**Aldo’s Broadband Steering Committee Meeting Monday Nov. 13, 2023 Agenda**

**(1:30 pm at Javalina)**

**Attendees:** Marcia, Joanie, Denise, Carol, Charmeine and Debra Whittemore (new member)

Meet with Las Cruces Members Dec. Meeting –

Dec. 11 steering committee meeting plus opt. hike/ walk or other activity – Marcia emailed Michele and Lori and they are both available for that date.

Meet at City of Rocks or Spring Canyon section of Rock Hound SP, or? (Fort Seldon closed Mondays) – Spring Canyon is a pretty hike that would be good for all of us. Marcia will send an email to Michele and Lori with the 2 options and see what they say.

Picnic or restaurant while meeting – Charmeine will check to see what restaurants are open in Deming on Mondays. We can plan to hike and eat at the restaurant. If we know it is going to be nice weather and not too cold, we could plan to picnic.

Back-up date depending on weather forecast – we would meet at the restaurant and not hike if the weather is bad.

Aldo’s BB Borderlands Committee

Report on recent Zoom meeting with Myles T. including checking two border wall gates – Myles requested that the gates be checked 2 times per year. It looks like Dec/Jan and June/July could work. The folks that are interested in checking the gates are Marcia, Starr, Maree, Denise Jones, Denise Smith, Charmeine and Debra Whittemore. We need to take 2 cars. Myles will send us the locations on a google map through My Maps. We need to check our phones to make sure we can open and use the app. We will notify Myles when we have a date in January. We can ask Myles if we should notify DHS or Border Patrol when we go.

National of the GOB Sign-on Letter re environmental law waivers – yes, we want to sign on as a Broadband. Marcia will ask Sally if our Border Committee can be a separate signator.

Possible advocacy NEPA - wall infrastructure, Heinrich / Vasquez – check with Starr to see if she can still write the letter.

FYI: Borderlands Biodiversity Broadwalk April 2024 registration should be open mid-November – several of us plan to sign up for this. It may fill up quickly so we are watching closely for the notice.

BLM comment period for Recreation Area Management Plan for the Gila Lower Box – Denise provided a summary of the draft EA. Denise will draft comments (due 12/1/23) for steering committee review.

Gila Wilderness Centennial –

Zoomed with Rio Grande GOB co-leaders and they will partner with us - Marcia summarized discussion. Susan and Irene are interested in helping and attending.

Review proposed dates and back-up dates (Plus mention date proposals to LC members in Dec.) – Proposed dates are September 16,17, 18 starting on a Monday, or 17, 18, 19 starting on a Tues. Oct 3, 4 and 5 are possibilities as well. Not sure that we can set a backup date as reservations need to be made months earlier to be sure to have the entire Gila Hot Springs Ranch area reserved.

Make combined retreat /Gila Wilderness centennial celebration site reservations in early January – Denise checked with Becky Campbell and we can make the reservations in January 2024 at the earliest.

Carol said she will handle the individual reservations again next year.

Response to our comment letter re Lamplight Leach System groundwater discharge permit – we received an email response to our comments, which included the recommendation that we ask for a hearing to air our concerns. Joanie said that Allyson from GRIP and GCC called her and said it is not advisable to request a hearing. We will drop the issue for now.

Riparian - Grazing Monitoring Team brief update – Denise provided an update on the monitoring trip to Reserve that was done last month.

Also note that we are prominently mentioned (and pictured!) in the Fall 2023 Broadsides, page 6. Check it out!

**Annual Brunch** – Proposed date is January 20th. Joanie has graciously agreed to host the potluck again this next year. We will invite the Las Cruces gals to join us.

**Additional Get Together** suggested by Carol – have a meeting at her house sometime next year with a potluck with our Las Cruces cohorts.

**FYI – notice to impound unauthorized livestock in the Silver City District** – Marcia passed around a newspaper article that puts ranchers on notice that their cattle can be impounded if they are found in unauthorized areas. We applaud this move by the Gila National Forest supervisor.

**NM Wild News** – NM Wild’s latest newsletter asks for assistance in identifying areas in Luna and Dona Ana Counties that need protection, for example in the Organ Mountains.

Also, the new Gila Grassroots Coordinator is announced – Luke Koenig. We should invite him to our brunch to give us a short talk. Denise will find his email and ask him if he would like to come and meet us.