

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

**November 6, 2013**

**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 Judy Kowalski at the Santa Fé County Attorney's Conference Room, County Administration Building, Santa Fé, New Mexico.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Roll Call indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

**Members Present**

Judy Kowalski, Chair  
William Baker  
Devin Bent, PhD  
Coleman Burnett  
Melissa Houser  
Ernesto Ortega  
Almudena Ortíz Cué  
Michael Patrick  
Zach Taylor, Vice Chair

**Members Absent**

**Staff Members Present**

Robert Griego, Planning Manager  
Stephen C. Ross, County Attorney  
Lisa Roach, Open Space and Trails Planner  
Erick Aune, Senior Planner

**Others Present**

Kristin Van Fleet, NPS

**3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. Griego said staff has a proposed change on #8, Action Items. The first one (A) was meant to be discussion instead of action

**Dr. Bent moved to approve the agenda as amended with 8-A for discussion, not action. Mr. Ortega seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.**

#### **4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

##### **A. August 22, 2013 (Corrected)**

Chair Kowalski said the August minutes had been approved at the October 2 meeting and there were just a couple of name corrections which were made.

##### **B. October 2, 2013**

Mr. Taylor requested a change on page 8. He didn't know what he actually said but what was there didn't make sense to him. He thought it might have been "the Volunteer Coordinator helping to coordinate some situation where we were going to talk community members and continuously have some liaison between volunteers and coordinator." He wasn't sure he could remember and was hoping someone else might remember what they talked about then. And if not, they should just delete it.

Chair Kowalski thought it should say, "He suggested that the Committee needed to figure out what that would look like - a way for staff to communicate with the community."

Mr. Taylor agreed that it should say what Chair Kowalski just said.

Mr. Taylor requested a change on page 10 at the bottom where it should say, "Some of the reactions to Dr. Bent might have come from a feeling that he was not respecting."

Ms. Houser requested a change on page 5, second from the bottom paragraph, last sentence - it would be good ... implementation was done so she asked why those things were not in the resolution. She said they were talking about how the Land Use Code talked about implementation and now the resolution talked about acquisition. So the Commission didn't want to acquire more property. She asked that it read, "If acquisition was not as important, why was it so prevalent in our resolution?"

Dr. Bent suggested adding "Resolution 2011-4." Ms. Houser said it was already in there.

**Dr. Bent moved to approve the minutes of October 2, 2013 as amended. Ms. Houser and Mr. Taylor seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote except for Mr. Baker who abstained.**

#### **5. MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN**

There were no matters of public concern.

## **6. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

### **A. Introduction of two new COLTPAC members: Almudena Ortíz Cué and William Baker**

Chair Kowalski welcomed both new members to the Committee. She said if they wanted to be recognized to just raise their hand or stop the discussion so she would know they had something to say.

## **7. MATTERS FROM COUNTY STAFF**

### **A. Introduction of new Open Space and Trails Planner, Lisa Roach**

Chair Kowalski welcomed Lisa Roach as Open Space and Trails Planner. The Committee was very glad to have her here.

#### **1) Staff Work Priorities**

Ms. Roach thanked Chair Kowalski. She said she had been on board since October 7. She would be the staff liaison for COLTPAC. She would also coordinate with Public Works Staff and the Community Services Department including project development, project managers and the Volunteer Coordinator. She would be providing information for the Open Space and Trails Official Map and coordination with open space and trails planning staff. She added that she was still on the learning curve and would welcome any feedback.

Dr. Bent surmised that for the community planners, trails and parks were not part of it. The Pojoaque Plan called for trails in the desert but that wasn't on the map. He asked how she interpreted that. "Is that trail out or in?"

Chair Kowalski didn't think the Committee should ask her to report on that at this time. They should not put her on the spot.

Dr. Bent asked if they could come back to it later.

Ms. Roach said that might be part of the discussion on the work plan.

Chair Kowalski referred to her bio in the packet, noting that she is extremely well qualified.

### **B. Update on Miller Application**

Chair Kowalski pointed out that they didn't have the complete application in the packet. It came up six months ago and it was never acted on. The Committee raised questions on it and some asked about the disposition on it.

Ms. Roach said there was a memo included in the packet that provides background on what happened to date. The County invested additional research and understood the best course of action to revisit when the application was completed for further action. So they were leaving it in the application process and staff will be doing that.

Mr. Taylor asked what was said to Mr. Miller about it.

Ms. Roach said the last communication was a letter from Dr. Mills to Mr. Miller's agent, Mr. Martínez and it said the COLTPAC would not consider it at the May 16 meeting. That meeting was subsequently canceled and the June meeting was also canceled.

He did inquire about the status of it.

Mr. Griego agreed they needed to communicate with him.

Ms. Roach said she would contact him.

