

**Blue Water Task Force Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 1st, 2011 4 PM**  
**Big Sky Owners Association**  
**MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Jon Holtzman called the meeting to order at 4:10 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 Jack seconded to approve the minutes from 07-19-11. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Financial Report:** Jack moved and Ron seconded to approve the financial report from 09-01-11. Motion carried unanimously.
4. **New Business**
5. **Old Business**
  - a. New Board Member (Kristin): Jack moved and Sue seconded to appoint San Schwalbe to the Board of Directors. Motion carried unanimously.
  - b. Montana Department of Transportation (MDOT) Meeting (Kristin): Kristin reported on the meeting with the MDOT to discuss road sanding practices in the Upper Gallatin. Ideas discussed for future projects with MDOT include: 1) identifying and marking sensitive areas along Highway 191 and 64, 2) conduct mini-workshop for drivers working between Gallatin Gateway and West Yellowstone, 3) discuss catchment basins with MDOT environmental staff and possible funding sources, 4) obtain a copy of the stormwater runoff audit, 5) write an article in local paper about road sanding practices, and 6) contact regional associations to find out more about information sharing among states.
  - c. Macroinvertebrate Report (Kristin): The macroinvertebrate report for the September 2010 and April 2011 sampling events by Rhithron Associates documented no new Zealand snails in the North Fork samples in April. This indicates that the snails observed in the September samples were most likely transported via waders and/or the sampling net. In addition, a sample at Beaver Creek contained abnormally low diversity. Kristin will sample Beaver Creek this September and in April 2010 to determine if the low diversity was an anomaly or if it is a longer term trend.
  - d. Rain Garden (Kristin): Dan LaFrance drafted a site plan for the Ophir School demonstration rain garden. San is going to review the plan and set up a detailed budget. San stated that it would be helpful if the Ophir students mapped sun and shade for plant selection.
  - e. Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (Kristin): Kristin spoke with the regional manager of the RTCA program, Gary Weiner, in July about the Meadow to Mountain trail. He seemed very interested and

would like to schedule a site visit. Gary recommended applying for the program next year (July 2012) as it was too late to pull together an application for this year. Kristin met with Herb Davis and Steve Johnson to discuss the trail. The first step will be to determine landowners and move forward with negotiating easements for the trail. Kristin talked to Mary Jane about working with BSOA and Mindy to negotiate the easements. Mary Jane will ask the BSOA board and follow up with Kristin.

- f. Watershed Corps Volunteer (Kristin): The Blue Water Task Force was chosen to be a host site for the Watershed Corps program. In the next couple of weeks, Kristin will receive more details about the program from the Montana Conservation Corps. Kristin will update the board as soon as she learns about the program. The Montana Watershed Coordination Council has secured funding to support the Big Sky Watershed Corps Member that must run through the local Conservation District. Kristin will attend the next Gallatin Conservation District board meeting to request funding to support the Big Sky Watershed Corps Member.
- g. Gallatin River Cleanup (Kristin): Volunteers for the Gallatin River Cleanup will meet at 9:30 am at the Big Sky Community Park Pavilion. Kristin is going to talk to local fishing and rafting guides to get their ideas of areas to focus on. A free BBQ will follow the cleanup. Ron suggested Kristin contact Steve Johnson about the chain saw wench to remove the large metal object in the Middle Fork.
- h. Crail Creek Update (Kristin): The Gallatin Conservation District determined that construction occurring in the Crail Creek drainage is “non-jurisdictional”
- i. Fundraising Plan (Kristin): Kristin will be attending a Fundraising Training hosted by the MWCC. Kristin contacted the Bozeman SCORE program and they do advise nonprofit financial planning. A SCORE member will be getting in touch with Kristin.
- j. Sewer Video results (Ron): The Big Sky Water and Sewer District has received the results from the sewer videoing conducted around the Big Sky Golf Course. Ron stated that there were no major problems found. Ron will send Kristin a copy of the report.
- k. August Golf Course Sampling Results (Kristin): Kristin showed the board maps of the August Golf Course sampling results. The sampling site near the bunker parking lot showed unusually high levels of nitrate and chloride this May and August. High nitrate levels were also measured along the eastern edge of the golf course in a shallow groundwater well and also in the “springs” behind the Big Sky Chapel. Once Kristin receives the results from the October sampling and the isotopic results, she will coordinate a meeting with local technical experts to determine from a scientific standpoint what additional data should be collected to determine the source of high nitrates.

- l. Wastewater Solutions Forum Update (Jon/Ron): The study site at the Yellowstone Club for the pilot snowmaking study is ready. DEQ has approved the study site. Sampling will begin this winter.
- m. Pilot Snowmaking Study Sampling (Kristin): The board agreed Kristin should help with collecting samples for the pilot snowmaking study.

## **6. Upcoming Events**

- a. Saturday, September 10th: Quarterly Water Quality and Aquatic Insect Sampling Event
- b. Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1 pm at the Talus Room of the Summit Hotel: BSOA annual meeting – BWTF will have booth at reception following the meeting at Whiskey Jacks.
- c. September 2<sup>nd</sup>: MTDEQ feedback on 319 application
- d. September 15<sup>th</sup>, Big Sky Resort: Presentation for the Water Quality Planning Panel at the Montana Planning Association Annual Conference
- e. September 20-22<sup>nd</sup> B Bar Ranch in Paradise Valley: a training on “Effective Fundraising” hosted by the Montana Watershed Coordination Council
- f. September 24<sup>th</sup>: Gallatin River Clean Up
- g. October 7<sup>th</sup> 2011: Final 319 applications due to MTDEQ
- h. November 4, 2011: MTDEQ 319 program - notification of intent to award
- i. Next board meeting date: Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at BSOA

## **7. Open Discussion**

- 8. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.