

Gallatin River Task Force Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017, 2 pm  
Big Sky Water and Sewer District

**MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order:** *Rick D. called the meeting to order at 2:08 PM. Other board members present included: Rich C, Rich A, and Ron E. Staff members present included: Kristin, Emily, Steph, and Andrea via gotomeeting. Chase Rose from Bannack Group and Karen Filipovich, the Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum facilitator were also present.*

2. **Consent Agenda\*\***

a. Minutes: August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017

b. Fundraising Report (Andrea):

i. End of year appeal?

*As Andrea reported 100 current members and no new members. Since there have been no new memberships since the Outside Bozeman Ad, the board decided not to take out another ad. Rich A expressed his dissatisfaction with the current number of members and believes we should strive for 1/3 of Big Sky (~1,000). Some ideas included: direct mailings, face to face asks with Task Force volunteers, reaching out to PBR sponsors for \$100 memberships, every board/staff member being responsible for recruiting 1 member per month, and doing a bingo night at the Riverhouse where sales= membership (need to research gambling laws). Another idea, due to changes in MT raffle laws is exchange a raffle sale for a membership (but we will still need to meet the \$6k to fund the drift boat). **Kristin suggested developing a membership committee of staff/board members and volunteers to brainstorm and research these ideas, Steph will brainstorm potential members (Rich A, JeNelle), and Andrea is available to meet with this committee the week of October 16th.** Andrea and Chase would like to host an event around the holidays to thank campaign donors and inspire more potential donations at Lone Mountain Ranch saloon. Board and staff agreed on this idea and **Andrea will have more details on this event at the next board meeting.***

c. Education & Communications Report (Stephanie)

i. Water Quality Data: *Steph presented graphs on specific parameters (nitrogen, phosphorus, e.coli) of water quality data, along with past 3 years comparison. Taylor Fork's nitrate levels, while still below the critical value, has jumped this year. Staff noted the abundance of algal growth. **Steph plans to request more DEQ funding next year for further monitoring on the Taylor Fork.** Nitrates at our community park and West Fork above South Fork sites remained above critical value for all 3 years of monitoring. Causes are probably due from golf course fertilizers, nutrients in effluent sprayed on golf course, and septic systems. All mainstem sites were below critical value, for all 3 years of data displayed. Total P was below critical value at all 16 sites for all 3 years. Chase suggested creating a comparison of the Gallatin's water*

quality/characteristics with other rivers in the area to help donors visualize the health of the Gallatin compared with other river systems. Steph says this is challenging due to the varying character of each system.

- ii. Fourth Grade Curriculum: Steph and Kristin implemented watershed curriculum and have been working with the 4th grade to advise them in designing their own restoration project along Beaver Creek.
  - iii. River Cleanup: Over 100 volunteers helped us remove 1000 pounds of trash at our 6th annual River Cleanup. Special thanks to Steph and Rick for the time they took to restructure our event. **Steph requested board/staff to send her comments on how we can improve for next year.**
- d. Big Sky Watershed Corps Report (Emily)
- i. Water Conservation: Emily and Rich A are working on editing the first proof of our promotional program video with Outlaw. **Emily is also planning to launch a commercial rebate program and will be seeking input from municipal/commercial/development community on program structure and options.**
  - ii. Drought Planning: Emily facilitated a Drought Focus Group meeting on 9/21 to develop drought mitigation and response actions the community can implement to better prepare for future water supply issues and droughts. She is now working with Karen to integrate materials and solutions from the Drought Focus Group into the water supply section of Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum (Forum). **She will be compiling her information from these public meetings, research, outreach etc into a draft drought management plan by November, which will also fit into the Forum's watershed stewardship plan scheduled for completion by the end of the year.**
  - iii. Facilitation Training: Emily learned skills for group brainstorming and decision-making that she can use in facilitating public meetings about drought. She is also looking into becoming certified as a facilitator.

Rich C moved to approve the consent agenda, Ron seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously.

### 3. Financial Report\*\* (Kristin, Rick)

- a. August financials: Kristin developed a new grant tracking matrix, **Ron suggested to include a last column for % spent or remaining for each grant.**
- b. Audit: Rick and Kristin would like to use Runyan for an audit, but are concerned about cash flow with Moose Creek, payroll, and Bannack contract. For this reason, they would like to table the audit discussion for another month. Rick said the big reasons that we may want to have an audit done by the end of the year is if campaign donors want to see an audited. **Board members agreed that tabling for another month is the best option and will decide on a plan for moving forward at the next board meeting.**
- c. 990 Form: Rick, Marjorie, and Kristin have thoroughly reviewed and revised the form. Rick believes its ready for submittal.

Ron moved to approve the financial report (which includes submitting tax return form), Rich A seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously.

