

**Wastewater Solutions Forum
Working Group
BSW&S Conference Room
January 22, 2008**

Minutes

In attendance: Scott Bosse, Ron Edwards, Kristin Gardner, Kevin Germain, Marne Hayes, Jon Holtzman, Bill Simkins, Bob Sumpter, James Taylor and Devon White; guests: Ray Armstrong and Andrew Mattie, HKM ; and, via conference call from Montana DEQ, Paul LaVigne, Eric Regensburger, Rebecca Ridenour and Pete Schade.

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. **Bob Sumpter** motioned for approval of minutes for December 5, seconded by **James Taylor** and minutes were approved.
2. **Scott Bosse** noted for the record that he had been contacted by the Montana Environmental Review Board inquiring about whether public comment period for the ORW should be further extended. Scott told the representative the period should be extended and that he thought the process initiated under the agreement signed by conservation groups and developers was proceeding well.
3. **Ray Armstrong**, HKM, reported that his firm has completed study on requirements for a collection system in the canyon along Highway 191 and updated what was needed to permit the treatment plant to accommodate increased flows. They were now moving on to examining the management of additional wastewater which would be generated by the expanded flow.
4. **Ray** continued with a discussion of the issue of managing wastewater through snowmaking and reviewed practices and problems in several states.

Prompted by **Bob Sumpter** the group renewed earlier discussions about elevating treatment of wastewater at Big Sky Water & Sewer to drinking water standards. **Armstrong** said such a level of treatment was feasible with current technology but costs have not been calculated. He asked **DEQ** what level of treatment had to be reached to eliminate a requirement to place warning signs on places where the water was sprayed (this is primarily a public relations concern). **DEQ** said it didn't have a specific answer at this time, but the existing wastewater spray irrigation requirements in Appendix B of DEQ-2 would be a good place to see the types of restrictions that could be required.

Scott Bosse asked whether using wastewater to make snow was prohibited by state law or by regulatory rulemaking. According to **DEQ** the practice is not prohibited by law or regulation however different disposal standards come into play and a specific plan, location to be employed, methods of runoff control, etc. would have to be provided for evaluation and permitting.

Kevin Germain asked whether specific guidelines for treatment levels required would be available before the current TMDL study is completed. While **DEQ** was hesitant to provide specifics in advance of the study outcomes (expected in two years) it said it would provide a target ranges for desired in-stream nutrient concentrations, and share data as it becomes available. Also noted was that DEQ regulations based on lowest continuous seven day flows in ten years would apply, and that there are also seasonal-based values available from the USGS for the 7-day 10-year low flow.

Kevin urged the group to look at the issue of water quality, water quantity and wastewater management holistically to begin anticipating a future which might see more limited sources of water for both irrigation and snowmaking.

Ron Edwards asked about disposing of treated wastewater on “disturbed ground” and whether there had been any change in existing time limitations. **DEQ** said there were no set time frames for when “disturbed ground” was judged ready for use as a wastewater management area and disposal via a drainfield, it depended on how, when and where. DEQ mentioned that Rapid Infiltration Basins (or IP cells) have less stringent soil requirements than drainfields (but require more treatment of the wastewater prior to disposal). Those permits would continue to be evaluated and approved by **DEQ**.

5. The next meeting date was set for **Tuesday, February 26, at 1 p.m. at the BSW&S community conference room.**

Members should forward agenda suggestions to Jon Holtzman.

6. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.