

Valles Caldera Board of Trustees
Executive Meeting
June 10, 2009

Board Members Present:

Stephen Henry, Chair
Ed Tinsley, Vice Chair
Dr. Ray Loretto, Secretary
Virgil Trujillo
Dan Jiron
Jason Lott

Meeting called to order at 9:17 by Chairman Stephen Henry

- Motion was made and passed to closed meeting
- Motion to approve Agenda
 - Discussion re: restoration project w/ SFNF and
 - Governmental affairs report
- Motion to approve agenda made by Ray Loretto and Ed Tinsley seconds the motion. Motion passed to approve agenda.
- Motion made to approve closed meeting minutes
 - Motion made by Ed Tinsley. Approved and seconded by Dan Jiron.
 - Motion passed to approve March 11, 2009 minutes.

Gary made the announcement for the Open House at the Jemez Springs conference room, June 11, 2009 9:00 a.m. to noon. Gary encouraged and invited rest of board to attend if possible. Chairman will be available for open house.

-Motion to authorize future executive sessions - motion made by Ed Tinsley, second by Ray Loretto. Motion passed.

Old Business

Governmental affairs committee – Steve Henry

Steve suggested a trip to DC to make a Capitol Hill visit. Henry, Gary, Dennis Trujillo and Ed Tinsley will travel to DC on Monday, June 21, 2009 return on Wednesday. This will primarily be a meet and greet for the new delegation and touch base with the Senators. Dan was recently in DC. Folks on the Hill had many questions about the Preserve. Want to know status of where we are and what we're doing. Some topics that will probably want to be discussed include recreation and access use planning study, self sufficiency aspect of the Act.

Dan Jiron – feels the board needs to go to DC, this is good timing. Provided list of potential people and agencies to make meetings. Need support in Congress for the budget. President did include money for the Caldera in the budget.

Ed Tinsley – What VCT will be taking to DC, as far as talking points, briefing paperwork, etc. Will you be talking about the business model, lease, purchase, judgment fund? Does the delegation understand the progress that has been made?

Dan – Delegation senses some progress. The Admin side of the Hill needs to get familiar with us. Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief for National Forest System is key. It is anticipated that Mr. Jorge Silva of Senator Bingaman's office will play a role in helping VCT get in to see folks on the hill.

Gary – addresses what he will be discussing with congressional staffers. Jorge Silva has been very active in helping us. 2010 – budget 3.5 million.

Dan – Forest Restoration – large landscape level planning.
- recommend meeting with Senators or staff explaining the collaboration with SNF.
- Projects in NM – still working on funding for this project
- working with VCT staff on how to manage large landscape, thinning & burning, developing more wildlife habitat. This needs to be conveyed to Congressional staffers. Briefing paper would be good to take to DC. Natural Resource projects
- Projects not ready to compete this year but will be for year 2010.

Dennis T. -Went through some areas that should be included in briefing papers for Hill visit. NEPA has started on Preserve for restoration projects. Looking at 500 acres to treat in the next year. Meeting next week with SFNF on the restoration project.

Gary – Pablo Sedillo has commented several times that Senator Bingaman wants to see Education as part of funding.

Terry – meeting with Pablo Sedillo on the lease of the Paraclete facilities to combine with education. Would like to make Visitors center a regional type center - trying to get everyone, the Monument, Parajarito, Santa Clara, Jemez valley corridor involved.

Dan - Expect many questions about what are you doing about climate change. Aware that things are changing in Jemez Mtn ecosystem. Striving to make the forest resilient – working with scientists to try and see what our forest needs.

Terry – pushing the science and education aspect. Will work with Bob. Must have this when Gary and BOT go to DC. Congressional concern that we are not meeting or fulfilling the education component. Delegation has been kept up to date. No surprises.

Ed – how focused are the Congressional staff re: self sufficiency?

Dan – not as focused on the self sufficiency as on the other points in the Act.

Review of Letter from Attorney Nadine Shea regarding conduct of Board business. Much discussion about board meetings, abiding by our by-laws and processes. By-laws state that when there are less than 5 sitting board members, the Board cannot conduct meeting. Can change with filled seats. Quorum would be ½ of the seated board.

Ed – Motion to Amendment to Article 3 Section 4 of the By-Laws

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 4 of Article III is hereby amended to read that a "quorum" is herein defined as a majority of the "filled" positions. However, if the quorum at any meeting is less than five board members, then a unanimous vote of all attending board members is required to pass any motion.

Filled positions are herein defined as those positions that have been appointed and duly sworn in as a board member. Second – by Dan Jiron. Motion passed unanimously.

Steve – An obit article on Jim Range appeared in this month's issue of Outdoor Life magazine and Field and Stream. It was a one page article. Steve suggested we have a plaque of some kind in the new temporary visitor's center at the Preserve as a memorial to Jim Range. Ed made a motion for the plaque, Ray Loretto seconded. A Jim Range Memorial passed unanimously. Gary and Berta to work on the plaque for the visitor's center.

Terry – Is sending promotional materials to the congressional delegation. Plaque and pictures are ready. Welcome centers around the state should have some materials as well. NPS – Bandelier should have info as well.

Gary – some discussion on the Judgment Fund. Lead attorney at OCG needs to be contacted and a meeting should be set for DC.

