

Santa Fe County
County Open Land, Trails, and Parks Advisory Committee
(COLTPAC)

Projects, Facilities and Open Space Conference Room
901 W. Alameda St., Suite 20C, Santa Fe, NM 87501

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, September 3, 2013 at 6:00 P.M.

Please turn off Cellular Phones during the meeting.

Agenda

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Approval of the Agenda**
- IV. Approval of the Minutes**
 - A. August 6, 2014
- V. Matters of Public Concern**
- VI. Matters from the Committee**
 - A. BCC presentation update
- VII. Matters from County Staff**
 - A. Open Space staff updates
- VIII. Action Items**
- IX. Discussion Items**
 - A. Discussion of Open Space and Trails Strategic Plan
 - B. Discussion of COLTPAC next steps
- X. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 1, 2014**
- XI. Adjournment**

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

August 6, 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 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

Judy Kowalski, Chair
William Baker
Patricia Conoway
Almudena Ortíz Cué
Dave Dannenberg
Ernesto Ortega
John Parker

Members Absent

Devin Bent
Zach Taylor, Vice-Chair

Staff Members Present

Maria Lohmann, Open Space and Trails Planner
Robert Griego, Santa Fe County Open Space Staff
Terry Lease, Maintenance Coordinator
Carol Branch, Volunteer Coordinator
Erik Aaboe, Assistant County Manager
Rudy Garcia, County Manager's Office
Marcos López, Open Space Foreman

Others Present

Bill Baxter
Erick Aune, SFMPO Planner

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Kowalski requested a change to agenda. Mr. Rudy Garcia is here for ICIP and she asked to move him up in under Matters of Public Concern.

Mr. Dannenberg moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Ortega seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES July 2, 2014

Mr. Baker requested the following changes to the minutes:

On page 4, half way down, "Miken Chávez" should be "Max Chávez."

On page 5, third paragraph, it should say "Tammy" not "Terry."

On the same page, the resource management should be 2,200 acres, not 22 acres.

He requested to delete the second sentence in that paragraph.

On page 10 near the bottom - I recommended - It makes no sense.

Ms. Conoway arrived at this point.

Chair Kowalski requested the following changes to the minutes:

On page 6, second paragraph should say, "A plan would have to be done before development takes place."

On page 7, third paragraph, "mediation" should be changed to "remediation."

On page 9, it should say Ms. Branch was formally recognized at the BCC [not Ms. Roach].

In the next paragraph it should say, "Encountered in the volunteer program and how the committee could help."

On page 10, second sentence regarding why COLTPAC decided to move the meetings to the County Office building, it should say "Dr. Bent said it was because the County Attorney could not meet with us at Casa Solana."

On page 10 near the bottom, she asked to delete the sentence about Dr. Bent's comment.

Also at the bottom of that page it should say she suggested to have Mr. Taylor sign it because she works for State Parks.

On page 12 at the next to last paragraph she asked to delete the first sentence.

Bill Baxter requested one change to the minutes on page 7, third sentence down to insert the word "mining" right before "hazard."

Mr. Ortega moved to approve the minutes of July 2, 2014 as amended. Mr. Baker seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

5. MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN

A. Introduction of new COLTPAC Member and Open Space Staff

Everyone introduced themselves to the Committee for the benefit of the newest member of COLTPAC, Mr. John Parker.

Mr. Parker said he had a learning curve and was learning as he went. Trails and open space is hugely important to him. It is a big community asset and he takes pride in this asset of trails and open space. He is from Eldorado, the largest unincorporated entity in the state, run by lots of volunteers. He chaired the conservation committee that oversees a 4,000 acre preserve and is a huge community asset. They have 30 miles of trails constructed by people who didn't know how to build them so we've been redoing them. There were also a number of green belts. He made every effort to get people's input on them. He was happy to be here.

Chair Kowalski welcomed him and said the Committee was very happy to have him here too. She said all the members are in a learning process and she invited him to please ask questions if something doesn't make sense.

