

Blue Water Task Force Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, May 8th, 2012 4 PM
Big Sky Water and Sewer District
MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** BWTF Chair Jon Holtzman called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm. Also in attendance were directors Sue Barton, Jack Crowther, and Ron Edwards.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Ron moved and Jack seconded to approve the minutes from 03-13-12. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Financial Report:** Sue moved and Jack seconded to approve the financial report from 05-08-12. Motion carried unanimously.
4. **New Business**
 - a. Revised water quality sampling program (Kristin): Kristin recommended to the board to revise the current water quality monitoring program to address current water quality issues (sediment, nutrients, algae, chloride). Revisions include: 1) monitoring for chloride, fine sediment, and algae, 2) developing a sampling analysis to be approved by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality which will allow BWTF to apply for state funding to support the volunteer water quality monitoring program, 3) no longer collecting data at Dudley Creek, which has an abundance of background data and is not experiencing any changes, 4) adding four new sites – one site on the South Fork above the meadow village to understand water quality before the stream runs through meadow village, one site on the lower Middle Fork and another site on the upper Middle Fork to understand sources of nitrogen and sediment, and one site on the Upper West Fork downstream of the Big Sky Golf Course and upstream of the Big Sky Community Park and the wastewater storage ponds to examine for increases in nitrogen between the golf course and the confluence of the South Fork. These revisions will require significant additional funding for the initial year and then expenses should be similar to the current monitoring program. Kristin has applied for funding from the Big Sky Resort Area District and the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation. The board agreed with the suggested changes if and when the required funding is raised.
 - b. Google Analytics (Kristin): Kristin added the Google Analytics application to the BWTF website and asked any interested board members to send their gmail account names to gain access to the data.
 - c. Farmers Market (Kristin): Kristin would like to have a booth at the Farmer's Market to increase exposure of Big Sky residents and visitors to the work of the BWTF.
 - d. Big Sky Natural Resource Council (Kristin): Kristin is serving on the Big Sky Natural Resource Council. The council consists of professionals working on natural resource issues in the Big Sky area. More information on the council can be found at www.bigskynaturalresourcecouncil.org

- e. Lower Gallatin Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) (Kristin): The Lower Gallatin TMDL will be completed this summer. Kristin and Alicia attended a preliminary meeting in April.

5. Old Business

- a. Resort Tax Application (Kristin): Kristin handed the board a FAQs sheet describing what was asked for in the Resort Tax application and why.
- b. Septic Video (Kristin): Kristin suggested that the BWTF use a septic maintenance video from the MSU Montana Water Quality Extension on the BWTF website in addition to the video made by the Ophir School.
- c. Fundraising Plan (Kristin)
 - i. Membership program (Kristin): Kristin will develop a Membership development plan for the board by the next board meeting.
 - ii. Special event (Kristin/Jon): Jon is going to work with Jack to set up a meeting with potential community members to be on a committee to develop a fly-fishing tournament.
- d. Rain Garden Update (Kristin): This summer, work on the rain garden will include hardscaping and irrigation. Any day now, Kristin should receive an updated plan of the garden from Dan LaFrance.
- e. Watershed Restoration Plan (Kristin): Kristin has received comments from the Montana Department Environmental Quality on the watershed restoration plan. The comments are minimal and Kristin hopes to complete the final document by the end of the month.
- f. Golf Course Study (Kristin)
 - i. Water level probe installation (Kristin): water level probes were installed in two wells on the Big Sky Golf Course. In addition, water samples were collected and analyzed for nitrogen and chloride by the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology.
 - ii. Nutrient Management Plan (Kristin): The Montana Department of Environmental Quality has approved the Nutrient Management Plan for the Big Sky Golf Course written by Big Sky Water and Sewer District.
 - iii. Meetings with Taylor Middleton and Sam Woodger (Kristin): Kristin had separate meetings with both Taylor Middleton and Sam Woodger to discuss recent water quality findings from the West Fork Nitrogen Study and to discuss the probes installed into two of the groundwater wells of the Big Sky Golf Course. Taylor expressed concern about the release of excess irrigation water on the fields west of the maintenance shop.
- g. Alicia Mid-term Evaluation (Kristin): Kristin submitted a mid-term evaluation for Alicia to the Montana Conservation Corps. Alicia would like any feedback that the board might have. Kristin asked the board to email Kristin any positive or negative feedback on Alicia's work with the BWTF.

6. Upcoming Events

- a. May 9th: Big Sky Resort Tax District Q&A at 1pm at the Big Sky Chapel
- b. Mid-late May TBD: runoff sampling for the pilot snowmaking project

- c. Early June TBD: runoff water quality sampling event
- d. June 2nd: Lower Gallatin River cleanup sponsored by Trout Unlimited. More info coming soon.
- e. June 13th: Big Sky Resort Tax District Allocation at 1pm at the Big Sky Chapel
- f. June 29th: Big Sky Natural Resource Council: Forest Management Workshop
- g. July 28th: Big Sky Country Fair and Arts Festival
- h. River Cleanup date: The board would like to conduct another river cleanup in September.
- i. Next board meeting date: The next board meeting will be Tuesday, June 5 at 3:30pm at the Big Sky Water and Sewer District.

7. Open Discussion

Ron mentioned that John Olson from Spanish Peaks called with concern over a recent article in the Lone Peak Lookout about the Watershed Restoration Plan that related water quality issues with development. Kristin and Jon will make an effort to meet with John to discuss his concerns.

Sue mentioned that Nancy Sheil, a high school teacher of environmental science and math has interest to be on the BWTF board. Kristin agrees that Nancy would be a great asset to the board. Sue will ask Nancy to attend the next board meeting so that the rest of the board can meet Nancy.

8. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.