Dennis Rino – The telephone system is back up and operational. Audit completion report – 04 through 07 – topic of conversation tomorrow – several findings – we are addressing or have addressed most of them. Staff accountant will start next Monday, Sharon Waggen. We will have an RFP out in July for 2010 audit. Most of the findings were because we did not have controls in place or policy. Q & A from Board – no fraud, abuse or malfeasance was found in the audits. Questions in audits were why was a yearly audit was not done, high turnover of staff, why was it not addressed until June 07 – our response - it came to light and this Board took action to have an audit. Much discussion re: audit.

Terry - External Funding - Nike was contacted re: marathon. They are doing major reorg & will get back to us. Santa Fe Garden Club is scheduled to use the lodge and bunkhouse on 6/29/09 for the – 40 to 50 paying \$75/person to come on the preserve. 270 runners have signed up for this year's marathon.

Ed – We committed to a new Budget format at the March public meeting so why aren't we doing that already?

Gary – explained that we cannot move to new format until 2010. We will start with the 2010 budget.

Terry – Entrix/Marketing/communications – started with Entrix report – had a day with reporters – Ed, Gary, Virgil, Steve, and Terry. It made front page reports in the ABQ Journal. Had a meeting w/Jemez Pueblo re: green burial, report shows that Jemez Pueblo is not in favor of this component. The Entrix report is on our website. Terry has sent out CD's when requested. Livestock operation and audit press releases are posted. Livestock news article was good, audit not a good report but it was fair. Suggested that we didn't do our homework. WildEarth Guardians were not selected for livestock operation, but we have selected NMSU as contractor, and they have partnered with local producers and the Jemez Pueblo. Good for managers to be involved, to assist with questions from reporters. Comments: follow ups with media. Be ahead of our own stories. Terry suggests that we do a report card in 6 months, with reporters.

The new temporary Visitors Center is under construction – should be here within 4 weeks. No requirements for a foundation. Log siding 37 X 32 building, will be ADA compliance, propane heaters, refrigerator. No water or power in the area, will still be using porta potties. Jason to send staff info about portable vault toilets.

Dennis T. – Update on ADA and Water system. Assessment made on Lodge, A frames and bunkhouse. A frames are not ADA accessible and it would be cost prohibitive to make them ADA compliant. Jeff Gloss – USFS did the assessment for us. The bunkhouse needs little work, ramps and kitchens \$20 to \$35K. Lodge will cost \$50k to \$75k to make ADA compliant if we would like to use as hospitality. Would like to get furnishings for lodge and possibly the bunkhouse, approximately \$50K. Jeff – will not charge for design and the preparatory work to get us ready to go out with bid to make buildings ADA compliant. August - earliest he would be able to get this done for us.

ADA compliance – last meeting Board approved up to \$50K to get us compliance.

Ed – from a business stand point, will we ever make the money back?

Dennis T – we are not compliant and can either get complaint, not use it, or risk being sued. Future revenue from the lodge is estimated to be about \$75k per year. We don't have anyone in guest services and is difficult to market. It is only being rented 20% of the time.

Jason – if we are using this for any type of event we should make this compliant.

Dennis T – A Report by Jack Crane, who is a volunteer and has lots of history with VCT has made several attempts to look at water wells. He feels there is not a good water source close to the visitor center or headquarters area. Water system that we have now is the best option. Visitors use and access plan will also have someone looking at the water system. Everyone around the area is on subsurface water. Report shows good water on the southwest corner of the Preserve.

Ray – previous board had much discussion about doing the ADA. We should decide what we will need to do and continue in that direction. Get it done and finished.

Executive Session Meeting
June 11, 2009
Best Western Hilltop, Los Alamos, NM

Board:

Stephen Henry, Chair
Ed Tinsley, Vice Chair
Virgil Trujillo
Raymond Loretto, Secretary
Jason Lott
Dan Jiron

Staff:

Dennis Trujillo
Dennis Rino
Terry McDermott
Gary Bratcher
Marie Rodriguez
Will Breedlove
Berta Pantoja

4:21 called to order. Re-cap on yesterday's meeting.

Hoard project – (Bob Parmenter) presentation to Gary and congressional staffers. Waiting for congressional staffers to determine if this is a good idea and if they are able to get funding to move forward with this project. Some discussion re: Hoard presentation. She has been allowed to conduct tours and gather info. Board and staff are supportive of her program and have helped her develop her ideas on this program.

Wild Earth Guardians - submitted grazing proposal. Bob Parmenter proposes to have them do a restoration project. Board approval to have discussions (Bob). We should include a permit for Wild Earth with some of the same language as NMSU. MOU would allow groups of volunteers to remove fences.

Steve – asked Bob to negotiate with WildEarth Guardians. Further discussion ensued. Decision was made to change agreement to a volunteer project.

Bob Parmenter- Range Readiness Report– June precipitations is about ½ of what we expected this year. More like an average year. Stock tank holding conditions are good. Overall, 541 amu's easily defensible.

Terry – Communications goals – Venue advertising – Jemez visitors guide, los Alamos visitors guide, Los Amigos newsletter, SF New Mexican, LA Monitor, KOB, etc.

Terry - information re: advertising on KKOB TV.

Ed - wants us to link with Bandelier. Cross promotion. Billboard on 550 was renewed until 11/1/09. NMDOT will not be able to get signs on highway 4 until around 11/1/09.

Meeting adjourned 5:17 p.m.