**Aldo’s Broadband Steering Committee Meeting June 12, 2023 Agenda at 9 am**

Meeting attended by 5 GOB’s – Marcia, Denise, Joanie, Stephanie and Charmeine

Retreat 2023 – Stephanie will contact Carol to see if she wants to head up the planning for the retreat this year. We talked about possible different venues to better accommodate those who can’t camp – the Wilderness Lodge, Portal, others? We checked the cost of the Wilderness Lodge and it is $850/night for 2 nights or more to rent the entire lodge. We checked our soft money account and there is over $800 in the account. We may be able to use some of that money to help defray the costs if we decide to rent the Lodge.

GOBW Advocacy for BLM Conservation Rule – Marcia and Denise plan to participate in the Grazing Coalition call where this will be the subject. Marcia will draft a letter/Denise will review, and then it will be sent to the Steering Committee for review prior to submittal.

Blurb for WILL Website List of Local Non-profit – Marcia wrote a blurb for the website that closely follows the mission statement. We reviewed and approved it. Marcia will send it to WILL

Protecting Mature & Old Growth Forests – Advocacy Re Forest Service Advance Notice of Rulemaking – revisit in July, invite individual comments on the listserv. This would be a good advocacy topic to comment on at the retreat.

Gratis GOBW “business” cards – All of the attendees at the meeting want business cards. Denise will get them made. We will use the national template that has 4 blank lines. We will put Aldo’s Silver City Broadband on the first line, our website on the second line, and that will leave 2 blank lines to put our own personal information.

Since we are going to get these printed, we also will have more brochures printed. The share drive has the new logo and the latest version of the brochure.

Continued Advocacy for Wildlife Corridor/ Highway Crossing Funding: The latest zoom call had technical problems and couldn’t take place, another will be scheduled soon to address a few issues. CPB is soliciting comments about their plans for the Border Barrier Remediation for CA, Yuma County, AZ and Hidalgo and Luna Counties in NM. Comments are due before June 22nd. The committee will divide up the task of writing comments for submittal. Another issue of concern is excessive lighting at the border wall and its effect on wildlife. CBD is submitting a letter to the CPB. In addition, the house bill for DHS appropriations has been released, and it commits $2 billion + for additional funding to complete the wall. GOB has signed on to a letter by the Border Coalition to oppose the bill.

Recent SC Daily Press article interviewee suggests advocating for priority funding in our area by contacting DOT. At the same time, we could write to the Governor. It was suggested this could be done at our retreat (postcard advocacy). In addition perhaps in November we could write to Siah (our NM Senator) for funding prior to the 2024 NM legislative session.)

Fotofauna Sky Island Webinar – Charmeine watched the presentation and said it was good. I had let George Farmer know about the project because he has been taking wildlife photos for years on Axle Ranch – he was on the zoom as well. So far the project has focused on AZ and northern Mexico. They welcome photos from SW NM. They encouraged folks to put cameras up on private property, had tips on where to put it, and suggested getting cameras that were over $60 to get good quality. The reporting is done once/month. The photos will be used to enhance border advocacy for wildlife crossings. We can watch the webinar once it’s available. We will give the folks on the listserv the link in case they want to watch and get involved. Stephanie and Charmeine plan to put out cameras on their property.

Riparian - Grazing Monitoring Team brief update: On May 23, four members monitored along the Gila River in the Bird Area, also checking the gate at Ira Canyon. Although all of the gates were closed and the gate on the upstream end has been fixed, we saw and reported at least a dozen cows/calves, lots of trampling and cattle sign. On May 31 two members monitored the San Francisco River from Head of the Ditch campground almost to the Hwy 180 bridge, then camped overnight for more monitoring on June 1. We did not see any fresh cattle sign along the river. On May 24th, four members met with the Forest Service staff to meet a new staff member who we will also be in contact with, and to get additional Avenza maps on new devices.

New member – Elizabeth Lloyd. We had talked to her at Earth Day event. Marcia will send her an email welcome.