She welcomed everyone else and commented that Marcos López used to work for State Parks.

A. Description of the ICIP process

Chair Kowalski explained to Mr. Garcia that there was some question about COLTPAC's role if any in this ICIP process.

Mr. Rudy Garcia said the ICIP is a 5-year plan. He handed out a list of ICIP items identified in the plan. He explained that every County and local government has to submit an ICIP Plan to the Governor's Office and DFA. Getting on the list doesn't mean the project would be funded. The County has General Obligation Bond (GO) money and the state legislature does also and each entity has to prioritize the top 5 needed projects for the legislative session.

This year, Santa Fé County has been doing public outreach in the process. The County is required to have one meeting but we've had 8-9 meetings. The list has buildings, parks, roads, etc. on this current list and if the Committee wants to submit projects, they should be submitted to Ms. Lohmann before the deadline of August 26 for new projects.

Ms. Conway asked if any citizen could submit a request to put on the plan.

Mr. Garcia agreed.

Mr. Baker asked if the list was updated annually. Mr. Garcia agreed.

Mr. Dannenberg asked him to expand on the source of the funds.

Mr. Garcia said it actually comes out of the State of New Mexico, depending on how much is allocated to the state. They divide it in different ways but first by legislative members. Each State Representative has about \$800,000 and each State Senator has about \$1.2 million.

Mr. Dannenberg asked if it all came from GO and GRT.

Mr. Aaboe said it was revenue from sales of gas and oil. Once each year we take a snapshot of it and that is the ICIP for the year. GO and CIP funds can be used for the projects. If a representative or senator or the Governor's office wants to fund a project, it has to be on the list.

Mr. Garcia said it all depends on the negotiations with the state. But if it is not on the list, it can't be considered.

Mr. Aaboe clarified that this list was just parks and other related projects as a subset of the entire list.

Ms. Ortíz Cué asked how the public would know about it.

Mr. Garcia said it was on the web site. He pointed out that last year he talked with Colleen Baker about it and she put on some really good projects.

Chair Kowalski asked what the grand total was.

Mr. Garcia said it totaled \$390 million.

Mr. Aaboe asked what projects were done last year.

Mr. Garcia said Romero Park and the Pojoaque ball fields were projects last year.

Mr. Ortega asked Mr. Garcia if when in session, the legislature provides an opportunity for public input when they are considering the ICIP. Mr. Garcia agreed.

Mr. Ortega asked if they, as COLTPAC members, could testify in favor of a project.

Mr. Garcia said yes for those projects proposed by COLTPAC.

Chair Kowalski reasoned that if members have suggestions, we could submit them to Ms. Lohmann before the due date.

Mr. Garcia agreed. There are many individuals from elsewhere who go talk to them during the session too. So we compete for these funds. But the Governor said they would only consider the top five. Each legislator wants to get the money back into his or her district.

Mr. Parker thought permitting only the top five projects would pretty much exclude us.

Mr. Garcia pointed out that we have acquired portions of Santa Fé River and the Santa Fe delegation helped us get that funding.

In response to Ms. Ortíz Cué, Mr. Garcia said the projects remain on the list until funded.

There were no other questions.

Mr. Garcia excused himself from the meeting.

B. Presentation from the Santa Fé Metropolitan Planning Organization

Mr. Erick Aune shared what was going on with the SFMPO. He passed around some aerial maps of the MPO planning area and handed out bicycle maps the MPO published a couple of years ago.

Mr. Aune explained that MPOs were set up in urban areas throughout the country and were responsible for establishing the Metropolitan Transportation Plan by federal mandate and to update it every five years. The last one for Santa Fé was in 2010. In 2010 the MPO realized we needed to emphasize multimodal so we adopted the Bicycle Master Plan and began working on a Transit Master Plan and a Pedestrian Master Plan. The Bicycle Master Plan is in place and is a great model. He hoped the Transit and Pedestrian master Plans would follow that success.

He said Phase 1 looked at data and what was on the ground. They hoped to have the pedestrian Master Plan completed before end of 2014.

