

RGWF Executive Committee Meeting Notes
February 12, 2019

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

Objectives for the meeting: (1) Approve funding for new RGWF projects; (2) Discuss the addition of New Mexico Acequia Association to the Executive Committee; and (3) Prepare for the spring RGWF Signatories meeting.

Approve Funding for New RGWF Projects

Collin provided an overview of the Request for Letters of Interest process, that resulted in 8 letters, that were reviewed in two categories (forest restoration and stream, wetland and aquatic restoration). From these, full proposals were requested from 5 applicants and these were reviewed by the technical panels on February 8, 2019. The 5 proposal applicants gave brief presentations to the Executive Committee, and then participated in 20 minutes of questions and discussion. The presenters and projects were:

- Joe Carrillo with New Mexico State Forestry presented the Middle Rio Arriba Forest Restoration Project in Canjillon, New Mexico on the Carson National Forest and adjacent to community areas. This project was recommended by the forest restoration panel.
- Greg Kaufman with Tesuque Pueblo presented the Tesuque Pueblo Restoration Project on Reserved Treaty Rights Lands in the Vigil Grant area of the Greater Santa Fe Fireshed and Santa Fe National Forest; this project was recommended by the forest restoration panel.
- Harry Jones with the Greater East Jemez Wildland Urban Interface Committee presented their project to protect the Jemez Springs water supply with the restoration treatment on a critical property that is adjacent to the community and the Santa Fe National Forest. This project was recommended by the forest restoration panel.
- Lindsay Quam with Santa Clara Pueblo presented the Santa Clara Pueblo Restoration Project to restore wetlands degraded by Las Conchas fire at the confluence of Santa Clara Creek and Turkey Creek. This project was recommended by the stream restoration panel.
- Jim Mattison with Wild Earth Guardians presented the Rito de Los Indios Restoration Project in the Valles Caldera National Preserve, to restore degraded slope wetlands and a section of stream. This project was recommended by the stream restoration panel.

Collin also provided a brief recap of four previously recommended projects that are recommended for continued work. These were funded last year and have successfully completed their objectives, and additional work is needed to complete the entire project.

- Cunningham Gulch on the Carson National Forest, managed by the Mule Deer Foundation
- All Hands, All Lands Burn Team, managed by the Forest Stewards Guild
- La Jara/Rio Fernando de Taos Stream Restoration, managed by Amigos Bravos
- Sandia Crest Forest Restoration, managed by New Mexico Forest Industry Association

In addition, a workshop was held on February 5-7, 2019 attended by community groups seeking small awards of \$25,000 for capacity building. The groups did work that would serve as the basis of a proposal for funding, and it is now up to them to send a written proposal and budget before they will be considered for a grant out. The community groups attending the workshop included:

- Rio Costilla Cooperative Livestock Association
- Taos Pueblo and Taos Valley Watershed Coalition
- Santa Barbara Land Grant and Picuris Pueblo

- Upper Chama Watershed
- 2-3-2 Collaborative
- Santa Clara Pueblo, Restoration and Youth Engagement
- Jemez Pueblo and Greater East Jemez Wildland Urban Interface Committee
- Cochiti Pueblo, Restoration and Youth Engagement
- Sandia Collaborative and Las Huertas Land Grant
- Edgewood Soil and Water Conservation District and Chililli Land Grant

The executive committee decided that all the projects recommended by the review panels, the previously recommended projects, and the capacity building projects would be funded to the extent possible.

Executive Committee Membership

Laura reported that outreach to the New Mexico Acequia Commission and New Mexico Acequia Association (NMAA) resulted in comments about the lack of executive committee diversity. The By-Laws require that Executive Committee members have funding to invest in the Rio Grande Water Fund focal areas. NMAA has a \$3 million multi-year grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Regional Conservation Partnership Program for Acequia Revitalization that is a qualifying contribution. Laura has talked with Paula Garcia, Executive Director of NMAA, and she is willing to serve if elected. The Executive Committee prefers to have an odd number of members, but the By-Laws do not require it. A decision was made to have a voice vote election to add Paula at the April 11 signatories meeting.

Prepare for Spring Meeting

The Spring meeting of the Signatories has been set for April 11. There was discussion of possible keynote speakers, and a business leaders breakfast depending if appropriate. Other input about the meeting format and attendance was provided.