

**Blue Water Task Force Board of Directors Meeting**  
**September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014, 4 pm**  
**Big Sky Water and Sewer District**  
**MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Jon Holtzman called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm. Other directors in attendance included Ron Bowlin, Ron Edwards, Mike Richter, Jack Crowther, and San Schwalbe. Absent were directors Eric Becker and Nancy Sheil. Also in attendance were BWTF staff, Kristin and Andrea, and Big Sky Watershed Corps member, Brandin Krempasky.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Ron E. made a motion and Jack seconded to approve the minutes from July 10<sup>th</sup> 2014. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Financial Report:** Kristin presented the financial report. Jack made a motion and Ron B. seconded to approve the financial reports. Motion carried unanimously.
4. **New Business**
  - a. River Cleanup (Kristin): The river cleanup is set for Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am at the Big Sky Community Park Pavilion. The focus will be riverside pullouts and access points.
  - b. Potential New Board Member (Kristin): Ron Edwards asked about the number of board members required by the BWTF bylaws and suggested review of the board review the bylaws. The bylaws state that the organization strives for an odd number between 7 and 11. Jon nominated the board ask Tom Spruance to be a member of the board and Ron B. seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Other members of the community have expressed interest in a board position including the General Manager at Lone Mountain Ranch, Paul Robertson, Rich Addicks, and Mike Arneson. The board will address these potential board members at a future meeting.
  - c. Big Sky Watershed Corps Program (Kristin)
    - i. Housing: The BWTF was selected as a host site for a BSWC member for 2014-2015 starting in January. Kristin asked for suggestions for housing in Big Sky. Andrea suggested Big Sky Apartments.
5. **Old Business**
  - a. Fly Fishing Festival Feedback (Kristin): The board had the following suggestions for the 2015 Fly Fishing Festival: 1) keep banquet venue at the Riverhouse, 2) figure out better payment system for Riverhouse with limited wifi and cell service (Ron E. will help with this), and 3) think about competition for painting. Kristin and Andrea are investigating a legal option for a competitive element.
  - b. West Fork Nitrogen Reduction Project
    - i. Consultant Updates (Kristin, Ron): Kristin received more detailed information for stormwater best management projects on the Big Sky Golf Course from AE2S.
    - ii. MT DEQ 319: Kristin applied for a 319 grant for \$261,000 that includes vegetation enhancement on the Upper West Fork, stormwater runoff controls on the Big Sky Golf Course and

abutting development, associated education and outreach, and water quality monitoring. The DEQ should be sending feedback on the initial application soon and the final application is due on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Kristin will be presenting the project to the DEQ on October 23<sup>rd</sup> in Helena and then final decisions will be made in December.

- c. River Access Improvement Project (Kristin): Kristin met with Wendi Urie, the Recreational Specialist at the Gallatin National Forest in July. They both agreed that Moose Creek and Deer Creek should be prioritized and used as model projects for the rest of the potential sites. Kristin suggested the BWTF work with RESPEC to develop site designs to expedite the project work. Kristin and Wendi will attend a meeting with the USFS supervisors to discuss their ideas for moving forward on the project.
- d. Hot Tub Chlorine/Stormwater Stenciling (Brandin/Kristin): Kristin and Brandin have begun investigating the best way to change hot tub water to protect local ground and surface water. Dumping water directly into a stream can increase water temperatures and chlorine is toxic to fish and other aquatic organisms. The intent will be to conduct an educational campaign with residents and hot tub service providers and conduct a stenciling project with students on stormwater drains in the community. Ron Edwards stated that the BSWSD could put an educational flyer in with their water bills.
- e. Little Coyote Pond (Ron): The Big Sky Water and Sewer District is working with their lawyers to transfer part of a water right to the Big Sky Owners Association so that they can dredge the Little Coyote Pond. The intent is to have a smaller pond that is off channel; however, there still is an evaporative loss of water that needs to be addressed. The process could take up to a year with an uncertain outcome.
- f. Water Quality Monitoring Report (Kristin/Brandin)
  - i. South Fork Algae (Kristin): Kristin collected algae samples at two sites on the South Fork and walked the stretch between American Bank and Aspen Leaf Drive in August. Kristin will update the board once she receives the results from the lab and has a chance to examine the gps data.
  - ii. Routine Monitoring (Brandin/Ron): Brandin and Ron B. conducted a routine water monitoring event on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Brandin will update the board on the results once the lab results are received.
  - iii. Volunteers (Brandin): Brandin is looking for volunteers for pebble counts. Ron B., Ron E., and Jon volunteered.
- g. Fundraising report (Andrea)
  - i. Membership: Andrea would like to organize an event at Lone Mountain Ranch to thank current members and obtain new members. Andrea will work with Jon on planning the event.
  - ii. Major Donor Campaign: Andrea is developing a list of local foundations to work with Tom Spruance on a major donor campaign.

- iii. Peggy Consult: Andrea had a two-hour consult with nonprofit consultant, Peggy Owens of Sage Consulting. Peggy recommended working with D.A. Davidson from Bozeman on an endowment. Peggy suggested a sponsor for our newsletter. Greater sponsorship for Trout in the Classroom.

## **6. Upcoming Events**

- a. Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 10 am: Meeting with FWP fisheries biologist
- b. Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am: River Cleanup meet at Big Sky Community Park Pavilion.
- c. Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup>: MTDEQ 319 final application due.
- d. Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup>: Willow planting training – more details coming soon!
- e. Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>: River access improvement project meeting at the USFS Bozeman ranger office.
- f. October 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>: Montana Nonprofit Association annual conference
- g. Next board meeting date: Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.

## **7. Open Discussion**

Jon suggested ads for the local papers thanking businesses and individuals who supported the fly fishing festival. Andrea will design this ad. Kristin will look into putting an ad in the papers for the river cleanup. Outlaw will have the final video ready by the end of next week. PBR 50/50 raffle proceeds should be received by the end of the month.

- 8. Adjournment:** Jon adjourned the meeting at 5:30.