The Transit Master Plan is in process. The MPO hoped to have all three of them done for the MTP to submit to the FTA in July, 2015.

Mr. Aune identified the three MPO staff, Mark Tibbetts, Keith Wilson and himself.

The TIP was explained to the Committee. He passed around the list of current projects and explained that the TIP is a 4-year plan. Currently, the projects total \$34 million through 2017. Non-motorized projects total \$4 million. They are being careful on proper filing due to the federal mandates.

Chair Kowalski said the Committee had presentations on the Bicycle Master Plan previously.

Mr. Aune said in 1996 the feds recognized the importance of pedestrian planning. Santa Fé is also representative of the nation as far as aging population.

Sustainability for pedestrians and bicycles is also a key economic driver for our community. That was evidenced by the Bike and Brew Festival last spring. More and more communities are tracking data on multi-modal. We are tracking pedestrians at key points on trails.

Mr. Aaboe asked if all of the \$34 million of projects slated to be funded in the MPO would be funded by the federal government through the NMDOT.

Mr. Aune agreed with some and they had a match and the biggest is the I-25/Cerrillos interchange.

At the same time from the evolution and development of an overpass at NM 599 and Jaguar Drive was 100% privately funded.

Mr. Dannenberg asked if there was a trail that leveraged part of that in Santa Fé County.

Mr. Aune said the short answer is that the MPO has the Technical Coordinating Committee comprised of staff from City, County, Tesuque Pueblo and State.

From the County, Mr. Robert Griego, Ms. Vicki Lucero and Mr. Joseph Gutierrez were on the TCC.

Mr. Dannenberg asked if there others with COLTPAC interest.

Mr. Griego said there was the Santa Fé Rail Trail.

Mr. Aune agreed and said Eldorado was on the horizon.

Mr. Aaboe said Ms. Roach was involved and the County applied for FLAP funding up to Diablo Canyon.

Mr. Parker asked about the St. Francis Drive underpass.

Mr. Aune said the City had \$2 million and were still going ahead with the design to make it a shovel-ready project. He would like to see it move forward but at least it was designed.

Mr. Aaboe added that committees will meet on it. BTAC is revising that list as well as other committees and then it would go back to City Council in December for approval. All of the projects are in Phase A Bicycle MP.

Mr. Aune said the FLAP project has 100% support and is a huge project.

6. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

A. Discussion of ADA accessibility

This was Dr. Bent's item and he was not present.

7. MATTERS FROM COUNTY STAFF

A. Description of the ICIP process

This was considered earlier in the meeting.

B. Open Space staff updates

Mr. Terry Lease reminded the Committee that he gave several updates last time, one of which was staffing and at that time had two maintenance positions open and was transforming a resource specialist. Now he had 4 positions filled and Marcos López is in his second week as Open Space Foreman. He had been trying to fill in as foreman and not doing well so he was glad to have Marcos.

Short term goals were to get a handle on maintenance of our properties. It was mostly weeds and flood damage repair. We want restrooms for the most heavily used facilities (7) and a place for them so they are not an eye sore.

Longer term is a program for assessing open spaces and trails just like buildings and facilities. Another long term goal is to make improvements in our properties with benches, shade facilities and signage. He was negotiating two agreements: Botanical Gardens for Ortiz and with the City of Edgewood.

Mr. López introduced himself and said he came from State Parks where he worked for 21 years. He said he would put a lot of work and effort into this work and there is a lot of work here. He would try to meet COLTPAC's high expectations.

Ms. Branch handed out her update. She said there were lots of projects and these in the list are the top ones. The first is Little Tesuque Creek trail. She is mapping out the trail for it. Piedra Trail connects to Little Tesuque and Peter Wilson is the steward for the trail with volunteer events planned. We cleared the outlook and it now has an interpretive sign and history on it and they will soon install a bench.

She said they were working hard to improve the Arroyo Hondo Trail and updated the map just in time for the race.

