

**Blue Water Task Force Board of Directors Meeting
December 12, 2006, 3:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Jon Holtzman called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Also in attendance were Vice-Chair Mary Jane McGarity, Secretary/Treasurer Mindy Nowakowski, Directors Eric Becker, Ron Edwards, Sue Barton, Caroline Henley, Executive Director Katie Alvin and Administrative Assistant, Kathy Moran. Absent: Directors Brad Parsch and Kevin Germain.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Ron moved and Caroline seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Financial Report:** Ron moved and Caroline seconded to accept the unaudited financial reports. Motion carried unanimously.
4. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Groundwater Study: Should we table until after our workshop? Or use workshop as method of getting feedback and/or involvement from public?**

Jon stated that with Lisa Graumlich leaving, our ties with Big Sky Institute had evaporated. He indicated that for now we should table the Groundwater Study and revisit the issue again at the February meeting.
 - b. **Groundwater Seminar: Need to set a planning meeting date. Need to set actual seminar date. Can we incorporate our Annual Meeting with this? MT Watercourse and Big Sky Chamber are co-sponsoring.** A discussion ensued concerning what topics should be covered at the Groundwater Seminar. A review of the Draft Agenda took place. Jon will make the Introduction. It was decided to add Water Rights to the Introduction portion of the seminar. Concerning Public Comments it was suggested by the board members that comments should be made in writing and not verbally. Verbal comments tend to take up too much time and cause seminar to veer off in the wrong direction. Katie suggested that a planning committee be formed to determine the Seminar's agenda. The following Board members agreed to participate in the planning committee: Jon, Mary Jane, Caroline, Mindy, Ron and Katie. Katie will organize a planning committee meeting with the above mentioned planning committee participants to take place within the next couple of weeks. Groundwater Seminar is tentatively planned for January 23, 2007. Eric questioned whether there were any other organizations with enforcement powers besides the ORW? A discussion ensued that there are other agencies with such powers. Jon said that agencies often don't use their powers unless in a response to a lawsuit would have to be filed. Katie indicated that she would further study and report back a list of who these agencies are.
 - c. **Flow Project update.** Katie brought to the board's attention that later in the summer of 2006, Confluence Consulting had mistakenly reset the flow meters to collect data every minute instead of every 30 minutes, therefore causing the mechanism to run out of memory and to overwrite the data. Confluence Consulting is attempting to come up with a workable solution to this problem. Katie will report back with their proposal. The balance of their bill will not be paid until the project is complete and the data rectified.
 - d. **TMDL update from PBS&J.** Pathogen monitoring planned for November 2006 was completed, with samples collected on five separate days between November 1st and November 30th. During each monitoring event, pathogen samples were collected in the morning and delivered to the State of Montana Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS) lab in the afternoon. Stream flow was measured at each sample site during each monitoring event, except where precluded by ice.

- e. **Ophir School 3rd grade program completed; Great newspaper article.** All board members were happy with the newspaper coverage that the Task Force received.
- f. **Review draft work plan.** Jon indicated that a review of our By-Laws should be added to the work plan. Additionally we should add as an objective ways to maintain a healthy organization. Katie asked the board if they had any ideas on how to best measure effectiveness of Objectives J, L and M on 2007 Work Plan. The following suggestions were made: Conduct a survey, attendance at functions, hits on the Website, volunteers, and increase in donations.
- g. **Report on Gallatin/Big Sky Weed Committee meeting.** It was suggested that we might ask the Big Sky Weed Committee about conducting a float trip so that we could identify the noxious weeds alongside the water and how to handle them.
- h. **Travel report from Katie on Montana Watershed Coordination Council's Watershed Symposium.** Katie felt that this was one of the best conferences that she had ever attended. Katie acquired a treasure trove of relevant information as well as a multitude of good ideas that were made readily available to all participants.

5. **New Business:**

- a. **Collaboration Meeting with Gallatin, Park, and Meagher counties: Jan. 11th.** This meeting will be held in Livingston. Katie is planning on attending. Katie will be acting as a facilitator for one of the agenda items. Jon will also plan to attend.

- b. **Upcoming events:**

Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC) is having their quarterly meeting in Helena on January 10, 2007. Katie was honored with a request to become a co-chair of this organization, but Katie needed to decline due to more pressing obligations.

Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) is holding their Annual Technical Workshop and Conference. Beginning on January 30, 2007 at the Holiday Inn in Bozeman from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This Hands On Workshop is titled "Getting Your Feet Wet with Social Marketing: Changing Behavior in Your Watershed". Continuing on January 31 and February 1, 2007 also at the Holiday Inn in Bozeman is the Conference titled "Effective Communication: Connecting to the Conservation Audience". Executive Director, Katie Alvin asked if the board would like her to attend. The cost of the Workshop and Conference is \$75.00. Eric moved and Caroline seconded approval of Katie attending these events. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Open Discussion:**

- a. The Nicklin Earth & Water, Inc (NE&W) review of the ORW's EIS was distributed to everyone. It was suggested that it would be a good idea to have Michael Nicklin as a speaker at our groundwater seminar in January. The planning committee for this seminar will look into having Dr. Nicklin attend.
- b. Ron moved and Caroline seconded to provide Katie a \$100.00 check as a Christmas gift for all her hard work on behalf of the Blue Water Task force. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **Adjournment:** Jon moved and Caroline seconded to adjourn the meeting at approximately 4:45 PM. Motion carried unanimously.