

Gallatin River Task Force Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, November 14th, 2017, 2 pm
Big Sky Water & Sewer District
MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** Rick Donaldson called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. Board members present included Mike Richter, Rich Addicks, Rich Chandler, and Ron Edwards. Staff members present included Kristin, Andrea, Stephanie, and Emily. Chase Rose, from Bannack Group, was also in attendance.

2. **Consent Agenda****

- a. Minutes: October 3rd, 2017
- b. Fundraising Report (Andrea) ***Rich A would like to see # of current members on Andrea's summary report.***
- c. Education & Communications Report (Stephanie)
- d. Big Sky Watershed Corps Report (Emily)

Rick proposed the following change to the board meeting agenda structure to streamline efficiency: items for board action/discussion from staff reports will be added either as New or Old Business". ***Kristin, Andrea, and Rick will plan to meet prior to meetings to make sure fundraising numbers are in line with financial reports and Bannack reports. Mike moved to approved the consent agenda, Rich C seconded, motion carried unanimously.***

3. **Financial Report **** (Kristin, Rick)

- a. September/October Financials: July-October financials show substantial loss at the end of October, majority of this loss is from Kelly Rowe invoice for Moose Creek construction. *Mike moved to approved September/October Financials, Rich C seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.*
- b. Moose Creek Budget & Update: Additional funding necessary to complete fall work by the end of the year is \$35,953. Board discussion followed of ways we can potentially raise this money: new pledges, exacerbated pledges, and grants (ex. Rotary). Rick and Kristin have been working with Big Sky Western Bank to take out a line of credit.
- c. Big Sky Western Bank: Kristin has reached out to Tim Kent at Big Sky Western bank about taking out a line of credit to pay for project costs. He was very supportive and thought they could likely do this for interest rate or at most a small, flat fee. Rich C commented that he does not want to make a habit of using a bank's credit to finance project costs, and that we should be more confident in our funding before we start projects; however, he understands the reasons to move ahead this fall: grizzly bear management regs, permitting, and project funders. Rich C suggested adding language to the bylaws. Rich A disagreed that it should be written in our bylaws because it may leave our "hands tied" for future project work. Following this, Rick D spoke more about the specifics of the line of credit, saying we should ask up to \$100K, only draw from it when needed, and that we don't expect to reach that cap. Chase suggested a 5-year payback time

period since it aligns with campaign pledges, but that we can strive to pay back sooner. Rich C further commented that he has never heard of a nonprofit taking out credit to do restoration work. He asked Kristin what would happen if we stalled spring project work (fencing, vegetation plantings) since all high water mark work is scheduled to be completed this fall (most sensitive). Rich C's opinion is to finish fall work and stall spring to avoid taking out any credit. Kristin strongly recommends that we finish in spring with staff and campaign committee working hard to fundraise for the project. Chase commented that the bank could redirect interest as a campaign gift but the Bank has the authority to determine the terms. *Ron made a motion to authorize a line of credit not to exceed pledge amount up to \$100K, where all unrestricted campaign pledges shall go to payback of credit, and credit can only be used for board approved expenses. Ron motioned to approve these conditions for a line of credit through Big Sky Western Bank, Rich A seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

4. New Business

- a. Water Conservation Coordinator Position** (Kristin, Rick): Kristin presented a budget proposal to hire Emily as a Water Conservation Coordinator. Funding would be supplied by the two DNRC Drought Planning grants and Water and Sewer Conservation program funds through May and Emily would need to work on finding funds for June. Rich Chandler asked what happens in June. Kristin would like to see the position funded ½ and ½ by Resort Tax and the Water and Sewer District but if the funding didn't come through, we would not be able to keep the position. Ron suggested we ask more from Resort Tax but can rethink on this as we move closer to RT applications. *Rich A moved to approve the budget and new Task Force position, Ron seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously.*
- b. Member Committee (Kristin, Rich, Rick): The following community members have agreed to participate in a Task Force membership committee: Rich Addicks, Rick Donaldson, Bryan Van Epps (also possible leader of the committee, JeNelle Johnson, Walker Bagby Margo Magnant, Sue Arneson, and Mike Jacquard. The board expressed excitement for this new committee as a way to strategize member recruitment. Staff leads are Andrea and Emily.
- c. Board/staff retreat** (Kristin): Kristin suggested a board/staff retreat facilitated by Lori Addicks to welcome new board members, Americorps, and revisit our strategic plan. Possible dates are January 31- February 9. ***Kristin will lock down a date after the holidays.***
- d. Volunteer thank you party (Kristin/Stephanie): Date moved to December 6th at 5PM at Kristin's house. Board is encouraged to bring side dishes/dessert. Main course will be a Mexican dish.
- e. Office lease** (Kristin/Rick): New office space is located in Meadow Village plaza, upstairs from Lone Peak Fitness and Ozssage. Our new landlord, Reed Smith, was a 2017 Fly Fishing Festival sponsor, agreed to adjust rent schedule to be in line with this year's resort tax funding followed by an increase in years 2 & 3. On average, the rent will be \$922/mo in the 3-year period. Move in date will

be between December 1st and December 15th, **Rick says we can use his trailer and he knows a couple of guys that can help us move.**

