

**Wastewater Solutions Forum
Working Group
BSW&S Conference Room
December 7, 2010**

Minutes

In attendance: Scott Bosse, Robin Brower-McBride (C of C), Rich Chandler, Mike DuCuennois, Ron Edwards, Jon Holtzman, Burt Mills (Spanish Peaks), Jon Olson, Mike Scholz (Bucks T-4) and Devon White. By telephone: Kevin Germain, Ray Armstrong.

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:30. Minutes for February 2, 2010 were moved by Scott Bosse, seconded by Mike DuCuennois and approved.
2. **Scott Bosse** circulated a news story concerning a federal judge's upholding of a U.S. Forest Service decision to allow snowmaking with treated wastewater at a northern Arizona ski resort, The Snowbowl, purchased from the City of Flagstaff. **Ray Armstrong was asked to get information** on the treatment levels of water used to compare to Big Sky's treatment. The group also decided to keep track of the resort's experience with guests using the slopes. According to the story 205 acres of the 777 acre resort will have snow made from reclaimed water.
3. **Jon Holtzman** distributed a one page timeline review of pilot test process, beginning with initial DEQ contact in January 2008 through the visit of DEQ representatives to the test site in October 2010. A copy is attached to the official minutes.
4. **Ron Edwards, Mike DuCuennois and Ray Armstrong** provided an update of the October DEQ test site visit. Changes to the initially submitted plan were discussed and a revised plan is being prepared by Ray for resubmission. According to Ron DEQ liked the new plan and gave a green light pending review of the revised plan. Ron said "we expect DEQ to be a partner in the process, not just an observer." **Mike** said he expected additional test requirements to be required before an actual approval would be granted, "on an actual ski slope." Since the proposed test will not be done under an existing discharge permit it is expected a plan for full scale ramp up will required a complete regulatory review. **Scott and Jon H.** suggested asking DEQ for financial involvement since whatever was learned could be transferrable to other ski facilities in the state. **The group suggested asking for a 319 grant in 2011 and asked if Blue Water Task Force could assist.** Jon will check that out. Also discussed was getting MSU involved in the monitoring process and **Mike, Jon Olson and Kevin Germain** will pursue interest of the Engineering and/or Bio-resource Engineering departments.

The group also decided to **discuss publicity about the effort at the next meeting.**

There are several points to consider: 1) the benefit to the community of publicizing a proactive co-operative approach to problem solving; 2) the sensitivity of public reaction to using reclaimed water on ski slopes; and 3) the possibility of stirring up national groups who by advocacy policy oppose and litigate any use of treated wastewater.

5. **Ron** reviewed financial information covering the project from the beginning, noting that WSF has a current balance of \$27,559.62, with an additional \$10,000 expected. This should be enough to cover the cost of site preparation and monitoring. It is expected additional resources will be required to complete all ramp up testing and hoped that DEQ involvement through a future 319 grant will provide assistance. Financial review data is attached to the official minutes.
6. **The target date for the next meeting is March 15, 2011.**