

**Blue Water Task Force Board of Directors Meeting
August 10, 2005, 3:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Jon Holtzman called the meeting to order at 3:00. Also in attendance were Vice-Chair Mary Jane McGarity, Secretary/Treasurer Mindy Nowakowski, Directors Eric Becker, and Ron Edwards, and Executive Director Katie Alvin. Tammy Crone, Gallatin Local Water Quality District, was in attendance as a guest.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Mary Jane moved and Eric seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Financial Report:**
 - a. Account Balance (see attached transaction report): \$190.16
 - b. Budget Update (see handout)
 - c. BWTF invoices Out:
 - i. BSRAD: \$2809.95
 - ii. DEQ: \$1050
 - d. Payments Received: NONE
 - e. Invoices received:
 - i. Carto-Logic GIS: \$3750.00
 - f. Expenses to approve:
 - i. Supplies for Country Fair: \$50
 - ii. Dedicated hard drive for BWTF (can use RT \$\$): \$200
 - iii. River Network membership \$150

Eric moved and Mindy seconded to purchase supplies for the Country Fair. Motion carried unanimously. Mindy moved and Mary Jane seconded to purchase a hard drive dedicated to the BWTF. Motion carried unanimously. The Board would like Katie to email out progress reports. The Board would like to review the River Network organization before becoming a member. Membership vote is tabled until the next meeting.

4. **Old Business:**
 - a. GUEST: Tammy Crone, Water Quality Specialist for the Gallatin Local Water Quality District came to talk about what the GLWQD has been up to and to answer questions about the possibility of expanding or creating a new WQD that includes the Upper Gallatin Watershed. She provided some information attached to the minutes (hard copy only). The Board would like to see a copy of the GLWQD bylaws and assess the pros and cons of either expanding or creating a new district. Katie and Tammy will prepare for the Board. Topic tabled until the next meeting.
 - b. D&O Insurance update: (Mary Jane) Mindy moved and Ron seconded to spend up to \$1200 per year for D&O insurance. Motion carried unanimously.
 - c. TMDL update:
 - i. Contract status: Mindy & Mary Jane will review the D&O policy with the DEQ contract to be sure the Board is sufficiently covered.
 - ii. FYI: Aug. 18: Grant administration meeting with DEQ grants/contracts representative Rob Rung. Everyone welcome.
 - iii. Sept 10: Synoptic Sampling day (Kristin Gardener's PhD/TMDL project); How can BWTF be involved (help organize volunteers, plan a BBQ, etc.)? Katie will try to help

out Kristin with planning support, and will try to see if coordinating the quarterly sampling will work.

- iv. FYI: Katie handed out a summary of the response from DEQ regarding resort tax dissenters' questions (attached).
 - v. Received: Aerial Photograph Assessment & Reach Stratification Report (from a direct contract with DEQ...not part of our contract, but part of the total TMDL project). Katie will have hard copy at her office and will provide digital copies on CD to all Board members.
 - vi. Received: Phase I Planning Area Report from EPA (preliminary evaluation of all available and relevant data within the Upper Gallatin watershed planning area). Katie will have hard copy at her office and will provide digital copies on CD to all Board members.
 - vii. To Do:
 - 1. Plan for 19K resort tax funds: Sampling ASAP; PBS&J to contract? The Board would like Katie to email the Subcontract out when it is ready to go. If there are no objections, the Subcontract will be approved.
 - 2. Please let Katie know if you have any ideas for our Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and list of Stakeholders (anyone affected by this project)
- d. Fundraising:
- i. New pledges (Jon): Yellowstone Club has pledged \$30,000 to the BWTF which we would like to use over the three years of the project. Big EZ is donating \$1000 plus an overnight stay for two (including dinner and breakfast) to use for a raffle or auction. We will use that at the Country Fair.
 - ii. Will be working on fundraising plan in August
 - iii. Upcoming grants: Next meeting we will have a draft for the \$10,000 Watershed Planning and Assistance Grant through DEQ.
 - iv. FYI: We received approximately \$366 leftover from the MSU Water Center BWTF funds. Also, Volney Steele was in contact with the Water Center about BWTF activities and they directed him our way. Jon suggested we invite him to an upcoming meeting.
- e. Executive Director contract has been approved and will be emailed to board.
- f. Web site update: Pete Bolane from NetWave has been editing the BWTF web site. Please review the site and make suggestions if you wish. (www.bluewatertaskforce.org)

5. New Business

- a. Katie handed out copies of the Resort Tax 04-05 final report.
- b. Stream flow monitoring: can we help out? The Board approved Katie's assistance with DNRC's stream flow sites as long as it fits in the scope of work in the contract.
- c. Should we contact Rep. Koopman to see where he stands on natural resource issues? The Board opted not to directly contact a politician unless contacted first, lest it appears we are lobbying, which is not allowed under our 501(c)3 designation.
- d. Tony Kolnik's request for participation in an educational water use forum. The Board directed Katie to respectfully decline participation as it will not fit in our work plan and seems to be more of an agenda-based forum, which we need to steer clear of.
- e. Aug. 13: Country Fair. Jon, Katie and Mindy will be at the Country Fair booth with water bottles and a raffle. We will be right next to the Noxious Weed program tent.

- f. Oct. 6: Montana Watershed Coordination Council fall meeting; Focus is 1) land use planning and development - how watershed groups approach the issue and 2) other organizations working on land use planning and how they may work with watershed groups; BWTF invited to be on agenda to discuss changes, our response, successes/challenges, partners, etc. Jon can participate.
- g. T-shirts? Simpler logo or “branding”? The Board liked the idea of thinking about a slogan to put on the back of a T-shirt or on a hat. Some initial ideas: “water squad”, using the mayfly logo, “the Force is with you”. We’ll keep working on this.

6. **Open Discussion:**

- a. Eric mentioned that despite the great precipitation this year, flows are still as low as they’ve been in the past this time of year. But though it is below historic flows, it seems to be sustainable.
- b. Katie mentioned that she’s had several questions about why the salmon fly hatch might be so much smaller in recent years, and why the spruce moths are so prolific. Brad is making some calls to MSU and other professionals.

7. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:45.