Dr. Bent asked if he could share some of his concerns about the application some time. He had some concerns about the incompleteness of the application.

Ms. Roach said she would review it and then Mr. Miller could address the application deficiencies.

The resolution provided that she, as staff, was to review applications for completeness and then bring it to COLTPAC.

Chair Kowalski asked that the Committee not prejudice Ms. Roach beforehand but let the process go forward from here.

Mr. Ortega agreed and thought comments should come from the whole committee in the process rather than an individual.

Ms. Roach said if and when it came to COLTPAC for consideration, there would be time for discussion then.

Dr. Bent was okay with that if that was what the committee wished. He felt he was sort of lurking here waiting for Ms. Roach to come back with this thing and then he would raise his questions for her.

Chair Kowalski said the application might be new and different. If Ms. Roach felt it was incomplete, she would communicate that with Mr. Miller or his agent. Until then it would be set aside.

### **C. Presentation of El Camino Real National Historic Trail Road Retracement Grant Proposal**

Ms. Roach asked Mr. Aune to address this item because he had been working on it and had more background on it.

Mr. Aune said he had been asked to help with this and Ms. Kristin Van Fleet from the NPS agreed to come to address the project. He shared a much larger version of the area map that was in the packet.

Ms. Van Fleet pointed out that this was a large area. El Camino Real Tierra Adentro Historic Trail was one of nine national trails. The national historic trail was designated by Congress and managed by another federal agency. The NPS didn't own any of the trails but worked with the managers to help with development of resources. NPS was involved to do interpretation and development of hiking trails. They recently became aware of this segment just twenty minutes away. Her supervisor Steve Burns presented the find to the Board of County Commissioners and in conjunction with the development of the River Trail, offered Mr. Aune the opportunity to apply to TRIPTAC, a resource providing funding assistance from a private engineering and architectural firm to do work on it. Mr. Aune was working on a grant from FLAP (Federal Land Access Program) for developing trails or roads that access public lands. It was a cooperative endeavor with the County, NPS, BLM and potentially Forest Service. Triptac provides a lot of services free of charge.

Chair Kowalski asked if the application for funding would be from the County.

Ms. Van Fleet agreed. It was a new funding source that was created with the new Transportation legislation.

Chair Kowalski asked if a match was required.

Mr. Aune agreed but it was an interesting opportunity for leveraging services through other federal funds for match so local cash was not necessary.

Mr. Taylor asked what they would be using the money for exactly.

Ms. Van Fleet said it was for trail construction. There was no plan right now. The grant money was for actual implementation.

Mr. Aune mentioned wayfinding signs and, depending on how much was received, actually building trails. The State of New Mexico would get a specific amount

Chair Kowalski asked if it was administered by NMDOT. Mr. Aune agreed.

Dr. Bent asked if he was working with Commissioner Mayfield.

Mr. Aune said Commissioner Anaya was taking a leadership role and it would go to the BCC.

Dr. Bent asked if there would be arrangements for multipurpose use like bikes, horses, etc.

Mr. Aune said in the process of planning they would consider that. He explained that it was a little complicated because the federal application was due January 1 and the firm doing the planning understood that so there would only be a percentage of design. The full plan for the entire trail would be done by June

2014 and then the specific uses of the trail would be vetted out.

Chair Kowalski asked if the grant application had to be approved by the BCC.

Mr. Aune said a supporting document would be helpful but not essential.

Chair Kowalski concluded that this Committee could make a resolution of support.

Mr. Aune agreed and staff could draft one for next month.

Dr. Bent said if this trail were the right trail coming down to 502 it would be very popular for folks biking down from Los Alamos and they could reach Santa Fé by a shorter route.

Ms. Van Fleet said that would be up to the planners. It hasn't been formally brought to BLM for their segment.

Ms. Burnett asked, since Ms. Van Fleet mentioned segments, if the construction would all be done in one grant application or in several projects.

Ms. Van Fleet was not sure about that and felt this map was misleading since it was just a little portion. So it was hard to say. It all depended on how much money was awarded what the ultimate scope would be.

Mr. Aune said one caveat would be that a few weeks ago he met with the BLM just to discover the implications of support but he pointed out that during this discovery process the Forest Service might come to a point where they would conclude that this was not going to work. However, he was optimistic.

Ms. Burnett asked if when he met with BLM they happened to mention any other planning efforts going on in this area.

Mr. Aune said no. They said this area has had multiple reviews but none of the activities matched with management objectives. But they were supportive of this project and indicated there were no major obstacles.

Ms. Burnett noted that in a previous work environment she worked with the New Mexico Wildlife Federation to help development a plan closer to the river for that area. She offered after the meeting to give the contact information for that group. She thought perhaps they could partner in some way.

