

**Blue Water Task Force Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, August 25, 2004, 6:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jon Holtzman. Also in attendance were Directors Eric Becker, Mary Jane McGarity, Caroline Henley, Mindy Nowakowski, Brad Parsch, and Ron Edwards, and Coordinator Katie Alvin.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Caroline moved and Mindy seconded to approve the minutes from last month's meeting. Motion carried.
3. **Organizational Issues:**
Bylaws: Mindy and Katie made changes to the bylaws per last meeting's discussion. A final draft was reviewed for approval. Mary Jane moved and Caroline seconded to approve the Bylaws. Motion carried.

Mindy and Katie will be working on 501(c)3 application next.

Katie will work on a sample MOU for Directors to sign and bring it to the next meeting.

4. **Financial Report (See Account Report):**
 - a. Checks Received: None
 - b. Invoices: None
 - c. Expenses to approve:
 - i. Katie asked for \$100 + mileage to attend the Montana Watershed Coordinating Council's 2004 Annual Watershed Coordinators's Retreat in Lewistown from 9-19 to 9-21. Mary Jane asked whether or not that would include paying for Katie's time. Jon suggested a \$200 stipend to cover her time there.

Mary Jane moved and Ron seconded to acknowledge checks, pay invoices, and approve \$300 for Katie to attend the Watershed Coordinator's Retreat. Motion carried.

Eric requested that Katie submit an invoice monthly.

5. **Scientific Report:**
 - a. Katie has pulled together the following people to participate on a Sampling Strategy Technical Advisory Committee:
 - i. Tammy Crone: Water Quality Specialist, Gallatin Local Water Quality District
 - ii. Gill Geesey: MSU Professor and BWTF Founder
 - iii. Kristin Gardner: MSU Grad Student, doing research in West Fork watershed
 - iv. Robert Seamons: Water Quality Engineer
 - v. Grant Burroughs: Big Sky Water & Sewer District Plant Operator
 - vi. Pete Schade: DEQ Water Quality Specialist
 - vii. Kristi Neptun: Education Outreach Coordinator, Montana WatercourseThe group will be meeting in September to discuss sampling locations, parameters and scheduling.
 - b. Jon would like to see the BWTF start doing some sampling and suggested doing a "Bug Rodeo". Brad suggested that if we do a bug collection we do it as soon as possible. Katie brought up the potential Ophir Service Learning project that she has been talking to Sue Barton about and this seems like a good project to do with them. We could have the kids

focus on aquatic invertebrates. Jon suggested they be part of the collection day and then maybe do a brochure or something like the kids did with Ousel Falls. Katie will continue to work with Sue on this.

6. Public Relations Report:

- a. Katie mentioned that the booth at the Big Sky Country Fair was good for a bit of exposure but could be better next year. Mary Jane and Jon suggested handing out water next year. Jon suggested having a sampling site map. Mary Jane suggested that we create a nice map to use as a volunteer gift. Katie said she would do a map for free as a donation from her consulting business if she could put the Carto-Logic GIS logo on it.
- b. Katie will set up an area at the BSWSD Open House to have brochures, sign-up sheets, and some samples like bugs or water.
- c. Mary Jane and Katie worked on a one page fact sheet in lieu of a brochure. It was available at the Fair and will be available at the Big Sky Water and Sewer District open house.
- d. The BWTF web site (www.bluewatertaskforce.org) is in development. Katie received all the data files and the software from the Water Center and now just needs to make some edits and load the files on the server. Jon suggested having a comment form available on the web site.
- e. Community survey: Katie will compile a simple survey to have at the BSWSD Open House on September 3rd from 3:00 to 6:00. It will mainly serve as a tool to collect names and addresses and any comments by visitors.
- f. Jon suggested that we do a regular email update after each meeting to let the public know about our activities.
- g. Jon said that he had received positive feedback for his letter to the editor and his BWTF article.

7. Open Discussion:

- a. Brad brought up the siltation problem in the South Fork, which led to a lengthy discussion about the siltation events which happen after rain and are obviously related to development in the area, and about what can be done (if anything). Jon asked what the BWTF's part in this is. Brad said, "The water's not blue!" and that it seems like something we should address in some way. Mary Jane mentioned meeting someone from a Georgia-based river watchers group at the Fair. Maybe that would be one direction we could go. Eric reminded the Board that these issues may go beyond the scope of our mission. Jon suggested that we contact the Yellowstone Club and see if they want to collaborate and create a win-win situation. Katie had asked their environmental compliance officer to participate on the board but he declined because he is only in Big Sky for a few months out of the year. Jon volunteered to make another attempt at communicating with the YC about getting participation.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:10 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, Sept. 22nd, at 6:00 p.m. in the BSWSD conference room.