The Rail Trail steward is Steve Griego who commutes from Eldorado twice weekly. They are fixing erosion problems. Thank goodness for the trails Alliance and Youthworks. Also the Master's Program which every Friday has 11-13 volunteers.

Mr. Lease asked Committee members to let him know if anyone has questions.

Mr. Dannenberg asked if they were maxed out with volunteers.

Ms. Branch said she would put opportunities for volunteers on the web site and agreed they had a lot of volunteers now. They just started the stewardship program.

Chair Kowalski asked if she had a web page for the volunteer program.

Ms. Branch said it was not their own but it is on the County web site.

Ms. Conoway asked what the stewardship program was about.

Ms. Branch said it was like an adopt a trail program. They agree to assess the trail and report back to her on it. They always report back what they are doing on the trail.

Ms. Lohmann briefly reviewed other projects including:

- Romero Park where they were planning to award a construction contract for October.
- Mount Chal was progressing with a packet going to BCC on August 26 and closing by September 14.
- Thornton Ranch Management Plan Design Team met last week to deal with mapping and goals.
- Phase One of Cultural Resources started July 15 and she hoped for a draft on November 1.
- Santa Fé Rail Trail - the contract for construction of section 2 and 3 will be on the August 26 agenda. It was getting it on the budget cycle now with an invitation for bid.
- El Camino Real project is getting started. BCC allocated \$450,000 for construction of the project. The Project Delivery Plan is on hand and will be done by August 20.
- Buckman Road Segment of El Camino Real is underway.

Mr. Aaboe said the BCC approved the project with 85% federal and 15% local (\$450,000). We've asked that the City support a portion of the trail for \$150,000 because part of it is on their plans. A Master Plan has the trail going under NM599 to the Municipal Recreation Complex. So the County is asking for \$150,000 which may come from the Alameda underpass redistribution.

If those options don't work, the County will come up with the \$450,000.

Mr. Dannenberg asked if the City would have the 85/15% split with federal funds too.

Mr. Aaboe clarified the City part was only the city portion to MRC.

He said that on August 20, the project committee for FLAP meets in Albuquerque for a vote up or down on the project. He explained that basically, the feds do it all - they do the permitting, design, archaeology and EA (environmental assessment). They hire the contractor and give us the keys when done.

Usually they build bridges to parks so everyone is excited about this one.

Ms. Lohmann related that Scott Kaseman said Staff has applied for a \$300,000 River Stewardship Grant to support and enhance restoration efforts on the Santa Fe River at Frenchy's Field, San Ysidro Crossing, and el Camino Real.

She said the COLTPAC Agenda will be posted on-line starting next time and the packets will be there too.

She announced they had the first GIS resource inventory working group going as a subcommittee of COLTPAC to work on the open space and trails plan, phase 1 and 2 right now.

8. ACTION ITEMS

A. Discussion and Direction on a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners on Santa Fe County Open Space, Trails and Parks Program Vision and Mission Statements

Chair Kowalski said Dr. Bent sent an e-mail to staff, the vice chair and herself stating that he went and spoke with Commissioner Mayfield about the presentation of the Vision and Mission Statement and that Commissioner Mayfield raised some questions about our goals in making the presentation. He wondered whether we were asking the BCC to adopt the Vision and Mission and if so, whether the County Attorney needed to review it. Dr. Bent also expressed some concerns he had with the statement regarding equity, but he was not forthcoming in outlining those concerns.

Chair Kowalski summarized Dr. Bent's email and noted that he threatened to stand up and oppose it if we went forward with our presentation owing to his concerns.

Chair Kowalski said she talked with Commissioner Stefanics about the Vision and Mission statement, and she suggested we more clearly identify our purpose in and outline some further actions COLTPAC proposes to take as follow up.

Chair Kowalski explained to Commissioner Stefanics that COLTPAC felt the statement was a good vehicle for improving communication with the BCC, that the process of developing the statement was empowering, and that COLTPAC wanted to share it with BCC as a means to inform them of the work we are doing. We weren't intending to request that the BCC adopt the Vision and Mission. Commissioner Stefanics asked what actions we were going to take. Chair Kowalski told her that identifying goals and objectives was the next step in the process.

