

**Gallatin River Task Force Board of Directors Meeting**  
**April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 3:00 pm**  
**Big Sky Water and Sewer District**  
**MINUTES - DRAFT**

1. **Call to Order:** *Rick Donaldson called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM. Board members present included Rob McRae, Rich Chandler, Ennion Williams, Rick Donaldson, and JeNelle Johnson. Staff present included Stephanie Lynn, Kristin Gardner, Brandy Straub, Ryan Newcomb, and Big Sky Watershed Corps member, Valerie Bednarski (via phone). Mark Gunther, Big Sky resident, was also present.*
2. **Board Member Story (Rob):** *Rob McRae shared how he seeks to balance his career in the construction industry with a commitment to supporting conservation work. **Mike Richter will share his story at the May meeting.***
3. **Consent Agenda\*\***
  - a. Consent Agenda: ***The board requested the consent agenda in separate files: minutes, finances, staff reports, etc.***
  - b. Minutes: March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019: *No comments on the March minutes.*
  - c. Fundraising Report: *Ryan is reorganizing the fundraising report for clarity. Moving forward, he will report progress by fiscal year so that the board can compare fundraising to the previous fiscal year.*
    - i. Gallatin River Festival: *The Task Force has finished tying up loose ends from the 2018 Gallatin River Fly Fishing Festival. In the past six weeks, the Task Force has raised \$99,000 to support the Gallatin River Festival. Ennion, JeNelle, and Rick have led the fundraising efforts with Highline Partners signing on as a top sponsor. The Task Force hired a day-of planner for the festival, which will cost \$3,000 plus mileage. Ryan is researching the possibility of hosting an electronic auction at the banquet.*
    - ii. Gallatin River Forever Campaign: *Ryan will apply for \$25,000 from the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation to fund river improvement, education, and outreach. The Task Force needs to raise \$95,000 to complete the campaign, additional funds will be used to replenish the reserve. Chase appreciated his jacket and the Bannack office doesn't want anything.*
    - iii. Friends of the Gallatin Membership Program: *New membership stickers, hats, t-shirts, and membership forms are ready.*
  - d. Education & Communications Report: *No comments.*
  - e. Water Conservation Program Coordinator Report: *Despite delays, the Custer Gallatin National Forest archaeologist will conduct a site visit at Deer Creek per the NEEPA process. Bundling Deer Creek and Baetis Alley together is predicted to save 10 – 15% of the total project cost.*
  - f. Big Sky Watershed Corps Report: *No comments.*
  - g. ***Rich Chandler made a motion to approve. JeNelle seconded; motion carried unanimously.***

#### 4. Financial Report (Rick, Kristin)

- a. February Financials Acceptance\*\*: *The Task Force has only spent 44% of the Resort Tax grant because Trout Unlimited has in behind on billing, but will spend the grant by the end of June. **Rob McRae made a motion to approve. Ennion seconded; motion carried unanimously.***
- b. March Financials Review: *No comments.*
- c. Audit Report Update: *The audit report is completed in draft form, but will undergo a second review per Rudd's policy for new clients. The Executive and Finance Committees have copies of the draft audit. The report includes an opinion letter to the board of directors, a letter of recommendations to the board and management, and a summary of journal entries necessary to adjust the Task Force records to reflect the audited results. The audit results include an allocation of restricted and unrestricted net assets, as well as the accrual of some income and expenses to the previous fiscal year. The audited P&L and balance sheet figures will allow us to file our income tax return by the May 15<sup>th</sup> extension deadline. The board discussed whether or not to have Rudd file our tax return in the future.*

#### 5. New Business

- a. Dog Poop Cleanup (Valerie): *Valerie received a grant from the Montana Watershed Coordination Council to fund a dog poop cleanup to reduce nitrate and bacteria in the river. **The Task Force and Big Sky Community Organization will host a volunteer event on May 5<sup>th</sup> with prizes and a light breakfast.***
- b. Give Big Gallatin Valley (Ryan): *The Task Force aims to raise \$15,000 through a membership drive during Give Big Gallatin Valley, which corresponds with a national day of giving. **Ryan asked the board to reach out to their networks.***
- c. Membership Updates (Ryan): *Despite some red flags, Ryan is working with Patagonia to get an account for the Task Force. Lifetime memberships are a one-time gift, but Ryan is trying to encourage these members to continue to support the organization.*

#### 6. Old Business

- a. FY 2020 Budget (Kristin)\*\*: *The Task Force used conservative numbers for fundraising and grants based on previous years and has a goal to build a reserve for three- to six-month of operating costs (\$37,000/month).*
  - i. Gallatin Canyon Study: *This study will explore alternatives to improve wastewater treatment and management in Gallatin Canyon. Kristin will apply for funds from Gallatin County and Resort Tax. She will have the opportunity to revise the Resort Tax request depending on the county's decision. The Task Force will host the Gallatin Canyon committee until a water and sewer district or other entity is formed.*
  - ii. Crail Creek project: *Kristin was unable to apply for DEQ 319 funding.*
  - iii. Watershed Monitoring: *The DEQ will financially support algae monitoring and staff time during summer 2019 and 2020.*

