

**Blue Water Task Force Board of Directors Meeting  
September 26, 2007 3:30 PM  
B.S.O.A Conference Room**

**MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jon Holtzman at 3:35 pm. Also in attendance were directors Eric Becker, Jack Crowther, Ron Edwards, Mindy Nowakowski, Simon Trautman and Paul Wagner. Absent were Sue Barton, Caroline Henley and Mary Jane McGarity.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Jack moved and Eric seconded to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Financial Report**
  - a. Accept unaudited monthly reports: Mindy moved and Jack seconded to accept the unaudited monthly financial reports. Motion carried unanimously.
4. **Old Business**
  - a. TMDL update (Kristin)
    - i. Phase III funding will be requested in the coming months. Are we still on board? Kristin reported that Pete contacted her about BWTF's interest in requesting more 319 funds from the DEQ. Money will be available to fund continued stream monitoring and coordination/administration. The board generally agreed that they would like to request more 319 funds but they are concerned about raising the required match money. Kristin mentioned that match money does not and usually is not actual cash but document inkind match. Kristin agreed to contact Pete to discuss the amount of money to request and about documenting/ raising additional match money.
    - ii. TMDL outreach event: Kristin reported that Jeff Dunn (PBSJ) will be done analyzing the pathogen data at the end of November. Kristin agreed to organize a TMDL outreach event at Bucks T4 the week of December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Kristin will ask the teachers of the classes that she is working (Hatton Littman - Big Sky High School and Jeremy Harder - Ophir 4<sup>th</sup> grade) if their class would be willing to give a presentation on their stream study at the outreach event.
  - b. Wastewater Solutions Update (Jon): Jon reported that WWSF has signed a contract with HKM Engineering (available on the BWTF's website) for the Gallatin Canyon Wastewater Study, which is already underway.
  - c. "Catch and Release" (Kristin): In response to questions brought up at the August board meeting about the process of Catch and Release designation for a river/reach, Kristin reported that she spoke with Mike Vaughn at Fish, Wildlife and Parks in Bozeman, who stated that a river/reach is designated "Catch and Release" by FWP for purely biological reasons (over-fishing,

threatened species etc, warm temps). Once, maybe twice a year the FWP staff performs population estimates on the Gallatin.

- d. Groundwater Study Meeting (Kristin): Kristin reported that she spoke with Todd Kipfer at BSI, who said that BSI would be interested in collaborating on an organizational meeting to discuss a possible groundwater study in Big Sky. Simon, Ron, Jack, Jon and Mindy mentioned that they would be interested in participating.
- e. Interim High School Project (Kristin): Kristin will be working with the Interim Big Sky High School on a stream sampling project in October. She would like this study to initialize 3 new BWTF stream monitoring sites in the West Fork watershed on the South Fork, Middle Fork and North Fork of the West Fork of the Gallatin. Kristin agreed to do a cost analysis to see if we have the money to do the extra analysis for nitrates and ecoli. She will contact John Leeper and Lone Mountain Ranch about the possibility of placing BWTF stream monitoring signs on the bridges at each of the new sites and also at the present-day West Fork site for increased public awareness.
- f. Press Releases (Kristin/Jon): Kristin reported that BWTF had 3 recent press releases in local newspapers. She also mentioned that Big Sky Weekly did not publish the press release because of a misunderstanding of the Blue Water Task Force mission. Jon and Kristin are planning on a lunch date with Faith and Laura Bell from the Weekly to discuss this issue.

## 5. New Business

Didymo (Kristin): Kristin reported that on the September BWTF quarterly sampling event, Sue identified a very invasive algae species present in the West Fork. The algae has the potential to bloom into thick masses threatening aquatic insect and fish populations by smothering food sources. Kristin will contact state, federal and academic stream ecologists to obtain more information and to see if there is interest in initiating a study in Big Sky.

Good websites for more info:

<http://www.issg.org/database/species/ecology.asp?si=775&fr=1&sts>

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/20447461/>

<http://www.epa.gov/region8/water/didymosphenia/>

## 6. Upcoming Events

- a. Next board meeting date: October 24, 3:30 pm.
- b. TMDL outreach event date: Week of December 3-7 at Bucks T4.
- c. Moonlight tour date: Simon offered to give BWTF a tour of Moonlight to meet at the Moonlight Lodge on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1 p.m.

## 7. Open Discussion:

8. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:25 pm.