

**JANUARY MEETING  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
VALLES CALDERA TRUST  
Closed Meeting January 26, 2010**

**Attendees:**

**Board Members:**

Steve Henry  
Ed Tinsley  
Dr. Raymond Loretto  
Dan Jiron  
Jason Lott  
Virgil Trujillo

**Staff:**

Gary Bratcher  
Terry McDermott  
Dennis Trujillo  
Dennis Rino  
Dr. Bob Parmenter  
Darren Toya  
Berta Pantoja

**Guest:**

Dr. Manny Encinias

**9:17** Chairman Steve Henry called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – A motion was made by Ed Tinsley and a second by Raymond Loretto to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

**9:30** APPROVAL OF MINUTES SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER CLOSED MEETINGS

Discussion occurred regarding the use of revenue funds for capital improvement projects as well as operating expenses. A motion to approve minutes for the September and December meetings was made by Dan Jiron. Dr. Loretto seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM CHAIRMAN –

Steve Henry thanked Dr. Loretto and Jemez Pueblo for a great venue in which to hold the VCT meetings for the next two days. He reiterated the importance of a partnership with our local neighbors and Jemez Pueblo. Some discussion ensued about protocol of the next day's meeting. Dr. Loretto told the Board of some traditional practices that tribal leaders will want to occur at the meeting. He told the Board the Pueblo has a new governor, Mr. Joshua Madalena. Governor Madalena is from a traditional Jemez family, has studied anthropology in the area, and has questions of the NPS and the delegation.

Steve has reviewed the National Park Service report and the Report to Congress. He tried to get an appointment to see Senators Bingaman and Udall in January but was told that February would be the earliest. Steve spoke with Jorge Silva of Senator Bingaman's staff on the process now that the report is out. Mr. Silva indicated that they get the report, review it with staffers and senator. The Senate committee will likely have a hearing on the Hill or a field hearing. We will ask that they have a field hearing. Ed Tinsley stated that he would like to have a position statement on the position of this Board regarding the future of the Preserve. Steve agreed and indicated that the Board would discuss this later on the agenda.

Jorge Silva indicated that a decision will likely be made by September 2010.

### **REVIEW FORAGE MONITORING – Bob Parmenter**

Bob Parmenter provided some background information on the 2009 forage monitoring. This past year we moved cattle away from riparian zones (handouts show the biomass forage data). By the end of the season, the Preserve had regrown essentially all the grass that was consumed by livestock and elk such that there was little detectable difference in forage inside versus outside of areas grazed by cattle. By the end of 2009, the Preserve had the highest standing forage biomass ever recorded since the Trust assumed management responsibility.

### **REVIEW LIVESTOCK PROGRAM RESULTS 2009 AND OPTIONS FOR 2010**

#### **DR. MANNY ENCINIAS – NMSU**

- Reviewed some of the successes – handouts provided
- High altitude-brisket disease study
- Gained national recognition on the brisket disease study
- VCT is presently on the map nationally in the industry because of this study
- Cattle gained 3 lbs a day on grass alone, some gained 4 lbs/per day
- Most accurate testing was done compared to any similar study
- Dr. Encinias spoke of the VCT staff – Tim, Bob, & Dennis and what a great partnership they experienced with VCT.

#### **DENNIS TRUJILLO – VCT**

- Grazing report as per Bob's data
- Range conditions and capacities were determined by Bob and his staff
- After the fact data and good moisture indicated that the Preserve could have taken more livestock
- Preserve had no reported livestock/angler conflicts, no complaints from recreationists
- Preserve could create more pastures
- Recommendations to board:
  - VCT received positive feedback from Preserve users
  - Preserve had flexibility to run all projects and recreation activities concurrently
  - Staff was very pleased with outcomes
  - Research components were successful

Dan Jiron asked if we have we discussed multiyear commitments? Discussion ensued about the potential of using NMSU in future years versus going out for a new forage use RFP. Executive Director Gary Bratcher was asked to work with the Region 3 Forest Service, Office of General Counsel to determine proper procedure for contracting a livestock operation for next season. Provided legal counsel agreed, the Board preferred to continue with NMSU for a few years on a year-to-year basis, since the future management of the Preserve is uncertain.

**12:00 LUNCH**

**1:00 pm**

Continuation of the Board Meeting from the morning session:

Some discussion continued about next year's grazing potential.

**1:20 PM**

REVIEW OF 2010 SPENDING/REVENUE PROJECTIONS – DENNIS RINO – handouts provided

- accounts have been posted though December
- collections are slightly lower than last year at this time
- rental revenue is lower
- cattle revenue is the same as last year
- hunt revenue is up
- quarter's revenue is up
- summer recreation revenue is up
- store sales revenue is up
- winter recreation revenue is up

Expenditures projections are relatively constant each month, with a few months that spike due to certain purchases or activities that occur only at certain times of the year or seasonally.

Discussion of the budget and spending for 2010 and 2011 ensued.

Review of NPS Study and 2009 Report to Congress – little discussion but Board decided to discuss it further if anyone desired.

The BOT discussed having a position paper on the future management of the Valles Caldera National Preserve, something that would voice its desire to continue with the Valles Caldera Trust and enable it to do the necessary work to make it successful. It was decided that the Board members would try to work on one and announce it at the public meeting the following day.

**2:22 ADJOURN AND LEAVE FOR JEMEZ SPRINGS – TOUR SCIENCE/EDUCATION CENTER**