



FREE ROAMING HORSE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes for January 9, 2019

Members Present	D1 Commissioner Katherine Bruch, SCSO Captain Allen Mills, Community Services Director Anne Ryan, State Veterinarian Dr. Ralph Zimmerman, Citizen Member Peggy Roberts, Citizen Member Paul Fish, and Citizen Member Jessica Johnson. <i>(The fourth Citizen Member seat remains vacant as the original nominee from D2 Commissioner Block withdrew. The application link remains live so that Commissioner Block can consider others to nominate from his District).</i>
Members Absent	Angel Martinez, BLM Regional Manager (Federal Furlough)
Non-Members Present	Please see attached sign-in sheet, noting that not everyone present chose to sign in.

Welcome and Introductions:

Discussion	Applicable Action(s)
Meeting Commenced at 2p and Council Members and Interested Parties in attendance introduced themselves.	

Reminder re 3 min Public Comment Rule:

Discussion	Applicable Action(s)
Anne Ryan reminded everyone of the 3-minute rule on public comment and to please respect that so the Council can get through their full Agenda. Attendees were instructed to wait	Peggy Roberts will serve as time keeper to ensure consistent equity among all in attendance.

until an Item concluded before being invited to speak, less Q&A presentation section. She also reminded the Council that it's their privilege and duty to listen, rather than engage in debate. Everyone was thanked in advance for making a committed effort to work together effectively.	
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Approval of Minutes from the December 18, 2018 Meeting:

Discussion	Applicable Action(s)
	Motion made to approve absent opposition. Webpage will be updated to post these under the Dec 18, 2018 Meeting.

County Budget Process and any anticipated Ask from the Commission:

Discussion	Applicable Action(s)
Anne Ryan shared with the Council about the County's Budget Process and requested committee Leads to submit an anticipated FY20 budget request not later than 01/31/19.	Committee Leads agreed to request as stated.

Committee Updates:

Discussion	Applicable Action(s)
Planning Committee: Anne Ryan reported that she and Peggy Roberts have met several times since the Dec 18 Council Meeting focusing on items such as an anticipated budget ask, potential Proclamation or Resolution, the PZP program, development of the Agenda, and related matters. They also discussed a number of proposed activities and met with short and long term committee leads or liaisons. They as well met with incoming D1 Commissioner Bruch whom offered her commitment and support towards sustainable resolve. Anne Ryan also reported that	Committees to continue with planning and development as described and will consistently report out during Council Meetings. Members of the public to use the Council webpage should they wish to send information to the Council.

Dr. Anne Hale, DVM, will be joining the Planning Committee and can also serve as a consultant to the Council. Dr. Hale is a local resident and President Elect of the New Mexico Veterinary Association. Dr. Hale comes highly recommended by her DVM peers, is a horse owner, and has a number of clinical lectures from the AAEP (equine practitioners' mtg) re free roaming horse management that she'd be happy to also present to the Council and community. Finally, Anne Ryan shared that they worked with IT and PIO to provide a vehicle for community input on the Council webpage which is now live and may be accessed here:

<https://www.sandovalcountynm.gov/free-roaming-horse-advisory-council/>

Public Safety/Public Awareness Committee (aka “short term planning team”):

Allen Mills reported that his team consists of Clea Hall, Jeff Roberts, Paul Fish, and Marty Clifton, while Paul Fish reported that they've met once since the Dec 18 Council Meeting and have developed a list of short term items they intend to tackle within the next few months such as:

- Allen will be preparing a pamphlet to be handed out by deputies regarding the horses, consequences of speeding, etc.
- They want to develop a public awareness program teaching people not to feed the horses from a road because it encourages the horses to be on the road and providing other information, including the PZP project.
- They want to establish signage in the areas with horses to alert people to be careful
- They want to increase speed enforcement on specified road stretches that often have horses present. (The pamphlet would be given the speeder along with whatever ticket or warning or whatever the deputy thought proper.)
- They want to secure overtime compensation for deputies supporting the PZP program.
- They want to explore speed humps for certain roads to slow down the excessive speeding, and believe that Tecolote road is a prime example.
- They want to establish an effective public notification system on the presence of horses on the road so that the Sheriff's office can gather information about where the horses congregate.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They would like to have an approved program for a contracted vet who will be called for horses that might need to be put down. The vet would make the medical decision and euthanize the horse if that is the right thing to do. The program would also include a contracted person to remove the body. • They recommend that the County obtain a radar speed sign that can be used for control on horse-heavy locations as well as generally in the County. • They would like to do research to see the ordinances or laws of other communities that have these same wild horse issues so that the Council can begin to figure out what ordinances or laws might be appropriate for Sandoval County. • Longer term projects but still "short term" would include investigating whether cattle guards and/or fences could be constructively used. • Anticipating a \$30k ask for FY20 for these and related activities. <p>Preservation, Protection, and Resource Development Committee (aka “long term planning team”): Jessica Johnson reported that her team consists of Sandy Johnson, Bobbi Nuremberg, and former D1 Commissioner Holden-Rhodes. However, she reported that Dr. Holden-Rhodes decided to resign from his role on the committee once his Commission term ended and as such Jessica is recruiting those with unique professional skill sets such as strategic planning, program development, ecotourism management, and related. She reported that they’ve met once since the Dec 18th Council Meeting and will work towards the development of long term plans to recommend that include things like mapping and research, carrying capacity, review of other sustainable models, effective ecotourism programs, and related.</p>	
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Presentation by County PZP Vendor:

Presentation with Q&A	Applicable Action(s)
<p>Anne Ryan introduced presenters Dr. Karen Herman and Justin and Elena Marquez by reporting that Sandoval County has contracted with Mt. Taylor Mustangs to administer a fertility control program for the free roaming horses in the Placitas area</p>	<p>Mt. Taylor will continue to report at Council Meetings and those wishing to provide them with helpful information</p>

through the use of PZP (Porcine Zona Pellucida), which is considered “the” industry standard wildlife fertility control method that has been successfully used for decades.

