

**Wastewater Solutions Forum
Working Group
BSW&S Conference Room
September 25, 1 p.m.**

Minutes

In attendance: Scott Bosse, Ron Edwards, Jon Holtzman, Shawn Regnerus, Devon White; guests – Ray Armstrong, HKM and Andrew Mattie, HKM.

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. Minutes for the July 31 meeting were approved.
2. **Ron Edwards** reported an additional grant had been received and the amount of funds to be raised from private sources had been reduced to \$10,000. **Scott Bosse** and **Shawn Regnerus** stated they would undertake raising \$5,000 between three conservation organizations – American Wildlands, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition and Madison-Gallatin Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Developer members of the working group will be contacted and solicited for the remaining \$5,000.
3. Edwards presented the final contract for HKM’s study. After review **Shawn Regnerus** moved and **Devon White** seconded approval. The contract was approved unanimously. A digital copy, which details expectations of issues and areas to be studied, will be forwarded to the **Blue Water Task Force** for posting on its website.
4. An update on the plan for the engineering study was presented by **Ray Armstrong** and **Andrew Mattie**. Detailed maps area were presented, including flood plains, Big Sky zoning limits, existing well locations, bench mark locations and future sewer design flows. A map detailing the proposed study area will be forwarded digitally to **BWTF** from **HKM** for posting on its website. Copies of all maps will be available at the Big Sky Water and Sewer Office.

Ray and Andrew noted sewer flow from the area along US 191, when built out, was expected to equal the flow to the BSW&S treatment facility from the west along State Road 64 – the Meadow and Mountain Villages and other developing areas – when it reached build out.

Although the study is just getting underway HKM said a preliminary look suggests a logical location for a sewer line would be along the west side of US 191 (the existing site of the walking path).

Members of the Working Group asked about estimated costs, potential sources of construction funding and plans for public informational meetings and discussed timing for reviewed with the State Department of Environmental Quality.

The group agreed they needed to develop a “game plan” for the steps to be taken after HKM completed its study May 2008. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

5. **Jon Holtzman** reported receiving several questions concerning the structure and process of the Forum and reviewed his response for members who joined the group after its founding.

The Wastewater Solutions Forum has three elements.

- 1) *The Community Oversight Group consists of about 150 members of the community who have been asked to provide feedback, criticism, ideas, questions, issues and concerns. At this stage they serve largely as a place to bounce ideas and don't meet in person. They are an internet based “virtual” group.*
- 2) *The Working Group, consisting of about ten Big Sky and canyon representatives, developers and Bozeman based environmental groups ,meets regularly and does the grunt work. It develops a study plan, raises money to fund the project, selects contractors and assures there is forward movement in addressing issues and concerns.*
- 3) *The Technical Group is headed by Ron Edwards and includes people and organizations involved with, and aware of, the technical concerns and capabilities of the area. It will oversee the work of the contractor, hold and manage funds, and assure completion of the study. Members are selected by Edwards, essentially people he feels can assure a quality job.*

The engineering study is due May 2008. It is to provide approaches and options to manage wastewater in a growing community in areas not currently a part of the BSW&S district. Some management options may not currently be in use in Montana – for example snowmaking.

Once a final report of the study is presented to and approved by the Working Group, the Community Oversight Group will be asked to approve and join an effort to complete the project. This may require seeking approvals and changes from state regulatory bodies and the legislature as well as funding.

6. During the open discussion period **Scott Bosse** suggested a press release be developed to report the approval of the contract and review some of the areas of study included under the contract. He said a point raised by **Ron Edwards**, that the proposal would actually provide more protection to the Gallatin than would an Outstanding Resource Water designation, needed to be verified and communicated.

Bosse suggested the press release should be completed within a couple of weeks and targeted at Bozeman media as well as Big Sky media.

HKM was asked to begin the process by providing some talking points. **Bosse** and **Scott Regnerus** will draft a release for review by the Working Group

7. The next meeting was set for October 23 at 1 p.m. in the BSW&S Conference Room. The agenda will include an update of the study plan by **HKM** and a discussion of a “game plan” for action following the completion of the study.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.