**Aldo’s Broadband Steering Committee Meeting May 8, 2023 Agenda at 9 am** – attendees Marcia, Stephanie, Mary Lynn, Denise and Charmeine

Table for Earth Day April 2023 - Any brief follow-up / feedback?

New member welcome (Cindy from Earth Day) – 27 folks signed up for our listserve, the info was added to both the national and local listserves. Marcia will email a greeting and welcome to new paying member Cindy Beaver.

Let’s get stickers for next year’s Earth Day! And a sandwich board! Chasing the lightweight easel in the wind got a bit out of hand.

April Hike Mesilla Bosque – Any brief feedback/ follow-up? All of us really enjoyed Alex Mares presentation to us, a great historian and speaker. 15 folks were there for the talk by Alex, and 10 folks went on the short hike in the bosque. The Silver City folks and Michele from Cruces ate at a great restaurant just down the road called Farmesilla.

Gila Guardians & Mogollon Mine - potential sign-on letter to GNF Supervisor re mineral withdrawal request – yes, we should sign onto the letter.

Draft GOBW Strategic Plan – Denise provided comments to Headquarters on the draft plan, we will send it out to everyone once it is finalized.

Collaboration with Local Environmental Org(s) – let’s all keep in mind that we can volunteer for other local environmental orgs whenever possible, and Charmeine pointed out that this can be counted as in-kind volunteer work with that org. GOBW’s count the volunteer hours in our activity reports. Volunteer hourly work time is worth $27/hr. when working within a grant. Charmeine and I can see if there is anything to collaborate on with UGWA in the near future, although Charmeine won’t be working for them much longer. She wants to be more available for the grazing monitoring team – yay!

Sky Island Webinar and email – Starr received an email from Sky Island about volunteer wildlife photo documentation in NM. They have a good database started in Arizona but are lacking much info from NM. There will be a Zoom mtg about it on June 6th. Marcia will send out an email about it to the listserve.

Mary Lynn and Stephanie have had wildlife cameras on their land in the past, and are interested in the photo monitoring project, and Charmeine is interested in doing it as well. They all live in rural areas that are visited by all kins of wildlife.

GOBW Advocacy for BLM Conservation Rule – this is an important issue right now that needs a comprehensive response because BLM owns so much land along with the mineral rights. Our national office is preparing comments right now, and solicited expertise on a variety of subjects that will be covered in their comments. We also may get the opportunity to sign on to another org’s comment letter.

Gila Wilderness Centennial – Try to get back in loop with GNF & other non-profit orgs to know how planning is going. Charmeine said she can send us UGWA’s email invitation so that we know who to contact.

Marcia and Denise talked to Sally about how to go about planning a Broad Work, with Sally saying that we should start planning at least 6 months out. Sally also said that the Arizona Broads are doing a Broad Work in April 2024 concerning the border wall. We’ll need to take that into consideration in our planning for a date.

Gratis GOBW memberships & “business” cards – We get 10 free memberships per year, who should we give them to? Sally said they should be given to folks that show an interest in working with our local Broadband. One suggestion was to have a mini lottery with the 27 folks that signed up to be on our listserve on Earth Day, giving away 2 of the memberships that way.

Business cards – all of the steering committee members can get cards made up. Marcia and Denise will look at the form on the dashboard of the National website to see what will be involved to get them done.

Riparian - Grazing Monitoring Team brief update: There was a May monitoring targeted for May 15 – 16 with an overnight in Reserve District planned, but it appears that rain may cause a cancellation. The grazing committee is scheduled to monitor the Gila Bird Conservation area on May 23 for our monthly monitoring of that site. Last month, cows were found in the bird area and the gate that we found open the month before was still open.

**Brief FYIs or News**

FYI, signed on to letter regarding the sage-grouse rider exclusion from final FY2024 appropriations legislation.

Aldo’s BB Borderlands zoom meeting – As of now, scheduled for Friday May 12 at 1 pm

We sent Senator Heinrich a request to initiate a “Dear Colleague” letter to fellow Senators regarding redirecting previously funded border wall construction funds – for rehab rather than construction, etc.

Charmeine would like to be added to the emails.