

**Gallatin River Task Force Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 2 pm**  
**Big Sky Water and Sewer District**  
**MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order:** *Board Chair, Rick Donaldson, called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. Board members present included Rich Addicks, Ron Edwards, Rich Chandler, and JeNelle Johnson. Absent were Mike Jacquard, Rob McRae, and Mike Richter. Staff members present included Kristin Gardner, Andrea Saari, Stephanie Lynn, Emily Casey, and Jack Murray. Members of the public attending our board meeting included Jolene Palmer from Lone Peak Lookout, Sarah Bletchta, who is running for the Resort Tax board, and Ennion Williams, a potential new Task Force board member. Before we started the consent agenda, Kristin stated that she will ask for an RSVP from board members for future board meetings.*
2. **Consent Agenda \*\***
  - a. Minutes: January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018: *Rich C had a few amendments to January's board meeting minutes: strike out "moments of frustration" on pg 3, section 5 "Old Business" so revised sentence just states the board discussed 3 options for a negotiated Bannack contract agreement, He also clarified the Snowbowl visit was a tour not a conference and that Mike DuCuennois' name was spelled wrong. **Ron made a motion to approve these changes, Rich C seconded, motion carried unanimously.** \*Emily has revised January minutes to reflect these changes.*
  - b. Fundraising Report (Andrea)
    - i. Give Big Pledges: *Annual 24-hour national day of giving event on May 3-4. Andrea will be distributing pledge cards and following up with phone calls on Give Big. **Board and staff members may contact her to get cards and help recruit pledges.** Andrea's partnership with Bozeman Community Foundation streamlines event advertising and marketing.*
    - ii. Fly fishing sponsors/auction items: *All forms for sponsors and vendors are available at [gallatinriverflyfishing.com](http://gallatinriverflyfishing.com). Andrea prompted the board to start thinking of potential sponsors (cash, silent auction) to reach our ambitious goal of raising \$100 K this year. Board discussion followed about past year's sponsor contributions: Andrea relayed about 30 sponsor contributions were allocated for 2017's event. Staff, Rick D, Mike R, and Ron attended Trout Unlimited's annual banquet on February 17<sup>th</sup> and brought back observations for the board to help us better plan/design our event. Rick commented on the heavy list of sponsors and auction items, and said we have a lot of room to grow the silent auction in particular. TU's event used an online platform (Give Smart) for their silent auction, where event goers signed up online with their payment information and once in the system (very quick), they could use their name for any purchases and sign up for auction items easily. They were also aware of auction items ahead of time, which we also do via our website. Because our silent auction will take place at the Riverhouse where cell service is sparse and wifi is weak, Andrea asked if it would be possible to set something like TU's service up with the obstacles for phone service and wifi. Ron said it could be done with modems. Andrea also has plans to set up live auction via Facebook Live for people to virtually bid remotely,*

which would also require reliable WIFI service.. Another takeaway from the TU banquet was how they also used their event to increase memberships (a goal Andrea and Emily are working on with the membership committee): everyone who attended became a member of TU. Andrea relayed that while this may be a good idea short term, it may cause member retention rates to drop dramatically because people are more willing to renew if it is a decision they make. She also stated that only 30-40% of banquet attendees were members at last year's event, and the rest were sponsors. With this in mind, Rich A, Rick D, and Emily all acknowledged support of the option to give memberships to all attendees at this year's event. The Fly Fishing Festival committee will discuss more in depth. Discussion jumped back to the logistics of using wifi for an online auction platform: Andrea and Ron agreed that a landline would be necessary to get dsl internet and that 3 Rivers could assist setting it up. Also, since TU's event had many auction items (~200) this option worked really well for them, but we have on average 65-70 items at our event. If we want to switch to an online auction platform like what was used at TU's banquet (Give Smart) or at Ophir's Pie Auction (Bid Smart) we would have to consider the drawbacks and advantages including: additional cost/work to set up wifi, attendees without smart phones being unable to easily bid, increased number of auction items to make it more simply to use platform, and costs of accessing platform and administration needs. Ron and Andrea discussed the costs and amount raised at TU and the Pie Auction, Andrea estimated TU's cost was probably a percentage of the base but would look into it further. TU raised \$30,000 from their silent auction and about \$80-100,000 for the whole event, the Pie Auction also raised \$100,000. When JeNelle asked Andrea how early we could get our auction items online to streamline the process, Andrea replied we add them as we get them in and that it's hard to set a firm deadline for sponsors because we often get last minute big-ticket items.

iii. Education & Communications Report (Stephanie)

