

Gallatin River Task Force Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, March 21, 2018, 1 pm
Big Sky Water and Sewer District
MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** Board Chair, Rick Donaldson, called the meeting to order at 1:09 PM. Board members JeNelle Johnson, Mike Jaquard, Rich Chandler, Rich Addicks, Rob McRae, Ron Edwards and Bill Collins were in attendance. Staff members Kristin Gardner, Stephanie Lynn, Emily Casey, Andrea Saari, and BSWC member Jack Murray were present. Ennion Williams was also in attendance as a board member prospect. Rick D welcomed new member Bill Collins to the board and introduced each member/staff.
2. **Consent Agenda****
 - a. Minutes: February 20th, 2018: Board members had no changes to February minutes. **Rich C motioned to approve the February minutes, motion seconded by JeNelle, motion approved unanimously.**
 - b. Fundraising Report: Andrea relayed information about Give Big Gallatin Valley to board and distributed pledge cards. She propositioned board/staff to recruit 5 people to pledge on May 3 & 4 and return cards back to her by April 30ths. If each of us recruits 5 people to give on that day, Task Force will be in the top 10 nonprofits for unique donors for the event and put us in great standing to win prizes like a free video made to showcase our work/mission. Board members were asked to contact Andrea for more pledge cards/ other needs for Give Big. Andrea also invited board/staff to attend a Give Big launch party at Luxe on Wednesday March 27th from 5-7PM, sponsored by Yellowstone Club Community Foundation. Andrea is on the planning panel for Give Big Gallatin Valley. Andrea confirmed that donations for Give Big can also be made online during the day of the event. Andrea shared that RMR Group is a new FFF PBR and business member. When Rich A asked if any new members were recruited from the Of Wilderness and Resorts outreach event on March 16, Andrea replied none because of sensitivity involved to fundraise for an event with multiple nonprofit entities. To date, she and FFF committee have \$18K confirmed in sponsorships for our June event. She urged board and staff to keep recruiting new sponsors and auction items for the fast-approaching deadlines of April 1 (logo included in outreach/promo) and April 15 (final). Bill asked Andrea what the break-even cost we need to raise to put on the event; Andrea replied \$33K. Andrea and Emily also talked about a schwag team membership meeting that they facilitated earlier in the month to brainstorm new member gift options and analyze member survey results about the subject. Andrea had put together an analysis of the survey that was distributed over 5 days to members/general Task Force social media followers to gauge information on how member gifts were used and interest in other options. Please see analysis for more details [here](#). Participants of membership committee who attended that meeting (Rick D, JeNelle, Walker Bagby) decided to stay

with Patagonia as our main brand for member gifts but to also offer alternative gift options that are gender neutral with an ability to have small inventory to streamline gift process. For higher-level members, gear gift options will also be available: grasshopper 30L backpack or R1, spruce moth dry bag or vest, and salmon fly Arctic cooler or puffy. All gear options will be embroidered with our logo. Rick D also called for a need to recruit a donor to help us with the initial inventory cost (~\$3K) and demonstrated it as a worthwhile investment to the board because we could see a return of about \$17K. He noted our limited capacity to store and manage these items in house but he and Rich A offered spaces at their homes to help us with this. Rick and Andrea also mentioned the lessened overhead and processing time it would take to promote our gear gifts instead of apparel. JeNelle added that promotion of these gear gifts at similar times (ex. Membership drives, HOG) would reduce the burden of keeping/managing inventory. While membership committee decided that member renewals should receive a gift only if they increased their membership level (stickers or smaller gifts like hats still included), and Rob supported, other board members Rich A, Rich C, and Bill were partial to having gift options still available for renewals. FOG membership coordinators Andrea and Emily have decided to leave the option as is: members can opt in to receive the gift. Before discussion moved to the next board meeting topic, Rick D and Rich A spoke about the importance of using our platform at outreach/education events to make member/donor appeals, using the example of our recent Continuing Education Course for Realtors where topics focused on water resources and realtor roles. Andrea responded that she can be available to make these appeals at our events and give any pointers to board or staff members who wish to help us recruit more members and donors.

