

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

Thursday, January 27, 2011

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Santa Fé County Open Land and Trails Planning and Advisory Committee (COLTPAC) was called to order on the above date at approximately 6:00 p.m. by Dr. Mills at the Santa Fé County Community Projects Conference Room, 901 West Alameda, Santa Fé, New Mexico.

She welcomed everyone and said this meeting was informal - thanking those who were leaving the Committee and getting acquainted with new members. She praised the committee who had been working.

Everyone introduced themselves.

Dr. Mills gave background on those absent: Eliza Kretzmann, Jerry Rogers and Sandra Massengill.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll Call indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

Members Present

Sam Pallin, Vice Chair
William Hutchinson
Judy Kowalski
Matthew Montoya
Michael Patrick
Scott Stovall

Members Absent

Eliza Kretzmann
Sandra Massengill
Jerry Rogers

Staff Members Present

Beth Mills
Colleen Baker
Scott Kaseman

Others Present

Bill Baxter, Former member
Matthew McQueen, former member
Jan-Willem Jansens, former member
Margaret Alexander, Trail Alliance
Bill Johnson, former member

Dr. Mills thanked all the outgoing members for being present and spoke of how she appreciated their work in this regard.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as published.

4. MATTERS FROM OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS STAFF

a. Update on San Pedro and Crichton acquisitions

Dr. Mills reported on the December 14, 2010 Board of County Commissioners' (BCC) meeting regarding purchase agreements that were recommended by COLTPAC in November - the Crichton property and the San Pedro Open Space at the intersection of highways 344 and 14.

The presentation was met with confusion. She and Ms. Baker learned that they needed to spend one-on-one time with Commissioners beforehand. They were confused and had lots of questions. They first approved the San Pedro 4-1. But then the Crichton easement spooked them and they ended up tabling both of them.

She planned to bring them back in March with a purchase agreement for both of them at that time.

Mr. Patrick asked how much these properties would cost.

Dr. Mills said they wanted to get the San Pedro property for less than \$400,000. The trail connector was \$125,000. Both owners wanted to continue working on the purchase. She had been in conversation with them recently. She briefly described the negotiations that had taken place and mentioned that 5% of the price would come back to the County.

Ms. Alexander said she was on the Santa Fé County Conservation Trust and asked if there was anything she could do on Crichton.

Dr. Mills said letters of support were helpful and she would put them in the packet and the Commissioners would see that support.

Ms. Alexander said the Trails Alliance and the Trust would send letters.

Ms. Baker cautioned that it wouldn't be appropriate for the Trust since the County was buying from the Trust.

Bill Johnson offered to do a support letter as former member of the Trust.

Ms. Alexander added that the money to the Trust would build the trail. It was adjacent to the Dale Ball Trail.

Dr. Pallin asked about the gravel operation.

Dr. Mills said the BLM accommodated them at another location. The Commissioner had not caught up with that decision.

Ms. Baker thought if they sat down beforehand they could address all the concerns.

Dr. Mills noted that some commissioners had expressed interest in coming to a COLTPAC meeting. They were seeing Santa Fé Canyon Ranch flashing in neon even though COLTPAC had nothing to do with that.

b. Recognition of Retiring Committee Members

Dr. Mills said they were arranging for a recognition at a meeting of the BCC - probably the second meeting in February.

c. Orientation for New Committee Members

Dr. Mills distributed copies of the original plan and said they had made adjustments to it. She also shared a resolution on how committees work/function. Then she showed a power point presentation that had the new logo and tag line - "Connecting the people of our communities to the rural heritage and natural landscapes of Santa Fé County."

She explained that they were part of Community Services headed by Joe Gutierrez with seven staff members and responsible for 5,500 acres of open space and 34 miles of trails.

She showed where funding came from with the 1998 GO bonds providing \$12 million. Then \$8 million more in 2000. In 2003 they got a quarter-cent GRT. And in 2008 realized \$3.5 million in GO Bonds for the Santa Fé River.

In 2010 COLTPAC changed to 9 members and included county parks. In 2012 the County would go back to the voters. Bonding capacity was about \$30 million countywide for everything. She estimated approximately \$8 million but had not yet been included in the discussions.

Dr. Mills added that about \$1 million was left in current bonding. San Pedro would come out of that. They might take the Crichton purchase out of the joint GRT fund.

She referred members to Chapter 6 of the County Sustainable Plan on line for details on the project list. She showed the details in each county district with facilities the COLTPAC was responsible for (staff). In District 2 they were all along the Santa Fé River. Ms. Baker staffed the work in this area. The Long Range plan was to own the flood way down the Santa Fé River. The Agua Fria park needed lots of work. A

new one hopefully would be designed by February. It would be toward the river near the roundabout at Siler and was inherited from BLM. It had 70 acres and 2 unusable ball fields. La Familia and a fire house were there.

Dr. Mills said District 3 was the largest part. Robert Anaya was District 3 Commissioner. South Meadows open space was being put out for bid soon. It was in the midst of lots of housing developments surrounding it.

The Committee briefly discussed the Galisteo area.

District 4 Commissioner was Kathy Holian and most of the area was Santa Fé National Forest. The Santa Fé Rail Trail design contract was soon to be let. Ms. Baker described the trail along the river south of the wastewater treatment plant.

District 5 Commissioner was Liz Stefanics. In this district, Arroyo Hondo Trail and NM Central Trail were the big projects. They had discussed whether the railroad bed was best or not. The spur trail connected SFCC with the Rail Trail. Dr. Mills showed the Santa Fé River greenway from city limits to La Cieneguilla along with several before and after shots where amazing restoration had happened.

They discussed La Cienega springs and windmills and how full of wildlife the area was.

Mr. Jansens spoke about protection of the wildlife corridors in the area.

They discussed the Arroyo Hondo trail network. Bids were being received for lower parking and extra trail design in February.

Bill Johnson commented that there was talk at the public hearing in January about volunteer work on the trails. He thought the neighbors would be interested. There were about two miles projected.

Mr. Kaseman said it totaled about 9,000 feet.

Ms. Baker added that it had lots of terrain change. They were trying for parking of more than 8 cars.

The discussed Los Potrereros at Chimayó and then went to the Santa Fé Rail Trail.

Dr. Mills described the Crichton easement. She pointed out the Dale Ball network and where the Crichton connector would go into Santa Fé National Forest.

She then went to Edgewood wildlife center.

Mr. Hutchinson said they were working on legislation to allow DOT to include trails planning.

5. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Dr. Mills said the next meeting was scheduled for February 18th.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Submitted by Carl Boaz

Approved by:



Sam Pallin, Chair

Submitted by:



Carl Boaz, Stenographer



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 23RD Day Of January, 2012 at 10:05:28 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1658062
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Deputy  _____
Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Valerie Espinoza
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

SFC CLERK RECORDED 01/23/2012