

Blue Water Task Force Board of Directors Meeting
January 07, 2010 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, Ron Edwards, Mindy Nowakowski, and Jack Crowther. Absent were directors Mike Richter and Eric Becker.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Sue moved and Mindy seconded to approve the minutes from 12-03-09. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Financial Report:** Jack moved and Mindy seconded to approve the financial report from 01-07-10. Motion carried unanimously.
4. **New Business**
 - a. Lone Peak Articles (Kristin): Two articles about BWTF activities will be published in the Lone Peak Lookout in the next two weeks. One article will describe the results of the summer nitrate study on the West Fork and announce the new 319 grant to fund another year of study. The other article will discuss the Gallatin Local Water Quality District Expansion to Big Sky.
5. **Old Business**
 - a. TMDL update (Kristin)
 - i. TMDL brochure: Jon and Kristin have reviewed the 2nd draft of the TMDL pamphlet. The rest of the board will receive the draft pamphlet later this week to review. Karen is hoping to send the finalized pamphlet off to print by the end of February.
 - b. 319 Grant (Kristin): BWTF received a 319 grant for \$30,500 from the Montana DEQ to do a follow up study on the West Fork Nitrate study. Kristin will be meeting with Mark Ockey, the DEQ grant manager, on January 15th to discuss the details of the grant. Board members are welcome to come to this meeting.
 - c. Golf Course study (Kristin): The West Fork Nitrate study final report is on the BWTF website. Kristin handed the board an executive summary of the report findings. Results indicated:
 - During the summer months of 2009, Nitrate+Nitrite concentrations in the Upper West Fork consistently increase as stream travels downstream between two moons and Little Coyote.
 - From July to October 2009, the Nitrate+Nitrite concentration above the Big Sky Golf Course was relatively static (except for a small jump after the 1st hard freeze), while the concentration below the course increased dramatically as the summer progressed.

- Although measured tributaries to the Upper West Fork have a consistently higher concentration than the main-stem (groundwater sources – 40 times MT DEQ target levels- see red line figure 6 and 7), they do not account for the increased concentrations below WF-5. This observation suggests that the many gaining reaches in this area contribute a significant nutrient load to the stream.
 - Qualitatively (determined by photographs) algal growth patterns in the Upper West Fork are consistent with the documented downstream increase in nutrients.
- d. Earth Day Race for the Rivers update (Kristin): The run for the rivers will be held on May 29th (Memorial Day weekend). The race proceeds will be split between the Montana Watercourse, the Greater Gallatin Watershed Council, and BWTF. Proceeds will reflect the amount of time each organization contributes to planning and implementing the event. Kristin will keep the board updated of volunteer race opportunities.
 - e. Quarterly Water Quality Sampling Event (Kristin, Jon, Sue): Water quality data from the December quarterly water quality sampling event was as expected. In addition to the regular sampling sites, samples were collected from the Beaver Creek site downstream from Jakes Horses. Nitrates from this site were low, however, total coliform was very high. Data from Beaver Creek will continue to be collected as part of future quarterly water quality sampling events.
 - f. Wastewater Solutions Forum update (Jon/Ron): Ron reported that the discharge permit for the snowmaking study from the DEQ will require an exorbitant amount of data collection. Collecting the required data will far exceed the funding secured for the pilot study. Instead of abandoning the pilot study, the Big Sky Water and Sewer board would like to set up a meeting in Helena with the DEQ to discuss other options of moving forward with the pilot study.

6. Upcoming Events

- a. January 15th, 12pm – meeting with Mark Oakley, 319 Program grant manager
- b. January 20th, 8:30AM – 12:30PM – Gallatin Restoration Priority Planning Meeting – Bozeman 3710 Fallon St. - USDA Conference Room
- c. January 21st at 5:30pm - Greater Gallatin Watershed Council Annual Meeting –Holiday Inn Bozeman
- d. Next board meeting date:

7. Open Discussion

8. Adjournment