

**Wastewater Solutions Forum  
Working Group  
BSW&S Conference Room  
April 17, 2007**

**Minutes**

**In attendance:** Ron Edwards; Scott Hammond; Marne Hayes; Jon Holtzman; Kevin Kelleher; Ryan Kulesza; Shawn Regnerus; Bill Simkins; and James Taylor

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 1 p.m. by chair Jon Holtzman.
2. A **draft proposal for research goals and plans was presented** by Ron Edwards and James Taylor. The plan focused on a request for engineering services proposals for a wastewater system. The draft was primarily focused on providing central treatment for the Canyon area along Highway 191 roughly from the Big Horn Center to Ophir School.

A problem associated with processing sewage from this area is a lack of storage capacity for treated wastewater. The proposal also calls for investigating alternatives to storing wastewater such as snowmaking, recharge into the ground, and evaporation.

Discussion noted the proposal did not deal with areas outside of the canyon that also posed potential threats to groundwater and the watershed. Ron and James were asked to include state of the art septic treatment and small collection systems in the proposal.

A revised proposal will be circulated via e-mail to the working group for review and discussion at an upcoming meeting. **It will be attached to the minutes** as soon as it is available.

3. Ron Edwards reported that he has **identified potential members for the Technical Team** but has not yet closed the loop on their participation. He expects to have the team specifically identified and committed by the next meeting.

Ron said the Team will probably do most of its work independently, submitting information on-line and meeting as a group only as conditions require.

4. Jon Holtzman **presented a proposal for public outreach**. A copy is attached to the minutes (attachment A). The proposal called for establishing a “virtual” Community Oversight Group, one that would primarily meet online.

Each member of the Working Group is asked to recommend ten people for membership on the Oversight Group, and to forward their names and e-mail addresses to Jon. Those nominated are people the Working Group feels 1) ought to be made aware of what the group is doing; 2) are community “movers and shakers”; and 3) are likely to be interested and might have input.

The plan also calls for minutes to be posted on the Blue Water Task Force website and for the websites of other members to establish links to [www.bluewatertaskforce.com](http://www.bluewatertaskforce.com). It asks Working Group members to report progress to their constituents. Following each Working Group meeting a synopsis of activities will be prepared for use of members \*. It also recommends a PowerPoint presentation be developed for use with interested groups. Finally it calls for periodic newspaper articles to update the broad community.

Kevin Kelleher noted that residents of the Northern Canyon area do not want to be considered part of Big Sky, feel development in Big Sky has brought all of the attention and pressure to strengthen regulation and want to be left out of the discussion altogether. He said the best way to get information to them would be direct mail or through the Bozeman Chronicle.

The group agreed with creating a “virtual” Oversight Group and supported the remainder of the outreach plan.

5. A **review and definition of goals and process** was tabled until the next meeting.
6. A **tentative date of May 15, 1 p.m. was set for the next meeting**. The date may be revised depending on completion of the Request for Proposals for Engineering services.
7. The **meeting was adjourned** at 2:45 p.m.

Jon Holtzman  
Chair

\* see below

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*This synopsis is intended for use by Forum members in reporting to their constituents.*

### **Synopsis of Working Group April 17 meeting**

The Wastewater Solutions Forum was established in Big Sky in February to develop methods of reducing the impact of current and future waste water systems on the Gallatin River watershed in a manner that preserves property rights.

As one of its first actions it is preparing a project to explore expansion of the Big Sky Water and Sewer District. An expanded district would provide central collection and treatment services to the rapidly developing area along Highway 191 in the general area between Ophir School and the Big Horn Center.

The Forum will also investigate systems which improve the treatment of waste water and are economically feasible to recommend for use in areas too isolated for connection to a central collection system.

Expanding the area served by the District will require new ways of managing highly treated wastewater. The project will investigate a variety of technologies in use in other parts of the United State such as snowmaking, engineered drain fields and surface water discharge as well as expanded spray irrigation.

To follow activities of the Forum and its working groups in more detail visit [www.bluewatertaskforce.com](http://www.bluewatertaskforce.com) and click on Waste Water Solutions.

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