

Gallatin River Task Force Board of Directors Annual Meeting
November 20th, 2019, 2:00 pm
Big Sky Water and Sewer District
MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** Board Chair, Rick Donaldson, called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm. Board members in attendance included Mike Richter, JeNelle Johnson, Ron Edwards, Rob McRae, Heather Budd and Mike Jaquard. Task Force staff in attendance included Kristin Gardner, Ryan Newcomb, Stefanee Lucksley and Emily O'Connor. Jeff Dunn, from Trout Unlimited, called in to the meeting. Sara Huger was present from Resort Tax.
2. **Welcome Emily O'Connor!**
3. **Board Member Story (Mike J):** Mike arrived in Big Sky four years ago. From Jamestown Island, Rhode Island, where he was in food and beverage and was a board member for Chamber of Commerce and planning commission for over 2 terms. Loves to ski –and always wanted to live in MT/WY. Found job at Lotus Pad via craigslist. Met Rick on the golf course – looking to get involved in the community connected him to the Task Force. Now Director for Food & Beverage, for Horn and Cattle. Moved to Lone Mountain Ranch. Heather Budd will tell her story next and then staff.
4. **Consent Agenda** *Mike R. made a motion and Rich C. seconded, motion carried unanimously.***
 - a. Minutes: October 8th, 2019 – working towards format with more narrative, but not too much. Document what we do for posterity. Rob: farmer's market great opportunity for exposure.
 - b. Fundraising Report: Ryan and Stefanee working on reconciling Quickbooks & Neon as well as Fundraising expenses side.
 - c. Finance and Operations Report: Stefanee has been meeting with numerous nonprofit leaders for best HR practices.
5. **Financial Report** (Heather, Kristin, Stefanee)
 - a. August Financials Acceptance**: Rick suggested we void the Montana Wild Ranch receivable from the festival as we do not expect payment and the board agreed. ***Jenelle made a motion to accept the August financials and Ron seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***
 - b. September and October Financials Review – The October YTD P/L indicated a material excess of expenses compared to revenue. It was noted that the Yellowstone Club grant for 2019-2020 was received and booked in June 2019 (prior fiscal year), while expenses relative to that grant will be expensed in the current fiscal year. In addition, the Madison County grant for 2019-2020 is received over the course of the fiscal year as they invoiced for expenses paid and the Task Force is reimbursed. The Board discussed ways to change our accounting of the abovegrant income to better match income to expenses on a monthly and YTD basis. It was also noted that Resort Tax also requires us to provide an invoice and documentation for expenses paid, prior to being reimbursed, which can create an incomplete picture of our financial position. ***The Finance committee will investigate potential options.***
 - c. Audit and Tax Return – Kristin announced that an extension was filed for the FY2019 tax return and that all requests have been submitted to the auditors and Rudd expects draft reports by the end of January.
6. **New Business**

- a. **Big Sky Water and Sewer District Smart Metering System** (Ron) – The district is close to installing smart meters (Sensus) across the district. The data from the meters is stored on a cloud-based platform and can be accessed online. Value of system was illustrated through Summit hotel example, in which water use shot up from 5K gallons/day to 31K gallons/day on November 7th from a running toilet. Next step is a customer portal – with anticipated start date in spring 2021. Saving water and saving money for customers. Park City has same system. District has introduced a new rate structure for commercial, residential, irrigation, and reuse water. Ron estimates there is a 40% daily leak loss in Big Sky water pipes. Industry standard is 10-15%. End user capability in the spring 2021.
- b. Christmas Party (Stefanee): December 9th, 5pm at Kristin’s house. ***Stef will send an invite.***

7. Old Business

- a. Strategic Plan Update (Kristin/Ryan/Mike/Mike/JeNelle)
 - i. **Values****: Kristin presented the following draft updated values developed by the Strategic Planning committee and Rich and Lori Addicks.
 - Scientific Credibility: We are guided by science and best practices.
 - Collaboration: We value partnerships in our work on water issues.
 - Watershed Integrity: We work to ensure the integrity of a healthy river through protection and restoration.
 - Conservation: We promote sustainable management of our water resources.
 - Education: We believe in the power of education and engagement to build river stewardship

Rich made a motion to approve the updated values and Mike R. seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The Strategic Planning committee will work on a set of internal values for the board and staff team in the near future.
 - ii. **Next Steps**: At the December board meeting, the board will review the notes from the Stop Start Continue exercise from the board retreat in March.
- b. **Deer Creek Updates (Kristin/Emily/Jeff)**: Jeff Dunn presented the 95% design plan for Upper Deer Creek at Baetis Alley– updates in design focused on parking lot design, traffic flow, and expected uses. Shifting road approach so need MDT approach permit. Parking is outside of zoning district. Rich asked if we were paving the apron? Yes. Rob recommended getting out in front of the bid process. Rich warned of gravel tracking and plan to reduce should be drawn up in stormwater permitting. Jeff has had initial conversations with Rowe, RE Miller, and Jim Hall.
- c. **Beaver Creek** – MDT corridor study in Gallatin Canyon. Standard MDT process. Opportunity to include Beaver Creek into study area (bridge/culvert area). Study public meetings are anticipated for January.
- d. **Green Bridge** –Existing bridge span is 75 feet. Forest service is leaning towards the replace option. Jeff emphasized the importance of the deep pool for trout winter refuge. Current options include variations of 100-foot option (800 thousand +-1.1 million). Forest Service is meeting with the engineers to discuss options on December 10th. Rich stated that they could maintain pool whether short or long bridge. Rob asked if the Forest Service is obligated to replace the Green bridge? Could have trail from Baetis Alley with pedestrian bridge. Board discussed the potential of us owning bridge?

- e. **Wild and Scenic Update (Kristin):** Tester is planning to introduce a Wild and Scenic Bill that would include stream segments in the Madison, Gallatin, Yellowstone, and Smith River systems. Kristin and Ryan are meeting with the rest of the Montanans for Healthy Rivers Steering committee next week to discuss coordinating messaging and next steps.
- f. **Recruitment Update (Kristin/Ryan)**
 - i. Communications Manager: David Tucker will start on December 2nd.
 - ii. Big Sky Watershed Corps Member: Olivia Regnier will start in early January

8. Upcoming Events

- a. **December 9th, 2 pm:** Board Mtg – Christmas party to follow at 5 pm at KGs. *Stefanee will contact Robin Hicks (BS private chef) about catering.*
- b. **December 11th, 1:30 to 3:30 pm:** Headwaters Alliance: Ecological Health Committee Meeting at the Big Sky Water and Sewer District.
- c. **December 11th, 4-6 pm:** Kickoff Public Meeting for the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology Groundwater Investigation Program study on Gallatin Canyon groundwater flows and nutrient loading at the Big Sky Water and Sewer District.

9. **Set December Board Meeting:** December 9th at 2 pm with a focus on strategic planning.

10. Open Discussion:

License plate is in the works and no news is good news

Ryan stated that we are working with Classic Ink on annual report. Betsy Quammen. End of year letter – reflecting board discussions about successes. Annual report done in January. Rob opp to partner Big Sky Resort through Troy?

HBDI Training – early April before 11th

11. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 4:10 pm

** Agenda Items for Board action