- a. Arthur M Blank visit: Stephanie and Chase submitted a \$15,000 grant proposal to fund Task Force youth education programs like Trout in the Classroom, a program on changing rivers, and a new 6<sup>th</sup> grade class unit. The foundation family has a guest ranch in Paradise Valley and typically funds youth education programs in Gallatin and Park Counties. Foundation representatives are scheduled to meet with the Task Force on March 16 at 10AM. Steph prompted the board to brainstorm additional people to invite to the meeting that can showcase successes of our youth programs so far, speak well on our behalf, and appeal to this continued need. Kristin and Rich A both suggested students or faculty from Ophir or Discovery School. Ennion added he has a contact that can write a support letter on our behalf, Steph says she will circle back with him once she confirms with Chase. Board suggested: Nancy Sheil (Discovery school experiences and connection to Lone Peak High School) and Mike Richter (youth fly fishing camp). Ron and Rich A also said they are both available to

*attend the meeting. Steph is available to meet with any of these contacts to clarify and familiarize information on our youth education programs.*

- b. *Annual report letter: Steph is asking for board/staff to review grammar and spelling on the latest draft of our annual report by March 2. Rich A wrote an introductory letter for our annual report, and Steph asked the board for feedback: Rick D, Ron, and Rich C all approve.*
- c. *Water Conservation Program Coordinator Report (Emily): Emily reported on progress to initiate a Landscape Water Efficiency Ordinance with Big Sky Water and Sewer District with the help of Ron and Scott Savage (Paso Irrigation). Emily has also sent the Ordinance draft out to Alan McLain (Big Sky Landscaping) and San Goveia (Wildwood Nursery) for further review. She and Ron plan to present a draft of the Ordinance at the sewer district's March board meeting. Three official readings are required before the sewer district board can vote to approve its implementation. We plan to implement the Ordinance by June. Ron added the current process for landscape regulations is not water conservation-focused, so this Ordinance is to help get everyone on the same page. In addition to the Ordinance, Ron plans to increase water use rates to incentivize reduced water uses in summer. Emily also shared a new partnership with EPA's WaterSense program. This voluntary partnership grants us access to many water conservation planning tools, logos, advertising, and being searchable in their database for rebates. Emily invited the board to her Upper Gallatin Drought/Water Supply Focus Group meeting on 2/22 from 9:30-10:30 at the sewer district's conference room. This meeting will focus on strategizing for broader engagement and reviewing our drought management plan.*
- d. *Big Sky Watershed Corps Report (Jack): Jack shared with the board some of the projects he is working on and plans to work on throughout his term, including our annual water quality report (analyzing data and drafting accompanying text with Kristin), a river recreation use study with MSU graduate student, creating a more comprehensive Task Force volunteer management plan that was started by Emily and Steph last year, and working with Steph on aquatic invasive species (AIS) education and outreach, including potentially installing a wader cleaner station at fly shops. When asked which AIS are found in our area, Jack replied curly leaf pond leaf, whirling disease, New Zealand mud snail, and red rim milania have all been found in nearby rivers, but only curly leaf pond leaf has been found in some sections of the Gallatin, spread unclear.*

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

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

- a. *January Financials: Rick D introduced the financials and pointed out the sizeable reduction in deficit when comparing the end of last month and this month. Allocated campaign donations and the remaining Moose Creek fall expenses that have been settled account for the deficit reduction. Ron asked if the financials included Bannack's payables to date. Rick D reported that only the monthly fees that have been invoiced by Bannack are posted on the current financials. Rick recommended that since our new agreement with Bannack provides for the deferment of their monthly fee until such time that unrestricted campaign income*

is sufficient to support payment , that we not post those payables until we reach that level of income and until the fees are invoiced and considered to be due. Rick D asked the board if they would like a memo with terms of the new Bannack agreement (work through June 30, payables made when unrestricted income is sufficient). **The board said they don't need to see a new contract but Rich C suggested that Kristin update their agreement in the contracts folder.** Rich C asked why last month's salaries were zero, Kristin clarified that our bookkeeper put them in December since she was going to be out of town on the usual date that she processes salaries. Kristin asked the board if she should amend the books to show salaries paid for January in January, Rick D replied it's fine to leave it as is since we already approved it last meeting.

