



Big Hole Watershed Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2009 – 6:00 pm
Divide Grange Hall

In Attendance: Randy Smith, chair, rancher; Pete Kamperschroer, rancher; Andrew Hanson, Outfitter; Mark Kambich, rancher; Scott Reynolds, GGTU; Steve Luebeck, Sportsmen; Dick Marshall, BHWC; Phil Ralston, rancher; Mike Bias, BHRF; Jim Olsen, FWP; Jim Hagenbarth, rancher; Marty Hovan, BSB; Noorjahan Parwana, BHWC; John Reinhardt, rancher; Ray Weaver, rancher; Bill Cain, BHWC; Harold Peterson, rancher; Garth Haugland, Bvhd Co; Steve Parker, BHRF; Jami Murdoch, BHWC; Jeanne Caddy, BHWWC; Chuck Bulen; businessman; Drew Taylor; Ray Tilman; Emma MacKenzie; Nathan Korb, TNC; Mike Roberts, DNRC; Jim Lovell, Confluence Consulting; Travis Zangri, DNRC; John Trudnowski, Skyline Sportsmen; Steve Armiger, BLM; John Dillon; Hans Humbert, rancher; Bill Anderson, Anderson Engineering; Marlene Gallwitz, Anderson Engineering, Inc; Dave Amman, DNRC;

INTRODUCTIONS AND REVIEW OF JANUARY MINUTES (no changes to minutes)

DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PLAN

2008 snowpack/ precipitation/streamflow review (*Mike Roberts and Dave Amman*)

Power point presentations are attached.

DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PLAN COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS (*Jim Olsen*)

Streamflows were healthy last year. Drought Management Plan worked. DMP Committee communicated by phone and email. Decision was made not to meet this year. DMP Committee recommends **no** change to the Big Hole Drought Management Plan for 2009.

Phone Tree (Updated Phone Tree attached) The DMP Phone Tree was reviewed and updated. Big Hole DMP continues to be deferred with respect to CCAA-reach of the Big Hole River (headwaters to Dickey Bridge). Phone tree was not updated for that reach of river and CCAA-reach phone tree list is not attached.

There was discussion about which phone tree list (by river reach) a water user should be included on if their water withdrawal and water use cross DMP reach boundary (e.g. if an irrigator draws water above Dickey Bridge to irrigate ground below Dickey Bridge).

included)? Definition: A water user will be included on the phone tree list of the reach to which river water is distributed.

Andrew Hanson takes responsibility for notifying outfitters and guides when DMP is invoked. A list of outfitters and guides was distributed. The list is not current. Hanson will review and update the outfitter/guide contact list and make it available for the March meeting of the BHWC.

BHWC ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW ITEMS

By-Laws Amendment Recommendations:

BHWC Steering Committee recommends adding to the total number of Governing Board members permitted because there are interests within the watershed not currently represented on the BHWC Governing Board who should be represented (for example small business). Currently, the BHWC has a full slate of active Governing Board members. Expanding the number of permitted slots allows the BHWC to invite additional interests to the table. The language in Article 3.3.1 would be changed (additions) as follows:

3.1 Number The Big Hole Watershed Committee shall consist of no fewer than 22 members and no more than 26 members represented by the interests defined in 3.2.1. Collectively, members shall be known as the Committee.

Question brought up in discussions: *BHWC By-Laws require that 50% of Governing Board seats represent Agriculture/Ranching. How would that balance be affected by inviting additional interests to the table?* Currently, there are 13 seated members representing Agriculture/Ranching. If none of the four additional seats under the amended language represented Agriculture/Ranching, the 50% requirement would still be met.

The second amendment is simply a clarification of actual BHWC financial procedures. The recommended amendment is in Article 7. Execution of Instruments, Deposits, and Funds: paragraph 7.2 Checks and Notes:

Except as otherwise specifically determined by resolution of the Board of Directors, or as otherwise required by law, checks, drafts, promissory notes, orders for the payment of money and other evidence of indebtedness of the corporation shall be signed by at least one Officer *or party designated by the Board of Directors.*

Both amendment recommendations were supported by all BHWC Governing Board members present.

BHWC Work Plan

The 2008 Work Plan was distributed and reviewed.

A draft 2009 Work Plan was reviewed. Several additions were recommended and adopted into the Work Plan. (2009 Work Plan attached).



Due to time constraints, Budget Review was deferred to March meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

TMDL Update (*Jami Murdoch*)

Upper Big Hole TMDL technical, stakeholder and public review process is complete. Middle/Lower Big Hole TMDL technical, stakeholder, and public review process is complete. Public comment for Middle/Lower Big Hole TMDL is open THROUGH March 20, 2009. Contact Jami for details.

