

Gallatin River Task Force Board of Directors Meeting
March 27th, 2019, 3:30 pm
Big Sky Water and Sewer District
MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** *Rick Donaldson called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM. Board members present included Rob McRae, Rick Donaldson, Rich Chandler, Ennion Williams, Bill Collins, Ron Edwards, JeNelle Johnson, Mike Richter. Staff present included Kristin Gardner, Brandy Moses Straub, Ryan Newcomb, Stephanie Lynn, and Big Sky Watershed Corps member, Valerie Bednarski. Chace Bell from MT DEQ presented at the beginning of the meeting about the algae bloom in the Smith River.*
2. **Board Member Story (JeNelle)**
 - a. *Janelle first visited Big Sky with Fred in 1994, then lived in 5 countries over next 5 years, moved back in 2011 and bought a house in Big Sky, then she started volunteering with the task force the following year. **Next meeting Rob McRae will present his story.***
3. **Consent Agenda****
 - a. Minutes: February 20th, 2019
 - b. Fundraising Report
 - i. *All trending up really good!*
 - c. Education & Communications Report
 - d. Water Conservation Program Coordinator Report
 - e. Big Sky Watershed Corps Report
 - f. ***Rich C made a motion to approve. Bill seconded; motion carried unanimously***
4. **Financial Report (Rick, Kristin)**
 - a. January Financials Acceptance**
 - i. *The board accepted the December financials with no discussion. **Ron made a motion to accept. Bill seconded; motion carried unanimously.***
 - b. February Financials Review
 - c. Audit Report Update
 - i. *Rudd has completed a first draft of the audit report. We should receive the final report very soon.*
 - ii. *Final bill is anticipated to be \$10,000 and estimate next year will be \$10-12,000*
5. **New Business**
 - a. FY 2019 Project/Budget Outline (Kristin) – *see attached spreadsheet for project descriptions.*
 - i. *See handout for different projects*
 - ii. *Watershed monitoring program: The Task Force would like to take drone images of the river to assess the spatial extent and variability of algae growth in late July/early August. **Bill stated that he could give us a GoPro Drone that he lent to Andrea.***

- iii. *Conservation Program: Over the next year, the Headwater Alliance committees will be transitioned under Task Force. The board agreed to contract Karen for another year pending sufficient funding.*
 - iv. *Education and Outreach Program: Billboard would be placed in contentious area in Beckman Flats so **Stephanie is going to ask about other possible locations. Stormwater Workshop – Board decided this is not a priority to host in 2019.***
 - v. *Operational Topics: Kristin discussed the need for a new staff member to assist in development activities, do the bookkeeping, integrate donor software and Quick Books, and oversee financial and grant reporting. This staff position would reduce time spent by current staff members on these activities and allow them to focus on skills/expertise and the provide needed support for board treasurer. The board supported adding this new position to the budget.*
 - vi. *Development project ideas from Ryan: New ideas include online sale of gear -> \$12,500, the board expressed concern that this may be too much work with not enough \$ returned.*
- b. Strategic Communications Strategy (Stephanie)
- i. *Resource Media: Resource Media specializes in communication for non-profits to create content that motivates people to change their behavior. They were hired to assist in developing a communications strategy for the Headwaters Alliance. Staff of Resource Media conducted interviews of 8-10 community leaders to examine how people receive community news. The community leaders were not representative of the full diversity within the Big Sky Community so the conclusions on these interviews may only be helpful for certain sectors of our community. Resource Media is creating a strategic communication memo summarizing their findings which will be done this week.*

6. Old Business

- a. Mission (Kristin)
 - i. *Old Mission: To partner with our community to inspire stewardship of the Gallatin River Watershed. New: To partner with our greater community to lead conservation and inspire stewardship of the Gallatin River Watershed. **Rob made a motion to accept. JeNelle seconded; motion carried unanimously.***
- b. Deer Creek Restoration Project Update (Kristin): *Regional office engineer wants to visit onsite in the next 6-8 weeks to examine the bridge before we will have an answer on whether the Forest Service intends to replace or repair the bridge.*
- c. Algae (Chace, Valerie, Kristin)
 - i. *Smith River Presentation (Chace Bell) DEQ Nuisance Algae Study Presentation by Chase Bell - See attached report.*
 - ii. *2018 Gallatin analysis and potential driving factors (Valerie, Kristin)*
 - a. *Week of algae bloom the West Fork had the highest average weekly temperature since installing the stream gauges in 2009.*
 - iii. *2019 Algae Assessment (Kristin)*

- a. *Did not discuss this agenda item*
- d. License Plate (Ryan): *Did not get the design and paperwork in by the deadline. **Goal is to turn in the application by the middle of summer for the September deadline.** Revenue from last year's Fly Fishing Festival will fund the color and grey versions.*

7. Upcoming Events

- a. **March 28th**, 2-4 pm: Headwaters Alliance Ecological Health Committee meeting
- b. **April 1st**: Fly Fishing Festival Cash Sponsorship payment due
- c. **April 2nd**: Pre-snowmelt water quality monitoring event
- d. **April 10th 8:30 am**: Eggs and Issues hosted by the Big Sky Chamber - Focus on Water Issues in Big Sky at the Big Sky Summit Hotel Talus room at Big Sky Resort. Presentations by the Task Force and Big Sky Water and Sewer District.
- e. **April 10th, 10:00 am**: Joint Madison/Gallatin County Commissioner Meeting in Big Sky Summit Hotel Talus room following Eggs and Issues.
- f. **April 10th, 7 pm**: Wild and Scenic Film Festival at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center.
- g. **April 24th, 3 pm**: Task Force Board Meeting at BSWSD
- h. **April 29th**: Resort Tax Applications Due
- i. **May 2 & 3rd**: Give Big Gallatin Valley

8. Open Discussion:

9. Adjournment:

*Rick Donaldson adjourned the meeting at 6:15PM. **Ennion made a motion to approve. JeNelle seconded; motion carried unanimously.***

** Agenda Items for Board action