**Aldo’s Steering Committee Meeting Notes for July 12, 2021**

(We met at Javalina coffee house and Joanie, Denise, Mary Lynn, Marty, Steph, Carol and Marcia attended)

Riparian - Grazing Team Update: Marcia summarized the June overnight monitoring trip to the San Francisco River and a tributary stream (Stone Creek) near the AZ / NM border not far from Luna. Trespass cattle were found and reported, particularly along Stone Creek. Marty summarized our monitoring trip along the San Francisco River via the hot springs trail in June. Joanie and Marcia met via internet with Sally Sharp this morning – Sally conveyed the suggestion that some CO GOB broadband members and / or Board members (Mary O’Brien) had regarding potential GOB conference calls focusing on grazing monitoring, or a grazing coalition meeting. After briefly discussing, we decided it would be a good thing to be involved to share ideas and experiences and see how this goes. Carol gave Aldo’s BB large format GNF maps for our use for monitoring and other activities. Thank you, Carol. These maps are wonderfully detailed and will be very helpful.

Fall Retreat -

 Registration / more detailed email with contact info: Steph and Carol will work on this and Carol will send this out by August 1 and will handle registration.

Service Project: Steph will make this contact.

When arrange for potential speaker? After brief discussion, we agreed that someone representing UGWA might be a good speaker for this year. Joanie will contact Carol Fugagli (Education and Outreach Director) to see if this is a possibility. We would provide a camping site and cover the campground use fees. Thank you, Carol, Steph, and Joanie, for working on these things for our Gila River retreat. All of us on the steering committee plan on attending this year’s retreat! At this time, we don’t anticipate having to use any of Aldo’s soft funding account for this gathering.

Border Wall and related issues: Marcia briefly summarized the June 22 AZ GOB Border Wall on-line event, including a description of basically where the new border wall is situated in NM. Miles Traphagen’s PowerPoint included slides / info relevant to NM, and we will attempt to get copies of this info, including a map of the border wall in NM. This will also hopefully provide a starting point for further discussions etc. with Miles regarding impacts from the border wall in SW NM and SE AZ. – and potentially a field trip during cooler weather. Sally Sharp will make the initial contact for us, to include Mary Lynn, Joanie, and Marcia. Joanie will send the latest advocacy item regarding the wall (2022 funding for rehab or removal) to the listserv.

Chiricahua - Peloncillo Heritage Days (Sat. Sept. 11) booth?: Mary Lynn and Joanie summarized this and noted that specifics are not yet posted. If they do have booths, we will participate in that. Mary Lynn, Joanie, and Marcia are tentatively planning on attending this event and could take turns at the booth. Mary Lynn suggested offering support for this event and she will contact Kim V. to let him know and encourage the planners to include a speaker such as Miles or others involved in the border wall remedial issues. (Thank you, Mary Lynn.) We decided to offer up to $150 in support, hopefully in support of such a speaker.

Ideas on getting more members or more active members (there are new people moving to this area) – We brainstormed some possibilities, including:

Downtown visitor center - Aldo’s / GOB info. Possibly realtor’s packet too, if they include organization’s info.

UU Forum

Articles in publications such as Desert Exposure or Independent weekly.

Fall announcement for winter brunch & participation

Invite folks 3 or so times a year to join us at the end of our steering committee meetings, to share the newsletters, visit over tea, and get more info on what we do.

As usual, emphasize membership etc. at our regularly scheduled events – starting with fall retreat.

Potential border wall /wildlife corridors field trip with knowledgeable guide or speaker.

Joanie reminded us that we will be needing a new co-leader and these efforts could also help with that. Next WALTS is April 2022 in person, and hopefully we’ll have someone attending that. We will work on these things starting this summer and fall.

Brief comments or news? Carol will watch the NM Green Amendment on-line session scheduled tomorrow, to see what the latest info includes. Thank you, Carol. Marcia mentioned that the NM Game & Fish Dept. has extended the non-navigable waterways certification comment period to July 29. (Such certification would essentially cut off access to public use of that stretch of the river or stream.) If wanting to comment, you will see the link on the NM Game & Fish website home page, near the bottom right. There are currently 5 private entities requesting such certification.