**Aldo’s Broadband Steering Committee Meeting August 14, 2023 (1:30 pm) Agenda**

Meet at La Cocina

Retreat 2023 – Sept. 18 & 19

 Registration Status (total so far, plus lodging, car and tent camping #s) – Carol is handling the registration and will send the Red Barn totals to Becky. Carol gave us a report of the totals so far.

Cost for Red Barn – the cost per person will be calculated once registration is closed, but it looks like possibly around $60/night per person.

 Best way to handle money for reservations? Carol will pay for the Red Barn once we get there (Marcia already paid $200 to hold it and will be reimbursed.) Anyone camping whether tent or RV site (car camping) will pay individually to Becky, as well as fee for dogs. Also, Carol will ask about fee for day use, for those that just come up for one day, for the use of the pavilion and facilities.

 Speaker & backup speaker(s)/ topics – Carolyn Koury with the Gila National Forest (Hydrologist and Riparian Specialist) will come if she is not out working on a fire. We will ask her to talk about what the Great Old Broads Grazing Committee monitoring program as well as topics such as wildfires in the Gila.

If it turns out that she can’t come, we will have topics prepared to talk about amongst ourselves. Topics that were suggested include Accomplishments and budget, 2024 Centennial ideas, Border Wall Committee, trail cams, the Rendezvous that Marcia will have attended by then.

Service project update – Marcia talked to Oliver Green at the Cliff Dwellings. He will put together a project for Tues morning. It may be helping Patrice and her Heart of the Gila Group. We will start at 9:00 instead of 9:30 am.

Postcard Advocacy Topics – Denise has the postcards and will bring them. The 3 topics we talked about are 1) BLM Oil and Gas Rule, 2) Border Wall Issue, also thank Heinrich and Lujan) and 3) NMDG&F’s Bear and Cougar kill rates.

 Background info for binder – Joanie and I will work together on the binders

 Send Retreat agenda, including what to bring, and service project info to participants – no later than September 8th. Marcia will send a draft for review, Carol will send to participants.

Determine who brings what – at next meeting. Proposed new date is Sept 12th, a Tuesday, instead of our usual Monday, so that Marcia will be back from the Rendezvous.

GNF Silver City West Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project Proposal:

Western Watershed (Tucson) and Gila Native Plant Society might share their comments with us. Comments due date Aug. 21st. Charmeine volunteered to draft comments for us to review.ds

Aldo’s BB Borderlands Committee status quick update:

Also, should we schedule a meeting with agenda item for 1 or 2 weeks after retreat, and let folks at the retreat know, to encourage those interested in engaging? Plus 5 – 10 minute update at retreat concerning recent settlement?

Aldo’s BB Borderlands Committee status update – Joanie reported that Starr may be doing a radio interview. We should highlight our 10-page comment letter – may help garner more support for the committee. Will schedule a meeting a week or two after the retreat while the interest is still high. Sally can help.

NM Game and Fish Bear and Cougar Rule – no due date for comments. We need to review the material. Joanie will put together comments for our Broadband and we will encourage individual comments.

Riparian - Grazing Monitoring Team brief update – skipped for lack of time

Gila Wilderness Centennial update – Table for Sept. meeting) and discuss at October meeting. Rio Grande Valley Broadband interested in joining us with planning this.