

**GALISTEO WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP
MEETING NOTES
MAY 5, 2006**

Meeting held at Santa Fe Community College Board Room
9:30-noon

PRESENT: Alan Ragins (NPS), Rici Peterson (SFCT), Leslie Barclay (EWI), Bill Baxter (Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition, CS37, San Marcos Association), Beth Mills (SF County Planning), Sig Silber (San Marcos Association), Andrew Jandacek (SF County Planning), Judy McGowan (SF County Planning), Lucy Lippard (Galisteo Village Planning Committee), Sher Churchill (BLM Taos), Julie True (Santa Fe National Forest – Pecos/LV Ranger District), Kim Kostelnik (NM EMNRD Forestry Division), Todd Haines (NM EMNRD Forestry Division), Dave Simon (NM EMNRD State Parks Division), Lura Bookins (People for Native Ecosystems), Philip Balcombe (Eldorado Community Improvement Association), Ted Harrison (Commonweal Conservancy), Paul Olafson (SF County Open Space), Jan-Willem Jansens (EWI)

Agenda

9:30 AM to 9:40AM Welcome and Review of GWP Mission and the Purpose of Today's Dialog

9:40 AM to 9:45AM Self-introductions by Attendees.

9:45 AM to 10: 30 AM Update from Partners.

10:30 AM to 10:50AM wetlands project update.

10:50 AM to 11:AM Break and Networking

11:AM to 11:50 AM Review of Progress on the Galisteo Watershed Conservation Initiative

* What additional data sets or information should be included?

* Potential for this data base and tool to be useful to other GWP Partners

11:50 to Noon wrap up and adjourn?

The Update section seemed to generate a lot of interest so it ran long but we were able to continue meeting until almost 12:30 PM

I. Updates from Partners

State Parks

New Mexico State Parks Cerrillos Hills/Galisteo Basin State Park: State Parks has issued for public review a feasibility study on the establishment of a state park in the Galisteo Basin. The study proposes five alternatives--from "no action" to the establishment of a multi-site state park at Cerrillos Hills, Petroglyph Hill area, and Pueblo Blanco. The study is available at the State Parks website: www.nmparks.com. Over 120 people attended two public hearings in the Basin held in March. Many statements at the public meetings, and 80 percent of the written comments submitted so far, favor establishment of a state park. Most prefer the Division to begin the project at

Galisteo Watershed Partnership

For more info, visit GalisteoWatershed.org or call Earth Works Institute, 505-982-9806

the existing Cerrillos Hills Historic Park owned by the County of Santa Fe, and expand elsewhere in phases if possible. State Parks has also met with a variety of key stakeholders, including the Bureau of Land Management and the State Land Office, and is also completing a series of meetings with interested pueblos. A document that will summarize public comments and identify a course of action for State Parks will be completed within the next 60 days.

Feedback from GWP

The following are a few issues raised and the answers provided:

Finances: There will be \$1.2 Million available for capital improvements (land acquisition and development). Operational funding is very limited and only short term.

Process and collaboration: State Parks now needs to conduct the final coordination with the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), County Planning, and County Open Space.

For Further Information Contact
David J. Simon
Director, New Mexico State Parks
P.O. Box 1147
Santa Fe, NM 87504
505-476-3357 office
505-476-3361 fax
dave.simon@state.nm.us

BLM

Galisteo Basin Archaeological sites Protection Act planning effort:

- focus on collaborative planning with all interested and affected Tribes, private landowners, agencies and others interested parties
- planning for the long-term to include possible special designation to protect resources and facilitate acquiring additional parcels

Taos RMP Revision:

- 3-year process with formal scoping meetings to be held in June 2006
- will center on working with communities
- 6 key issues to be addressed are:
 - land ownership adjustments
 - land uses, e.g rights-of-way corridors
 - special area designations
 - visual resource management
 - OHV & travel management
 - minerals

Feedback from GWP

N/A

Galisteo Watershed Partnership

For more info, visit GalisteoWatershed.org or call Earth Works Institute, 505-982-9806

For Further Information Contact
Sher Churchill BLM
Sharon_Churchill@nm.blm.gov
(505) 751-4725

Army Corp of Engineers

_Galisteo Dam and Reservoir Salt Cedar Eradication Project

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will begin eradication of salt cedar and Russian olive present upstream of the Galisteo Dam and Reservoir. The overall project and planned phases are described in the Environmental Assessment for the Galisteo Dam and Reservoir Salt Cedar Eradication Project which is available on the Corps Albuquerque District web site: <http://www.spa.usace.army.mil/> - go to FONSI/Environmental Assessments.

