**Aldo’s Broadband Steering Committee Meeting Monday Feb 12, 2024 Notes**

 (Joanie, Charmeine, Denise, Steph, Marcia)

Debrief of January 20 Annual Brunch

22 participants, lots of great food, successful and fun. Sign-ups – Candace Breen-Lee and Maree McHugh for Borderlands Committee, specifically flood/ wildlife gate monitoring. Also, three new attendees signed up for our general listserv.

A $20 donation was received. This will be applied to advocacy postcards printing or Aldo’s “business” cards. Denise will send the GOB card template to Charmeine who will tweak it for our purposes. Marcia will deal with postcard printing using the same monitoring image. Also – thank you Joanie for your thoughtful donation of 100 postage stamps depicting endangered species, for our postcard/ letter advocacy efforts!

Marcia will send a welcome email to new GOB member Deb Preusch.

We were so glad we got to catch up with our esteemed steering committee member Steph. Thank you for your thoughtful input and leadership for more than a decade! Not to mention your retreat coordination, which as Denise mentioned – after doing that this past Sept. we realize how much work it is – but very fun too.

Update from Sally – Marcia, Joanie and Denise zoomed with Sally on Feb 5th, mostly about our Borderlands Committee. Per steering committee discussion, Marcia will contact Lauri Costello to see if she might coordinate / lead Borderlands Committee Zoom meetings and maintain the corresponding google groups list. She would also be working with Sally Sharp if she takes on this role. Also, Marcia will contact Maree M. to ask her to let co-leaders know if she conducts radio interviews relating to our Borderlands Committee so we can upload it as an activity report, helping to document all our work. (Plus pass along a polite reminder that GOB linked interviews on this topic should only address our wildlife corridors emphasis and other environmental issues, given the mission of GOB.

Aldo’s BB Borderlands Committee

- Debrief on trip to border wall to check on wildlife gates: Six women went to the border to meet with Myles Traphagen. Many folks took great notes, and Marcia put those notes on our google drive and wrote up the activity report. Follow up with Sally, next steps, planning next trip in April or May potentially with Myles T. to install wildlife cameras near the 2 flood/ wildlife gates. Plus, we aim to schedule a Borderlands Committee Zoom to recap the trip and reiterate our GOB focus for this committee. Marcia came up with a list of current roles for our Borderland Committee and she will share that with Lauri if she decides to help.

Earth Day

- From GRIP: This year's theme Planet vs. Plastics, unites students, parents, businesses, governments, churches, unions, individuals, and NGOs in an unwavering commitment to call for the end of plastics for the sake of human and planetary health, demanding a 60% reduction in the production of plastics. GRIP sent out an invitation to come to planning meetings. If anyone from our group wants to participate, they are welcome to.

We decided on a 10x10 tabling space. We brainstormed ideas and decided to search something relevant and succinct from the internet regarding reducing plastics to have at the table along with our regular information on what our broadband focuses on. In addition, this year we could have a drawing for “several” goodies bags containing metal drinking bottles, GOBW stickers etc. and non-plastic eating utensils for outdoor activities. Charmeine suggested we see if local businesses might donate these items for us, and Denise will contact Morning Star and Ace Hardware regarding this. Charmeine suggested the donors could be acknowledged in the gift bags, and via a news release or similar for our Facebook Page etc., which she could write. We will need some folks to set up, take down, and be at the table hopefully in two shifts and will figure this out at our March meeting. (Let us know if you are interested.) We will also need to pay for the “tabling” registration fee.

Steering Committee/Soak at Faywood – We will aim for a combined steering committee meeting and hot springs soak on Monday March 11. Denise will contact Faywood to see if there are picnic tables or similar where we can meet to have our informal meeting over picnic lunch, followed by an hour soak. Denise will make reservations for one of the pools accommodating 10 folks or so. We will need to know how many of our steering committee members are planning on attending, and then open it up (to our listserv, first come first served basis?) after that. This will hopefully give us a chance to connect with some more of our members. Depending on how popular this is, next time we can consider renting the large hot pool, but based on cost this time we will go with a medium-sized pool.

Gila Wilderness Centennial & Our Annual Retreat – Sept 16-18, 2024

- Denise made reservations for the Gila Hot Springs Ranch including the “Red Barn”, tent camping area and pavilion. Marcia paid the deposit. Marcia and Denise will go up the day before to get setup. Marcia made a reservation for one downstairs apartment that night (Sept 15th) as well, for Susan and Irene coming in from Albuquerque. Later this week Marcia will email Susan and Irene to see if they want to meet via Zoom with several of us the last week of February or the first half of March regarding additional preliminary planning.

Follow-Up with Luke Koenig (NM Wild) – Luke asked about our possible participation in support of the proposed BLM Public Lands Rule. New Mexico Wild is partnering with the Pew Charitable Trusts in a social media campaign to help support the Rule. They are looking for people who might be interested in providing a quote and picture of themselves (ideally outside) and thought that local GOB leaders would be a relevant addition. Denise and Marcia will work on this together, via a sort of duo pitch & images.

Mimbres Peak National Monument – there is a website now, with NM Wild, Outdoor NM, Friends of the Floridas and a bunch more orgs. Website: https://protectmimbrespeaks.org/learn-more/

- Under the “Take Action” button, you can sign on to a support letter – should we sign on individually or as a group? Currently the only option via this link appears to be from individuals, but Denise will check the link.

Riparian - Grazing Monitoring Team brief update –

1. Vigil Springs - Had some push back from Glenwood District Ranger about copying our emails to Carolyn before he has a chance to correct the problem. Discussed issue and will continue to copy Carolyn on emails.

2. Monitoring trip to Gila Bird Conservation Area – cows were being removed from the exclosure, again.

- All 6 Grazing Monitoring Committee members met with FS – Silver City District Ranger, Range Conservationist and Carolyn Koury. Wrote a follow-up letter to document the meeting. We’re headed back to the Bird Conservation Area this Friday and discussed going back to Vigil Springs perhaps later this month if the road dries out.

FYI Charmeine offered to create short Aldo’s broadband newsletters (including photos) of our activities or advocacy action items which could be shared with our listserv and our Facebook Page. (Thanks Charmeine!)

Natural History of the Gila Symposium: A reminder that this runs from Feb. 28 – March 1 and kicks off the Gila Wilderness centenary celebration. Check it out and share relevant info with us as you see fit.

Other Agenda Items (if there is time)

- Arizona Air Force SUA optimization Draft EIS - Air Force is consulting with agencies on the draft EIS, and a draft for public review/ comment in early spring is expected. We can plan to sign onto the comments, and go to public meetings when possible.