Mt. Taylor Mustangs is a local professional organization that has been providing humane, safe, science-based management of wild horses on both public and private lands since 2004. They are considered subject experts in this highly specialized field and their professional experience includes the development of nationally recognized innovations and sustainable practices.

Mt. Taylor Mustangs is acutely aware of the complexities behind this issue at the local level, and their demonstrated history of working collaboratively with polarized groups to build common ground will well serve the Placitas community, other Placitas organizations committed to this issue, and the Advisory Council as a whole.

Mt. Taylor Mustangs will be working in conjunction with the Sandoval County Sherriff’s Office to ensure public safety while canvassing in the area, and they will also be working with the Advisory Council to help build awareness about the importance of such a program.

It’s important to note that mares currently pregnant and expected to foal this spring will not be harmed when treated, but rather their future pregnancy prevented. It’s also important to note that PZP used for equine fertility control does not enter the digestive track and therefore poses no threat to plant life or other wildlife.

In addition to the administration of a fertility control program, Mt. Taylor Mustangs will conduct a population survey in order to provide an in-depth assessment of the free roaming herds, and they will also develop a working draft of a recommended herd management plan for review by the Advisory Council.

The County’s contract with Mt. Taylor Mustangs is for an initial two-year term, within which time The County expects to help control herd growth while the Advisory Council works to develop short and long term humane, sustainable recommendations for the free roaming horses of the Placitas area.

Dr. Herman and her colleagues then provided a formal presentation about their proposal to the County, and shared that to date they’ve treated 12 free roaming mares.

may do so through the Council’s webpage.

Q&A/general discussion followed with queries such as their intended methods, assurances of no intent to eradicate herds, contract amount, how to provide them with information, and offered support by several in attendance.	
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NMSU Symposium Synopsis:

Discussion	Applicable Action(s)
Jessica Johnson and Paul Fish provided a summarized account – see attached Agenda – which was followed by Public Comment (below). Most concurred that a primary point of agreement was that a legislative fix was needed.	

Council Considerations for Resolution or Proclamation:

Discussion	Applicable Action(s)
Anne Ryan reminded the Council that the County is a political subdivision of the State of New Mexico and as such must align its laws and policies with State statutes and regulations. Should the County’s Ordinance need to be revised specific to this issue, since that’s a more extended process there are the options of a Resolution or Proclamation that can be introduced in the interim as a statement of value to clarify Council intent and help reassure concerned community members.	Commissioner Bruch plans to meet with Sherriff Casaus about this particular topic since the function of Animal Control is under the authority of SCSO.

Other Business:

Discussion	Applicable Action(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB158: Copy attached. • Placitas Wild President Sandy Johnson was provided protected time to report that San Felipe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council to consult with all appropriate parties to determine County position on this particular piece of proposed legislation.*

<p>Pueblo has directed them to remove their 70 horses by 02/19/19. See attached letter she handed out to attendees. Placitas Wild is a 501c3 established after a series of round-ups several years ago. The Pueblo of San Felipe offered to serve as preserve in partnership with Placitas Wild. Providing 60 days to develop an alternate plan for 70 horses is not feasible and they're asking for help.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandy Johnson provided her contact information so that people can reach out with resources to assist. She will also meet with Commissioner Bruch about requesting a realistic extension date from the newly-elected Pueblo Governor (the Notice Letter was signed by the former Governor).
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Public Comment:

Discussion	Applicable Action(s)
<p>Occurred throughout the meeting and is summarized here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patience O'Dowd: Reported that SB158 removes protections of horses because it allows for "convenience euthanasia." Recommended that community members be educated about adverse effects of snake weed on horses esp during drought and that Dr. Smallridge can assist. Felt that NMSU Symposium made certain presumptions re the 2007 piece of legislation and the (then) NM Horse Council. Reported that she plans to push a State Wild Horse License Plate this session and will notice all Interested Parties with additional detail when available. • Steve Simmons: Recommended on-line review of ecotourism in particular an Idaho-based program that works in partnership with the BLM. Also suggested a table during Wildlife Day at this year's Session. • Jennifer Lesh: Expressed interest in serving on the long-term committee, and disagreed with proposed SCSO pamphlets as felt wasted paper and electronic notice more effective. • Sandy Johnson: Shared that when they brought the ED of the Corolla herd out to speak she supported the use of pamphlets. 	<p>All were thanked for their comments.</p>

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gary Miles: Reminded County of WHOA/PAR offers to help with PZP, fencing, and cattle guards, and shared disappointment of reported reply by former Commissioner. He also expanded on 2007 legislation and Patience's role. Expressed concerned about removal of horses and County intent.• Marty Clifton: Asked about County's position on SB158 (see above*)• Clea Hall: Underscored importance of everyone coming together, esp in light of Placitas Wild's critical situation.• Paul Madrid: Reported that he's a land owner looking to potentially provide help with devised plans as he explores repurposing his ranching activities. | |
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The Meeting Adjourned at 4p.