**JeNelle moved to approve February's financial report, Rich C seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously.**

#### **4. New Business**

- a. Bannack Contract (Rick): *Discussed during "Financial Report", **Bannack contract does not need to be redrafted for the board, but changes to the contract should be reflected in the files with their original contract agreement.***
- b. Nancy's resignation (Rick): *Rick D spoke with Nancy Sheil the morning of the board meeting about her commitment moving forward as a Task Force board member. Nancy decided to resign from the Task Force board, so a new position has opened for someone with time available for this commitment. Current board member count: 8 members.*

#### **5. Old Business**

- a. Campaign Updates (Chase/Andrea): *Andrea relayed Campaign progress and updates to the board: Steele Reese Foundation and Blank Foundation proposals are out, no updates from Steele Reese but Blank is visiting on March 16 (see section 2ci for details). Bill Collins is a new campaign committee member. Andrea shared that the next 30-60 days are very important for the Campaign to be on track with our planned public announcement at the Hooked on the Gallatin Banquet on June 29. Bannack will help provide guidance on the announcement, including public relations, timing, and structure. Rich A suggested to send out the announcement to anyone we have contact information (1300 email addresses, 600 mailing addresses), and Ron added to use Big Sky Chamber's channels to send the announcement out to a wider audience.*
- b. New board members (Rick/Rich A./Rich C./Kristin): *Executive committee have been meeting with new board prospects that include Ennion Williams, Bill Collins, and Jason Middlestadt. Ennion has been instrumental in planning each fly fishing festival we have hosted and is a founding member of the event. Ennion also played a big role in helping us recruit our fly fishing film tour sponsor, Bill Collins, another board prospect. Ennion has volunteered for us at various events over the years. Ennion was in attendance for this board meeting and plans to join the board officially after he attends 3 meetings. JeNelle, who also has contributed countless hours to Task Force programs, spoke highly of Ennion as a new board member. Bill Collins is our headlining sponsor for the fly fishing film tour, participates in fly fishing festival planning, and is a new member to the campaign committee. Bill also attended last year's river cleanup and is not currently on any other non profit boards. Rich C spoke highly of Bill Collins and would like to see him on the board. Jason Middlestadt is a Big Sky community member who has been approached by Kristin but they have not been able to lock down a time to*

meet to discuss further. Kristin shared that Jason is worried about the time commitment of being a Task Force board member. Ron asked Kristin if she wants to go to the maximum number of board members (11), where she responded yes. Rich A acknowledged the need for a retreat to introduce new board members to Task Force programs, strategic plan etc in the near future when we have recruited all new members. Kristin's tentative retreat timeline is March/ early April.

## 6. Upcoming Events

- a. **Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 9 -10:30 am:** Drought focus group meeting at the Big Sky Water and Sewer District
- b. **March 9<sup>th</sup>, 9 am to 1 pm:** Continuing Education Class for Realtors at Bucks T4
- c. **March 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>:** Groundwater awareness week
- d. **Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm:** *Of Wilderness and Resorts: 150 Years of Change in Gallatin Canyon and Big Sky* featuring a slideshow presentation by Dr. Duncan Patten and the "Homesteads to Huntley" film at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center.
- e. **March 21<sup>st</sup>, 5 & 8 pm:** F3T Fly Fishing Film Tour at the Lone Peak Cinema
- f. **April 30<sup>th</sup>:** Resort Tax Applications due
- g. **May 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>:** Give Big Gallatin Valley
- h. **June 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm:** Resort Tax Q&A
- i. **June 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm:** Resort Tax Appropriations
- j. **June 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>:** Gallatin River Fly Fishing Festival
- k. **Next board meeting date:** *TBD, options include: Monday March 19<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday March 21<sup>st</sup>, or Friday March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1-4PM. Kristin will send out meeting date choices.*

7. **Open Discussion:** Next board meeting, Kristin would like to plan for a 3-hour meeting to discuss the FY2019 budget and projects we want to take on from Big Sky Sustainable Watershed Stewardship Plan. Rich C relayed information from his trip to Snowbowl to tour their snowmaking operations: they treat to the same levels and are fully supported by recycled water. Snowbowl uses the term "recycled" water and has signage throughout to showcase their operation in a positive way. They also do not carry a discharge permit. Steph volunteered to get a gift for Nancy's resignation to commemorate her membership to the Task Force board: framed picture. Kristin shared her experience presenting Wild & Scenic in Washington, DC with American Rivers; members of the delegation want to see the proposal to designate East Rose Bud as Wild & Scenic pass the House and Senate before a broader bill with additional rivers is proposed. Kristin shared that the Gallatin County commissioners do not currently support Wild & Scenic designation proposals in the county.

8. **Adjournment:** *Rick D adjourned the board meeting at 3:50 PM.*

\*\* Agenda Items for Board action