The first phase of work will begin in September 2006. Approximately 75 acres immediately upstream of the Dam on the south side of the Galisteo Creek will be removed by mechanical extraction. The extracted material will be burned in pits using an air curtain burner system.

This work will be completed in approximately 90 days. E-mail updates will be sent to a list of interested parties and can also be sent to the GWP.

In the Spring of 2007, any re-sprouts that are present in the treated site will be retreated using goats that are present in the nearby community. Once the resprouts have been treated at least once, revegetation of the area with native grass seed (Summer 2007) and shrubs will occur (Fall 2007).

Feedback from GWP

N/A

For further information contact
Ondrea Hummel, Biologist
342-3375
ondrea.c.hummel@usace.army.mil.

Thornton Ranch Commonweal Conservancy

During the past 6 months, Commonweal Conservancy has continued to advance an ambitious conservation vision for the Thornton Ranch — a 12,800-acre property that frames the northern rim of the Galisteo Basin.

In January, Commonweal Conservancy submitted its master plan for the “Galisteo Basin Preserve” to Santa Fe County. The master plan proposes to permanently conserve more than 12,000 acres of the property. To underwrite the land conservation vision, Commonweal proposes to transfer the property’s development rights to an area of approximately 300 acres located 1/3 mile west of US 285, northwest of Lamy. Using a wide range of GIS tools and resources, Commonweal has designed the development

Galisteo Watershed Partnership

For more info, visit GalisteoWatershed.org or call Earth Works Institute, 505-982-9806

to be largely out of view from County Road 41, and completely invisible from US 285.

The development plan proposes a mix of land uses including: 30 miles of publicly accessible trails, 965 homes, a charter high school, a café, pub, neighborhood grocery, chapel, galleries and artist studios. 30 percent of the community homes will serve moderate income households (i.e., less than 120% of AMI).

The project will be considered for master plan approval this summer. With support from the Board of County Commissioners, the first phase of the Galisteo Basin Preserve would be developed during 2008-10.

For further information contact
Ted O. Harrison
President
Commonweal Conservancy
117 N. Guadalupe Street, Suite C
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
505.982.0071 ext 13 (office)
www.commonwealconservancy.org

Feedback from GWP

Following are a few issues raised and the answers provided:

The State bought the BNSF Right of Way. How does it impact our work (in the GWP)? This may be an opportunity (trails, etc.): something to think about in the future. For example, there is an open space option in the Rancho Viejo development area if an exchange happens of SLO lands to the south, adjoining the GBP. This opens opportunities for trails from Galisteo across GBP and SLO lands to Rancho Viejo and further to Santa Fe.

Santa Fe County: Community Planning

San Marcos Contemporary Community Plan
May 18 second presentation to the CDRC
Plan contains the following elements:

- Limit commercial development to existing but reduced commercial node intersection of CR45 and SR14
- Establish minimum lot sizes in different parts of the district
- No interest in being on County Water System

Galisteo Traditional Village

There is a dialogue going on about the wider, external area of analysis for the strategic plan. This topic will be discussed with the GWP on August 4, 2006.

Feedback from GWP

N/A

Galisteo Watershed Partnership

For more info, visit GalisteoWatershed.org or call Earth Works Institute, 505-982-9806

For further Information contact
Beth Mills County Planner
Land Use Department
Santa Fe County
P.O. Box 276
Santa Fe, NM 87504
(505) 995-2727
bmills@co.santa-fe.nm.us

State Forestry Division

Community Wildfire Protection Planning Forest and Watershed Health Plan

- There is a state-wide advisory board.
- State Forestry Division is coordinator.
- There already is an agreement in place with the Association of Counties and the BLM for the implementation of Wildfire Protection Plans.
- The F&WHP will be implemented starting September 2006.
- Highlands University will become an ecological restoration institute (like NAU and CSU), and will help implement the plan.

For further information contact

Kim Kostelnik
Kim.kostelnik@state.nm.us

II. Presentation of Project Update on Wetlands Planning in the Galisteo Watershed.

1. WHY THIS PROJECT

- Recommended by WRAS, follow up of GWRP
- Many small wetlands in the watershed that are of great importance to wildlife, water conservation, visual quality; especially because of the vast semi-desert areas of the watershed

2. WHO

- EPA funding
- NMED oversight
- EWI implementation
- GWP coordination
- Collaboration in conjunction with GWCI

3. FUNDING

- \$140,000 federal
- \$70,000 match
- Possible follow up funding on 2007

4. TIMELINE

Galisteo Watershed Partnership

For more info, visit GalisteoWatershed.org or call Earth Works Institute, 505-982-9806

- September 2004 – June 2008

5. PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES

- Developing a plan for wetland protection, conservation and rehabilitation in the Galisteo Watershed
 - Identifying and mapping wetlands in the Galisteo Watershed
 - Implementing at least 2 wetland conservation pilot projects and monitoring the impact of rehabilitation and protection
 - Integrating wetlands restoration in watershed-wide planning and conservation (green infrastructure, buffer zones)
 - Integrating wetlands planning in regional (County and State) planning
 - Educating the public about wetland functions and values
 - Conducting an economic (benefits and costs) evaluation of wetland conservation to assess whether and how wetlands conservation can be economically sustainable.

6. ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Established a steering committee: Sigmund Silber, Beth Mills, Karen Torres, Ann Watson, SFCT (Rici Peterson), Maryann McGraw, Ondrea Hummel, Jan-Willem Jansens, Steve Vrooman
- Established coordination with GWCI, GWP, Santa Fe County, NMED, U.S. Army Corps, Santo Domingo Pueblo
- Complete inventory of major wetlands in the watershed, in so far accessible to us
- Made preliminary prioritization and selection of wetlands for immediate conservation as pilot projects:
 - a. San Marcos Arroyo at Hwy 14 crossing
 - b. Galisteo village bosque
- Additionally:
 - a. Galisteo Dam wetlands: to be implemented by ACOE
 - b. Cerrillos Hills springs: to be implemented by Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition and SF County
 - c. Beneficial Farm wetlands: implemented by Beneficial Farm with help from the NMED/EWI project
 - d. Eldorado Wilderness springs/wetlands
 - e. Thornton Ranch springs
 - f. Finger Lakes
 - g. Various small springs and wetlands along I-25 (Valencia), and in the Cerrillos-Madrid area
- Not reviewed
 - a. Santo Domingo Pueblo
 - b. Galisteo Creek between Galisteo and Barclay Ranch (the largest wetlands in the watershed)
 - c. Various small springs

NEXT STEPS

- Education & Outreach: tours, workshops, UNM and CS37 monitoring work
- Economics study
- Implementation

Galisteo Watershed Partnership

For more info, visit GalisteoWatershed.org or call Earth Works Institute, 505-982-9806

Feedback from GWP

N/A

For further information contact
Jan-Willem Jansens
Executive Director
Earth Works Institute
1413 Second Street, Suite 4
Santa Fe, NM 87505
982-9806
jwj@earthworksinstitute.org

III Galisteo Watershed Conservation Initiative (GWCI) Presentation

The Galisteo Watershed is a spectacular landscape (views, archaeological treasures, geological features, wetlands and springs, wildlife habitat, ranches, recreation opportunities).

The watershed area is under pressure from rapid anthropogenic and ecological changes that threaten the ecological stability and beauty of the area (erosion, ecosystem degradation, uncoordinated development).

Purpose

The project aims to develop a plan for “green infrastructure” for the Galisteo Watershed (a GIS-based plan that identifies and prioritizes areas of significant conservation value (SCV) with connective corridors and buffer zones).

The scope of the Galisteo Watershed Conservation Initiative is:

1. To preserve critical landscape values in the Galisteo Watershed by identifying and prioritizing lands for conservation by public and private entities, culminating in the production of a Green Infrastructure Plan.
2. To enhance landscape health in the Galisteo Watershed by designing and constructing low-cost, high impact improvements to counter the current trend of the accelerated soil erosion, degradation of native vegetation cover and dwindling surface and ground water supplies.

The GWCI will eventually generate a geographical prioritization and technical recommendations for the application of landscape conservation tools (such as conservation easements, outright purchase, official management designations, TDRs, and conservation development projects), and an on-the-ground pilot conservation project.

History

- The project was conceived by the Santa Fe Conservation Trust and Earth Works Institute. In 2002/2003, SFCT was looking for a focused approach to landscape conservation in northern NM and chose to strengthen the work started by EWI in the Galisteo watershed by aiming at protecting 50,000 acres by 2012.

Galisteo Watershed Partnership

For more info, visit GalisteoWatershed.org or call Earth Works Institute, 505-982-9806

- Since 2000, EWI had worked on the Galisteo Watershed Restoration Project. In 2001/2002, EWI realized that it needed a watershed-wide prioritization of areas to implement a Watershed Restoration Action Strategy.
- In 2003, EWI and SFCT began working together on joint projects.
- In 2004, SFCT successfully secured two \$25K State appropriations for the GWCI.