Chair Kowalski also spoke with the assistant County Attorney, who told her she saw no problem with presenting the vision and mission statement as written to the BCC, as we were not intending to request they formally "adopt" the statement.

Chair Kowalski suggested the Committee should identify some action items as a committee that the

vision and mission statement empowers and motivates us to do. She also was wondering if we want to reconsider it, even though Dr. Bent isn't here to express that the reasons for his stated opposition.

She proposed to have a discussion whether we want to step back and continue our process of identifying goals and objectives prior to presenting to the BCC.

Ms. Conoway asked if they would not put it in context as a vision statement.

Chair Kowalski said the Committee could call it that but, more specifically, the Committee should decide what we propose to do as next steps in the planning process. Commissioner Stefanics noted that they are very involved with the sustainable development plan, and that the BCC would appreciate as much specificity as possible on our expectations of them in regards to our presentation. In order to make the best of our time on the agenda.

Chair Kowalski asked what the members thought about our presentation.

Mr. Ortega said he was confused because we are an advisory committee. We do advise BCC, but the advice comes through county staff. So he had a problem with this. He asked if members of COLTPAC individually had authority to go directly to Commissioners about things with which the Committee was working with County staff. He remembered that Dr. Bent had done that before with the County Attorney.

Chair Kowalski said he didn't send the e-mail to everybody because he didn't want it to be part of the official COLTPAC public record.

Mr. Ortega recalled the Committee had said regarding that issue that members would not be talking with the County Attorney, but rather they should bring legal concerns to COLTPAC meetings and the Committee and staff could formally request legal review, when the need arises.

When Chair Kowalski requested that Dr. Bent follow that process, Dr. Bent wrote back stating that he had a constitutional right of free speech.

Mr. Ortega pointed out that in developing a vision and mission statement that County staff wanted COLTPAC's input, they were not acting as legislative entity but a committee of volunteers serving as advisors to County staff. So if staff is asking COLTPAC to help, it is not COLTPAC's statement but staff's.

Mr. Griego said those were excellent points. Originally as it was developed, we had our old open space and trails plan and now we are doing a new one. The vision and mission statement were developed as a means to assist staff in getting started on updating the open space plan.

He was not sure especially where they were on the way but he felt from Ms. Roach that the vision and mission coalesced the group to move forward. Staff could take that same energy through the open space and trails planning. The outcome will be an open space and trails plan.

Mr. Ortega said the members were not working independently but together in support of the County program.

Mr. Baker was confused with this and agreed with Mr. Griego. We were putting together a strategic plan and the introduction was the vision and they would present it to the BCC but there is nothing for them to approve because the approval is at least a year away. People like to have reports along the way and that is what we intended to do.

Mr. Dannenberg agreed. That was the discussion and we agreed to present the snapshot. We developed this in conjunction with staff but viewed it as a vision of COLTPAC.

Chair Kowalski said it was also a way to get to know each other and what visions we shared with each other and that is exactly what we did.

Ms. Ortíz Cué said it was an important meeting and it was important to feel what we are doing is productive and gives us a compass for direction and to answer why we are here. For someone else to go outside and say he protested it is appalling and feels like a waste of my time. I don't want to be part of something like that.

Mr. Dannenberg felt the same way. Without the organization going through that together, I wouldn't want to be part of it. I can't imagine what legal issues would be in the vision statement.

Ms. Ortíz Cué asked what happens when any of us goes out on our own to represent the group. I don't have the authority to go say what happened. It is a waste of energy.

Mr. Aaboe thought if the Committee took the vision and mission and put it in front of the strategic plan, going before the BCC and saying here is what we've come up with and want to do and we want to have your concurrence it would be good. They do have a lot on their plate but a brief presentation to them and ask if we are on track is appropriate.

