

**SANTA FE COUNTY  
COUNTY OPEN LAND, TRAILS, AND PARKS  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (COLTPAC)  
NOVEMBER 1, 2023, 6:00 PM  
PLAZA CONFERENCE ROOM, SANTA FE COUNTY  
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX  
100 CATRON ST., SANTA FE, NM 87501**

**I. OPENING BUSINESS**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the County Open Land, Trails, and Parks Advisory Committee (COLTPAC) was called to order by Christopher Mann, Chair, at 6:00 pm on November 1, 2023, at the Santa Fe County Administrative Complex, in the Plaza Conference Room, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**B. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Christopher Mann, Chair  
Steven Forde, Vice Chair  
Sandra Madrid-Massengill  
Paige Grant  
Jan Cohen  
Dan Potter  
Jill St. Thomas  
Genna Waldvogel

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Commissioner Hank Hughes  
Adeline Murthy, Open Space and Trails Planning Team Leader  
Monica Harmon, Open Space Resource Management Specialist  
Neil Williams

**C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION** A motion was made by Mr. Forde, seconded by Ms. Grant, to approve the

agenda as presented.

**VOTE** The motion passed on a voice vote.

**D. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**I. AUGUST 2, 2023 REGULAR MINUTES**

A correction to the August 2, 2023 minutes was requested. The correction is on page 2, item 5 A, first paragraph. The language should say "we are looking at how to diversify the funding of the program through additional State and Federal funding".

**MOTION** A motion was made by Mr. Forde, seconded by Mr. Potter, to approve the August 2, 2023 minutes as amended.

**VOTE** The motion passed on a voice vote.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Mann welcomed Commissioner Hughes to the meeting and asked him to address the Committee.

Commissioner Hughes informed the Committee that he is working with Commissioner Greene on an Ordinance to say that when there is to be a purchase or disposition of open space there has to be consultation with COLTPAC. He will get the draft to Ms. Murthy for your review.

**III. PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**IV. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING FORMATION OF AN OPEN SPACE, PARKS AND TRAILS REGULATORY SUBCOMMITTEE**

Chair Mann said we have been talking about items A and B over the last several Committee meetings. He thought we might set up subcommittees to work on these issues.

Mr. Forde said he thought we might start with a Trails Subcommittee .

There was discussion.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Mr. Forde, seconded by Ms. St. Thomas, to form a Trails Subcommittee as described.

**VOTE** The motion passed on a voice vote.

**B. REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING FORMATION OF A FOREST RESILIENCY SUBCOMMITTEE**

Ms. Grant said she sent an email to all of the Committee members outlining the need for a Forest Resiliency Subcommittee. She feels it could be informational to begin with then we could make recommendations to the County.

There was discussion.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Ms. Grant, seconded by Mr. Potter, to form a Forest Resiliency Subcommittee.

**VOTE** The motion passed on a voice vote.

**V. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. 2024 OPEN SPACE SITE VISITS: THORNTON RANCH OPEN SPACE, LITTLE TESUQUE CREEK OPEN SPACE, CERRILLOS HILLS STATE PARK, RAIL TRAIL**

Chair Mann stated that the history of the site visits is to not have a quorum. If five members show up it has to be noticed.

There was discussion about the sites and updates given on specific sites as follows:

- Staff reported that the donation of land near the Cerrillos Hills State Park is moving along. It was approved by the Commission on August 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Cohen said she had a question about Thornton Ranch. Why are they not allowing dogs on a leash to be walked through the property. She wonders if we could explore that area with that question in mind.
- Ms. Murthy said no one is allowed to walk through Thornton Ranch. It is currently closed. There is consultation going on with several Tribes. They don't want there to be a heavy use pattern on the site.

Chair Mann said there is consideration being given to equestrian use.

Ms. Murthy said for a certain area. The major outcome of the consultation is that the Tribal members don't want the public to be able to access the northern portion of the site where there is a particularly sacred site. Any development, such as trails, is to be located in the southern section. The County owns 1,900 acres. There are some BLM parcels included in that site as well. One of the holdups to opening the site is that the BLM is required to complete an environmental assessment process. They have not moved forward on that.