Management

- The funds are managed and distributed by the NM Office of the State Engineer.
- SFCT manages the project. EWI and Earth Analytic are core project partners.
- The project started in August 2005.
- A steering committee was put in place consisting of:
 - Alan Ragins (NPS)
 - Beth Mills (SF County)
 - Paul Olafson (SF County)
 - Dr. David Henkel (UNM)
 - Jan-Willem Jansens (EWI)
 - Wetherbee Dorshow (EA)
 - Rici Peterson (SFCT)
- SFCT/EWI sought to coordinate the GWCI with the Galisteo Watershed Partnership (GWP) for watershed-wide coordination and data collection purposes (e.g. Archaeological Sites Protection Act, County Planning, Thornton Ranch development, etc.)
- SFCT/EWI also linked the project directly to an EWI/NMED Wetlands Planning project in the Galisteo Watershed

Timeline: August 2005 – Spring 2007

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Methodology & Steering Committee

- Contacting concerned parties
- Establishing a Data Sharing System
- Developing a Methodology

Task 2. GIS Maps for Analysis

- Developing GIS Database for the Watershed
- Developing GIS Maps for Green Infrastructure Plan

Task 3. Prioritization of Open Space Options and Acquisitions

- Organizing Outreach Meetings: Input on Maps
- Developing Prioritization of Open Space Options

Task 4. Final Report and Recommendations

- Writing a Green Infrastructure Plan
- Reproducing and Distributing the Plan

Task 5. Plan, Design and Implement Pilot Conservation Initiative

Galisteo Watershed Partnership

For more info, visit GalisteoWatershed.org or call Earth Works Institute, 505-982-9806

- Selecting Site for Pilot Conservation Initiative
- Planning of the Conservation Initiative
- Developing Monitoring Plan for Conservation Initiative
- Designing the Pilot Conservation Initiative
- Implementing the Pilot Conservation Initiative
- Conducting Monitoring
- Evaluating GWCI Methodology

EXPERT INPUT

1. Are there any areas with intrinsic, significant conservation values (SCV) that have been unidentified in the GIS data sets? If so, what data sets and/or areas did we miss?
2. Does the proposed weighting of values need to be changed to better guide conservation priorities?
3. Are there any additional areas (buffers or corridors) adjacent to the identified SCV areas that should be noted as priorities for conservation? Consideration may be given to (a) existing protected lands, (b) roadless, landlocked areas, (c) impacts of neighboring development, (d) floodprone areas, (e) upstream and downstream landscape context.
4. (If time allows): How do you think you might use or apply the GIS tool and Green Infrastructure Plan we are developing?

Feedback from the GWP

- Add land grant information (SF County has the information). Look at attribute data on landownership/heirs, and what the conservation value of the tracts might be.
- Who is owning/managing the data? OSE wants SF County to manage the data. Needs to be sorted out. Options:
 - Website with limited access/use
 - Work stations (perhaps in State Library) to access the data
 - County as a repository and data manager
- Beth suggested making the raw data sets accessible in a catalogue. Regarding modeling, she suggested identifying specific people who have the skills and knowledge to do that (who know what degree of validity to put on the GIS results).
- Data needs to be housed on a server (maybe at ERI of Highlands University); we could contact Ken Benson at Highlands.
- The wealth (value?) of information (esp. archaeological, but also ecological) at a particular site may be higher than the official, designated “importance” of the site. (e.g. there may be more wealth in one endangered spp nest site or one arch site that’s not on our maps – e.g. because we don’t know it well enough - than in a large pueblo site that is widely recognized)
- There is more data on viewsheds. Design Workshop collected viewshed data for the County. FS also has viewshed analysis tools and data.
- BLM has recreation opportunities spectrum information.

Galisteo Watershed Partnership

For more info, visit GalisteoWatershed.org or call Earth Works Institute, 505-982-9806

- Viewshed information is extremely difficult to handle. You end up calling the entire watershed of high conservation value for viewsheds! And it's highly subjective.
- We need public sessions, e.g. at the Lensic, to present the GWCI output to the wider public.
- We should reach County engineering staff to educate them about the water (and natural resource) conservation and management aspects based on the GIS data.

We should get together with the 3 County Commissioners of the watershed to inform them of this project and the value of the tools and priority areas identified by our modeling. Ask them to ask developers to consider their plans vis a vis our outputs (viewsheds, wildlife corridors, and other SCV

For further information contact
Jan-Willem Jansens
Executive Director
Earth Works Institute
1413 Second Street, Suite 4
Santa Fe, NM 87505
982-9806
jwj@earthworksinstitute.org

Galisteo Watershed Partnership

For more info, visit GalisteoWatershed.org or call Earth Works Institute, 505-982-9806