

Blue Water Task Force Board of Directors Annual Meeting
June 7th, 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 Eric Becker. Absent was director Mike Richter.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Sue moved and Jack seconded to approve the minutes from 05-03-11. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Financial Report** Jack moved and Sue seconded to approve the financial report from 06-08-11.
4. **New Business**
 - a. Gallatin river cleanup (Kristin): The Water Course is offering financial and marketing to support a river clean up. Eric thought a clean up should focus on the area between Ophir School and Greek Creek. Jon suggested that we hold a barbeque afterwards for volunteers and that we approach the chamber as a partner. Kristin will follow up with Kathryn Watson from the Water Course and Marne from the Big Sky Chamber and will check the Chamber calendar for a potential clean up date.
 - b. Big Sky Resort tipi (Kristin): Big Sky Resort contacted Kristin to see if the Blue Water Task Force would be interested in taking over the educational displays in the “teaching tipis” at the resort. Kristin will find out more details for the next board meeting.
 - c. 319 Grant (Kristin): The board would like to apply for a 319 grant from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MTDEQ) for the nutrient reduction plan for the West Fork of the Gallatin. Kristin will contact Mark Kelley, the MTDEQ 319 grant manager, to see if he thinks this plan would be a good idea for a 319 application. Draft applications are due July 29th.
5. **Old Business**
 - a. BSOA ponds (Kristin): MSU professor Otto Stein came to Big Sky to examine the Little Coyote and Silverbow ponds for the possibility of creating nutrient uptake projects. After looking at both ponds, Otto did not think that the retention time of the ponds would be long enough for any significant nutrient uptake. In addition, Mary Jane updated Kristin on the Little Coyote Pond water right issue – it does not appear that BSOA will pursue taking the Little Coyote pond offstream because of difficulties in changing the Big Sky Water and Sewer District water application. Consequently, both of the Silverbow and Little Coyote ponds will be left alone.

- b. Watershed Restoration Plan (Kristin)
 - i. Draft priorities list: Mark Kelley from the MTDEQ 319 grant program reviewed the draft watershed restoration priorities list and thought they were a good start. He suggested the next step be a prioritization of the action steps to guide restoration work if all priority actions cannot be undertaken immediately or if there are resource limits.
 - ii. Sewer video: Ron stated that the Big Sky Water and Sewer District has not conducted the sewer video yet because of high runoff. Kristin will follow up with Ron next week to see if it will be conducted before the spending deadline of the MTDEQ grant. Ron is not sure if he will be able to video all of the remaining areas around the golf course because of other more pressing issues.
- c. Sampling results (Kristin): Kristin monitored groundwater wells and the West Fork and its tributaries on May 18th for the West Fork Nitrogen Monitoring Study. Groundwater in 4 out of 5 wells was elevated in nitrogen and chloride. Nitrate and chloride generally increase downstream of the bunker except for an unusual really high spike at the Bunker site. Ron stated that the corals at Lone Mountain Ranch are flowing directly into the North Fork. Jon suggested that we test upstream and downstream of the ranch for our next sampling event.
- d. YCCF grant (Kristin): We received a \$3,000 grant from the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation for a demonstration rain garden at Ophir School. Under this project, Kristin will be working with the 4th grade and high school science class on nonpoint source pollution curriculum.
- e. Run for the Rivers (Kristin): The Run for the Rivers in Bozeman was very successful for its second year (223 runners – for a 293% growth rate). Proceeds to the Task Force will be determined by the end of June.
- f. New board member (Jon): Jon talked to Dave Alvin and San Schwalbe about joining the board. San expressed interest and asked that Kristin send her the minutes for the June meeting and the agenda for the July board meeting. Kristin will send San the requested documents.
- g. Wastewater Solutions Forum Update (Jon/Ron): The Wastewater Solutions Forum meeting was well attended on May 4th. At the meeting, Jon expressed concern that one of the Task Forces primary objectives, to see wastewater from “East Big Sky” centrally collected and treated and removed as a threat to the water quality of the Gallatin River main stem, has gotten a bit lost behind the Forum’s recent focus on the snowmaking pilot project. To address Jon’s concern, Scott Bosse from American Rivers is going to take a lead on an outreach effort to explain to the community – both in Big Sky and in Bozeman – the status of the Outstanding Resource Water effort, recent progress in Big Sky – including the permit decision and DEQ approval of the snowmaking pilot project and what the future challenges might be – including growth of the community and an eventual need to provide additional treatment capacity.

6. Upcoming Events

- a. Saturday, June 11, 2011: Water quality sampling event
- b. Monday & Tuesday, June 13th/14th: Ophir garden community dig days
- c. Kristin out of town June 17th – June 29th
- d. Wednesday, June 15th at Big Sky Chapel: BSRAD Appropriations
- e. July 29th Draft 319 project applications due
- f. GLWQD Meeting
- g. MDOT Meeting
- h. Next board meeting date: Thursday July 14th at 4 pm.

7. Open Discussion

- 8. Adjournment** The meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.