

Gallatin River Task Force Board of Directors Meeting
May 21st, 2019, 3:00 pm
Big Sky Water and Sewer District
MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** *Rick Donaldson called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM. Board members present included Ennion Williams, Rob McRae, Rick Donaldson, JeNelle Johnson, and Ron Edwards. Staff members present included Stephanie Lynn, Ryan Newcomb, Brandy Moses Straub, Kristin Gardner, and Valerie Bednarski, Big Sky Watershed Corps member.*
2. **Board Member Story (Ron):** *Mike balances monitoring over 300 wells in western Montana with fishing and skiing. **Ron Edwards will share his story at the next board meeting.***
3. **Consent Agenda****
 - a. Minutes: May 21st, 2019: *No comments.*
 - b. Fundraising Report: *The updated fundraising report compares the current fiscal year to the prior fiscal year. Membership increased substantially after Give Big Gallatin Valley. **Ryan will update the fundraising report to show sustaining vs. new members.** Currently, there are about 150 lapsed members (\$17,000). The Task Force has to raise another \$89,000 to complete the Gallatin River Forever Campaign. The Gallatin River Festival is up two percent without adding the \$4,000 raised at F3T. **Ryan would like input from the board about what the board wants to see in the fundraising report.***
 - c. Education & Communications Report: *The Task Force will host a volunteer kickoff event on June 13th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Volunteers are a valuable resource, so long as tasks are appropriate and sufficiently defined. The education and communication report records beneficiaries in two categories: 1) number of individuals participating in events, workshops, and school visits and 2) number of individuals reach through print and electronic communications, excluding social media.*
 - d. Water Conservation Program Coordinator Report: *The Task Force submitted a grant to Patagonia for \$15,000. The Crail Creek project may proceed with funding and oversight from the Greater Yellowstone Coalition from a grant for native trout restoration. The new weight limits were posted at Deer Creek and Durnham Meadows, effectively closing the bridges to commercial rafting.*
 - e. Big Sky Watershed Corps Report: *Nutrients are an important drive of algae blooms, but the data collected in summer 2018 did not point to nutrients as the cause.*
 - f. **Mike Richter made a motion to approve. Ron Edwards seconded; motion carried unanimously.**
4. **Financial Report (Rick, Kristin)**
 - a. March Financials Acceptance**: **Ennion Williams made a motion to accept the March financial statements. Mike Richter seconded; motion carried unanimously.**

- b. April Financials Review: *The bill from Trout Unlimited was for design work at Deer Creek. **The board would like to see business membership emphasized.***
- c. Draft Audit Report (Rick):
 - i. Recommendations Review: *The audit included an opinion letter and recommendations for internal control and fiscal policy. The finance committee will draft a formal response to the auditors acknowledging recommendations and outlining a plan of action. **The board will have the opportunity to review the response.***
 - ii. Fiscal Policy and Internal Control Manual**: *Rick developed a fiscal policy and internal control procedures manual in the fall of 2018 as part of our audit preparation. The manual will need to be updated per the annual audit recommendations and Rick is amending the manual and will distribute out to the board prior to our next board meeting. **The board and staff will review and give feedback at the next board meeting.***

5. New Business

- a. Farmer's Market Schedule (Valerie): ***Sign up to help staff the Farmer's Market booth.*** *In spite of the time commitment, the Farmer's Market is a valuable way to connect with the community and sell merchandize.*
- b. Groundwater Nitrate Results (Mike): *The Gallatin Local Water Quality District (GLWQD) spring sampling event revealed high nitrate levels approaching the drinking water standard on the south side of the golf course. Sampling results suggest that groundwater nitrate levels may be increasing in the Meadow Village, but additional data is needed to verify. Kristin asked for money from resort tax to update the nitrogen reduction plan. The GLWQD will continue to sample water quality as long as the Big Sky Water and Sewer District pays the lab fees and the MBMG measures water levels. The Task Force discussed 1) Firelight septic, 2) golf course fertilizer and irrigation, and 3) sewer system leaks as potential nitrate sources. The Task Force previously held a workshop with the golf course management team and MSU to adjust fertilizer application due to elevated nutrients in the land-applied treated wastewater. Ron systematically videos his system for leaks. The BSWSD fate and transport study will help to determine the amount of wastewater that can be disposed of in the Firelight drain field.*
- c. Jack Smith Bridge: *Matt Alvarez called about a potential restoration project to pave and fix the MDOT right-of-way at the Jack Smith Bridge, which is a sediment source to the river. The project would benefit the river, but may be hard to fund. The board discussed other low hanging fruit: 1) project to limit driving on "go-downs" and "two-track" roads in the canyon and 2) Porcupine stream diversion through culvert. **Kristin will talk to Wendi Urie before next board meeting.***

6. Old Business

- a. Resort Tax Requests: *The Resort Tax received 11.394 million dollars in requests with \$8.413 million dollars to allocate. The Resort Tax board does not want support letters from organization board. **Kristin asked the board and staff to request support letters from friends, supporters, and colleagues.***
 - i. District Application Support (Kristin/Ron): **After receiving board approval, Kristin will write a letter of support from the Task Force for the BSWSD resort tax application for money to support the groundwater fate and transport study and engineering design for the new treatment plant because both projects have great potential to reduce nutrient loading and protect water quality.**
 - ii. Q & A Session (Kristin/Ron): *Kristin will develop stats and figures for the question and answer. **She requested board assistance reviewing answers.***
- b. Gallatin River Festival (Ryan): **Ryan requested the board acquire auction items, as well as gift cards from businesses they frequent. JeNelle requested the naming of a ski run from Big Sky Resort. Ron Edwards and Mike Jacquard will follow up with Big Sky Resort. The board brainstormed the following ideas: Moonlight Music Festival tickets, Northern Lights, Spanish Peaks golf passes, Mountain Sky golf passes, cross country skis passes, PBR tickets, and Yellowstone Club golf passes (donated by a member). Mike Jacquard will follow up with Moonlight and Spanish Peaks for golf passes and Moonlight Music Festival tickets. Ryan will follow up for more ideas.**

7. Upcoming Events

- a. **June 13th, 5:30 pm:** Volunteer Kickoff Event at the Big Sky Community Park River pavilion
- b. **June 28th:** Pesca Fiesta, 4-7 pm at Gallatin River Guides
- c. **June 29th, 4-8 pm:** Outdoor Fair in Town Center Park.
- d. **June 30th, 5 pm:** Hooked on the Gallatin Banquet at the Gallatin Riverhouse Grill
- e. **August 29th:** Save the date for the Upper Gallatin River Cleanup
- f. **September 12th, Save the Date:** Montana Watershed Coordination Council Watershed Tour
- g. **Set July Board Meeting:**

8. Open Discussion:

9. **Adjournment: Mike Richter motioned to adjourn at 5:20 PM. Mike Jacquard seconded; motion carried unanimously.**

** Agenda Items for Board action