- f. Draft Drought Plan (Emily): Emily is seeking any feedback on the draft outline of our Upper Gallatin Drought Management Plan by December 11th.
- g. Social Media Policy (Stephanie): The board supported Stephanie's drafted social media policy. Rich A commented that Steph was doing a great job of handling social media comments with facts and limiting emotional response.
- h. Nixon Bridge Support (Andrea): Andrea received a letter asking for our support to preserve the Nixon Bridge. Board discussion points included: 1) the bridge is outside of our area, doesn't directly fit within our mission, and we are unaware of the ecological impact of removing and replacing said bridge. Ron stated services a limited area. *Rich A moved to not support this bridge preservation, Rich C seconded, and motion carried unanimously.*

5. Old Business

- a. Campaign Updates (Chase/Andrea)
 - i. Fees on Restricted Campaign Donations**: At the last board meeting, Chase asked if we would like to include a fee for restricted donations that would go to operations/administrative costs for the campaign. Andrea suggested an opt in or opt out checkbox that donors can check if they would like to pay the fee. *Rich C moved to table this approval or denial for fees on restricted donations, Rich A seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously.*
 - ii. Campaign Donor/cultivation event (Andrea): Andrea has been working with the Rainbow Ranch to host campaign donor/cultivation event. Tentative pricing would be \$25/person. Board thought a January timeline has better potential for people to come to the event. Further discussion on this will be through the campaign committee, next meeting TBD.
Chase updated the board on discussions with Mike DuCuennois about a potential Cross Harbor gift. Kristin and Chase will revise the proposal to reflect discussion with Mike. Rick inquired about the approaching expiration of our Bannack contract and what that means for our work with Chase. Chase replied that we do not have to go into another year-long contract and can assess what other work we would need from him (monthly or otherwise) by the end of his contract at the end of the year.
- b. Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum Updates (Kristin/Ron/Rich): BSSWSF meeting this week is scheduled to be the last stakeholder meeting and is set to tackle implementation proposal and potential funding mechanisms for our prioritized actions for ecological health, water supply, and wastewater reuse. Kristin/Karen are scheduled to present at the GLWQD in December. Rich C expressed concerns that short term waterwater reuse solutions may be needed (ex. Treatment ponds) to address storage capacity.
- c. Raffles and Gambling (Andrea): Andrea is working on getting the drift boat raffle online since the Montana laws have now allowed this. ***Kristin suggested that Andrea and Rick meet to strategize ticket sales for the raffle.***

- d. Rainbow Ranch (Andrea): Andrea has contacted RR to potentially host the Hooked on the Gallatin Banquet next summer. Prices will be similar to the Riverhouse, but the Ranch has everything we may need, eliminating the coordination and cost of using Montana Party Rentals. The Ranch has also agreed to donate the venue space. Kristin expressed concern that she had verbally given her word to the Riverhouse but was willing to have a conversation with Robbeye. **Board is supportive but wants the Fly Fishing Festival committee to decide on venue at their next meeting.**
- e. Board Membership
 - i. Leadership
 - 1. Vice Chair**: *Mike nominated Rich C, Rich A seconded. Board unanimously supports Rich C as the new board vice-chair.*
 - ii. Additional members: Rich A. made a motion to elect Rob McCrae and Mike Jacquard to the board of directors. Motion was seconded by Rich C, motion carried unanimously.
 - iii. Review Board Member Description: Rich A and Mike commented that this document is too detailed and can be condensed. **Rich A/ Executive committee will work on this and finalize by the end of the year.**

6. Upcoming Events

- a. **November 16th, 1-4 pm:** Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum Meeting
 - b. **December 6th, 5-8 pm:** Volunteer Appreciation Party
 - c. **December 7th, 8:15 am:** Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum presentation for the Gallatin Local Water Quality District board. Location TBD
 - d. Next board meeting date:
- 7. **Open Discussion: Rich C asked if Kristin/Task Force will write a support letter for the YC improvement project, Kristin agreed.**
 - 8. **Adjournment: Rick called the meeting to adjournment at 5:10 PM.**

** Agenda Items for Board action