

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

July 2, 2014

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 in 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
Patricia Conoway [arriving later]
Dave Dannenberg
Zach Taylor, Vice-Chair

Members Absent

Almudena Ortíz Cué [excused]
Ernesto Ortega [excused]
One Vacancy

Staff Members Present

Lisa Roach, Open Space and Trails Planner

Others Present

Bill Baxter
Roger Holden, EMRTC
Mike Madden, EMRTC

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Dr. Bent asked about safety of staff in this building.

Ms. Roach said she would discuss meeting location under Matters from Staff. added two things to the Agenda: Under Matters from Staff - on the meeting location; and under Discussion Matters, she asked to amend Item B title to "Discussion of Resources Assessment." She also asked to add C. Open Space Management Planning.

Ms. Conoway arrived.

Dr. Bent moved to approve the Agenda as amended. Mr. Baker seconded the

motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

June 4, 2014

Mr. Baker asked for a change on page 11, 4th paragraph up from the bottom to say they would not allow public access to their land. They didn't want to give the rest of the public access to it. And the second sentence should say "Every large land owner said they would not allow access to open space next to their land."

Dr. Bent asked for a change on page 11 at the bottom - we had a similar problem, where it should say, "The reservation land was increasingly fixed."

Mr. Taylor, on page 4 at the bottom should say he "suggested that the shade structure construction include pervious pavement, organic materials, etc."

Mr. Baxter said on page 6 near bottom regarding prohibition that he was trying to get across that there were tunnels to keep things away from the revenueurs.

Chair Kowalski clarified on page 10 at the top that it should say, "She was more into open space than urban parks. That was why COLTPAC was created, to maintain open spaces that represent our unique sense of place."

Mr. Taylor said in the middle of page 12 it should say, "Our students want more open space."

Ms. Conoway moved to approve the minutes of June 4, 2014 as amended. Mr. Baker seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

5. MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN

A. Presentation from the East Mountain Regional Trails Council

Mr. Roger Holden and Mr. Mike Madden, Co-founders of the East Mountain Regional Trails Council, were present.

Ms. Roach said she attended their meeting and found it extremely helpful. She complimented them on how productive they had been.

Mr. Madden said their mission statement was to try to work with multiple government agencies and meet at a round table each month to learn their plans for the network of trails from Sandia Forest to Albuquerque open space, Bernalillo County, Santa Fé and down to a large scale land developers and owners, BLM too.

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They had been meeting since June 2008 and Mr. Madden made a presentation three years ago about the planned 160-acre purchase. They have had that property for two years now.

They worked for 15 months to convince COLTPAC to bring it to the BCC and the County purchased the land. Now they were trying to get the County together with BLM on the shared border there. BLM would have a difficult time with trails on their section but we would see what we could do.

The Council's area of interest was the 370 square miles starting from the south fence of the Ortíz Mountains and south to Isleta Pueblo on south 14; to the east to 344 and one or two sections east at the King Ranch and west to the flanks of the Sandias.

They were interested in trail heads that might be needed on Hwy 14 more so than maintaining trails in the National Forest itself.

Then they would like to focus on the San Pedro Mountains in the southern section of the County and in having them be a trail hub recreational with spokes south to Edgewood, west to the Sandias, north to Lamy and the Pecos - maybe through Thornton Ranch - and figure out a way for an easement in the Pecos.

Dr. Bent asked if they had a way to merge their trails with County trails. East Mountain had proposed trails and the County had proposed trails.

Mr. Baker said in the most recent map they took off the old proposed trails because they weren't real. There might be a right-of-way at the New Mexico Central Trail but there was no trail there.

Ms. Roach agreed they needed to flesh that out with EMRTC.

Mr. Baxter asked if they had any idea how to run a trail through BLM with all the mining permits (patent claims) in that area.

Mr. Madden said it was on the map - everything that was not yellow. He explained that they had a meeting couple of months ago with the miners and thought they would be able to locate trails in that northwest area. They wanted to create a five-mile trail north of 344. The whole BLM area was landlocked and fenced in with private land all the way along. The 160 acres would be the place for access but there had been no improvement there.

