

**Blue Water Task Force Board of Directors Annual Meeting**  
**July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011 3 PM**  
**Big Sky Owners Association**  
**MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order** Chairman Jon Holtzman called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm. Also in attendance were directors Ron Edwards, Sue Barton, Jack Crowther, and Mike Richter. Absent was director Eric Becker. Also in attendance was Big Sky resident and owner of Wildwood Nursery San Schwalbe
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Ron moved and Mike seconded to approve the minutes from 06-07-11. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Financial Report:** Jack moved and Mike seconded to approve the financial report from 07-19-11.
4. **New Business**
  - a. Big Sky Watershed Corps (Kristin): The Big Sky Watershed Corps is a collaborative program among the Montana Watershed Coordination Council, the Montana Association of Conservation Districts, and the Montana Conservation Corps to link an AmeriCorps volunteer with organizations positively influencing watershed communities in the State of Montana. The volunteer is expected to work with watershed organizations for 1700 hours beginning October 17<sup>th</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup>. Watershed groups must come up with the \$10,000 cash match, but there is assistance for groups that cannot come up with the full \$10,000. In addition, BWTF would have to provide office space, a computer, and the internet. The volunteer could work on multiple projects over the coming year (e.g. septic outreach, rain garden, expanding volunteer monitoring). An extra person on board would allow Kristin to focus more on financial and strategic planning for the organization.
  - b. Financial planning workshop (Kristin): Kristin suggested that the board consider developing a financial plan for the organization to ensure adequate funds for programs and activities with the end of the TMDL program. Jon suggested Jack and San help with the plan. Ron suggested Kristin ask other watershed groups through the MWCC network. San stated that she worked with the Service Core of Retired Executives Association (SCORE) in Bozeman. The association offers free financial planning for businesses. Kristin will research potential consulting services including contacting SCORE and contacting other watershed groups.
  - c. Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (Kristin): The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) is an arm of the National Park Service that provides technical assistance to conserve rivers and to build trails. The program does not grant money but

assists communities in the planning and implementation of projects. Kristin thought this program might be a good fit for the trail from the Meadow to the Mountain that the Big Sky Trails Committee would like to develop with the addition of an interpretive trail and riparian enhancement projects. Kristin spoke to Steve Johnson, the chair of the Big Sky Trails Committee, who was in favor of the idea. The board encouraged Kristin to apply for the program. Kristin will submit an application by the August 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

## **5. Old Business**

- a. Big Sky Resort Area Tax District funding (Kristin): The Big Sky Resort Tax District allocated \$33,000 to BWTF for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.
- b. Gallatin River cleanup (Kristin): Kathryn Watson stated that the Watercourse would donate \$500 towards a river clean up. Kristin contacted Sunni Knapton from the Madison Watershed Partnership to see if they were interested in collaborating on the event. Sunni was interested and is going to check with Moonlight Basin to see about Jack Creek access and if they want to have the after party on their site. If the MHP is not interested in collaborating in the event, then Kristin suggested BWTF have the après party along the Gallatin River. Mike Richter suggested the Red Cliff Campground. Marne said the Chamber of Commerce cannot commit to helping with the event but will help spread the word.
- c. 319 grant application (Kristin): Mark Kelley from the MTDEQ encouraged BWTF to apply for a 319 application for the West Fork Nutrient Reduction Plan and for partial implementation of the plan. Kristin will submit an application for approximately \$125,000 to cover plan development and plan implementation. Implementation projects include: 1) education and outreach to the community about septic maintenance, fertilizer use, and horse corral management, 2) monitoring on the South Fork and upper Middle Fork to pinpoint nitrogen sources, 3) monitoring on the West Fork to gauge success/failure of future restoration projects, 4) field reconnaissance of riparian condition maps created through aerial photography for the TMDL assessments, and 5) riparian restoration of half mile stretch along the golf course between the Bunker and Little Coyote Rd. Ron asked if Kristin would add money for a weather station to aid in timing of golf course irrigation. Kristin will add money for the weather station to the 319 application.
- d. Gallatin Local Water Quality District Meeting (Kristin/Ron/Mike): Jon asked if either the Watershed Corps volunteer or the GLWQD could analyze the flow data from the USGS Gallatin Gateway stream gauge to check for trends in streamflow. Kristin will add this project to the list of potential projects for the Corps volunteer and speak with GLWQD about performing the analysis.

- e. Crail Creek project (Kristin): A recent complaint to the Gallatin Water Quality District about a construction project along the Crail Creek drainage prompted the Gallatin Conservation District to investigate whether stream permits are required. Kristin will keep the board updated on the investigation.
- f. Watershed Restoration Plan (Kristin)
  - i. Sewer video (Ron): The Big Sky Water and Sewer District surveyed 10,175 linear feet of sewer mains. Ron has not received result of the video yet.
- g. Wastewater Solutions Forum Update (Jon/Ron): Scott Bosse from American Rivers is planning an out reach campaign on recent Wastewater Solutions Forum activities. Preparation work for the snowmaking pilot study site in the Yellowstone Club should be should be completed by the end of August. The next meeting will be in September.

## **6. Upcoming Events**

- a. Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> 8:30 am in Helena: Meeting with MDOT
- b. Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>: Draft MTDEQ 319 project applications due
- c. Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> 9 am at Ophir School: Landscape designer, Dan La France, to visit future rain garden site.
- d. Saturday July 30<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am – 5 pm: Big Sky Country Fair
- e. Monday, August 1<sup>st</sup>: Rivers to Trails Applications are due
- f. Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup>: Big Sky Watershed Corps Applications are due
- g. September 14-16<sup>th</sup>, Big Sky Resort: Water Quality Planning Panel at the Montana Planning Association Annual Conference
- h. Next board meeting date:

## **7. Open Discussion**

The Big Sky Water and Sewer District recently submitted a draft Big Sky Golf Course Nutrient Management Plan to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. Todd Teegarden and Terry Campbell met with Taylor Middleton, Sam Woodger, and Grant Burroughs for a site visit to the Big Sky Golf Course. MTDEQ plans to submit a follow up on the draft plan after the site visit.

**8. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.