Chair Mann said it is clear that the staff should prepare a couple of pages of context for us so we can refer to that when we visit the site. How many Tribes are involved in the consultation?

Ms. Murthy said there are 11.

- Chair Mann said as to the Rail Trail, he feels that we could start with the Rabbit Road Trail and go up to the Spur Trail.

#### **B. LITTLE TESUQUE CREEK OPEN SPACE TRAILHEAD PARKING**

There was discussion as follows:

- It was noted that the NMDOT Engineer for the District had stated that the improvements to the parking area, specifically the widening of the shoulders, would be approved. He also stated that if the County wanted to approve the work that could happen.
- There was discussion about the DOT processes and methods of making improvements.
- Ms. Murthy will pursue the NMDOT offer and explore the cost.

#### **C. POTENTIAL DONATION OF EDGEWOOD EQUESTRIAN CENTER TO TOWN OF EDGEWOOD.**

- Ms. Murthy shared her screen and reviewed the letter received from the Town of Edgewood asking that the Equestrian Center be donated to the Town of Edgewood and that stated that the Town of Edgewood would take over the operation of the Center. She also reviewed the letter sent by the County Manager to the Town of Edgewood outlining the process for such a request and the requirements and process for approval. The Town Manager is asking for a formal request and that the request go

before COLTPAC for discussion. The Town of Edgewood has replied to the letter making a formal request but has not complied with the steps required.

- There was discussion about the history of the center operations and regarding Committee member concerns.
- Ms. Murthy will draft a response to the Town of Edgewood from COLTPAC regarding the needs of the Committee in terms of additional information. She will send the draft to the Committee members for their review and input.

#### **D. 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN**

Ms. Murthy said ideally we would bring a draft Work Plan before you. She would like to get an idea of what COLTPAC would like to see included in the plan.

There was discussion as follows:

- A member stated that a lot of money is being devoted to get the community more active. She would like to see something in the plan to start looking at how open space and trails could do more to connecting the rural communities. We need to look at it from a large perspective. She reviewed a small proposal on this idea.
- Ms. Murthy said that would have to be a multi-year project. There is an opportunity through the Rio Grande Trail planning. The County, and others along the trail, have been asked to formalize a Resolution to finalize the alignment.
- Ms. Murthy will send the 2023 Annual Work Plan to the Committee members. All of the Committee members can let her know by email what they would like to leave in the Plan and any new ideas for inclusion. A special meeting will be scheduled to review the Work Plan in January.

### **VI. INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **A. SANTA FE COUNTY WETLANDS PLAN UPDATE**

- A staff person gave an update on the plan saying that it is in final draft form. She will send the plan to the Committee members. It will also be made available to the public.

#### **B. RIO EN MEDIO: RESTORATION UPDATE**

This item was postponed to the next meeting.

**C. OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION UPDATES**

Chair Mann gave updates on the open space acquisition issues.

- There was discussion around the Rancho Viejo parcel. This issue will be discussed in the subcommittee and brought back to the Committee.

**VII. MATTERS FROM STAFF**

Ms. Murthy said the County had a Strategic Planning Summit with the Commissioners and staff. One issue came out of that pertaining to open space. They would like to see more on the management of what we have. Staff has been asked to put together information on that. We are currently working on it.

Ms. Murthy said Ms. Cohen's two terms will term out in February. That will be her last meeting.

Ms. Cohen said she hopes that before she leaves there will be an agreement or a positive update on working with the Santa Fe Raptor Center and the New Mexico Wildlife Center.

**VIII. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

**A. ACQUISITION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

This was discussed previously.

**IX. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

**X. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** A motion was made by Ms. St. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Madrid-Massengill, to adjourn the meeting.

**VOTE** The motion passed on a roll call vote.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Christopher Mann, Chair

Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss

COLTPAC MINUTES  
PAGES: 7

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 28TH Day Of June, 2024 at 06:56:51 PM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 2036662  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
Katharine E. Clark  
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

Deputy Celeste Garcia



REC'D CLERK RECORDED 06/28/2024