The current access was through the Black's private property by their driveway and people would have to open two gates to get in there. He showed the county property on the map.

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Chair Kowalski asked if it was fenced off now. Mr. Madden agreed.

Mr. Madden said the interest was to create an access and then be able to put in a little loop trail on the County's property. One mile of trail per hundred acres was a good ratio. To that trail they would put in a spur to BLM.

They wanted to put in a 3-mile trail. The miners brought to the meeting what they thought were more mining claims so now the Council had to go back to do more homework. They asked BLM if the miners were correct. Sure enough, they were and now BLM had to revise their maps. They were focusing around the private plain with the 3 mile loop trail.

Mr. Baker noted that the BLM land on the east wasn't broken up.

Mr. Madden said Paul Parker had holdings and seemed to be amenable to granting access along there.

Mr. Baker said Mr. Max Chávez also controlled it but didn't want any public out there.

Mr. Baxter mentioned one near Golden.

Mr. Madden said right now they had the state mining group and two guys attending and a fellow from Santa Fé with BLM and they were working on providing the Council a map by July 15 that would show 100% of the mining features and color code them in three colors on level of danger along there.

Mr. Holden showed the first draft. They had a week to digest it. The Council was top on the list for miner mediation on BLM land.

Dr. Bent asked if the State would mediate it. Mr. Madden agreed.

Mr. Madden said that on the map, the red showed existing old roads where people could mountain bike now. The blue meant they would have to scratch it out to make a passage.

Chair Kowalski asked how BLM fit in.

Mr. Madden said there was a continental divide youth group they used.

Chair Kowalski surmised that the Council designed the trail and then the youth group built it.

Mr. Madden agreed. They hired someone to put on the finishing touches, checking correct grades, etc. And they would take care of signage.

Mr. Baker added that there were a lot of local residents who offered to help.

Mr. Madden mentioned a neighborhood that had annual meeting each September and passed around a list of those willing to scratch the ground.

The Council was working with the Taos field Office for BLM. Tammy Torres was the contact.

We've been given a time line of up to five years because of all the NEPA that needs to take place. But the longest stake was the AML and they made sure they were good to go with that. Abandoned Mine = AML.

They might put a heavy grate over the shafts with a little description and maybe build something there. Those that were horizontal might just have a grid to allow bat access but not human.

Mr. Baker said resource management out of the Taos Office opened 2,200 acres in the San Pedros to be used for recreation.

Mr. Madden said the AML was going to work from the east side and the Council asked them to start on the west side. So now they have refocused from the west.

Mr. Taylor asked if they would focus on the county part first.

Mr. Madden agreed.

Mr. Baker said the County should influence BLM too.

Mr. Madden thought it was important for COLTPAC to know what was going on next door.

Mr. Taylor asked if the loop was beneficial enough for us to work on it.

Mr. Baker agreed. Neighbors would like to have it but when the County bought it, no trespassing signs went up.

Mr. Madden added that nothing had happened since the County bought it. Last September they got 17 names on the list for volunteers and one of them was Paul Parker, who was a major miner.

Chair Kowalski asked why the County property was closed.

Mr. Baker said the County had said they had to do things with it first.

Ms. Roach said in the budget for the new year, they had \$150,000 for safety in the

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open land management plan. It was mentioned as the top priority for management.

Chair Kowalski clarified that a plan would have to be done before development takes place.

Dr. Bent suggested there were important ways to reduce costs using volunteers.

Mr. Madden was currently working for the last 5-6 years for City of Albuquerque open space. There were two parcels. One was behind the Cedar Crest Post Office and usually got a dozen volunteers. The City provided the tools and a little discussion before the volunteers went to work. They worked from 8:30 to 2:00. Through a summer they could lay about a mile of trail. They were also working at Tijeras open space and golden open space.

Mr. Baker mentioned that Albuquerque owns the Golden Open Space and it was in Sandoval County.

Mr. Madden said that acquisition at Golden was done through the Public Purposes and Recreation Act and was acquired in 1969 for \$1/acre from BLM.