Ms. Van Fleet said a man from New Mexico Wildlife Federation came to their meeting and they had discussions on the plan with him. There was an article in the newspaper that triggered their initial contact with them. She wasn't sure at this point where that would lead.

Dr. Bent said this was similar to one that showed up on the 2000 Open Space Plan. That trail went through a land grant. He asked if they looked at that as an alternative if this trail couldn't go through

Mr. Aune said that was an excellent question. Mr. Steve Burns gave him a detailed explanation for why

they chose this particular route. This route was designated and any diversion from it would require further approvals.

Ms. Van Fleet clarified that there was a distinction between the red line on the map and the trail that was actually constructed. The Federal Act said the trail would follow the historic route. That was not to say the County had to have the trail right on that actual location. There was language which allowed some leeway. Deviation from the historic location would just mean it would not be a national historic trail.

Mr. Taylor said for that reason, he would be hesitant to give a resolution on something not planned yet; for instance, if it became a two lane asphalt trail being planned through this pristine area. So help on what the trail might look like and parking, etc. would be helpful.

Mr. Aune said the County and NPS were preparing a very detailed list of its description including, for example, safety issues or vehicles. So they would be working seriously on many details in the next couple of months. At that point they would be much better informed.

Chair Kowalski pointed out that the Committee would have to have something by the December meeting if he wanted their support.

## **8. DISCUSSION (ACTION) ITEMS**

### **A. COLTPAC Work Plan**

#### **i) Update to the Official Open Space and Trails Official Map**

Ms. Roach had a proposal in their packet for the Committee to look at which provided a little background. She briefly went through the proposal with the Committee.

The Santa Fé County Sustainable Growth Plan was adopted in 2012. The official map would identify whether the overlays were suitable for public use and updated as needed.

In the proposed work plan she distributed, it included having COLTPAC work with staff on any needed revisions prior to adoption by the BCC which could happen as early as December 10<sup>th</sup>. She read the request from the handout. It included having a subcommittee to meet twice in December and the Committee should identify the meeting dates during this meeting.

The revisions would be proposed by the subcommittee prior to the next COLTPAC meeting in order for the Committee to be able to review it and make a recommendation to the BCC. They would then be presented to BCC for final adoption/revision.

Mr. Baker asked Mr. Griego if the Committee could approve this open space map later.

Mr. Griego answered, "No, because this part of the code would be voted on in a week.

Mr. Baker asked then if it would be updated

Ms. Roach agreed it would in a very short time.

Dr. Bent said he understood the importance of the map to identify where they wanted trails and to put a trail network through there and not somewhere else. Given that, he thought they should do it but he felt it was almost an impossible task. He asked if the Committee would be able to revisit it over time.

Mr. Griego agreed there would be refinements. But right now, this map comes from the plan. There were provisions in both >>> to deal with it. He acknowledged the Committee was coming to it late in the game. They had worked with Open Space prior to adoptions and they provided the information for this map. And now we need to determine if it meets the needs for open space and trails.

Chair Kowalski asked for volunteers to serve and/or chair this subcommittee.

Mr. Baker agreed to be on the subcommittee.

Dr. Bent thought Ms. Houser should be on the subcommittee. She and Dr. Bent both volunteered.

Chair Kowalski thought the goal was clear and asked if they wanted to identify meeting dates. They agreed to stay after the meeting to develop their calendar.

Dr. Bent said they would need to get an answer to the question about whether existing community trails would be considered.

Ms. Roach said that was for the subcommittee to deal with.

Chair Kowalski said the subcommittee would meet and report back at the December meeting.

Ms. Roach agreed to work with them and bring it to the next meeting for the agenda. Given that time frame and knowing the code could be up for a vote as soon as December 10, the next COLTPAC meeting would be December 4. But the public hearing was December 3 and they would need to get that information too.

Mr. Griego went over the schedule. The BCC had three public meetings scheduled. One was on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in Commission Chambers. The second would be on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and that would probably be the ideal time to come forward with proposed changes to the official map. He didn't know about the schedule beyond that but they needed information before that public hearing on December 3.

Ms. Roach reasoned they might need to consider a special meeting or move the regular meeting up.

Mr. Taylor said in some ways they might have to call it good with the subcommittee work. There wouldn't be time to figure it out at the Committee meeting and would just have to vote to approve what the subcommittee did.



Ms. Roach reminded them that a recommendation would have to come from a quorum of the Committee.

Mr. Griego said it would be possible to bring it with those changes.

Dr. Bent reminded the Committee that Ms. Houser had a GIS on all the trails.

Ms. Houser said she had a lot of GIS of the wildlife areas, etc. She had all of GIS to use.

Chair Kowalski said they would have to schedule a meeting on Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> then.

Ms. Roach agreed to check to see if this room was available that night.

Chair Kowalski asked if the subcommittee would have to produce a map, noting it was not a lot of time.

