

Blue Water Task Force Board of Directors Annual Meeting
March 22nd, 2010 4 PM
Big Sky Owners Association
MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Jon Holtzman at 4:15 pm. Also in attendance were directors Ron Edwards, Eric Becker, and Sue Barton. Absent were directors Jack Crowther and Mike Richter.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Sue moved and Ron seconded to approve the minutes from 01-27-11. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Financial Report** Sue moved and Eric seconded to approve the financial report from 03-22-11.
4. **New Business**
 - a. Run for the Rivers (Kristin): The second annual Run for the Rivers will be held Saturday, May 28th. Volunteers are needed to help with the event. Proceeds will benefit the Blue Water Task Force, Greater Gallatin Watershed Council, and the Montana Watercourse. Relative amount will depend on board volunteer time.
 - b. BWTF Programs (Kristin): Kristin suggested that BWTF add a program that incorporates watershed restoration projects because these projects do not fit under any of the current programs. The board agreed. Kristin will update the website and organizational documents.
 - c. Update Workplan (Kristin): Kristin presented the board with an updated workplan. Jon suggested that we condense/combine the number of objectives. Kristin will make the suggested edits and email the new version to the board for approval.
5. **Old Business**
 - a. BSOA history on Silver Bow and Little Coyote Ponds (Mary Jane): Mary Jane updated the board on the status of BSOA ponds projects. The Silverbow and Little Coyote ponds were created in the late 1960's in planning for resort development. There are no historical hydrologic documents on the ponds or Little Coyote Bridge. About every 10 years, the ponds fill with sediment and need to be dredged. 1998 was the last dredging. In 2004-5, ponds were in need of dredging but BSOA was met with resistance from Fish Wildlife and Parks, the Conservation District and the Army Corps of Engineers. State agencies were now against on-stream ponds and would therefore, not approve dredging the ponds. In addition, a water right is required to account for evaporative loss. There are no existing water rights on Silverbow pond and since the Missouri Basin is closed, it is not possible to apply for a water right unless BSOA traded with another water user. Big Sky Water and Sewer District (BSWSD) has a water

right for the West Fork at the exit of the Little Coyote Pond for irrigation purposes. BSOA is currently working with BSWSD to change the use of the water right to recreational. In addition, a plan has been developed to turn the Little Coyote into an off-stream pond with gates for spring runoff. Under this plan, the West Fork will be channeled to the north of the pond. BSOA is currently working on a floodplain management plan with the Gallatin Planning Department. As a next step, Kristin and Mary Jane will talk with PBS&J water right consultant to discuss the possibility of keeping the ponds instream for sediment and nutrient detention. Since the Montana Department of Environmental Quality has declared the West Fork as impaired for nitrate and sediment, other agencies may be more receptive to keeping Silverbow and Little Coyote as in-stream ponds.

- b. Watershed Restoration Plan (Kristin): Kristin talked to Mark Kelly regarding the comprehensive water plan and he agreed that this plan would be very beneficial to the Big Sky community. Kristin asked the board if the plan should include water quantity and quality. Jon suggested that she talk with Mike Richter about including water quantity in the plan and put it on the agenda for the next meeting. Other restoration projects for the plan include: 1) addressing road sand, 2) mapping and prioritizing riparian and culverts for restoration projects, and 3) a septic outreach campaign. Kristin will write an outline of the prioritized projects for the next board meeting. Jon suggested that she check with Mark Kelly about the rest of the proposed projects.
- c. Spring “Water through the seasons” Event (Kristin): Kristin asked the board for ideas on a spring runoff event for the “Water through the Seasons” in collaboration with the Big Sky Institute (BSI). Sue suggested a hike on Ousel Falls, which could be conducted with the unveiling of the middle school interpretive trail. Kristin will suggest this event to BSI.
- d. West Fork Nitrogen Monitoring Project (Kristin): Kristin sampled along the Upper West Fork for nitrate, potassium, and chloride in February. Nitrate and chloride, which are both associated with wastewater, generally increased from the Bunkers to the Little Coyote pond.
- e. Vice Chair (Kristin): Kristin will put electing a vice chair on the agenda for next board meeting.
- f. Ophir Rain Garden (Kristin): Kristin is working on writing grants to fund a rain garden at Ophir School. The garden will be a part of BSI’s community garden to be installed this spring/summer.
- g. Interpretive Trail (Kristin): Kristin is working on writing grants to fund an interpretive trail on the Community Park Trail. This project will be in collaboration with the Big Sky Community Corporation.
- h. Wastewater solutions forum update (Jon/Ron): BSWSD has sent a new application to the MTDEQ for a permit to conduct the snowpilot study.

Jon informed the board that the ORW comment period has been extended.

6. Upcoming Events

- a. Wednesday, March 23rd (time TBD): 4th grade water sampling on the Gallatin for World Water Day.
- b. Wednesday, March 23rd at 4pm: landscaping meeting in Dave Neal's classroom
- c. Tuesday, March 29th 10am: Meeting with MDOT in Bozeman
- d. Early April – Water quality and aquatic insect sampling event
- e. April 1st: Yellowstone Club Community Foundation applications due
- f. April 13th – BSRAD applications due
- g. Next board meeting date: Tuesday, April 27th at 4pm.

7. Open Discussion

8. Adjournment