

**Blue Water Task Force Board of Directors Meeting**  
**October 19, 2009 4 PM**  
**Big Sky Owners Association**  
**MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Jon Holtzman at 4:07 pm. Also in attendance were directors Sue Barton, Eric Becker, Jack Crowther, and Mindy Nowakowski. Absent were directors Ron Edwards and Mike Richter.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Sue moved and Mindy seconded to approve the minutes from 09-03-09. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Financial Report:** Mindy moved and Jack seconded to approve the financial report. Motion carried unanimously.
4. **New Business**
  - a. 10 year anniversary event (Kristin): 2010 will be the 10 year anniversary since the establishment of BWTF. Kristin thought it would be a great idea to hold a 10 year anniversary event. The event could be a barbeque with a general update on BWTF activities. The board thought an anniversary event would be a good idea. Kristin will pursue planning an event for the end of next summer/early fall.
5. **Old Business**
  - a. TMDL update (Kristin): TMDL assessments are still on track to be completed by spring 2010.
  - b. Streamflow website (Kristin): Brian McGlynn, a hydrologist at Montana State University and Kristin's main advisor has agreed to use federal funding that he received to set up a communications system on the 4 BWTF stream flow gauges in the West Fork watershed so that the data can be accessed real time online. Kristin will keep the board updated on the progress of the project. Jon stated that he would like to see streamflow from the Gallatin analyzed to determine if there has been significant draw down in the Gallatin as a result of increased development in Big Sky. Kristin asked Paul Swenson about looking at the problem as a high school science project. However, Paul said that he was focusing on geology this year. Kristin will approach university professors about using this problem as a class project and/or will try to find funding for the project.
  - c. Quarterly water quality sampling and biannual bug sampling (Kristin): In September, a quarterly water quality sampling event and a biannual bug sampling event were held. Nothing out of the ordinary was found in the streamwater chemistry, however, substantial didymo was sited at the Dudley and Down 2 sites. Since Rhithron is only going to write up one report for the two bug sampling events, results from the

September bug sampling will not be available until Spring. Bug populations looked healthy at all of the Gallatin sites, however in the West Fork populations appeared to be a bit sparse.

- d. Didymo update (Sue): Sue is working on a project to document the existence of didymo in the Middle Fork for her Master's capstone project. Sue held two didymo sampling events on the Middle Fork – one in late August and another in late September. In August, little didymo existed. In September, didymo was documented along most of the Middle Fork reach. However, Sue discovered that the “didymo” collected in September was actually a totally different genus of diatom called *Cymbella mexicana*, which is another stalked diatom, like didymo. Sue will keep the board updated on the progress of her didymo analysis.
- e. Gallatin Local Water Quality District Expansion Update (Kristin): At the November 5th GLWQD Board meeting the staff will review the schedule for the expansion process with the Board. Tentatively, the schedule is at the December 3rd GLWQD Board meeting to hold a public hearing to pass a resolution of intent to change the District boundary. December 6<sup>th</sup> GLWQD will tentatively publish 30-day public notice in newspaper of board meeting to hold hearing to change the District boundary. At the January 7th GLWQD Board Meeting, GLWQD will tentatively hold a public meeting to hear protest to boundary change. A draft resolution to change the District boundary will be voted on at that time.
- f. Wastewater Solutions Forum update (Jon/Ron): Not much has happened with the Wastewater Solutions Forum in the past month. At the last WWSF meeting, the group approved to spend money for HKM to complete a DEQ permit application for the snowmaking pilot study. The permit application has not been completed yet.

## **6. Upcoming Events**

- a. November 12<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm, Twin Bridges School lunchroom - Missouri Headwaters Partnership Annual Meeting
- b. December 12<sup>th</sup> – “Green Day” – Big Sky Resort
- c. December 17<sup>th</sup> – 319 Grant Review Q&A Panel, Helena
- d. Next board meeting date: December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4pm at BSOA.

## **7. Open Discussion**

- 8. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm