

**Blue Water Task Force Board of Directors Meeting**  
**September 24, 2008 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. Also in attendance were directors Sue Barton, Eric Becker, Jack Crowther, and Mindy Nowakowski.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Jack moved and Sue seconded to approve the minutes from 07-30-08. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Financial Report:** Mindy moved and Jack seconded to approve the financial reports. Motion carried unanimously.
4. **New Business**
  - a. Everlands Restoration Project (Kristin): Everlands contacted Big Sky Institute who then contacted BWTF to see if BWTF was interested in writing a proposal for a stream restoration project on the North Fork. No other details were given. The board encouraged Kristin to attend a meeting with BSI on Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> to find out more details.
  - b. Ophir and Lone Peak High School education programs (Kristin): Kristin reported that she will be working with the Ophir 4<sup>th</sup> grade on a yearlong project to examine seasonal changes in the Gallatin River and with Lone Peak High School on a year long climate study.
  - c. Green building event/series next summer (Kristin): Kristin reported that she and Twila (BSI) have discussed putting on a "green building event" to show off the new LEED certified building next to the Lone Peak brewery which will be using the wastewater storage ponds for heat in the winter and cooling in the summer. The board encouraged Kristin to move forward planning the event.
5. **Old Business**
  - a. TMDL update (Kristin)
    - i. Sediment modeling project (Kristin): Kristin reported that she sent out a request for proposal for the sediment TMDL project to model road sediment and upland erosion in the West Fork watershed. Only one consulting company (KC Harvey) sent a proposal back due to the limited time frame for the project. KC Harvey has experience doing other sediment TMDL projects in Montana. Kristin will work on solidifying a contract between BWTF and KC Harvey.
    - ii. TMDL public meeting (Kristin): Kristin reported that after speaking with Pete Schade and Jeff Dunn (PBSJ) the TMDL public meeting will need to be later than usual (Jan/Feb instead of Nov/Dec) due to the extensive amount of data that was collected this summer. Mindy suggested that the meeting be

held around Presidents Day weekend when there are more folks around Big Sky. Kristin will work on scheduling the meeting either the week before or the week after Presidents Day weekend.

- b. Gallatin Local Water Quality District Expansion Update (Kristin): Ron and Kristin attended the August GLWQD board meeting to support the expansion of the GLWQD boundary to the Gallatin county portion of Big Sky. The GLWQD board members at the meeting seemed supportive of the expansion, but there was not a quorum at the meeting so there was no vote. There was no September GLWQD board meeting and the next meeting will be October 9<sup>th</sup>. On another note, Alan English, GLWQD Director, recently contacted Kristin to inform her that after close examination of the GLWQD statutes with their lawyer, they discovered that the GLWQD board would hold the public hearings on the boundary expansion not the Gallatin county commission.
- c. General liability insurance (Kristin): Kristin reported that BWTF has never had a general liability insurance policy, just a Directors and Officers policy. Both the Resort Tax and TMDL contracts require that BWTF has a general liability policy. Mindy suggested contacting First West. Kristin will work on obtaining quotes for a general liability policy from First West and current D&O provider, Carolina Casualty.
- d. Wastewater Solutions Forum (WWSF) Update (Jon): On October 6<sup>th</sup> members of WWSF will go to Helena to meet with the Montana DEQ to discuss the possibility of using snowmaking as a means of wastewater disposal.
- e. Watershed bill update (Kristin): The Watershed Bill (Cooperative Watershed Act of 2008) has taken its second step into become a law. It was passed out of committee on Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.
- f. Didymo study (Sue): Sue Barton is working on a research project for her Master's in Science Education and as a middle school class science project to document *Didymosphenia geminata*, commonly known as didymo or rock snot in the West Fork watershed. Didymo is a species of freshwater diatom. It is not considered a significant human health risk, but it can affect stream habitats. It is considered a nuisance organism or invasive species and form extensive mats on stream beds. Invasive didymo is a recent phenomenon so there is little research documenting how or why it spreads. Kristin alerted Sue of its potential presence in the West Fork of the Gallatin in 2007 and Sue confirmed that it was didymo. For the West Fork didymo project, they have found Didymo in the Middle, South, and North Forks of the West Fork, with the most found in the Middle Fork. However, the variability appears to be random with no clear pattern or relationship. Sue will continue to work on this project through the fall. Sue and her class will present their findings at the BWTF outreach event in February.

- g. Water quality and bug sampling events (Kristin): During the fall bug sampling event, Kristin and Jeremy found abundant bugs in the Gallatin but were surprised at the amount of algae and lack of bugs in the West Fork of the Gallatin. Kristin will update the board once she receives the bug analysis from Rhithron, which usually takes a couple of months.
- h. BWTF newsletter on BWTF website (Kristin): The BWTF summer/fall 08 newsletter is on the BWTF website. Mindy suggested that Kristin send the newsletter to the Resort Tax board. Kristin will send the newsletter to the Resort Tax board.

**6. Upcoming Events**

- a. September 30<sup>th</sup> 9 am at BSI Big Sky location: Everlands meeting about North Fork restoration project.
- b. October 2,3 at Big Sky resort: American Water Resources Association annual meeting (Montana Chapter) for details see website: <http://www.awra.org/state/montana/events/conference.htm>.
- c. October 1<sup>st</sup> week: Groundwater sampling for nitrate.
- d. October 16<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, Bridger Canyon Fire Station: – Presentation for Bridger Canyon to Bangtail Coalition speaker series.
- e. October 6<sup>th</sup> (1130-1230) and October 27<sup>th</sup> (830-1230): Lone Peak High Field event, meet at Ophir.
- f. December 8<sup>th</sup>-January 9<sup>th</sup>: Kristin honeymoon request: Mindy moved and Eric seconded to approve Kristin's honey moon request. Motion carried unanimously.
- g. Next board meeting date: October 22 at 3:30pm at BSOA.

**7. Open Discussion**

- 8. Adjournment:** Jon Holtzman adjourned the meeting at 4:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kristin Gardner

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_