



## **FREE ROAMING HORSE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Meeting Minutes for July 10, 2019

<b>Members Present</b>	Angel Martinez, Dr. Ralph Zimmerman, Commissioner Bruch, Anne Ryan, Allen Mills, Paul Fish, Peggy Roberts, and Jessica Johnson
<b>Members Absent</b>	Ania Klas

### **1. Welcome and Council Announcements:**

<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Applicable Action(s)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commissioner Bruch thanked everyone for attending and gave special nods of thanks to Council members for their dedication of time and effort throughout this process.</li><li>• Dr. Zimmerman provided informational updates on the VSV situation throughout the State, and referred folks to the NMLB website for additional resources. Sandoval County residents were also referred to the County website on information about its expanded vector control program to help mitigate in targeted areas and/or how to opt out.</li><li>• Anne Ryan reminded everyone that in order to get through the Agenda within the allotted meeting time, public comment will remain reserved until the end and that those wishing to provide public comment must sign up prior to meeting commencement. And she again shared that anyone is welcome to provide public comment or constructive input at any time through the Council webpages contained on the County website. She finally stated that Council Member Ania Klas could not make today's meeting due to a conflict.</li></ul>	

## 2. Approval of Minutes from April 10, 2019 Meeting:

Discussion	Applicable Action(s)
Anne Ryan reminded Council that the Draft Minutes contained in their packets were also emailed following the April 10 <sup>th</sup> meeting absent recommended edits and moved that the Minutes be approved.	Allen Mills seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by all Members of the Council present.

## 3. The Science of Range Management:

Discussion	Applicable Action(s)
Presentation by BLM's Angel Martinez and Adam Lujan, whom described their formal methodology for calculating range carrying capacity ratios with the overarching goal of having the land last. Following their calculations, if free roaming horses were ever to be permitted onto the appx 3k acres of the Buffalo Tract that range could withstand 18 horses.	N/A

## 4. Fertility Control Program Progress Report:

Discussion	Applicable Action(s)
<p>Presentation by Dr. Herman which revealed and/or reminded attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 124 horses among 19 bands have been assessed and counted to date.</li><li>• 65 mares and fillies have been treated with PZP primer dose and 49 of those have been boosted.</li><li>• PZP is a vaccine against conception &amp; is <u>reversible</u></li><li>• PZP is safe for pregnant mares, foals in utero, the environment, and other wildlife</li><li>• Treatment this year will prevent births next year, in 2020</li><li>• Abscesses at the injection site are normal &amp; have been observed for some Placitas horses</li><li>• Over 30 years of research demonstrates that PZP is safe for treated mares</li></ul>	N/A

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feeding free-roaming horses in Placitas is likely extending the breeding season and increasing reproduction rates</li> <li>• Injuries &amp; deaths may be occurring for members of the Placitas herd due to competition over feeding</li> <li>• Band disbursement is likely more concentrated in particular areas of the community due to feeding &amp; limited forage &amp; water</li> <li>• Likely fall issue of working draft recommendations for a herd management plan, which will review data from the population survey &amp; PZP treatment; include considerations to make more room for the herd, herd health, forage &amp; water availability, &amp; range health, along with potential goals for achieving &amp; sustaining healthy horses and healthy range now and over time</li> </ul>	
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## 5. Subcommittee Updates:

Discussion	Applicable Action(s)
<p>Short Term Committee: Captain Mills provided updates through a power point presentation that is posted on the Council pages.</p> <p>Long Term Committee: Jessica Johnson shared that the Committee was restructured to include only citizen appointees (rather than community members) and that she needs to take a step back as Lead because she is expecting a baby so Peggy Roberts will now assume that role. Peggy Roberts then updated everyone on their Committee activities which involves meeting with as many Placitas residents, or their organizational representative, as possible. She stated that the Committee has met with Las Placitas Assoc., ES-CA, Placitas Chamber of Commerce, Coronado Soil and Water Conservation District, San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant representatives, and representatives from three Home Owner Assoc. They've contacted 15 HOAs and are attempting to meet with each. They are asking to meet with their associations or with their Boards, who can relay the information to their membership. They realize that most of the horses exist in areas that do not have HOAs – like Mustang Mesa, Camino de las Huestas, Rosa Castilla and Camino de Tecolote, as examples, and they are exploring ways to host meetings with these residents.</p>	Committees to continue current efforts.

