

**Wastewater Solutions Forum
Working Group
BSW&S Conference Room
July 22, 2008**

Minutes

In attendance: Scott Bosse, Ron Edwards, Marne Hayes, Jon Holtzman, James Taylor, Mike Unruh, Devon White: Guests: Ray Armstrong, HKM, Tim Skop, Gallatin City-County Health Department, Matt Donnelly, I.e.e.e. Gallatin County, Kyle Barner, Blue Ribbon Builders, Terry O’Neill

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:20 p.m. The minutes of April 16 were motioned by Scott Bosse, seconded by Devon White and approved.
2. During public comment Jon Holtzman noted the current issue of Golf Magazine had just published what they termed “the most important article they had ever printed” concerning a potential lack of water for golf courses around the world by 2025.
3. Ray Armstrong, HKM, and Ron Edwards distributed a draft of the Preliminary Engineering Report for canyon area wastewater treatment and disposal.

Ray requested that the draft report not be widely circulated but that members of the working group review and comment on it to him via e-mail. He solicited questions and suggestions. The report is not complete, requiring additional proofreading, completion of missing sections and appendix entries. Ray and Ron also intend to meet with DEQ representatives to discuss the report and get an initial reaction from them concerning snowmaking.

Scott Bosse, James Taylor and Jon Holtzman asked to be included in the group accompanying Ray and Ron on the review with DEQ. Scott also asked Ray to prepare a memo comparing nutrient loadings on the Gallatin under different treatment scenarios, including designation as an Outstanding Resource Water.

According to Ray the bottom line is “you can dispose of enough treated wastewater through snowmaking to take care of all projected growth over the next twenty years on just 500 + acres of ski runs, and meet all DEQ and EPA standards for protecting aquatic life.”

A copy of the draft report is available for Working Group review at Big Sky Sewer and Water offices.

4. Jon Holtzman discussed a plan for conducting public outreach concerning the the engineering report and the next steps to considering inclusion of the canyon area in the Big Sky Water and Sewer District.

The plan calls for initial face to face discussions with a limited number of canyon residents and groups to help identify concerns and questions, followed by an open meeting for all canyon residents who might be included in an expanded district. The Big Sky Water and Sewer Board would also be included as an early group to be contacted.

The purpose of the outreach was defined as being “to create community awareness, understanding and support for proactive protection of the Upper Gallatin watershed.”

The group noted it was important to point out the broader view in light of the potential impact of continuing drought and of pressures on water availability in the west and in our region due to population growth and global warming. “We need to keep water in our region to assure long term availability for residential, business, recreational use and for consumption.”

The group agreed with the fundamental outline of the outreach plan but said a final plan and action should await completion of the final report and reaction from DEQ to the preliminary report.

A copy of the plan, which is in the process of revision to include a “frequently asked questions” section, is available by request from Jon Holtzman.

5. The next meeting date will not be set until a meeting is held with DEQ.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.