Mr. Griego said staff could provide the background information about process and the proposed recommendation. And possibly the Committee could review a handout and have the background material in the packet.

Chair Kowalski added that the COLTPAC could attend the public hearing.

Ms. Roach said in order to have final recommended revisions ready for the BCC they would want to have the revisions made by Nov 27, if possible.

Dr. Bent thought they could work that out with the County Attorney so all deadlines could be met.

Mr. Taylor asked if there was something the Committee could do on that tonight.

Mr. Ross said it was just the agenda that had a deadline.

Ms. Roach said she could get the packet out.

## **ii) Open Land and Trails Plan Update**

Mr. Griego recalled at the last meeting they discussed the old plan that was adopted in 2000. Right now, having a real Open Space and Trails Planner, they needed to develop the open space and trails plan. The outcome was having a map but perhaps other things needed to be addressed along the way.

In chapter 15 there was a work plan with an open space and trails component. So what needed to be achieved for the plan was the question. That could be looking at the items in the existing plan elements and working toward implementing those elements of the plan. What does it look like? What would the committee be trying to achieve with the policies?

Dr. Bent noted that part of what they were looking at showed on this map. It showed the historic places and historic or archaeology districts. So he asked if they would just say, "Here are the places."

Mr. Griego said that was what COLTPAC needed to decide - what to achieve.

Ms. Roach added that, depending on what the Committee decided, there would be chances to >>>

Chair Kowalski asked if she was proposing that staff would develop the work plan and the Committee would provide input of it. It would just be folded into a larger plan for public works organization.

Mr. Griego said the Committee has been grappling with many. The role of the Committee identified in the Plan itself was evolving. The implementation included projects as they were identified on the official map. There needed to be acquisition through other means besides bond funding. Currently the County would have a different means - maybe impact fees or something else. So through this map there might be projects that would be put into a plan for acquiring that property and there would be a role for COLTPAC in that process.

Mr. Taylor really appreciated that but was a little lost in where they were going. He thought it would be valuable to get an outline of where staff was the Committee being helpful and a list of next steps. The "how" comes from the committee but the "what" comes from staff.

Mr. Griego agreed. And this official map was the first step in it. This was a piece that needed to be done.

Mr. Taylor understood and added that beyond that, what was wanted by the County and that would be the process for getting it to COLTPAC.

Mr. Baker said the East Mountain Regional Trails Council meets bimonthly. For Santa Fé County the Council looked south of the Ortiz Mountains. They could help with the south part of the County and they had the connections to other trails. The Council was very interested in how to get from one open space to another.

Ms. Roach said she had been working with Ike Madden and other partners who could help. She would be happy to bring them to the next COLTPAC meeting to flesh out what effort that would take.

Dr. Bent said there was also a bike trail map and the subcommittee would want to look at that also. Bike trails were kind of modest to the north of Tesuque. .

Chair Kowalski asked if the CIP plan was just for this year.

Ms. Houser said it was for five years.

Mr. Griego agreed and added that the BCC did amend it annually as far as submittals.

Mr. Ross thought it was probably more often than that.

Chair Kowalski understood there were projects identified for funding and the Committee might want to make recommendations for new projects where gaps now existed.

Dr. Bent asked if the Committee could get the ICIP.

Ms. Roach pointed out that was different from the CIP for allocations. They were separate things.

Dr. Bent asked if they could see the CIP.

Mr. Griego said it was currently under development.

Chair Kowalski recalled that at some point Ms. Baker had shared the list with COLTPAC.

Ms. Houser said it was a PDF presentation on the web under Public Works.

Mr. Ross wasn't sure it was approved yet and agreed it was under development. But the Committee members could check out the presentation on the web.

Mr. Aune agreed to provide the CIP to the Committee through Ms. Roach.

Dr. Bent asked if the subcommittee could coordinated their work on this plan with the road ROW map.

Mr. Aune agreed that was reasonable.

Ms. Roach added that the subcommittee could bring in other staff to help, also.

## **9. Adjournment**

Mr. Patrick complimented Ms. Roach on getting the packet ahead of time. Those were helpful to have.

Mr. Patrick moved to adjourn the meeting.

2013 NOV 06 PM 03:00:00

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Approved by:

*Judy Kowalski*  
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Judy Kowalski, Chair

Attest:

*Geraldine Salazar*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk  
2-18-2014

Submitted by:

*Carl Boaz*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carl Boaz, Carl G. Boaz, Inc  
Stenographer



**Next Meeting: Monday, December 2, 2013**



COUNTY OF SANTA FE            )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO        ) ss  
COLTPAC MINUTES  
PAGES: 12

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 18TH Day Of February, 2014 at 03:06:42 PM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1730270  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Deputy *Marcella [Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
Geraldine Salazar  
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

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