

Gallatin River Task Force Board of Directors Meeting
April 12th, 2018, 2 pm
Big Sky Water and Sewer District
MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** *Board Chair, Rick Donaldson, called the April meeting to order at 2:09 PM. Board members present included Rich Chandler, Bill Collins, JeNelle Johnson, Mike Richter, Ennion Williams, and Ron Edwards. Absent board members included Mike Jacquard, Rob McRae, and Rich Addicks. Staff members present included Kristin Gardner, Andrea Saari, Jack Murray, and Emily Casey. Chase Rose of Bannack Group called in to report on campaign updates.*
2. **Consent Agenda****
 - a. Minutes: March 21st, 2018
 - b. Fundraising Report
 - c. Education & Communications Report
 - d. Water Conservation Program Coordinator Report
 - e. Big Sky Watershed Corps Report

There were no outstanding questions on the consent agenda by the board.
Mike R moved to approve the April consent agenda, Rich C seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously.
3. **Financial Report**** (Kristin, Rick)
 - a. March Financials: *Rich C asked for clarity on the credit card fees in the expense section on page 1 of the March Financial report from Andrea and Kristin. Andrea/ Kristin responded that the fees include: transaction fees for gifts/schwag at 2.75% each, \$69 in monthly fees for NEON (our payment/donor portal system), authorize.net at \$15/month, and a smaller percentage from using Square. **Andrea will look closer at our credit card fees to provide more detail.** Rick D proposed that our monthly financial reports at board meetings will be presented as drafts and approved in their final versions at the following board meeting. This would allow final review and adjustments to the financials prior to board approval. The board agreed to this. March Financials were not voted on at this meeting but are scheduled to be approved at our next meeting.*
4. **New Business**

Rick D reported that he had recently reviewed the Task Force bylaws and pointed out some areas that he recommended the full board also review. For example the bylaws state that the Task Force will hold an annual meeting each year at which officer positions will be elected for the next year. Kristin recalled doing formal annual meetings years ago but since then the annual meeting has been the last board meeting of our fiscal year or first of July. Rick proposed that we hold our annual meeting in July, and that we comply with our bylaws and hold officer elections at that meeting. He also proposed that the July meeting be used to review our secured funding sources and work plan for the upcoming year. Board members generally supported this idea. Rick asked Kristin to send a copy

of the Bylaws, the Conflict of Interest form, and the Memorandum of Understanding to all the new board members for their review and signature

5. Old Business

- a. Campaign updates (Chase/Andrea): *Multiple conversations have taken place among the Task Force, Madison County, and the YC and should know determination by early June. A \$40,000 ask was submitted to the Turner Foundation. The Blank Foundation recently gave us \$7,500 to fund educational programs. SIMMS has pledged to make an annual \$5,000 gift to fund watershed monitoring programming. The Emerson Family has made a \$2,500 unrestricted gift. If all pending gifts come to fruition, the Campaign will have secured \$807,490, putting us in a great position to publicly announce a \$1M+ campaign at the Fly Fishing Festival.*
- b. FY 2019 budget updates (Kristin/Rick/Ron): *Kristin, Rick, and Ron presented an updated budget to the board that will be submitted as part of our Resort Tax application. Minor changes were made from the budget presented in April. The board supported the budget to be submitted to Resort Tax.*
- c. Mining ballot initiative (Kristin/Bill)**: *Conservation groups across the state have brought about a responsible mining ballot initiative aiming to limit pollution from hard rock mines, specifically requiring that any new mines prove operations won't require perpetual treatment of water polluted by mine waste. At our March board meeting, Kristin and Bill brought this initiative to the board proposing that we support the effort. Kristin found no limitation in our organization's bylaws that would restrict our support, as requested by the board, so the board agreed to support this initiative moving forward. If the ballot language is approved by the Secretary of State in early May, we would help obtain signatures. The petition will need over 25,000 signatures by June to be added to the November ballot.*
- d. Moose Creek updates (Kristin):
 - i. Updated schedule: *Jack is coordinating two Moose Creek volunteer days to finish up Phase 2 during the month of May, including planting and fence installation. Jack is seeking volunteers to help with 300 plantings at the site on May 1 starting at 9:30am. Following the conclusion of the project work, the Task Force plans to host a ribbon cutting/official opening of the site this summer.*
- e. Gallatin Outstanding Resource Water petition** (Kristin): *Cottonwood Environmental Law Center and Gallatin Wildlife Association filed a petition with DEQ early April to designate the Upper Gallatin as an Outstanding Water Resource (ORW). For waters to be designated as ORWs, new or increased point source discharges may not result in permanent water quality changes. Groups may petition DEQ to consider certain waters as ORWs, and can choose to reject the petitions if criteria and environmental impact evaluations do not meet requirements for ORW designations. These are usually very long evaluation processes, the last one that American Wildlands petitioned for the Gallatin took many years until the case was finally dropped. Specifically, Cottonwood and their partners are*

concerned of potential degraded water quality due to waste water discharge (which has not been done) as the root cause of their petition. Eric Urban of DEQ, a past BSSWSF stakeholder, clarified that an ORW designation will not necessarily prohibit waste water discharge if water quality is not degraded. Ron added that other ORWs exist in the state, including in Glacier National Park. Kristin plans to update us as this situation unfolds, but she and Ron see it as a very long process.

6. Upcoming Events

- a. **April 12th, 7 pm:** Wild Rivers Tour at the Lone Peak Cinema.
 - b. **April 30th:** Resort Tax Applications due
 - c. **May 1st:** Volunteers needed for planting at Moose Creek. Contact [Jack](#) for more information or to RSVP.
 - d. **May 3rd & 4th:** Give Big Gallatin Valley
 - e. **May 21st:** Volunteers needed for fencing at Moose Creek. Contact [Jack](#) for more information or to RSVP.
 - f. **June 4th at 1:00 pm:** Resort Tax Q&A
 - g. **June 18th at 1:00 pm:** Resort Tax Appropriations
 - h. **June 29th & 30th:** Gallatin River Fly Fishing Festival
- 7. Open Discussion:** *Kristin proposed that board meetings will reconvene in June, skipping a May meeting. Board agreed. Kristin will send out possible days/times for next meeting in an upcoming Monday update.*

8. Adjournment:

** Agenda Items for Board action