

RGWF Executive Committee Meeting Notes
February 18, 2018

Attendees: Jake Caldwell, Rick Carpenter, Dale Dekker, Martin Haynes, Cal Joyner, Laura McCarthy, Katherine Yuhas.

Objectives for the meeting: (1) Approve funding for new RGWF projects in the three categories; and (2) Prepare for the spring RGWF Signatories meeting.

Approve Funding for New RGWF Projects

Laura provided an overview of the Request for Proposals, issued November 28 and closing January 22, and the three project categories (forest restoration; stream, wetland and aquatic restoration; and capacity building). A total of 17 applications were received from 12 organizations, as some organizations applied for two or more categories. Three technical panels were organized to determine if the proposed projects met the eligibility criteria and after the reviews, the projects were bundled in three groups that included ready to fund; needing further development; and not eligible.

The top 5 projects were invited to give brief presentations to the Executive Committee followed by 20 minutes of questions and discussion. The presenters and projects were:

- Forest Guild with the Rio Grande Water Fund Burn Team proposal for the Santa Fe, Cibola and Carson National Forests; this project was recommended by the forest restoration and capacity building panels with reduced funding to provide an incentive for other agencies to participate.
- Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, Albuquerque program with the Cedro Creek Restoration project in collaboration with Wild Earth Guardians, local partners and the Cibola National Forest; this project was recommended by the stream restoration panel.
- Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, Taos program with forest restoration treatments planned for the Carson National Forest highway 150 project and El Salto Land Association; this project was recommended by the forest restoration panel.
- Mule Deer Foundation with the Cunningham project within the Tusas/Lower San Antonio landscape on the Carson National Forest; this project was recommended by the forest restoration panel.
- New Mexico Forest Industry Association and Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District with the Sandia Forest and Community Health Protection project along the Sandia Crest Road on the Cibola NF; this project was recommended by the forest restoration panel.

The 4 projects in the developmental group were described by Laura. These projects included:

- Camino Real Mayordomo Pilot submitted by Forest Guild in both the restoration and capacity building category; the capacity building panel recommended the project be funded contingent upon successful proposal revision.
- Sandia Collaborative submitted by the Edgewood Soil and Water Conservation District in the capacity building category; the capacity building panel recommended the project be funded contingent upon successful proposal revision.
- Santa Clara Youth Interns and Mentoring project submitted by Santa Clara Pueblo in the capacity building category; the capacity building panel recommended the project be funded contingent upon successful proposal revision.
- Frijoles Canyon Stream Restoration submitted by Cochiti Pueblo as a stream, wetland and aquatic restoration project that included both Frijoles and Capulin Canyons; the stream restoration panel recommended funding only for Frijoles Canyon and also requested that the capacity building panel review the proposal, which recommended it for funding contingent upon successful proposal revision.

Laura also provided a brief recap of two previously recommended projects after the 2017 RFP for Stream, Wetland and Aquatic Restoration projects. These were La Jara Wetland and Stream Restoration on the Carson National Forest proposed by Amigos Bravos and Redondo Meadow Restoration Project on the Valles Caldera National Preserve proposed by Wildearth Guardians. In addition, the three Forest Supervisors had asked that programmatic NEPA for aquatic restoration be considered for funding. The Nature Conservancy has discussed this with the USFS Regional Office staff, Trout Unlimited, and NM Department of Game and Fish.

The executive committee decided that all the projects recommended by the review panels and the two previously recommended projects and programmatic NEPA should be placed on the Candidate List of Projects and funded to the fullest extent possible.

Prepare for Spring Meeting

Laura noted that the room at the fall meeting was stretched to capacity and there were not enough lunches for those who stayed for the topic discussions. TNC reserved a larger space at CNM Workforce Training Center for the April 27, 2018 meeting. After discussion, the executive committee concluded that a larger meeting that is inclusive is better than limiting who attends. They also discussed the structure of the meeting time, and decided to continue with the first half of the meeting for a keynote speaker and short presentations, and time after the break in roundtable discussions with a working lunch. Dale requested that we continue recruiting business speakers for a keynote and offered to host a business leaders breakfast beforehand. General Mills and Coca-Cola's Bruce Karas were identified as future speakers. TNC has additional staff capacity now with Collin and there will be an improved online RSVP and lunch count process for the spring meeting.