Land Use Planning Committee (*Jim Hagenbarth and Noorjahan Parwana*)

Land Use Planning met on February 11 and decided to initiate a community conversation about the long-term management of the Big Hole corridor. The conversation will kick off with educational forums on the topic of floodplains. Two community education forums will be presented in Twin Bridges, Wise River, and Wisdom/Jackson. The first will be in late March/early April. The second will be in May. The first forum will focus on floodplains (defining, function...). The second will focus on policy, water quality, and water quantity. Each education forum will be approximately 2.5 to 3 hours long.

Big Hole River Conservation Standards Review Board (*Bill Anderson*)

From public hearing held at Wise River Fire Hall on January 8, 2009. The ADLC Board of Commissioners will be conducting a public hearing on February 24 at 7:00 pm in ADLC Court House.

MARCH AGENDA

Review BHWC Financials
2009 Weed Committee Work Plan Review

See Attachments (DMP Phone Tree and 2009 Work Plan)



ATTACHMENT II 2009 Work Plan

Re-Evaluate BHWC Strategic Plan and Goals

- Reevaluate BHWC Goals and Develop 5-Year Strategic Plan (July 2009 goal)

Water Quality and Water Quantity

- Engage Technical Advisory Committee to develop a recovery and implementation plan, prioritize work and projects based on multiple existing programs and plans (CCAA/TMDL/BHWC Prioritizations etc)
- Secure funding (319 and other funding sources) to implement priorities including watershed planning, project implementation, monitoring, O&E, project management.

Drought Management Plan

- Continue to support Big Hole Drought Management Plan
 - Organize & Facilitate DMP Advisory Committee – January through March
 - Implement prioritized projects that address water management and irrigation efficiency (see projects below)

Projects

Fisheries Enhancement, Water Management, Irrigation Efficiency, Habitat Restoration;

- Evaluate current project priorities and with Technical Advisory Committee, develop funding strategy to accomplish those projects. Projects currently partially or fully funded include: (Kalsta Spring Creek Restoration, Wise River Headgate Reconstruction, Big Hole Cooperative Ditch Project, Pendergast/Spiers/McCollough Ditch Project, Garrison Water Measuring Device) Projects not funded but under consideration: (Smith Ditch Project, Peck Stockwater well and riparian fencing project)
- Develop prioritization for potential 2010-2011 projects
- Provide BHWC update of progress on projects in the upper Big Hole (CCAA-reach) and accounting of funds provided by BHWC.
- Develop an Annual Report for public outreach describing project accomplishments

Research

- With Technical Advisory Committee review, determine which if any ongoing studies to support with remaining appropriations funds (e.g. FLIR study, Grayling PIT-tag study, Big Hole bird survey, Macro Invertebrate Study, other)

Fundraising Strategy

- Achieve greater operational sustainability

- Create a fundraising committee from larger community and including one steering committee member to create a fundraising strategy for 2010 (July 2009 goal) and to facilitate increased grant writing capability
 - Increase annual membership dues from \$7,000 to \$14,000 and maintain 75 percent renewal rate
 - send membership renewal letters on monthly basis
 - enlist BHWC governing members or Friends of the BHWC to host neighborhood cocktail party or barbeque (Goal: two events)
 - Develop an outreach strategy to increase public exposure of BHWC activities
- Secure continued support from current foundation partners
 - LCAO, Cinnabar
- Secure commitment from two new foundations for general or operational support
 - (Brainerd Family Foundation, Charlotte Martin Foundation, Laird Norton Foundation, not inclusive)
 - Research new foundation sources for operations
- Apply for historic state funding sources (e.g. DNRC - Watershed Planning Assistance Grant) and stay apprised of new opportunities such as Senator Tester's Watershed Support Program
- Seek continued Appropriations funding for Big Hole River Enhancement program

Outreach and Education

- Three newsletters - February/*August/November*
- One annual drought newsletter - *May*
- One watershed tour – *Late September/early October (Harold Peterson and Ray Weaver will develop tour agenda).*
- One Ladies Tea and Two Community Socials
- Represent BHWC at public meetings and at MWCC
- Develop public relations strategy
 - Steering Committee meet with Montana Standard Editorial Board

Weeds

- Provide oversight and support of Weed Committee goals
- Assure Weed Coordinator achieves o & e goals.

Fish and Wildlife

- Support Wildlife Working Group strategic planning goals setting and activities
- Continue to support Grayling Recovery by supporting of CCAA implementation requirements and CCAA partner needs:
 - Provide annual update of CCAA-reach project a
 - Organize quarterly meetings of Hub & Spoke group
 - Secure funding to complete Governor Creek project and monitoring efforts
 - Develop Watershed Restoration Plan according to EPA requirements

Land Use Planning



- Support Review Board for the Big Hole Land Use Plan river setback standards.
 - Facilitate annual meeting of Review Board to evaluate current by-laws, goals, processes, and procedures
 - Offer support at public meetings of the Review Board as requested by that body.
- Support Land Use Planning Committee is developing vision and goals for future efforts on the Big Hole related to land use planning
- Organize and facilitate Community Floodplain Education Initiative and goals