



Gallatin River Task Force Board of Directors Meeting
February 12th, 2020 at 3:00 pm
Big Sky Water and Sewer District
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Board Chair Rick Donaldson called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM. Board members in attendance included Mike Richter, Ennion Williams, Jenelle Johnson, Rich Chandler, Mike Jaquard, Ron Edwards, and Bill Collins. Task Force staff in attendance included Kristin Gardner, Ryan Newcomb, Stefanee Lucksley, David Tucker, Olivia Regnier, and Emily O'Connor.

2. Staff Member Story

Stefanie Lucksley was born in Redmond, WA near Seattle. She moved 13 times growing up because her Dad was a cell phone site contractor and his job required moving from place to place. She moved to Montana in 3rd grade. And went to Cornell College to major in geology. After graduating she worked at a bank as a project manager. She feels lucky to be with the Task Force because it is a mixture of service and science.

3. Consent Agenda**

a. Minutes: January 13th, 2019

Rick Donaldson noted one edit to the January 13, 2010 board meeting minutes. Under line item 11. Open Discussion – Board Leadership, on there was a typo, “June 30v cbm, 2020 should read “June 30, 2020”.

b. Fundraising Report

The general fund received an additional 5K since report was initially made, so RMN printed hand copies for the board to see updated amounts on the general fund and membership campaigns. Regarding our Gallatin River Forever Campaign: further, ongoing reconciliation of accounts and donations puts the campaign at a gross revenue point of 1.5 Million. Ryan is working on final donor and public report for the campaign that should be finished and printed soon. We discussed starting a new campaign or phase two with so many donors wanting to do more. The headlining sponsor for this year's banquet is Gallatin River Guides, thanks to the Donaldson family and company. This is the first time we have had someone sponsor at that level (12.5K). The Fly Fishing Film Tour is scheduled for March 18, 2020.

c. Finance and Operations Report

Stefanee Lucksley reported the audit is over 90% completed and the tax mailing has been complete.

d. Conservation Project Manager Report

Emily O'Connor reported that the Upper Deer Creek project team met on January 22 to review the 100% design plans, draft bid package, and project schedule. The project is currently in the permitting/pre-construction phase. We received an approved MDT

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approach permit and the and NEPA) will be Restoration Project



remaining permits (310 Joint Application submitted by Mid-March. The Committee plans to attend the pre-

bid project tour scheduled for March 5. The committee will also meet to review the bids on March 31 and will make a recommendation to the board for a board vote on April 1. Ron Edwards suggested ensuring there is a 20% contingency built into the budget considering how construction prices are increasing as well as ensuring the contract gives the contractor some wiggle room on liquidated damages.

e. Communications Report

David Tucker reported that he has been working with the Big Sky County Water & Sewer District (BSCWSD) and Resort Tax on communications regarding the vote for a 1% increase in Resort Tax for infrastructure for a BSCWSD plant upgrade and Canyon pipeline. This is a complex solution and people have a lot of questions. Our priority is making sure our stakeholders, partners, donors, and volunteers have the right information. David provided a 1 pager with talking points that the staff and board can use to discuss the proposed projects. If you have questions or are not comfortable talking with people feel free to direct questions to David or Kristin.

Ron Edwards noted that the proposed projects help move the needle on the workforce housing issue by putting 500 SFE's on the table that would be earmarked for workforce housing. Additionally, the proposal does not include a direct surface water discharge but rather groundwater discharge. The BSCWSD board is committed to building the plant either way, if it is not funded by the 1% tax it will double water and sewer rates.

Rich Chandler noted that the new plant would reduce the amount of nitrogen and phosphorous by 90%. The current septic systems in the Canyon are on drain fields that are discharging into the shallow groundwater aquifer that feeds the river. If that waste water is treated to a better quality it will greatly protect river health.

Motion made by Ennion Williams to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Bill Collins. Motion was unanimous.