Cerro Columbo was an interesting part. It had three peaks or summits with full 360 views with views into Old-timer's Canyon where there were ruins. The County could approach BLM under that old act to procure a large chunk of land from them as long as they managed it.

The city didn't do anything with their property at Golden and BLM told them they had to make some improvements or give it back.

Mr. Baker said hikers were always picking something up - there was a wide assortment of minerals there.

Mr. Holden mentioned all the gold taken out.

Chair Kowalski said the open space there should be planned and anything the EMRTC could support would be helpful.

Mr. Madden said they would be happy to do that. A trail head could be just a parking lot. Beth Mills was looking at any well heads out there for water.

Ms. Roach said the County had a draft plan for that work. The neighborhood association members were also stakeholders.

Mr. Baker thought the area needed a formal agreement - to say we were doing this and that and have a tradeoff for property there. We each have to do our part but where we could do it together, so much the better.

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Ms. Roach said she had been talking with Tammy Torres about it.

Dr. Bent said the BLM trails were the big trails.

Mr. Taylor said the remediation of the mine was not something for us to get done.

Mr. Baxter said the AML work was done all over the state. They were funded by a coal tax and could use it for any mining hazard.

Chair Kowalski thanked them for coming and asked them to please keep in touch with COLTPAC.

Mr. Madden said they would do that through Mr. Baker and Ms. Roach.

6. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

A. Coordination with Other Committees

Chair Kowalski reported there have been outreach efforts from other committees. She and Ms. Roach went to BTAC (Bicycle and Trail Advisory Committee) and they were very interested in having someone from District 3 serve on BTAC.

Mr. Baker said he was from District 3 but it was a big district.

Ms. Roach said POSAC (Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission) was the other one so the city had two committees where the County had one.

Several Committee members agreed there was a need for coordination and Ms. Roach agreed. She pointed out that an "inter-committee" wouldn't have the authority.

Ms. Roach recalled when they had the open meeting before, it was suggested to have a couple of projects to work on.

Mr. Taylor was going to some of the meetings.

Dr. Bent asked for a point of order and Chair Kowalski said she would try to do a better job of recognizing members.

Dr. Bent said they couldn't do a merge with the whole committee.

Ms. Roach agreed and said the staff did meet with the MPO regularly.

Chair Kowalski asked if Ms. Roach got their agendas.

Ms. Roach said she didn't.

Dr. Bent was willing to go to MPO public meetings. He was on their email list and might not get to all of them.

Mr. Dannenberg said he was trying to understand the problem on communication.

Ms. Roach said the Green way project was an important project right now and the BCC and City Council needed to hear more about that system and it needed to be completed.

Mr. Taylor thought just getting on the agenda email list would help. And then ideally, when a topic comes up, you could attend them.

Ms. Roach agreed and there might be a need for a special meeting periodically.

Mr. Baxter said the EMRTC was the same kind of problem. They needed to cross fertilize to do that.

Mr. Dannenberg said it was more than a warm body that was needed. It was cross committee issues. The danger was that they would drag in a warm body.

Dr. Bent said the issues were simple connectivity.

Chair Kowalski asked if we should invite them to our meeting for input.

Ms. Roach suggested as they went through the needs assessment the needs might become obvious. The city was doing the foothills area right now. The City was much more complex and it had to do more with staff. Because the MPO increases both city and county areas, they could collaborate those plans where connectivity was important.

Mr. Baker pointed out that there were pieces around the county that impacted the City and vice versa.

Chair Kowalski thought maybe COLTPAC could suggest a special meeting on a specific topic like the green way.

7. MATTERS FROM COUNTY STAFF

A. Project Updates

Ms. Roach said regarding FLAP that they had a scoping meeting on June 21st and a federal consultant came down for all day and explored the site. The El Camino Real

purpose was to do a scoping study as a final step of being evaluated for an award. The upshot was that during the meeting they suggested increasing funding to \$3.5 million and that the multi-use trail going up be paved. They were excited about that portion. The remaining 9 miles would be standard single path trail.

In the meantime, she was working for BCC support. The match requirement was about \$500,000.

