

Blue Water Task Force Board of Directors Meeting
September 03, 2009 4 PM
Big Sky Owners Association
MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Jon Holtzman at 4:10 pm. Also in attendance were directors Sue Barton, Eric Becker, Jack Crowther, Mindy Nowakowski, and Mike Richter. Absent was director Ron Edwards.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Jack moved and Mindy seconded to approve the minutes from 06-17-09. Motion carried unanimously. Mike moved and Mindy seconded to approve the minutes from 07-22-09. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Financial Report** Mindy moved and Jack seconded to approve the financial report. Motion carried unanimously.
4. **New Business**
 - a. Highline Partners thank you letter (Kristin): Highline Partners donated \$3734 to BWTF as part of the 1% for the Planet program. Kristin passed along a thank you letter for board members to sign.
5. **Old Business**
 - a. Golf Course Study (Simon/Kristin): Simon has been monitoring 18 sites on the golf course to determine nitrogen sources to the Middle Fork as it travels through the Big Sky Golf Course. The monitored sites include 8 sites on the Middle Fork between the bunker and the community park shelter, 8 small tributaries to the Middle Fork, and 2 groundwater wells. The data confirms the general trend shown in the TMDL assessments that nitrate concentration in the Middle Fork increases as it travels downstream between the bunker and community park shelter. Three small tributaries had consistent extremely high nitrate concentrations. Two tributaries empty into the pond at the eastern end of the golf course. One of these two tributaries originates from a metal pipe behind the church at the eastern end of the study area. The pipe drains groundwater from the golf course/ park condo area. The other high nitrate tributary drains hole 3 of the golf course. Stormflow samples have not been collected because there has not been a rain event big enough to trigger the automatic samplers since they were installed. All three high nitrate tributaries and a 2 Middle Fork sites will be tested for E.coli and 15N and 18O isotopes of nitrate to determine if the high nitrate is coming from a wastewater source. Since this summer was much wetter than previous summers, and therefore the golf course was irrigated much less than years past, Kristin and Simon believe that the study would benefit from an additional summer of data

collection. Kristin is writing a 319 Grant application to fund continuation of the study through next summer.

- b. Insurance vote (Kristin): The Big Sky Resort Area District (BSRAD) contract holds harmless and indemnifies BSRAD from any lawsuit resulting from any BWTF activities that were paid for by BSRAD funds. BWTF insurance policy does not currently list BSRAD as an “additional insured”, which means that any lawsuit filed against BSRAD for BWTF activities that were paid for by BSRAD funds would be liable by BWTF. Adding BSRAD as an “additional insured” is \$150. Jack moved and Eric seconded to add the BSRAD as an additional insured to the BWTF liability insurance. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Review BWTF Bylaws: At the July board meeting, Ron suggested reviewing the board member attendance policy of the BWTF bylaws and suggested potentially relaxing the summer attendance policy to accommodate for busy schedules. The attendance policy states: “If any Director fails to attend three consecutive BWTF meetings or is absent from half of the overall meetings in a year, the Board may request that a replacement be named to represent the participating group or interest (if applicable). At that time, the Board should also address the participating group or interest's commitment to the BWTF’s activities”. Since the attendance policy states that the “Board **may** request...”, the board agreed to keep the bylaws as they stand.
- d. TMDL update (Kristin)
 - i. TMDL pamphlet (Kristin): The TMDL pamphlet deadline has been extended to December 1st so that the pamphlet can include results from the TMDL sediment assessments.
- e. Watershed Restoration Planning Workshop (Kristin): Kristin attended a Watershed Restoration Planning (WRP) Workshop put on by the Montana DEQ. BWTF received a WRP grant from the Montana DEQ this past spring. Before restoration planning can begin, the Upper Gallatin TMDL must be completed. Other watershed groups, who have begun the WRP process, have found success by first meeting with groups of stakeholders from individual tributaries in the watershed to discuss their concerns. Watershed Restoration Plans can include plans for streams that are not TMDL listed streams.
- f. Wastewater Solutions Forum (WWSF) update (Jon/Ron): The snowmaking pilot study will need a discharge permit from the Montana DEQ, which may take up to six months to process. Therefore, the snowmaking pilot study will most likely not occur until the winter of 2010-2011. At the last WWSF meeting, the group voted to pay for the permit application. This winter, baseline data will be collected from the study site on Yellowstone Club property. A field trip to the study site will occur on October 7th at 1pm.

6. Upcoming Events

- a. September 4th: BWTF informational booth at BSOA annual meeting reception at Big Sky Resort. Annual meeting starts at 1pm, while the reception starts at 2:30.
- b. Next Week: Quarterly Water Quality Sampling Event
- c. Next Week: Biannual Macro Sampling Event
- d. September 15th: Field day with Simon to learn how to operate stage rods and automatic samplers
- e. Saturday, September 26th Didymo Sampling Event for Sue Barton's study. Meet at 9am at Community Park shelter
- f. Next board meeting date: October 8th at 4pm.

7. Open Discussion

- 8. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.