

Gallatin River Task Force Board of Directors Meeting
January 15th, 2019, 3:30 pm
Big Sky Water and Sewer District
MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** Rick Donaldson called the meeting to order at 3:36 pm. Board members present included Rich Chandler, Ennion Williams, Bill Collins, Rick Donaldson, Rob McRae, JeNelle Johnson, and Ron Edwards. Staff members present included Ryan Newcomb, Andrea Saari, Brandi Moses Straub, Stephanie Lynn, Kristin Gardner, and Big Sky Watershed Corps member Valerie Bednarski. Mike Scholz, Big Sky Resort Area Tax District, was also in attendance.
2. **Introduction Brandy and Valerie**
3. **Board Member Story (Bill):** *Bill explained how fishing and a desire to learn more about the river inspired him to serve as a board member of the Gallatin River Task Force. **Ennion will share his connection to the river and organization at the next board meeting.***
4. **Consent Agenda****
 - a. Minutes: December 11th, 2018: **Stephanie will change “Class A effluent” to “Class A1 effluent” in the December minutes.**
 - b. Fundraising Report: *The development team is working on outlining objectives.*
 - i. Gallatin River Festival: *Andrea added a spreadsheet for Gallatin River Festival sponsors to the fundraising report. **Board members asked to sign up to contact 1 – 5 sponsors by March 1st deadline, including new sponsors, through Google Sheet.***
 - ii. End of Year Appeal: *The appeal raised over \$9,000 for the capital campaign.*
 - iii. Give Big Gallatin Valley: *Andrea showed a graph of Give Big Gallatin Valley progress with two lines to account for the large Big Sky Water and Sewer District contribution in 2016.*
 - iv. Gallatin River Forever: *Bill Collins reached out to 150 people about the capital campaign, as well as making a sizeable campaign pledge. His email had raised \$48,000 as of 6 AM on January 15th. **Ryan will distribute Bill’s email, so that the board can see an example of an effective appeal.** Ryan will work with the campaign committee, including Rob and JeNelle, to reach out to additional contacts.*
 - v. Board Development: **Development staff want to focus a couple of minutes at future meetings for board training and asked for feedback from the board about what they would like to learn more about. Ennion requested a one-page document that makes the case for support, or even two different “cases” for the Gallatin River Festival vs. the capital campaign.**

- c. Education & Communications Report: **Brandy will schedule new board and staff photos for Bill Collins, Mike J, Ennion, JeNelle, Rob, Brandy, Valerie, and Ryan. Board members should review their website bios and notify Stephanie if they would like any changes/updates. Stephanie has scheduled an interview with Rich Addicks and will profile Rich Chandler next.**
- d. Water Conservation Program Coordinator Report
- e. **Mike R made a motion to approve. JeNelle Johnson seconded; motion carried unanimously.**

5. Financial Report (Rick, Kristin)

- a. November Financials Accept**: *Bannack has completed their work for the Task Force. The Task Force paid 1/3 of the bill in early January with a goal to pay the remaining \$20,000 in 30 – 60 days. Their work cost 8 – 15% of the campaign proceeds. Rich C noted that the Task Force has made incredible financial progress in a year. Kristin clarified that the large monitoring expense in November was for the analysis of aquatic insect samples. Ron E made a motion to approved. Bill C seconded; motion carried unanimously.*
- b. December Financials Review
- c. Audit Report: *The Task Force sent almost all of the materials to the auditors, who have a mid-February timeline for a management letter and draft audit. The auditors recognize revenue and expenses in a different format using gap accounting. For example, donor pledges over multiple years would be recorded in the year they were made, which may cause revenue and expense gaps down the road. The auditors will make adjustments to the Fly Fishing Festival to accrue revenue and expenses in the fiscal year that they occurred. The auditors may not record the entire amount of Yellowstone Club and Madison Country pledges in the same year because these pledges are contingent on an annual review. Rick has some concerns about the board ratifying financials that may change. Ron E suggested the board make a motion to “accept” vs. “approve” financials at future meetings. The board will discuss whether or not to change the fiscal year to the calendar year at a future meeting.*

6. New Business

- a. Resort Tax Legislative Effort (Mike Scholz): *Mike S updated the board on two RT initiatives 1) a 10-year visioning process for the community to identify vision, goals, and financial needs and 2) legislation to give resort communities the opportunity to petition the electorate to increase RT by 1% without changing the items taxed or that resort tax is designated for infrastructure. According to the 2018 budget, a 1% increase would generate an additional 2.5 million with collections increasing by 10% per year on average. The definition of infrastructure varies across the 10 communities with resort tax; Big Sky has a broad definition that includes welfare, health, etc. In 2019, West Yellowstone is leading the effort with*

*the support of the other communities due to a building moratorium. During the prior effort, community members objected to both the increase in RT and the language in the legislation. The legislation will be difficult to pass. **The RT board met with community groups to ask whether or not they want to increase RT by up to 1% and asked for a decision by the next board meeting.***

- b. 2019 Fly Fishing Festival (Ryan/Andrea): *The renamed Gallatin River Festival has been refocused to include all river users. **Andrea created a budget to meet the goal of gross \$150K (net \$100K) for the festival and encouraged the board to solicit sponsors by the March 1st deadline.** The committee has signed up for teams focused on targeted efforts. The Outdoor Fair will be on June 29th and the Hooked on the Gallatin Banquet will be on June 30th. Due to increases in prices, the ticket price for the banquet increased to \$95/person. **Ryan will send out a mass call for volunteers. Andrea will include the sponsor packet and one-pager in the Monday update.***

7. Old Business

8. Upcoming Events

- a. **January 16th-18th:** Big Sky Watershed Corps Training in Bozeman
- b. **January 17th, 10-3 pm:** Ecological Health Committee meeting at the Big Sky Water and Sewer District.
- c. **January 23rd, 2 -4 pm:** Headwaters Alliance: Canyon Septic System Committee meeting at Bucks T4
- d. **January 29th:** Montana Watershed Coordination Council Annual Meeting in Helena
- e. **January 29th, 7 pm:** Kristin will provide presentation about water quality data collected in the Gallatin for the Madison-Gallatin Chapter of the Montana Wilderness Association in the large classroom at Hope Lutheran Church, 2152 West Graf Street in Bozeman.
- f. **March 4th:** Board/Staff retreat
- g. **March 1st, 2019:** Fly Fishing Festival signed sponsor agreement form due
- h. **March 20th, 5 & 8 pm:** F3T Fly Fishing Film Tour at Lone Peak Cinema
- i. **March 27th, 1-3 pm:** Headwaters Alliance: Water Wise Committee Meeting
- j. **January 31st, 9-5 pm:** Winter Water Quality Sampling Event
- k. **April 1st, 2019:** Fly Fishing Festival Cash Sponsorship payment due
- l. **May 2 & 3rd:** Give Big Gallatin Valley
- m. **Set Meeting Date:** Kristin will send out doodle to incorporate schedule for new planner

9. Open Discussion:

- a. Valerie is working on graphs for algae bloom
- b. DEQ potentially funding work for the summer
- c. Meeting on Thursday for expanded SAP, ex) drone footage of entire river

- d. Algae water wisdom (summer); winter fish habitat up next
- e. KG can speak at BSWSD meeting next week about GRTF stance on treatment plant upgrade and disposal

10. Adjournment: Rich C motion; Rob seconded; all in favor at 5:06 pm

** Agenda Items for Board action