

Blue Water Task Force Board of Directors Annual Meeting
May 3rd, 2011 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 Ron Edwards, Sue Barton, Jack Crowther, and Mike Richter. Absent was director Eric Becker.
2. **Approval of Minutes** Sue moved and Jack seconded to approve the minutes from 03-22-11. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Financial Report** Jack moved and Sue seconded to approve the financial report from 05-03-11.
4. **New Business**
5. **Old Business**
 - a. **BSOA Ponds** (Kristin): Kristin had a conference call with Mary Jane and PBS&J consultants regarding keeping the Little Coyote pond instream to capture sediment and to develop projects to remove nutrients (filter islands, wetlands etc.). A PBS&J consultant stated that the reason Fish Wildlife & Parks is against instream ponds is a concern over increasing water temperature. Kristin suggested and the board agreed that she monitor upstream and downstream of the Little Coyote pond for temperature this summer to check for temperature increases. In the meantime, BSOA is following through with their plans to take the pond offstream. PBS&J did state they would be willing to add elements into the pond design to facilitate sediment and nutrient removal. Kristin has asked MSU professor Otto Stein to come to Big Sky to examine the ponds and make suggestions for potential nutrient removal projects to incorporate into the design of the pond. Regarding the water right transfer that is required to account for evaporative loss of a pond, Ron stated that he and Big Sky Water Sewer District's water right lawyer met with Mary Jane and PBS&J consultants regarding transfer of BSWSD's water right to BSOA for recreational use. As it stands, the transfer will have to be reviewed by both the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) and the Water Right Court unless the pond was built prior to 1973. If the pond was built before 1973, then only the DNRC needs to review the case.
 - b. **Watershed Restoration Plan** (Kristin): Kristin handed the board a list of prioritized projects for the Watershed Restoration Plan. The board agreed to include water quantity and quality for the Comprehensive Master Plan of the West Fork watershed. Ron stated that he will review the budgetary needs for the sewer video of meadow village.

Ron added that BSWSD submitted a draft nutrient management plan for land application of treated wastewater onto the Big Sky Golf Course to the MTDEQ last week. The plan focused on wastewater inputs and did not include fertilizer inputs or management schematics of the Big Sky Golf Course. The board agreed on the list of prioritized projects for the Watershed Restoration Plan. Kristin will clean up the priorities list and review the list with MTDEQ 319 grant manager Mark Kelley.

- c. **Groundwater Update** (Mike): Mike is currently working on a document describing the aquifer types in the Big Sky area. He expects to be done by June and then the document will need approval by the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG). Mike stated that he is going to recommend the two wells with continuous water level readings and a few other wells for the long-term sampling network. Mike showed data graphs from wells that clearly show public water supply pumping impacts. They do not appear to show a trend over the past three years. Jon stated that BWTF should create a web link to the MBMG Big Sky data and translate this data for the layperson. Once Mike has completed the aquifer descriptions and they have been accepted by MBMG, Kristin will coordinate a Public Meeting to release the results in a way that is understandable to the general public. In addition, she and Mike will set up a meeting with Pete Bolane to discuss creating a link to the MBMG data.
- d. **Water quality and macroinvertebrate sampling event** (Kristin): Recent water quality sampling event indicated no red flags. Macroinvertebrate sampling focused on the North Fork and just downstream on the lower West Fork to assess for the New Zealand Mud Snail. A full report on the April and September sampling will be available by the end of June.
- e. **Vice chair** (Kristin): Jon nominated and Ron seconded Jack for the position of Vice Chair. Motion carried unanimously.
- f. **Pending grants proposals**: YCCF, BSRAD, Cinnabar Foundation, RBC, Mountaineers Foundation, Northwestern Energy
- g. **Wastewater solutions forum update**: (Jon/Ron): BSWSD submitted a new permit application for the pilot snowmaking project.

6. Upcoming Events

- a. Wednesday, May 4 1pm at the Big Sky Water Sewer District: Wastewater Solutions Forum Meeting
- b. Wednesday, May 11th 1pm to ? at the Big Sky Chapel: BSRAD Q&A
- c. Saturday, May 28th 9 am Pete's Hill: Run for the Rivers road race
- d. Wednesday, June 1st 3 pm Ousel Falls Trailhead: "Water through the season's event" co-sponsored with BSI. Unveiling of Ousel Falls new interpretive trail by Ophir Middle School students.
- e. Wednesday, June 15th at Big Sky Chapel: BSRAD Appropriations
- f. Next board meeting date: Kristin will send out a meetomatic to determine the next board meeting.

7. Open Discussion

Jon asked about the meeting with Montana Department of Transportation regarding road traction sand in the Upper Gallatin watershed. Kristin is waiting to schedule a meeting with MDOT in Helena until she coordinates another meeting in Helena.

Jon asked about the status of the 2011 Work Plan: Kristin completed the edits suggested by the board at the last board meeting on March 22, 2011. She received positive feedback from Jon and Sue. The board agreed to accept the 2011 Work Plan as is.

Jon suggested that we approach someone in the fishing industry as potential board members. The board agreed so Jon will approach potential board candidates.

8. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:20.