To Dr. Bent she said the red lines on the map were the federally designated routes for El Camino Real.

Chair Kowalski said suggesting more money for the project was a very good sign.

Mr. Dannenberg asked about the project management for this.

Ms. Roach said FHWA provided it through contractors. This would be a unique retracement trail. There were three historic trails coming together in Santa Fé. And in 2015 there would be a national consortium.

She added that the County was anticipating \$100,000 for "Connect the Parks" program. It brings awareness to this route.

Ms. Branch reported that she was working on an "adopt an open space" program. They were onto Rail Trail, La Piedra trail and others. She handed out a draft brochure for it. She also teamed up with Las Golondrinas and Arroyo Hondo.

Chair Kowalski announced that Ms. Branch was formally recognized at BCC with the master's program. Great job. She added that she recognized Ms. Roach to Liz Stefanics.

Chair Kowalski said it would be nice to have quarterly updates at COLTPAC for what was being encountered in the volunteer program and how the Committee could help.

Meeting Location

Dr. Bent said the doors to this building were open and Ms. Roach didn't feel comfortable so she asked to have maintenance staff in the building after hours but it was denied.

Ms. Roach said the Committee could continue to meet here or choose to move over to the Casa Solana facility conference room. There was only one door there and easier to see who comes in. It was at the Committee's discretion.

Dr. Bent said they were in violation of federal law here because there was no fire escape. We have no control over it so maybe we should move back there.

Mr. Taylor asked if there was a reason for not meeting there.

Dr. Bent said it was because the County Attorney couldn't meet with us at Casa Solana.

The Committee decided to begin meeting at Casa Solana again.

Mr. Baxter thought they should make public notice of that change in location.

Ms. Roach agreed and said she would handle that.

Ms. Roach said on August 6th COLTPAC would meet over there.

8. ACTION ITEMS

A. Recommendation for the Draft Cerrillos Hills State Park Management Plan

Chair Kowalski said the draft plan was in the packet.

Ms. Roach said she tried to capture all the comments from the last meeting and tried to put them into a draft. So it was an action item. We could make changes and make recommendation as amended.

Dr. Bent said if the vote was unanimous, it should say we unanimously endorse it. He advocated for Chair Kowalski's signature.

Mr. Taylor asked that it say, "natural and sustainable material" in #5.

The Committee members made a few other comments on it.

Mr. Baker thought it should be one-page document. Ms. Conway agreed.

Chair Kowalski asked if #6 was specific to Cerrillos Hills. Ms. Roach agreed.

Mr. Baker said it was not a recommendation.

Chair Kowalski asked if they should also send this to State Parks.

Dr. Bent agreed.

Chair Kowalski agreed but suggested that Mr. Taylor sign it because she works for State Parks.

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Motion:

Dr. Bent moved to approve the Recommendation for the Draft Cerrillos Hills State Park Management Plan as amended in their discussion. Ms. Conway seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Discussion of the Draft Santa Fe County Open Space, Trails and Parks Vision and Mission Statements

Ms. Roach had a revised list in the packet.

Ms. Roach said she really looked at the old version and tried to separate the components of mission. But the more she thought about it, she thought it didn't capture everything they said. So she invited comments.

Mr. Taylor thought it looked good.

Ms. Roach said she was not personally attached to any of this so any changes should be made now.

Ms. Conway said the second sentence in the first paragraph was missing a preposition. It should say "for Santa Fé County's ... and to inspire a deep sense." The vision needs to do something.

Dr. Bent suggested leaving out "regional." He said it was distracting to him.

The Committee discussed wording for stewardship for the land. Chair Kowalski said it was for the readers to have the sense of stewardship.

Mr. Baxter suggested, "regional pride among future generations."

Chair Kowalski thought it sounded fine and Dr. Bent had no problems with it.

Mr. Baxter said in the mission statement form EMRTC, they did an outstanding job. That operative in their mission was "create." This didn't say create so it leaves work to do.

Ms. Conway thought "ownership" was better than "pride."

Ms. Roach thought there were too many statements in the Mission. The last four speak more to the nuts and bolts of the operation.

Ms. Conway thought the first two of those four should be combined.

