

Gallatin River Task Force Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, May 12th, 2015, 3:00 pm
Big Sky Water and Sewer District
MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Ron Bowlin called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm. Other directors in attendance included Rich Addicks, Rich Chandler, Ron Edwards, Mike Richter, and Tom Spruance. Absent were director Nancy Sheil, Ben Almy, and San Schwalbe. Also in attendance were BWTF staff, Kristin and Andrea, Big Sky Watershed Corps member, Stephanie Lynn.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Rich A. made a motion and Mike seconded to approve the minutes from April 2nd 2015. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Financial Report:** Kristin presented the financial report. Ron made a motion and Rich C. seconded to approve the financial reports. Motion carried unanimously.
4. **New Business**
 - a. Open Land Month (Kristin/Andrea): July Open Land month, which is recognized by the Governor Bullock, to recognize the importance of public lands. Mike Scholz is leading an effort to promote Open Land month activities in Big Sky. Kristin and Andrea met with Mike to discuss a round up of all sales at participating businesses to go to the Big Sky Community Corps, the Gallatin River Task Force, and Travelers for Open Land. We will help to bring businesses on board for the program. The Fly Fishing Festival will be recognized and promoted as an event associated with Open Land Month.
 - b. Gallatin Canyon/Big Sky Zoning Regulation Review (Kristin): Kristin, Andrea, Stephanie, and Rich met with the Upper Missouri Waterkeeper, Guy Alzentzer to discuss potential mechanisms for changes in zoning regulations to protect water quality in the Big Sky Area. The board generally thought this project should be a high priority but was wary of having a Waterkeeper involved as they tend to operate on a more aggressive manner in the form of legal actions.
5. **Old Business**
 - a. Resort Tax Request (Kristin): The final application requested \$157,433 that added staff time for Kristin (10 hours), Andrea (10 hours) and hiring on a full-time person in November when Stephanie's term ends.
 - b. Bylaw Amendments (Kristin): The board voted to amend the bylaws to reflect the new name and mission of the organization.
 - c. Strategic Planning (Kristin/Ron)
 - i. Values: the board decided to add Within the Upper Gallatin Watershed at the end of "Responsible growth and sustainable development"
 - ii. Goals: the board decided to keep the current goals
 - iii. Strategic Focus Areas: the board liked the strategic focus areas developed by Lori and Kristin. Rich suggested adding a goal to lift the TMDLs in the West Fork Watershed

- iv. Next Steps: Kristin will begin working on the strategic plan but will have to wait to June Resort Tax allocation meeting to develop the annual budget, operating, and fundraising plans. Ron and Rich C. offered to help review the draft plan.
- d. Website (Rich/Kristin/Andrea): Rich, Andrea, Kristin and Stephanie met with Classic Ink on May 6th to discuss the logo and website. Classic Ink will provide timelines for the projects this week.
- e. Board MOU (Kristin)
 - i. Signed Forms: Kristin reminded the board to turn in signed MOU forms.
 - ii. Renewals: Mike R. and Ron E. decided to renew their board positions for another 4 year term.
- f. West Fork Vegetation Enhancement Project (Kristin): Sam (Big Sky Resort, Cindy (TREC), and Jeff Dunn (RESPEC) planted 130 willows along the golf course. Ron E. said that Brian Scott may be willing to document the restoration process through aerial photos with a drone. Rich A. said he could potentially make videos to display on our website.
- g. Wild and Scenic Designation (Kristin)
 - i. Upcoming meetings: The upcoming meetings for the Wild and Scenic effort are listed below in Upcoming Events.
 - ii. Volunteers: We are looking for volunteers to be river advocates for the Wild and Scenic designation. Volunteers will be situated at river access sites in the Upper Gallatin and talk to river users about the Wild and Scenic effort. Kristin coordinate a training session in Big Sky with Charles from the Greater Yellowstone Coalition
- h. Stream Access Improvement Project Updates (Kristin): Jeff aims to have draft documents of both the Moose Creek design and the overall map of current river access sites for the Forest Service at the end of June.
- i. Big Sky Watershed Corps Update (Stephanie)
 - i. Volunteer Monitoring: Stephanie will be leading a runoff monitoring event on Friday, May 22nd at 9am.
 - ii. Healthy Rivers Presentations: The Ophir 4th grade will be presenting their river service learning project on May 29th
 - iii. Natural Resource Damage Program conference: Stephanie attended a conference by the Natural Resource Damage Program focusing on the restoration work on the Clark Fork.
 - iv. Interpretive Trail: Stephanie will send out a draft brochure for the Ousel Falls Interpretive Trail for the board to review.
- j. Fundraising report (Andrea/Tom)
 - i. Give Big Gallatin Valley (Andrea): GRTF raised \$4,035 on Give Big Gallatin Valley and was the top environmental nonprofit.
 - ii. Major Donor Campaign (Andrea/Tom): Tom presented his suggestions on implementing a major donor campaign that included: 1) finding a well-know local person to donate and then make calls to other potential donors, and 2) Tom and other board

members contact donors on the potential donor list. We will wait to move forward until we have our new logo and website completed.

- iii. Tom's Big Sky Meetings (Tom): Tom came away with three main ideas to explore from his meetings in Big Sky: 1) creating an umbrella organization of environmental nonprofits working in the Big Sky area, 2) conducting meetings with similar nonprofits about strategies for building capacity, and 3) discussing options for acquiring conservation easements along the Gallatin and other tributaries with a local lawyer.
- iv. Fly Fishing Festival (Andrea): next fly-fishing festival meeting is tomorrow, May 12th at 5 pm at the brewery. The deadline for sponsorships is May 15th.
- v. Meeting with the Henry's Fork Foundation (Tom, Ron, Rich, Andrea, Kristin): A group from the GRTF met with the Henry's Fork Foundation on May 7th to discuss their fundraising program.
- k. Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology Study Update (Ron, Andrea): The study update meeting was well attended. James and Kirk presented their plans for the groundwater study. Discussion of the new GWIP application was favorable.
- l. Wastewater Solutions Forum (Ron/Kristin): HKM has completed a draft of their facilities plan and Mark Cunnane has completed a draft water supply capacity report. Both documents are on the Big Sky Water and Sewer Districts website. The district will move on to a 5 year Capital Improvement Plan and a Impact Fee study. Cross Harbor is close to being finished with their buildout study. Rich asked Ron if he would be willing to give a tour of the treatment system. Kristin asked if we could do a member event. Ron was agreeable.

6. Upcoming Events

- a. May 12th, after board meeting: Fundraising Meeting
- b. May 13th, 1pm – Resort Tax Q&A Meeting at the Big Sky Chapel
- c. May 22nd, 9 am – Run-off Volunteer Monitoring Event
- d. May 29th, 1-2:30 pm- 4th Grade Presentation on River Service Learning Project, Warren Miller Performing Arts Council
- e. June 4th, 12 pm – 1:30 pm: Wild and Scenic Training at the Greater Yellowstone Coalition for Wild and Scenic River Advocates
- f. June 10th, 1pm – Resort Tax Allocation Meeting at the Big Sky Chapel
- g. June 23rd, 7 pm – Montanans for Healthy Rivers Citizens Proposal Forum at the Bozeman Public Library
- h. September 30th – October 2nd in Billings: Montana Nonprofit Association Conference
- i. Next board meeting date (annual meeting): Tuesday, July 14th at 3 pm.

7. Open Discussion

Rich A offered to give a photography lesson to the board.

8. Adjournment: The board meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.