

**Blue Water Task Force Board of Directors Meeting  
Friday, December 10, 2004, 6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair Jon Holtzman. Others in attendance were Board Directors Eric Becker, Mindy Nowakowski, Caroline Henley, and Brad Parsch; Executive Director Katie Alvin; and guests Kristin Gardener and Pete Schade.
2. Approval of Minutes: Caroline moved and Eric seconded to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Organizational Issues: Eric moved and Caroline seconded to approve the following mission statement: The mission of the BWTF is to protect and preserve the health of the Gallatin River watershed. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Financial Report (See attached Account Report): Mindy moved and Brad seconded to pay Katie's invoice for \$170. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Katie recently learned that money from Volney Steele (the donor that funded the original BWTF group monitoring activities) is no longer available directly to the BWTF except by going through the Montana Water Center. She discussed the fund with Water Center Director Gretchen Rupp, who suggested that if we want access to any of that money, we will need to present a compelling request for it. Assignment of those funds is entirely up to her discretion. Jon recommended that we write a letter to Mr. Steele acknowledging his previous gift, and updating him on some of the recent changes to the organization. Meanwhile, when we are looking for matching funds for the TMDL study, we can present a proposal to the Water Center.
6. Katie requested permission to attend the SWCS Conference, Feb. 1 & 2, "Erosion & Sediment: In My Watershed?". Brad said he would like to go too. Mindy moved and Caroline seconded to pay for the registration for the event for Katie and Brad. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Pete Schade, from Montana Department of Environmental Quality, updated the group on the TMDL planning project proposal.
  - a. He described the process as a simple feedback loop. First we determine whether or not there is a problem in the watershed. Then we determine the source/extent/magnitude of the problem. Next we decide what to do about it. Then we do that. Finally we check in to see how we're doing, and start back at the beginning of the loop if necessary.
  - b. Pete handed out an annotated outline of the TMDL process (see attached). The EPA has contracted out with another firm to do steps 2 & 3 (the watershed characterization and identifying water quality concerns and status). The BWTF will coordinate step 4 as the next phase of the project (pollutant source assessment and estimate of existing pollutant loads). The remaining steps will be contracted out in upcoming years.
  - c. The group can focus on the entire watershed for the assessment; we are not limited to just the impaired streams.

- d. Pete has submitted a preliminary request for money from the DEQ to pay for a list of tasks for 2005 (see attached). He will flesh out the task list for a formal proposal and contract with the BWTF.
8. Public Relations Report: Katie received a call on voice mail from an LA Times reporter regarding “theYellowstone Club”. She called back and left a message with no reply. She asked how to respond if the reporter calls back. The Board advised that she follow procedures in the Bylaws for answering requests for comments to the press (ask for questions ahead of time if possible, get Board to participate and comment, etc.). The general consensus was that we don’t generally make comments on specific issues like development in the Yellowstone Club, so we need to approach this carefully.
9. Having no other business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Alvin

Attachments:

1. Bank account report
2. Annotated outline of the TMDL process
3. Specific TMDL tasks for 2005

(Attachments were handed out at the last meeting. Please talk to Katie if you need copies.)