

Valles Caldera Trust
Minutes of the Working Meeting of the Board of Trustees
July 20, 2007
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Board members present

Tracy Hephner, Chair
Bill Keleher, Vice Chair
Raymond Loretto, Secretary
Jim Gosz
Stephen Henry
Dan Jiron, ex-officio
Darlene Koonz, ex-officio
Jim Range
Ed Tinsley

Staff present

Jeff Cross, Executive Director
Debbie Boggess, Administrative Officer (morning)
Bob Parmenter, Preserve Scientist (afternoon)

The chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

1. Working Meeting Minutes

The BOT asked the Executive Director to engage the services of a recorder to take minutes of the working meeting; the minutes will be reviewed by the BOT and posted on the Trust's Web site.

Ed Tinsley made the motion to approve taking minutes of BOT working meetings and publishing them on the Trust's Web site. Stephen Henry seconded. The motion was approved.

2. Turkey Hunt Briefing

In 2007, the Preserve offered the first wild turkey hunt since the Trust assumed management responsibilities for the property. The Trust offered the following programs: sale of eight all inclusive hunting packages for \$1,800 each and a public lottery for six hunts. Two hunts were donated to the National Wild Turkey Federation. All of the hunts had a bag limit of one turkey with a visible beard per hunter. The turkey hunts generated a total of \$20,280 for the Trust. The total program cost \$19,361.

The BOT asked the Executive Director about the long-term revenue potential. The Finance Committee (Ed Tinsley and Dan Jiron) will contact Dennis Trujillo to discuss revenue potential.

Stephen Henry made the motion to proceed with turkey hunts in FY08 with modifications to be determined by Henry, Dennis Trujillo and the Finance Committee. Ed Tinsley seconded. The motion was approved.

3. Jemez Springs Office Lease

The BOT discussed the lease for the Trust's Jemez Spring office that expires on May 1, 2008.

Ed Tinsley made the motion to negotiate a one-year lease with four one-year options to renew. Stephen Henry seconded. The motion was approved.

4. Valle Grande Entrance to the Preserve

The Executive Director gave an update on the VCNP main entrance project. The contractor gave NM Department of Transportation (NMDOT) a phasing plan for Highway 4 construction. Once NMDOT approves the plan, construction can begin and a new schedule will be developed. The project will take 60-90 days to complete.

5. Financial Audit

The Administrative Officer said that an RFP was sent to six audit firms on the GSA schedule and that proposals were due at Trust offices by 4:00 PM July 20, 2007. The audit committee (Darlene Koonz and Stephen Henry) will participate with Trust staff in the selection of a firm to audit the Trust's books from 2004 through 2007.

6. FY07 Budget

The Administrative Officer briefed the BOT on the status of the FY07 budget. As of June 30, 2007, the Trust had received \$3.5M in appropriations and had expended \$2.64M.

7. Accounting System

The Administrative Officer briefed the BOT on the status of the transition of the accounting system from the National Business Center (Department of Interior) to the US Forest Service. The transition is scheduled to be completed in September 2007 and be fully implemented on October 1, 2008.

8. FY08 Budget

The Finance Committee will work with the Executive Director and Administrative Officer to complete the first draft of the FY08 budget for approval at the September 2007 public Board meeting.

9. Meeting Schedule

The BOT reserved the following dates for potential working meetings and/or executive session: October 3 and November 16.

10. Science Planning

The Preserve Scientist made a presentation to the Board on the science program (past, present and future), which is based on NEPA and CEQ requirements to measure cumulative effects of Trust management actions. Past human activities (logging, fire suppression, livestock grazing, road/pipeline construction and wildlife population management) were reviewed emphasizing the effects of those practices on the current state of natural resources. Inventory and monitoring projects were described and details on purpose, need, objective, budget and completion status for each project were presented. Extramural research projects were described in relation to VCT goals. The potential for watershed restoration activities to enhance streamwater production was discussed; Bill K. asked for a future meeting to discuss this in detail. Three options for future science and education programs, including projected revenues, were presented and discussed.

11. Adjournment

The BOT adjourned the meeting at 5:05 PM.