<p>She stated that the Long Term planning committee is comprised of the four citizen members because they feel it is important that as many council members as possible without achieving a quorum hear Placitans' opinions, and they ask other members of the Council to attend when a citizen member is not available.</p> <p>She described that they distribute a handout explaining the purpose and composition of the Horse Council, how to correspond with the Council and how to find meeting minutes and presentations located on the County's website. She said that they also handout and explain NM State Statute 77-18-5 that regulates Wild Horses in the State. They also address the misconception some residents have regarding NM "fence out laws" as these laws only apply to livestock – not Wild Horses as defined by the referenced statute. They also explain the work the County Commission contracted Mr. Taylor Mustangs to perform.</p> <p>Mrs. Roberts stated that they then solicit Placitan opinions as they are interested in their experiences with the FR horses – positive and negative and how the horses are affecting their lives. The Committee asks if they would find value in having a nearby horse sanctuary and discuss with them who should take the responsibility for the FR horses, what the responsibility would look like and who would pay for it. They also ask if the responsibility for keeping horses off private property where they are not wanted be on the individual property owner or the entire Placitas Community. They additionally ask if they feel the County should adopt enforceable "rules of engagement", such as feeding and watering. And they ask if they have any suggestion for legal, long-term, humane and sustainable solutions.</p> <p>She concluded by advising attendees if their neighborhood, group, book club, etc., would like to meet with the Committee to please contact them via the County website.</p>	
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## 6. Public Comment:

Discussion	Applicable Action(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fred Griesbacher: Error – thought it was a general sign in sheet.</li> <li>Lynn Montgomery: Passed around a picture of a horse hit by a vehicle and underscored his public safety concerns.</li> </ul>	

- Lauri Jaramillo: Would like for others not to monopolize time during Q&A when permitted. Otherwise stated approval of Council efforts and excellent work by Mount Taylor Mustangs.
- Doris Forshee: Appreciated BLM presentation as it provided better balance of the entire issue.
- Gary Miles: Demanded resignation of Anne Ryan and responses to his IPRA requests. Also very angry that the County has allegedly ignored WHOA's multiple concerns and/or offerings of help.
- Bobbi Nurenberg: Comments directed to BLM, who had to exit at 3p and were no longer present. Wants people to understand that horses rounded up several years ago and since distributed among non-profits or otherwise adopted were/remain Placitas horses and should be considered in future planning.
- Sandra Simons-Ailes: Stated that the horses are destructive and described some of her experiences. She also suggested that gelding foals shortly after they drop should be included as a recommendation.
- Donna Von Stetten: Believes that this is a new problem as she's lived in the area for 40 years and the horses were not present then and PZP won't solve the issue.
- Julio Carattini: Lives among several bands and loves them all. States that they frequent his corral and that he's not had any issues less one when he assisted after a stallion broke the neck a colt.
- Kristin Darnell: Stated that she comes from a professional equestrian family and is familiar with the Placitas herds. She stated that she came to listen and learn and that she's seen marked improvement on the issue since her recollection of the situation back in 2010.
- Mike Neas: Stated people should not monopolize time during Q&A sections when offered, and that he appreciated the report by the Long Term Committee and hopes progress continues.

Additional Public Comment permitted due solely to time and only by those whom have not already provided public comment:

- Patience O'Dowd: Talked about adverse impact of drought and stated that the management plan from 2007 is not being followed.
- Jennifer Lesh: Stated that education is needed to "stop the propaganda."
- Sally Hall: Reminded everyone that we're talking about living beings whom have something to teach us if we're willing to listen.

## 7. Comments from the Council:

Discussion	Applicable Action(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Paul Fish: Stated that he's witnessed a totally dysfunctional community on this issue over the last 15 years, and that the community now has a real opportunity to come together. He restated the mission of the Council and encouraged everyone to focus on solutions rather than recycling unproductive statements about the problem.</li><li>• Commissioner Bruch: Again thanked the Council for all of its efforts and apologized on behalf of her constituents for some of the inappropriate and rude behavior demonstrated by some of today's attendees. She stated that should such behavior occur in the future they will be required to exit.</li><li>• Jessica Johnson: Stated that many whom come to these meetings make a number of assumptions that simply aren't true, and she encouraged everyone to truly listen and suspend their judgments so that we can progress productively.</li><li>• Dr. Zimmerman: Restated VSV cautions, means to mitigate, symptoms to watch for, and again referred folks to the NMLB website for updates.</li><li>• Anne Ryan: Thanked Dr. Anne Hale (not present) for her presentation at the last meeting and encouraged people to review her posted power point as it provided important considerations the community will eventually need to determine about by agreement Rules of Engagement.</li></ul>	

## 8. Adjourn – The Meeting adjourned at appx. 3:55p