4. Financial Report

a. December Financials Acceptance**

Motion made by Mick Richter to approve the December financials. Seconded by Ron Edwards. Motion was unanimous.

b. January Financials Review

Rick Donaldson asked if there has been a change in the budget for the Canyon Study. Kristin Gardner responded that we are within budget for the study and will use all of the money to finish the scope. We need to figure out what the next steps are but don't know what that will look like for another month.

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5. New Business

a. 2019 Algae/Nutrient Data

Kristin Gardner reported that she has been working with Olivia and two interns to put together the data from this past summer which included 5 sampling events from 16 sites. Sampling will occur again this summer and a determination will be made on whether or not to modify the study based on the final results. Four (4) of the sites were above the state standards for algae measured as Ash Free Dry Weight. These sites included the Gallatin River Below the Taylor Fork, the Taylor Fork, the West Fork below the Big Sky Golf Course and the lower South Fork. Two (2) sites (Upper Middle Fork and West Fork) were over the state standards for Total Nitrogen. Seven sites (7) were above state standards Total Phosphorus– 5 on the mainstem Gallatin and 2 on the Upper Middle Fork. DEQ informed Kristin that there were problems with the lab analyses for Orthophosphate and potentially Chlorophyll a, for samples containing filamentous algae. Data analysis will continue, next steps include looking at temperature data and a follow up discussion with DEQ to talk through the results and if we might want to do something different such as more sampling in the Taylor Fork to determine sources of elevated algae or on the Middle Fork upstream of Lake Levinsky determine sources of elevated nitrogen.

b. Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance**

Kristin Gardner reported at last Resort Tax Q&A, the Task Force was asked if we would want to absorb the Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance (GISA), a non-profit organization working to protect natural resources from the threats of invasive species. We collaborated with them on two projects, the Clean, Drain, Dry Campaign and Crail Ranch Garden. The board discussed that absorbing GISA could dilute what we are working on and is not likely to provide reductions in Resort Tax requests.

Motion made by Ennion Williams to not incorporate Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance into the Task Force but to support their work as a partner. Seconded by Bill Collins. Motion was unanimous.

6. Old Business

a. License Plate

David Tucker reported that the Gallatin River Task Force license plates for Gallatin County are available. Residents have the option to renew a license plate at any time. We need to sell 400 in the next 3 years or they will pull back the program. Please encourage friends and family to get the plates. They don't provide samples but the image is available and can be shared.

b. Canyon Study Updates

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Kristin Gardner reported the Canyon Study on sharing the results of the proposed projects. Another public meeting later this spring will address the costs for individuals and businesses.

there is a public meeting coming up for March 5 at Buck's. The engineers will be study that will include general costs for

c. Wild and Scenic Update

Kristin Gardner reported the proposed Wild and Scenic designation has been moving slowing due to the impeachment process but will hopefully pick back up now that the impeachment process is over.

7. Upcoming Events

- a. **March 3rd and 4th:** Montana Water Summit. More information available online at: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water/management/training-education/the-montana-water-summit-2020>
- b. **March 5th, 5:30 -7 pm:** Gallatin Canyon Wastewater Upgrade Feasibility Study Public Meeting at Bucks T4
- c. **March 18th, 5 & 8 pm:** Save the date for the F3T Fly Fishing Film tour at the Lone Peak Cinema.
- d. **March 25th, 1-3 pm:** Headwaters Alliance: Healthy Headwaters Meeting
- e. **April 30th – May 1st:** Give Big Gallatin Valley
- f. **April 30th:** Resort Tax Applications Due

8. Set March and April Board Meetings

The March and April Board meetings have been set for the following dates and times:

- March 24, 3:00-5:00 PM
- April 22, 3:00-5:00 PM

9. Open Discussion

Ryan Newcomb reported sponsor commitments are due March 15 for the banquet.

9. Adjournment

Motion made by Ennion Williams to adjourn the meeting at 5:03 PM. Seconded by JeNelle Johnson. Motion was unanimous.