**Aldo’s Steering Committee Oct. 2021 Meeting Notes**

In attendance: Joanie, Mary Lynne, Denise, Marcia

Fall Retreat - Carol had suggested that next year we reach out to travel trailer and red barn possibilities, since our camping group is limited. (And camping space in hot springs campground is more limited.) If we make contacts and encourage this next time, we may reach broader participation. (Assumes Covid concerns are decreased from this year.) We could offer to help coordinate folks with their RV or Red Barn plans. It was also suggested that we could see what “venues” are available in the event that Wildwood is open.

Riparian - Grazing Monitoring Team update: Denise reported that she and Marty monitored the birding area last week and found one of the locks gone. The next hiking / monitoring trip is scheduled for Oct. 25 up the East Fork from Grapevine camp to where Black Canyon flows in. Marcia read an email inviting us to join a NM listserv focusing on livestock grazing issues. It was sent by the AZ & NM Director of Western Watersheds Project in Tucson. Presumably we would just receive relevant livestock grazing info via this listserv. This sounded appropriate to us, so Marcia will contact her to be added to the listserv. (Marcia will share pertinent info with riparian monitoring team. And of course the steering committee for something major.)

Marcia shared a highly informative and fairly detailed article titled “Range management fraught with challenges” written by Adam Mendonca (GNF). It appeared as a guest column page 3 of the Sept. 20, 2021 Silver City Daily Press. It is relevant to our stewardship and is definitely worth reading! It was probably written to coincide with the recent pulling of the grazing permit near here. (Attached.)

How to Get Folks More Involved in Key Roles:

Joanie got us another local member who wants to be involved. Thanks Joanie! This new member (Cathy) is a hiker so Joanie will connect her with the riparian monitoring team. Denise will contact her to describe what we do, etc.

Input on who we might contact re joining the steering committee? No specific suggestions at this time. We will pursue this as our activities / events proceed in the coming months.

Other ideas for more active members who can help us going forward? Joanie mentioned our new brochure. Joanie will keep a list of where we have distributed copies (library, WILL Rhoda House, coffee houses, etc.). Denise might contact Kendra Milligan to see how much it costs to include this in The Independent and will also try dropping off brochures at the downtown visitor center. Marcia mentioned some follow-up to those who indicated they may be interested in being more active in our member questionnaire last year. Based on this, Denise will try contacting Deanna to see if she may still be interested. Marcia will send a test message to our new Gmail address listed in the brochure, to verify it is received.

We discussed a potential trip in Nov. (or later) in hopes of rendezvousing with some of our Las Cruces members. Various things were discussed, including hiking and a meal. We could consider places such as Organ Mountains Desert Peaks Natl. Monument, hiking trails on the Rio Grande near Las Cruces, etc. We could see what they are interested in doing, of course. Marcia will draft an email to send to the Las Cruces / Mesilla GOB members regarding this, to see if they are hopefully still interested.

Feedback / info from recent SW Rendezvous: Joanie and Marcia summarized the GOB southwest leaders rendezvous north of Flagstaff. We focused on talking about GOB’s CES (Climate Education & Stewardship) program which is an educational initiative that connects regional climate change impacts, ecosystems, and resilience. It focuses on how our public lands can and should offer nature-based solutions to climate change. (Right now, holistically it does not function well regarding this because of the high levels of extractive industry leases on BLM or NF lands, etc.) Sally and Katya presented the draft video / PowerPoint that GOB is polishing for folks like us to use. Joanie and Marcia are interested in trying this presentation when it is tweaked and in addition to spurring advocacy, may also spur some individuals to be more active members. We will participate in training that GOB will be offering. You can read more about CES on the GOB website. Joanie has also spoken with a KURU host about a radio interview, and we could potentially talk about CES.

Ideas on potential southern NM / AZ trip this winter?

(Should we contact Myles T. re potential border trip to see if there is some appropriate activity for us, or pursue something else instead such as hiking and maybe camping?) We briefly discussed this and for right now think it best to see if the AZ broadbands are going to initiate a border trip this winter, and if so maybe they could include some of us in the effort. (Unknown at this point. We will follow-up with AZ broadband leaders and Sally.) This doesn’t preclude being more proactive re planning a border trip at a later date.

Briefly discuss potential winter brunch (or substitute field trip depending on covid)? Brief discussion - we can discuss next month.

Brief comments or news?