- iv. New Finance and Administrative Staff Position: *The Task Force aims to hire a finance and administrative associate as soon as possible.*
- b. Resort Tax Application (Kristin): *The Task Force is asking Resort Tax for 55% of their total budget. **Kristin will submit the application by Friday.** The fundraising program budget is not included in the request. If the Resort Tax cuts the request, the Task Force will find other sources of funding. This year, the application has less text and Resort Tax board members will reach out the week before the Q&A with specific questions. **The board approved the categorization and ranking for application suggested by the Executive Committee: 1) operations, 2) watershed monitoring, 3) education and outreach, 4) Headwaters Alliance, and 5) watershed protection and enhancement.** The other conservation groups are not interested in contributing funds to the Headwaters Alliance, but contribute significant in-kind, which Karen is estimating. The Task Force may have to request rollover funding for the USGS gauge (\$18,000).*
- c. 2018 Algae Data and Plans for 2019 (Kristin/Valerie)
  - i. Ash free dry weight: *Results were variable with most sites exceeding the 35 g/m<sup>2</sup> standard, which suggests natural factors contributed to the bloom. The highest levels were at the Big Horn site in Yellowstone National Park and on the South Fork.*
  - ii. Chlorophyll-a: *Although none of the results exceeded the standard, they demonstrated the same pattern as AFDW. Due to the toughness of the plant matter, the lab results may not accurately characterize chlorophyll-a levels. The Task Force will use DEQ-recommended analysis methods in 2019.*
  - iii. Temperature: *The West Fork stream gauge recorded the highest water temperature at the end of July 2018. The Gallatin Gateway gauge does not record temperature, but the new USGS gauge at Deer Creek will have a temperature sensor. The Task Force plans to deploy additional temperature sensors in summer 2019.*
  - iv. Summer 2019 Algae Monitoring: *The Task Force requested \$3,000 from the DEQ Volunteer Monitoring program for laboratory analyses; however, funding from this program was denied. Instead, the DEQ will financially support staff time, three water chemistry monitoring events, and two algae events during summer 2019 through the 319 program. Fines from the wastewater treatment pond spill will upgrade three septic systems in Gallatin Canyon, resulting in the removal of 400 pounds of nitrogen per year.*
- d. Resource Media Communication Memo (Stephanie): *The Gallatin River Task Force worked with nonprofit communications firm, Resource Media, to develop a strategic communications memo to advocate for watershed protection in Big Sky. Resource Media conducted a discovery process involving internet research of river stewardship efforts in similar communities and six interviews with community leaders. The memo outlines their assessments, recommended strategies and messages, and some practical activities that the Task Force can*

*implement to conserve and protect water in Big Sky. **Stephanie will resend the plan in the Monday update.***

**7. Upcoming Events**

- a. **April 29<sup>th</sup>:** Resort Tax Applications Due
- b. **May 2 & 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Give Big Gallatin Valley
- c. **June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1 pm:** Resort Tax Q&A at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center
- d. **June 10<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm:** Resort Tax Allocations at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center
- e. **June 28<sup>th</sup>:** Pesca Fiesta, details coming soon
- f. **June 29<sup>th</sup>, 4-8 pm:** Outdoor Fair in Town Center Park.
- g. **June 30<sup>th</sup>, 5 pm:** Hooked on the Gallatin Banquet at the Gallatin Riverhouse Grill
- h. **Set May Board Meeting:**
  - i. May 21<sup>st</sup> at 3 PM
  - ii. June 18<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM

**8. Open Discussion:**

- a. **Snowmaking with Wastewater Effluent:** *The Yellowstone Club understands the permitting requirements. The project is on hold until the YC has more information from the Big Sky Water and Sewer District regarding the quality of their treated effluent and have modeled the dilutive component of snow.*
- b. **Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion and Upgrades:** *The Big Sky Water and Sewer District is discussing funding options for the plan expansion and upgrades, including Resort Tax and bonds.*
- c. **Increase in Resort Tax:** *Big Sky will potentially have the opportunity to vote to increase the Resort Tax by 1% for infrastructure improvements next May, pending the outcome of the community strategic visioning process.*
- d. **River Cleanup:** *The Annual Upper Gallatin River Cleanup is August 29<sup>th</sup>. Kristin will add to the event to the board calendar.*

**9. Adjournment:** *Rick Donaldson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 PM. Jenelle made a motion to adjourn. Ennion seconded; motion carried unanimously.*

\*\* Agenda Items for Board action