Mr. Baker thought they should leave out the affordability statement.

He also asked to omit Santa Fé County in the first bullet.

Ms. Roach suggested they- cross out "protecting."

Mr. Dannenberg said there was another step. It should be Vision, Mission and then strategic objectives.

Dr. Bent thought the Committee should show this to the BCC now.

Mr. Taylor said he could go to the meeting and do it.

Chair Kowalski added that more than one of us could go.

Ms. Roach asked if they could present it at the July 29th meeting or August 12.

Chair Kowalski and Mr. Taylor agreed.

Mr. Dannenberg said for the strategic planning process and public participation process, that he favored strategic objectives for what was specifically doable.

Dr. Bent agreed. But they should take these now because the BCC might want to change it up.

Ms. Roach said she focused on the planning process for the county-wide plan and the group still needs to circle around on our evolution.

Chair Kowalski said this was what we would like reflected in a BCC resolution to direct us to do.

Dr. Bent asked if the County Attorney would slow it down.

Ms. Roach didn't think so. They were busy with the zoning map.

Dr. Bent thought this did give us the initiative to do what we want. He was happy with it.

Mr. Baker asked if this was a back door way to get to the resolution.

Ms. Roach didn't think so.

Chair Kowalski agreed, and to show that we were engaged.

Mr. Baker said if he were a Commissioner, he would ask how you were going to accomplish this and whether that was really COLTPAC's job or not.

Chair Kowalski asked if this was a vision for the program or for COLTPAC.

Ms. Roach said for the program was slightly different.

Dr. Bent thought they could do that in the next step.

Ms. Roach said she was constrained by that resolution and a real need to update that resolution.

Dr. Bent said he could talk with his commissioner to get feedback.

Ms. Roach said it would be in the plan that was produced.

Chair Kowalski said they should prepare if they got negative feedback.

Ms. Roach thought the BCC would support it.

B. Discussion of Resource Assessment

Ms. Roach handed out a contract on this item and reviewed the document. She clarified that factors to consider if a piece of land was appropriate for the County was to be included.

The Kick Off meeting with the team happened yesterday. They would like to form a core working group and it was suggested to her that it be a subcommittee of COLTPAC with however many people wanted to participate and then get outside experts on it. She gave an example.

Dr. Bent volunteered for it.

She explained that it would advise on this inventory.

Chair Kowalski thought Ms. Roach should ask Ernesto Ortega if he wanted to be on it since he was not here.

Dr. Bent thought Almudena Ortíz Cué should be asked also.

Mr. Taylor asked about outside people they might consider.

Ms. Roach said any suggestions were welcome.

Mr. Taylor suggested Mr. Aaron Kaufman.

Dr. Bent suggested someone from the United Communities group should be asked.

Ms. Roach said a name was brought up yesterday. She said for the Resources Assessment Subcommittee, the time frame was pretty quick. One outcome would be to create a web interface tool for information sharing. The public meeting would be led by county staff but the focus meetings by the subcommittee and staff in addition to the more focused public meetings by the Growth Management Group. She explained that this was a specific recommendation of the original plan. But this was a much more sophisticated analysis of it.

C. Open Space Management Planning

Mr. Baker asked how they would decide on priorities for resource distribution and if they were creating those criteria.

Ms. Roach agreed. She noted that a specific item missing was BLM in Galisteo Basin Protection Act but guaranteed it wouldn't be left out. Thanks.

Ms. Conoway excused herself from the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Chair Kowalski thought the plan looked great.

Ms. Roach said at some point, there would be a report back.

10. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, August 6, 2014

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Approved by:

Judy Kowalski
Judy Kowalski, Chair

Attest:

Geraldine Salazar
Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk

10-3-2014

Submitted by:

Carl G. Boaz
Carl G. Boaz, Inc. by Carl G. Boaz



COUNTY OF SANTA FE) COLTPAC MINUTES
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss PAGES: 15

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 6TH Day Of October, 2014 at 11:21:26 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1747792
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Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Geraldine Salazar
Deputy *Maureen Salazar* County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

CLERK RECORDED 10/06/2014