The other thing is that a committee rules by majority and there might be a minority group but the Chair can control the topics of conversation and it is a majority rules society. We need to be mindful of that.

Chair Kowalski said she asked Dr. Bent to be prepared at next meeting to make his suggestions for improving it.

Mr. Baker made a motion to move forward to present the vision and mission to the BCC as part of a strategic plan outline. Mr. Ortega seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Aaboe said a cover memo is needed. To get a statement and outline of strategic plan - and staff memo- we could get it on the agenda and have it on the agenda on August 26.

Chair Kowalski said Commissioner Stefanics said we could request to be on the agenda after 4:30. Mr. Taylor was prepared to give a presentation on that day and others should be there if possible in case someone stands up to oppose it.

The Committee briefly discussed the ramifications and possible actions if that happens.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Discussion of resources assessment

Ms. Lohmann didn't know if the Committee needed to discuss this. It is heavy GIS data.

For Mr. Parker's benefit, she explained it was a GIS data analysis of the cultural and environmental detail of the resource inventory. It was a contract with Analytics. They met yesterday and were working on what to evaluate in this inventory. The plan will inform it and it will inform the plan in data analysis.

Mr. Griego said it is a web-based tool for what resources you want to look at. He wasn't sure it had public access.

Mr. Aaboe thought it would be served out to the public.

Ms. Lohmann agreed and potentially could be at the next update. In the next ten years we could use this tool to determine what is more or less important.

Mr. Parker asked if it was an assessment of all resources of the county.

Chair Kowalski said it was just open space and trails.

Mr. Griego added that it was scenic view sheds, etc. The County wants to establish what sources are useful to create a map for this.

Ms. Lohmann said GIS creates overlays, archaeology sites, wetlands, things to be protected - they would show up darker on the map.

Mr. Parker understood.

Mr. Aaboe asked if once the factors are developed and prioritized, whether they were going to be brought here for phasing them out.

Ms. Lohmann agreed in some respects. GIS is phase 1 and phase 2 is a series of 20 public meetings for each Growth Management Area. Members would not have to attend all 20 of them. Mr. Baker would go to the Estancia meetings, etc. so ultimately we would have representatives at all 20 meetings.

Mr. Griego said the idea was to have a working group that would have the general overview. The GIS manager is a pretty broad view.

Mr. Baker said one size doesn't fit all. They needed to tailor the five areas because some of them are irrelevant.

Ms. Lohmann said Ms. Roach made it easy for her to transition because she built in some of that.

Mr. Baker said his area didn't have any surface water so that is irrelevant to us.

Ms. Lohmann agreed they would need to tailor it.

Mr. Ortega commended Ms. Lohmann for her ability to represent COLTPAC very well.

10. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, September 3, 2014

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Approved by:

Judy Kowalski, Chair

Attest:

Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk

Submitted by:

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

Santa Fe County Open Space, Trails and Parks Action Plan Public Participation Plan DRAFT

Electronic survey of county residents:

Review 2014 public opinion survey as starting point

Focus on specific concerns and preferences

COLTPAC as core advising body:

Pre-planning tasks – advise on the scope of work, help structure the public process, revise Resolution 2011-4, review of the vision/mission, assist with resources assessment

Role in public process – at least one COLTPAC member at each public meeting, at regular monthly COLTPAC meetings discuss elements of the plan and outcome of public meetings

Public meetings with a regional focus based on Growth Management Areas (El Norte, El Centro, Galisteo, Estancia)

Area meetings:

- Why
 - Review of vision, mission
 - Identification of key issues, values (SWOT)
- What
 - Review inventory of county properties and resources
 - Identification of broad scale needs, goals (SWOT)
- How
 - Strategies
 - Projects
- Draft Goals, Strategies and Projects Review

Focus group topics:

- Outdoor Recreation
- Environmental Conservation / Restoration
- Cultural Landscape Preservation
- Visual Resource / Viewshed Protection
- Access to Public Lands / Land Management
- Youth Engagement / Outdoor Education

Stakeholder Interviews – as needed, interviews with key stakeholders