#### 4. Old Business

- a. Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum Update (Karen): *Because most of board is very familiar with the Forum's process, Karen presented an overview on goals and objectives for each focus area of the Forum; she focused on priorities and framework for implementation, and facilitated a discussion on the Task Force's role moving forward after the watershed stewardship plan is developed. Starting with the list of prioritized actions by group, Karen prefaced the discussion by saying the community believes the Task Force should take on activities in ecological health of river system like: watershed status and trends monitoring program (and translating that information to community), and dashboard, the third priority of watershed restoration and conservation could include partnerships with groups like MT Land Reliance, TNC. Kristin supported this view, as the actions align with the Task Force's mission/vision, but would require increased capacity in personnel and funding to expand our current programs and address these actions. In the water supply focus area, the Task Force could lead outreach and incentives for conservation since there is already a program in place, and would just need the same increased capacity to expand and manage the program. Beyond these activities, which board and staff seemed to have widespread support as they align with our organization's values, more unified agreement is needed on our role within the wastewater treatment and reuse activities. Rich A commented that we shouldn't hurt our brand by taking on such community-polarizing topics like wastewater. Some questions posed included: when do we as an organization need to stand on whether or not we support discharge into the Gallatin. Discussion flowed into ins and outs of discharge permits, with expertise from Ron E. Ron said that DEQ makes the ultimate call on whether to grant a permit- and that they do so as long as standards are met, but that they do review the public comment and hearing phases and probably would pay more attention to Big Sky since it has been such a controversial issue. Ron also talked about the drawback of potentially revamping the treatment plant to be able to release higher quality water for discharge would come at the cost of the community to pay for (millions of dollars). Ron then went into a discussion on obtaining a snowmaking permit, which seems like a more supported option than it had been over the past 6 months. He said there are no current permits for snowmaking in MT. Rich C emphasized impaired streams and said we should prioritize streams getting delisted. **More discussion and board agreement is needed on Task Force roles within activities of wastewater treatment and reuse.** Moving on to the framework for the stewardship plan's implementation, Karen shared an overview of potential models to choose from, starting from most voluntary/least structured to most governmental and structured.*

- b. Campaign Updates (Chase): *Chase updated the board on several gifts made since last board meeting from McKenna, Scholz, and Ladd. Current campaign total = \$121,650, and let us know about meetings he has planned with Turner Foundation, Simms, and Rotary. He said he is still waiting to hear back from Cross Harbor about our biggest potential donation so far (1M proposal), Rich C stated that the proposal has been reviewed and that Mike Ducconnois is waiting on a final number to bring back to us. Chase also discussed placing a 5% fee on restricted gifts to help with campaign cashflow. He said is it standard in most restricted gift contracts, and that it would be information available up front to the donor. The fee is not a surcharge, but a carve out of the donation to help pay for administrative/ management costs. **Rick D asked the board to decide on adding a restricted gift fee at next board meeting.***
- c. Board Membership
  - i. San resignation: *Kristin shared that San resigned to the board.*
  - ii. Leadership:
    - 1. Officers: ***Rick would like the board to think about replacing the vice chair position, and decide at the next board meeting.***
  - iii. Additional members: ***The executive committee will approach Rob McCrae and Pat Straub before the next board meeting.***
- d. Moose Creek Updates (Kristin): *We have \$41,784 remaining needed to pay for Phase 1, several requests (liquid and non) in the pipeline put us in better shape to reach it but another option is to take out a line of credit from the bank. **Ron E will talk to Tim at Big Sky Western and open that conversation by next board meeting.***
- e. 2018 Big Sky Watershed Corps (Kristin): ***Kristin has received 3 potential candidates for the next BSWC member and will be conducting interviews next Wednesday morning. Board and staff are welcome to attend.***

## 5. Upcoming Events

- a. October 12<sup>th</sup>, 7pm: Wild and Scenic Presentation by Tim Palmer at the Lone Peak Brewery
- b. October 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:20 pm: Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum presentation at the Madison Conservation District, Location TBD
- c. October 18<sup>th</sup>, 1-4 pm: Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum Meeting at the water and sewer district
- d. October 18<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm: Moose Creek Project Presentation at Rotary
- e. October 30<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm: Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum presentation for the Madison Planning Department, Location TBD
- f. December 7<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 am: Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum presentation for the Gallatin Local Water Quality District board. Location TBD
- g. **Next board meeting date: November 14th 2pm**

**6. Open Discussion:** Rick asked we try to shorten board meetings, Kristin replied that reading the board packet ahead of time so consent agenda items could be passed as that to shorten time.

**7. Adjournment:** *Rick adjourned the meeting at 5:15 PM.*

\*\* Agenda Items for Board action