

Blue Water Task Force Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, November 28th, 2012 4 PM
Big Sky Water and Sewer District
MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Jon Holtzman called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm. Directors Jack Crowther, Ron Edwards, Mike Richter, and Eric Becker were present. Also in attendance were Executive Director, Kristin Gardner, Big Sky Watershed Corps member, Alicia DeGroot, Ray Armstrong from HKM, and John Wheaton, Kirk Warren, and Tom Michalek from the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Jack made a motion and Mike seconded to approve the minutes from October 29, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Financial Report:** Eric motioned and Jack seconded to approve the financial report. Motion carried unanimously.
4. **New Business**
5. **Old Business**
 - a. **Groundwater Information Program (GWIP):** John, Kirk and Tom explained that the main purpose of their visit was to hear our input and ideas on groundwater issues in the Big Sky area. The GWIP program conducts extensive analyses to answer specific groundwater questions that will help guide a community in land/water management decisions. Planning for the Big Sky study will begin in the middle of the winter (2013) with the project start date to be July 2013. Ron had two ideas for the study. The first idea is to look at the susceptibility of public water supply to changes in climate/snowmelt. The second idea is a study of the Spanish Peaks North (SPN) area to determine draw down and depletion dynamics. This subdivision has public sewer but not water; homeowners in the area have private wells. A few private wells in the area have gone dry. SPN is located on a confined aquifer. Eric suggested an overall study of the capacities of the different aquifers and the potential impacts of full build-out. Currently Big Sky is at about 60% build-out. Kristin suggested looking more closely at the groundwater and surface water flowpaths (losing/gaining reaches) on the Big Sky Golf Course. This information would assist management of wastewater disposal as irrigation water onto the golf course so as to minimize nitrogen loading into the West Fork. Jon suggested looking at how water use in Big Sky may or may not impact the Gallatin. There have been a number of accusations from folks in Bozeman that Big Sky is depleting streamflow in the lower Gallatin. John stated that the budget for the project would be a few hundred thousand dollars. Products from MBMG would include a technical report, a modeling report and an aquifer report. Jon suggested an educational piece for the general public.
 - b. **Kristin's contract (Kristin):** Mindy approved the contractual language – the board needs to approve the scope of work, which was sent via email on November 14th. Eric made a motion and Jack seconded to approve the

scope of work. Motion carried unanimously. Jack asked about insurance coverage. Kristin stated that the BWTF would need to raise more unrestricted funds to afford insurance. In the near future, Kristin would like to see the Executive Director become an employee with insurance coverage rather than a contractor.

- c. South Fork Westslope Cutthroat Trout (Kristin): A meeting was held to discuss potential projects to protect the Westslope Cutthroat trout above Ousel Falls. Attendees included Mike Vaughn from Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Jessie Wiese from the Big Sky Community Corporation (BSCC), Steve Johnson and Herb Davis from the Big Sky Trails Committee, and Rich Chandler, the Environmental Manager at the Yellowstone Club. The BWTF will work with BSCC on developing an informational brochure and a poster to display at the Ousel Falls trailhead and at fishing outfitters.
- d. Annual report (Kristin): The final design of the annual report should be completed by the end of this week. Once the design is completed, the printers will need twelve business days to complete the job. Since both Jon's letter and the pictures will not fit on the first panel of the second page of document the board voted to go with the version with the pictures.
- e. Membership program (Kristin)
 - i. Advertisements: Advertisements for the membership program were in the Lookout and the Weekly. To date, we have received no membership donations. The next ads will go out during Christmas and an ad will be in the winter edition of the Big Sky Magazine. The Winter Outlaw magazine was completely booked but an ad will go out in the summer magazine.
 - ii. Master contact list: Kristin will work on getting a master contact list for membership solicitation out to the board after the draft final report for the West Fork Nitrogen Monitoring Project is completed (~December 1st). Kristin reminded the board that they should think about writing their personal notes for membership solicitation. Jon asked Kristin to send out a template letter.
- f. Stormwater Garden Update
 - i. Fundraiser (Alicia): Alicia had a meeting with Jerry House about a school fundraiser for the stormwater garden. They decided on a flower sale targeted for Mothers Day.
 - ii. Budget (Kristin): San did not get a chance to send Kristin a detailed budget for the stormwater garden before she left town. She will send it to Kristin when she gets back in town mid-December. Kristin will wait until San's return to present the new garden plan and budget to Jerry House and the school board.
- g. Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP) public information piece (Kristin): Kristin received a third draft of the WRP brochure from Karen on Monday. Printing and mailing is scheduled for December 1st.
- h. Golf course study (Kristin)

- a. Golf course education and outreach: Kristin has sent out a first draft of the education and outreach brochure to Sam Woodger, Taylor Middleton, the DEQ grant manager and the board.
- b. Final report: the final reports for the data analysis and the project are due at the end of December. Kristin is aiming to have a draft report of the data analysis completed by December 1st and will send the it out to the board, Taylor, Sam, and the DEQ grant manager for review.
- i. Volunteer fair (Alicia): Alicia has been working with Katie Alvin and Leah Johnson to plan the volunteer fair on Martin Luther King day (January 21, 2013)
- j. Snowmaking study update (Ron/Kristin): HKM has completed the final report. A meeting was held earlier in the day to discuss the results. Results indicate that most of the snowmelt left the site as surface runoff. These results imply that for any future snowmaking to occur, the runoff will need to be contained to allow for percolation into the ground. Otherwise, the runoff is deemed a surface discharge; however, there may be some work around since the runoff occurs outside the time period of concern for Montana nutrient standards (July 1 - September 30th). Nutrient trading could be an option as MTDEQ is in the process of developing a draft nutrient trading policy.
- k. Special Event (Kristin): Fishing derbies/contests are not allowed for trout or mountain whitefish by the Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Kristin suggested that the board still consider brainstorming some sort of fundraising event that celebrates and calls attention to fly-fishing on the Gallatin and also raises funds for the BWTF programs to protect and improve water quality. Kristin has sent out an email to coordinate a breakfast meeting to brainstorm ideas. Ron mentioned that Simms now has a location in Four Corners

2. Upcoming Events

- a. November 30, 2012: 4th grade monitoring on the Gallatin River.
- b. December TBD: Water quality monitoring event.
- c. December 31, 2012: West Fork Nitrogen Monitoring Study Grant Closing
- d. January 21, 2013: Volunteer fair at Big Sky School District.
- e. Next board meeting date: Wednesday Jan 16th 4pm

3. Open Discussion

- 4. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.