentations have mostly been to retired white people. We are not reaching Hispanics. More outreach to other demographics is needed. Member Dodson-Edgars suggested going to the schools, Girls, Inc., and other young people groups. Member Betts asked if the County has a method to reach various demographics. Mr. Olafson stated that the planning division has a number of community list serves that are inclusive of all demographics. Chair Dannenberg said the Outreach Sub-committee last year was Judi Kowalski, Greg Betts and himself.

During the discussion, the Committee favored having other activities including field trips and a presence at events like Trail Day on April 14 and a customer appreciation day at Romero Park.

Member Dodson-Edgars suggested asking equestrians if they would like to be a community partner.

At the end of the discussion, Chair Dannenberg summarized that outreach is beneficial and helps us build relationships. The Outreach Committee will continue doing presentations in some capacity and need to frame who and to whom they would present to expand the demographics. COLTPAC will plan for a couple of project days, building the initial bridge and inviting the people. Staff is scheduling one day per month for field trips. Member Siegel and Member Cedeño volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

Member Betts proposed to show the presentation to the whole group for feedback.

Chair Dannenberg volunteered to ramp up internal communications for better networking with County Staff. Member Parker agreed to work with him on it.

Member Cedeño proposed to revive our vision with goals and objectives. The Committee briefly discussed whether they should be reviewed and revised.

Mr. Olafson said if they can get through the management plans tonight, they could then focus on the vision and use that for the timing process. Regarding community engagement, he thought they should selfishly say this is what County Staff needs.

The Committee then discussed budgeting for implementation of plans and what Staff is requesting.

Mr. Olafson clarified that the Staff asked for the same amount as last time, knowing they might not get it. And they are asking for capital money to implement the plans. The budget request has been submitted and the hearing starts next Wednesday.

Committee members wanted to attend the BCC meeting and advocate for funding.

Mr. Olafson offered to bring a budget summary to the next meeting. He said typically COLTPAC is not part of specific line item budgeting, but does provide input on larger capital planning issues such as acquisitions and major projects. He said they have asked for money to maintain existing trails and asked for a Resource Manager position on staff.

Chair Dannenberg asked for a copy of the revised Thornton Ranch comments. Ms. Lohmann agreed to get it to the members. She thanked the members for the comments on the Lamy plan.

8. MATTERS FROM COUNTY STAFF

Ms. Lohmann went to Action Items.

9. ACTION ITEMS

A. Discussion and recommendation to Board of County Commissioner for approval of the Lamy Open Space and Park Management Plan

Ms. Lohmann apologized for not getting the packets out. She printed out the comment matrix for Lamy and Madrid and the responses and if changes were made and how. She said the contractor did a good job on editing them. There were many positive comments. Communication with the tribes on stewardship was one comment that was addressed. We have Lamy and Madrid final plans as well as appendices. The activities table helps us plan our budget - page 8 in the appendix. The time frame is the second column.

Member Dodson-Edgars moved to recommend approval of the Lamy Open Space and Park Management Plan to the BCC. Member Siegel seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote. It will have a resolution and a letter.

B. Discussion and recommendation to Board of County Commissioners for approval of the Madrid Open Space Management Plan

Ms. Lohmann thanked Member Pike for help in getting responses and they are all in the matrix.

The Committee briefly discussed the issue of public access on the open space and issues of safety.

Member Siegel supported the plan and urged a drainage study in the arroyo and long term creation of a trail between Madrid and Cerrillos. Mr. Olafson confirmed those priorities are in the plan.

Member Siegel moved to recommend approval of the Madrid Open Space Management to the BCC. Member Cedeño seconded the motion and it passed with all voting in favor except Member Dodson-Edgars who abstained.

Ms. Lohmann reported that Thornton is taking more time. Possibly she would present it on May 3 but maybe not. They are working on meeting with tribal partners and that is taking more time than anticipated. A field trip was scheduled on Good Friday and she proposed delaying it to April 21st.

There were some conflicts with that date and Mr. Olafson agreed to schedule it later.

Chair Dannenberg thanked Ms. Lohmann for organizing trips.

10. NEXT MEETING: May 3, 2017

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. on a motion by Member Dodson-Edgars and second by Member Cedeño.

Approved by:

[Handwritten signature of Dave Dannenberg]
Dave Dannenberg, Chair

Attest:

[Handwritten signature of Geraldine Salazar]
Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk

Submitted by:

[Handwritten signature of Carl G. Boaz]
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 28TH Day Of July, 2017 at 10:06:30 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1832210
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County



Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Geraldine Salazar
Deputy *[Handwritten signature]* County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM