

Gallatin River Task Force Board of Directors Meeting
February 20, 2019, 3:00 pm
Big Sky Water and Sewer District
MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** *Rick Donaldson called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM. Board members present included Mike Jacquard, Rich Chandler, Ennion Williams, Rick Donaldson, Bill Collins, and JeNelle Johnson. Staff present included Kristin Gardner, Brandy Moses Straub, Andrea Saari, Ryan Newcomb, Stephanie Lynn, and Big Sky Watershed Corps member, Valerie Bednarski.*
2. **Board Member Story (Ennion):** *Ennion arrived in Big Sky by accident after taking a job as a dishwasher at Lone Mountain Ranch and has been part of the community ever since. **JeNelle will share her connection to the organization and the river at the next meeting.***
3. **Consent Agenda****
 - a. Minutes: January 15th, 2019: *The board approved the minutes for January without comment.*
 - b. Fundraising Report: *Ryan added to the fundraising report. **He would like feedback from the board about their preferences for the report and desired fundraising-related training.** Ryan added a sheet with expired members (>\$250). **Ryan will send a personal email with the goal of reengaging lapsed members and resend the donor management system email.** The final graph in the report shows fundraising progress over the past four years.*
 - i. Gallatin River Fly Fishing Festival: *The board discussed the outstanding items from the 2018 Hooked on the Gallatin banquet. Ryan has successfully contacted most of the people who won items at the banquet to explain that they were not charged. Most were unaware of the situation and willing to pay, while some wanted receipts for their taxes. **Ryan will update the table to indicate that Tony Coppola paid and reach out to JeNelle if he needs assistance contacting Frank Summers.***
 - ii. Gallatin River Forever: *The capital campaign achieved \$1.1 million net to date and Ryan hopes to close the campaign in June by achieving the \$1.2 million goal. Bannack has been paid in full, but the committee projects an additional \$30,000 in costs associated with recognizing donors. Bill's outreach letter and contributions from the Yellowstone Club and Madison County contributed to the success of the campaign. Ryan noted that there was overlap in membership and campaign donors, and will code donations as "campaign", but recognize the membership gift.*
 - c. Education & Communications Report: *Stephanie clarified that Task Force applied for and will most likely receive an NCCC AmeriCorps crew with the Big Sky Food Bank and Habitat for Humanity to volunteer for specific Task Force projects this summer.*
 - d. Conservation Program Manager Report: *Brandy has been getting up to speed on people, projects, and priorities for her position. **She would like board feedback on their preferences for the conservation program manager report.** Rich C. suggested the "old business, new business" approach with new developments at the beginning of the report.*
 - e. Big Sky Watershed Corps Report: *Valerie has been analyzing water quality and weather data for the summer of 2018 to understand the cause of the algae bloom. The Task Force has access to a weather station in the Meadow Village and is reaching out to MSU for*

data with a longer period of record. Rich C. noted that July was dry compared to previous years and can share data for the past 12 years from the base area at the Yellowstone Club. Kristin noted two months of sunshine with no rain and sustained high spring flows carrying nutrients could have caused algae to grow. JeNelle suggested contacting other watershed groups regarding their data and observations. Brandy noted that Pat Straub did not have to cancel any trips last year due to rains in the Taylor Fork area and most years he cancels at least two summer trips. The absence of flushing rains could have contributed to the bloom. Rich C suggested overlaying prime growing season with weather data for summer 2018.

- f. **Rich C made a motion to approve. Ennion seconded; motion carried unanimously.**

4. Financial Report (Rick, Kristin)

- a. December Financials Acceptance**: *The board accepted the December financials with no discussion. JeNelle made a motion to accept. Mike J seconded; motion carried unanimously.*
- b. January Financials Review
- c. Audit Report Update: *Rick reported that the audit has progressed well, but there were difficulties determining whether cash was restricted or unrestricted. The Task Force has to track cash manually because QuickBooks lacks the ability to post a check to two different accounts and designates all funds “unrestricted”. He hoped to have a document that would help the auditors to follow cash flow by Friday and a draft report from the auditors by the end of the month. The auditors will record all donor pledges the year they were received with a deferred income line for multiyear pledges, but will make an exception for the Yellowstone Club/Madison County pledges, which have an annual review. Whether or not campaign contributions are restricted, is a matter of debate. Rick believes the next audit will be much easier.*

5. New Business

- a. Rich Chandler Board Position Renewal (Rick): *Rich C renewed his board commitment, which ended in February.*
- b. Specialty License Plates: *The fundraising team had a goal to select a specialty plate for the March 1st deadline. One plate costs \$5,000 and two plates costs \$9,200. JeNelle has been in contact with Ressler Motors regarding sponsoring the plate. The members who answered a brief survey preferred the full color plate with the “Friend of the Gallatin” tagline. The designer recommended the black plate with the “Gallatin River Task Force” tagline for a law-enforcement feel, while Scott B suggested full-color due to the high number of black plates. Four of the most popular plates are all black and few of the top grossing plates include a logo. American Rivers spends about \$6,000/year advertising their plate. The board preferred the black plate with the tagline “Gallatin River Task Force” and no logo for \$30. The board wanted to move forward even without the \$5,000 sponsorship and suggested the proceeds from the first plate could be used to fund a full color plate with the “Friend of the Gallatin” tagline and no logo at a later date. Rich C made a motion to approve; Bill Collins seconded; motion carried unanimously.*

6. Old Business

- a. Annual/Impact Report (Stephanie): *The Task Force will complete a 2-sided, foldable “FY 2018 Impact Report” for F3T on March 20th and a full “FY 2019 Report” by the fall.*

- b. Deer Creek Restoration Project Updates (Kristin/Jeff): *To streamline the environmental assessment and fundraising, the next two river access sites will be a two-phase project with Deer Creek, Phase 1 and Baetis Alley, Phase 2. After the project, boat use will move from phase 1 to 2. Kristin, Ryan, and Brandy attended a meeting with the Custer Gallatin National Forest (CGNF) and the designers to discuss the final design plans; however, the CGNF informed the Task Force that the “green bridge” does not meet updated federal load criteria. The bridge cannot support construction trucks, and the bridge may close to commercial outfitters, depending on their vehicle weight. To receive federal funding, the bridge will be put on a list of regional projects prioritized based on recreational use and private property access. Currently, the CGNF is deciding whether to replace the bridge (\$300k), which could impact the phase 1 project, or repair the bridge (\$60k). The CGNF suggested that it could take three years to obtain federal funding for the project, but the project could move forward in 2020 with private funding. The CGNF is pushing phase 2, so that the both projects can move forward together, because the Task Force has an obligation to their donors. Currently, the Task Force has preliminary design plans for phase 2 for improved parking and trail system, boulders to block driving, USGS gauging station, and vegetation plantings. The board discussed: 1) shifting focus to a different site and 2) raising the money to repair or replace the bridge. Retrofitting the bridge could be an opportunity; however, the board discussed whether or not it fit within the mission of the organization. **Kristin hopes to hear more from the CGNF within the next few weeks and will report on progress through the Monday update.***
- c. Resort Tax Strategic Visioning Process (Kristin): *The RT kicked off their strategic visioning process. Kristin met with the consultants to discuss concerns from the perspective of the organization. She encouraged board and staff to attend the meetings on the 27th and 28th to talk about the importance of water. Both Ron and Ennion are on the committee.*
- d. Board Retreat (Kristin): *The board retreat on March 4th, 9 AM to 4 PM at the B-K will be facilitated by Lori Addicks with lunch provided. **The board should review the strategic plan and executive summary of the watershed stewardship plan before the retreat.***
- e. Big Sky Water and Sewer District Wastewater Treatment Study Update (Kristin): *The BSWSD board agreed to complete a study at Firelight Meadows and the pastures to determine how wastewater would move through the system and whether or not it would impact the public water supply, if they chose to discharge to groundwater at these locations. The project could have huge benefit to the watershed, but cannot move forward until the treatment plant upgrade.*

7. Upcoming Events

- a. **February 22nd, 9-10:30 am:** Headwaters Alliance: Funding committee meeting
- b. **February 27th, 5-7pm:** Resort Tax Community Vision Kickoff at the Gallatin Riverhouse Grill
- c. **February 27th, 7 pm:** Wild Rivers Night: Join American Rivers for a fantastic silent auction, food, drinks, speakers, and the music of Holler N'Pine. All proceeds from this event will go to American Rivers for their work to protect Montana's last best wild rivers.
- d. **February 28th, 5-7 pm:** Resort Tax Community Vision Kickoff at the Beehive Basin Brewery
- e. **March 1st, 2019:** Fly Fishing Festival signed sponsor agreement form due
- f. **March 4th, all day:** Board/Staff retreat at Lone Mountain Ranch B BarK
- g. **March 6th, 10 am:** Headwaters Alliance: Education and Outreach Meeting

- h. **March 6th, in the afternoon, TBD:** Headwaters Alliance: Canyon Meeting
- i. **March 20th, 5 & 8 pm:** F3T Fly Fishing Film Tour at Lone Peak Cinema
- j. **March 27th, 1-3 pm:** Headwaters Alliance: Water Wise Committee Meeting
- k. **March 28th, 2-4 pm:** Headwaters Alliance Ecological Health Committee meeting
- l. **April 1st, 2019:** Fly Fishing Festival Cash Sponsorship payment due
- m. **May 2 & 3rd:** Give Big Gallatin Valley
- n. **Set Meeting Date:**
 - i. March 27th, 3:30 PM
 - ii. April 24th, 3:00 PM

8. Open Discussion:

- a. Algae Bloom: *Kristin reiterated that the Task Force is analyzing data from the summer with the goal to be finished within the next few weeks. She liked Pat's theory and is getting an estimate for the cost of aerial footage to document the extent of the algae bloom.*
- b. Bannack: *Rick is working on a letter from the board to thank Bannack for their help, specifically for Chase's efforts and continued support.*
- c. Board and Staff photos: *Brandy is coordinating photos for new board and staff.*

9. Adjournment: *Rick Donaldson adjourned the meeting at 5:11. Ennion made a motion to approve. Mike J seconded; motion carried unanimously.*

** Agenda Items for Board action