

**Blue Water Task Force Board of Directors Annual Meeting
October 06, 2010 4 PM
Big Sky Owners Association
MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair, Jon Holtzman at 4:05 pm. Also in attendance were directors Mike Richter, Eric Becker, Sue Barton and Mindy Nowakowski. Missing were directors Ron Edwards and Jack Crowther.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Mindy moved and Mike seconded to approve the minutes from 08-25-10. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Financial Report:** Mindy moved and Sue seconded to approve the minutes from 10-06-10. Motion carried unanimously.
4. **Old Business**
 - a. TMDL update (Kristin)
 - i. Public comment: Kristin was the only person/organization to make official comment on the Upper Gallatin TMDL. Her main concern was a figure illustrating chlorophyll *a* measurements over the last 3 years in the South Fork that showed a decrease in concentration over time. Over this time period, the DEQ changed chlorophyll *a* sampling procedures. PBS&J contractor Jeff Dunn was concerned that this new sampling procedure produced lower chlorophyll *a* concentrations than the old sampling procedure. He noticed that chlorophyll *a* values were lower than the year before but visually, algal growth looked just as bad as the year before. Pete Schade's response to Kristin's comment was that the differences in chlorophyll *a* concentration over time were a function of late season algal senescence. Even though chlorophyll *a* concentrations were lower than previous years, algal biomass measurements were high, indicating that significant algae was present, yet had begun to die off (senesce) thereby reducing its chlorophyll *a* content. In the final TMDL, the DEQ acknowledged that algal conditions in the West Fork, South Fork did not decrease over time, as photographic assessments of algae as well as observations by contractors and local researchers attest.
 - ii. TMDL leftover funds (\$15,479.80): There are \$15,479.80 leftover in TMDL funds. These funds will transfer to the Watershed Restoration section. It will be possible to extend these contracts past June 30th of 2011. A few projects that the board discussed for these funds include: 1) partnering with a septic pumping business to conduct a public outreach on the importance of proper septic maintenance/inspection (Sue

- mentioned that this would be a great service learning project), 2) completing sewer video work around the golf course, and 2) additional money to develop the watershed restoration plan.
- b. Watershed Restoration Plan (Kristin): Kristin talked to Mark Kelly, the grant manager at the DEQ about the watershed restoration plan grant. He sent a few examples of completed watershed restoration plans that significantly varied in detail and format. The only main requirement (guidance) for the plan is that it contains 9 elements recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency. Mark suggested working with Karin Boyd to conduct a watershed prioritization list. This would take form in two meetings with targeted stakeholders. The board suggested having a public meeting prior to the meetings with targeted stakeholders to gather ideas for restoration projects from the Big Sky community. Kristin will contact Karin to discuss a budget and deliverables.
 - c. 319 grant (Kristin): Kristin applied for a 319 grant to fund a nutrient management plan for the Big Sky Golf Course as recommended from the TMDL assessments.
 - d. Board articles (Jon): Jon recommended that each board member write an article for the paper in the form of a series on the Gallatin River. Below are his suggestions
 - a. Jon – History
 - b. Jack – closing the water loop in Big Sky
 - c. Ron – Capacity problem, long term water usage
 - d. Eric – how the river and river usage has changed over the years.
 - e. Sue – importance of educating students about the environment
 - f. Mike: water flows and long term water availability.
 - g. Kristin: current state of the watershed, website, how BWTF operatesKristin and Jon will discuss the idea with local newspapers.
 - e. Water quality and aquatic insect sampling (Kristin/Jon/Sue): No red flags from the august water quality data. The aquatic insects were sent for analysis and will be combined with data from April 2011 for one written report.
 - f. Wastewater solutions forum update (Jon/Ron): a plan was submitted to the DEQ for the snowmaking project to be a stand alone permit.
 - g. Mindy's resignation: Eric moved and Mike seconded to accept Mindy's resignation. Motion carried unanimously.
 - h. Bylaw Amendments: It was discussed that although the amendments to Article XIV and XV were adopted at the July 27, 2010 meeting that an amendment was needed as well for Article I, Section 2 to update the registered agent and office of the BWTF and the amendment to Article XV needed to be revised. Therefore, the amendments were again

discussed and read at this meeting and will be voted on at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

5. Upcoming Events

- a. October 13th (Time and Place TBA) – Interview for the Community Infrastructure Project
- b. October 21st, 12 to 430, Fish Wildlife & Parks on South 19th – Greater Gallatin Watershed Council Tour: “Urban development and agriculture in the Gallatin watershed”
- c. October 27th, 4-6pm at the Whitewater Inn– Healthy Forest Initiative Big Sky Public Meeting
- d. November 10th, 6pm at Twin Bridges School– Missouri Headwaters Partnership Annual Meeting
- e. November 19th – 319 Application Due
- f. December 2nd - MTDEQ Helena – 319 Presentation
- g. December 9th – MTDEQ notification of 319 award
- h. February 15th – 17th: Nutrients and Water Quality Workshop
- i. Next board meeting date:

6. Open Discussion

7. Adjournment