- c. Education & Communications Report: Steph reported on a recent outreach/educational success of the Continuing Education Course for Realtors. About 50 mostly local realtors attended the course a few Fridays ago to learn about Big Sky's water resources and how their roles as realtors can increase awareness and move towards sustainability for new community members/homeowners. Ron and Emily gave presentations at the event about residential water use and conservation. Rich C asked if we plan to host another Stormwater Course this year, and Steph answered that it's still in the works and some costs need to be figured out. Steph distributed our newly printed 2017 Annual Reports to all board and staff at the meeting. This report highlights our work over the past year.*
- d. Water Conservation Program Coordinator Report: Emily briefly touched on her progress with water conservation and drought planning efforts including a project with local developer Scott Altman to install all high-efficiency fixtures for a more affordable residential development plan and estimating water savings for it and working with Ron and a few landscapers (Scotty Savage and San Goveia) to put together amendments to the sewer district's water use ordinance that specifically*

targets landscape water conservation. This project was originally a standalone ordinance and has been referred to as a water efficient landscape ordinance in past board meeting minutes for reference. JeNelle expressed interest in learning about how private well users can participate in water conservation programs since many do not use meters/ regularly check them. Ron says he will sponsor the cost of a meter for JeNelle's home as a starting point and that future water conservation programming can expand to this. Emily also facilitated another Drought/Water Supply Focus Group meeting last month where participants brainstormed ideas to engage a broader local audience in the drought planning process and developed a list of potential stakeholders to target moving forward. For meeting materials and minutes please visit our drought planning [webpage](#). She plans to reach out to stakeholders in the next coming weeks for more input.

- e. *Big Sky Watershed Corps Report: Jack attended a Big Sky Watershed Corps training/conference in early March in Helena where all current Americorps members across the state (in various programs besides BSWC) met to participate in service learning projects and breakout sessions. Jack and Kristin have also been working on our Annual Water Quality Report for the past couple months, the report should be in print soon. Also, over the last month, Jack conducted interviews with some of our key volunteers like JeNelle and Rick to determine how well our volunteer programs are working and what kinds of events they would like to participate in, including a women's fly tying clinic. Jack will also be hosting a volunteer water quality monitoring day on April 2nd. Board members are welcome to attend but are warned that high flow/snowy conditions may deter them from participating until our next one.*

Rich C moved to approve March's consent agenda, motion was seconded by Rob and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Financial Report (Kristin, Rick)**

- a. *February Financials: Rick pointed out to the board that our March financials continued to show improvement in our net income position. He explained that the accrued deficit we have had over the last 90 days resulted from our fall restoration project expenses at Moose Creek and our slower than expected campaign donations. He further reported we have used approximately \$ 36,000 of our line of credit with Big Sky Western Bank to pay the few remaining invoices from fall activities at Moose Creek. We are currently making interest only payments to Big Sky Western and will continue to do so until such time that unrestricted campaign donations allow us to pay down the line of credit. In addition, Bannack and Chase Rose are still working with us on the campaign but their monthly fees have been renegotiated and are now reduced to \$ 3,000 per month and deferred until such time that we are in position to pay Bannack through unrestricted campaign donations. Rob asked Kristin to clarify the billing schedule for both phases of Moose Creek (phase 2 starts in spring '18), Kristin replied all billing will be completed by spring 2018. Kristin then*

explained the needs for Moose Creek Phase 2: revegetation, fencing, and signage. All the project work is estimated to be under \$20,000 and wrapped up by Memorial Day weekend. Kristin will send out updates and volunteer needs as they arise. Two other invoice questions arose from the board discussion. Kristin addressed that the Water Forum invoice from Respec has not been paid because we are waiting from funds from Madison and Gallati counties to repay. Ron asked why the payable to Outside Media Group was over 90 days old and Kristin responded that our bookkeeper thought it a mistake since we had two invoices for the same amount.

Rich C moved to approve March's financial report, motion was seconded by Ron and the motion carried unanimously.

4. New Business

- a. *FY 2018 Projects: Scopes of Work and Contracts (Kristin): These planning and mapping projects are part of funding received by Resort Tax last July (about \$50,000 total for these projects). Project work and any invoices will be completed by June 30, 2018. Project work partners include Jeff Dunn of Respec and Wendy Urie (sp?) from the Forest Service, both of whom we have had successful restoration project planning and work in the past. Kristin has project scopes for each and is looking for the board to approve moving forward. Big picture plans for the sites include inhibiting boat use at Deer Creek and moving boat traffic to Baetis Alley. Planning processes for each site include plans completed and a public engagement process by project partners, permit approvals, and on the ground work to start in May and everything is finished by end of June. Outreach and project site tours has started.*
 - i. *Deer/Baetis Planning: Remaining Deer Creek planning includes designing for handicap access, bathrooms aren't included in project scope (Forest Service has limited capacity to manage). Restoration site work at Baetis Alley still at conceptual phase until Forest Service can start environmental assessment (NEPA). When Ron asked about the fishing community's response to proposed restoration work at Baetis Alley, Ennion talked about an awareness of the damage caused by users over the years, adding that the site should either enhance the area as an access site as much as possible or "dig a ditch" to inhibit further access. Ennion and other anglers regard the site as a beautiful fishing spot and if work is done to consolidate/limit access it could help reduce new sites being created and potential damages caused from that. When Rob asked about the responses of proposed project work at these sites from the rafting communities, Andrea and Kristin recalled that Eric Becker of Geysers Whitewater was part of the original planning to move boat traffic to Baetis Alley. Bill of Montana Whitewater is aware of project goals and supports general concept. Once project work breaks ground, Rich C place rocks or add signage to limit disruption by cars to the access improvement projects. Wetland*

delineation is planned for both project sites. Since Baetis Alley was never planned by the Forest Service as a site, an environmental impact assessment is needed before project work can start. Kristin and Rich C clarified the purpose of wetland mapping for restoration work for Rick D as part of the due diligence work that is done before restoration work to understand the wetlands in the area, potential environmental impacts the project work may have on them, and any permits needed to move forward with work. Rob and Ennion added that they are aware wetlands are present at or near the site from their own experience at Baetis Alley.

- ii. Wetland/Riparian: This project will map wetland areas in the Big Sky Resort Area District, their connectivity to surface water, potential harm from development, and prioritize for restoration or conservation projects.

Project scopes will be further reviewed by the Task Force's restoration committee. Ron moves to approve moving forward with project planning and mapping for restoration work at Deer Creek and Baetis Alley with more detailed scope and contract information, Rob seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously.

- b. FY 2019 Projects (Kristin): *Documents referenced in this section from March board packet include: "Gallatin River Task Force Programmatic Activities Fiscal Year 2019", "Big Sky Sustainable Watershed Stewardship Plan Implementation", and "Implementation: 'Headwaters Alliance'". The Task Force's projects for the next fiscal year are informed by the Big Sky Sustainable Watershed Stewardship Plan, a document that resulted from the work of two years of a facilitated, stakeholder-lead process to tackle three areas of water resource issues including ecological healthy, water supply, and wastewater treatment and reuse. While Kristin may not envision the Task Force to lead the entire effort to implement the Plan, she wants to take it forward. She has highlighted projects that fit within our mission and capacity on the document, "Big Sky Sustainable Watershed Stewardship Plan Implementation". Projects include watershed status and trends monitoring and dashboard projects, applying for a groundwater investigation study in Gallatin Canyon and understanding results from MBMG's Meadow Village aquifer study, outreach and education, and incentives for water conservation and septic system users. Specific projects Kristin does not think fit within the Task Force mission include Madison Watershed projects, and projects for wastewater treatment and reuse. In "Gallatin River Task Force Programmatic Activities Fiscal Year 2019", Kristin has estimated project work areas, budgets, staff leads, and funding sources for Task Force programmatic areas of watershed monitoring, conservation/ restoration, and education and outreach. In the watershed monitoring section, an addition to the scope of work usually done in this section (water quality monitoring, stream flow), we plan to expand monitoring during high flow that will give us data for better rating curves, and installing more streamflow stations to better assess river*

health, potentially downstream of West Fork and upstream of West Fork where springs contribute to streamflows. Rich C asked if more nutrient monitoring is planned to address the impaired streams and TMDLs by Big Sky Golf Course, but Kristin is not including these elements for this fiscal year but that they might be added to the sampling analysis plan or headed by the Water and Sewer District. In the conservation program section, one major addition proposed for next fiscal year is a new contracted position to coordinate the "Headwaters Alliance". Kristin has proposed this be contracted with Karen Filipovich, our facilitator from the Water Forumt. She would be coordinating the implementation of the Plan and working with different stakeholder groups to ensure project work is progressing. Kristin doesn't plan for the Task Force to take on Karen's full salary needs, and envisions other organizations to contribute. The board moved forward with the other projects listed in Kristin's matrix without any other major discussions since many fall within the scope that we have been involved with for years with a few small additions like Jack's summer river user analysis project. However, board discussion on projects did include cautions to not take too many things on, prioritizing what most closely aligns with our mission and risks to the river's health. We should also be insisting that other stakeholder groups contribute funding or other capacity for projects that come out of the Plan including Karen's salary and scope of work. We should move forward with getting feedback from the community or project stakeholder groups to gauge buy in and support. One additional topic that Rich A brought to the group was to prioritize fundraising and development over some of the on the ground projects that are more closely related to the Task Force's conservation and restoration goals/expertise. He and majority of board members acknowledged the significant funding requirements needed to accomplish the project goals for fiscal year 2019 and expressed reservations to proceed without some clarity to the discussion topics mentioned above. **Before moving forward, the board would like project details flushed out and a clearer scope for Karen's work.**

- c. FY 2019 Budget (Kristin/Rick/Ron): The document referred to in this section from the board packet is "Gallatin River Task Force FY 2019 Expenses". Total Expenses for Fiscal Year Projects are estimated at just under \$1M. The board echoed concerns for Karen's salary needs, noting it's higher than Kristin's, and follow-through with other organizations to contribute to that position plus other relevant project work. Rich A added that another option could be to hire Karen in a smaller way to keep momentum going and assess progress before committing to a full year. Rich C and other board members supported looking into an alternative option for Karen and wanted to see what support could be counted on from other sources. Rob shared that projects and associated projects should be aimed at producing results that align with our mission. While many partners and organizations are planned to work with us on many of these projects, Ron and Kristin think that the Resort Tax ask might have a

*better approval rate if we apply for them. Another addition into the budget is to incorporate insurance and retirement benefits as employee reimbursements rates based on employee status and longevity with the Task Force. Kristin and Rick D will also be looking at other examples for future group plans from BSCO, Chamber of Commerce, and Montana Nonprofit Association. **Based on board discussion of needs for more clarity and prioritizing projects, Rob suggested that projects and scope be revised.***

- d. Mining ballot initiative (Kristin/Bill): *Bill and Kristin spoke about this initiative that protects the Gallatin against mining threats and reduces taxpayer responsibilities to pay for mining wastes. TU, MEIC, GYC, Earthworks, and PCFC all are contributing to this initiative through communications, events, signatures. Ron and Rich A spoke about reviewing our bylaws and treading lightly about lobbying efforts. Kristin also added that the Task Force hasn't taken on political issues affecting the river in the past but that with the Wild and Scenic effort and more attention on us, it might be something we will want to think more about moving forward as an organization. **After reviewing the bylaws, the board will decide on whether to support the mining ballot initiative at the next board meeting.***
- e. Board meeting schedule: *Kristin asked the board if they would like to stick to a certain schedule for future meetings. She pointed out that upcoming vacations for board and staff might prevent establishing a set week/time/day for meetings. **Board meetings will continue to be around four weeks after the previous ones, but adjustments can be made and meeting RSVPs will be sent out by Kristin to confirm a quorum is present to approve motions and action items.***

5. Old Business

Campaign updates (Chase/Andrea): *Andrea had no significant campaign updates.*

Ennion Williams was asked if he would like to join the Task Force's board of directors and he responded that he would. JeNelle made a motion to approve Ennion as a new board member, Mike J seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously.

6. Upcoming Events

- a. **March 21st, 5 & 8 pm:** F3T Fly Fishing Film Tour at the Lone Peak Cinema
- b. **Wednesday, March 28th, 5-7 pm:** Give Big Gallatin Valley Kick off Party at Luxe
- c. **April 4th, 8:30 to 10 am:** "Eggs and Issues" with the Big Sky Chamber. Preliminary findings presented on options available to the Big Sky community to formalize an area-wide governance structure that allows for

a representative voice for the community. Meeting at the Talus Room in the Summit Hotel.

- d. **April 4th, 10 am:** Joint Gallatin/Madison County Commissioner Meeting at the Talus Room in the Summit Hotel.
- e. **April 9th, TBD:** Resort Tax Board meeting. The Task Force will present the Big Sky Sustainable Watershed Stewardship Plan at the Big Sky Water and Sewer District.
- f. **April 11th, TBD:** Resort Tax Board meeting. The Task Force will present the Big Sky Sustainable Watershed Stewardship Plan.
- g. **April 11th 6 pm:** Task Force presentation about upcoming projects and volunteer needs at REI in Bozeman
- h. **April 12th, 7 pm:** Wild Rivers Tour at the Lone Peak Cinema.
- i. **April 30th:** Resort Tax Applications due
- j. **May 3rd & 4th:** Give Big Gallatin Valley
- k. **June 4th at 1:00 pm:** Resort Tax Q&A
- l. **June 18th at 1:00 pm:** Resort Tax Appropriations
- m. **June 29th & 30th:** Gallatin River Fly Fishing Festival
- n. **Next Board Meeting date: April 12, 2PM at WSD.**

7. Open Discussion:

8. Adjournment: *Rick Donaldson called the meeting to an end at 4:05 PM.*

** Agenda Items for Board action