

# Big Hole



Watershed Committee

**Big Hole Watershed Committee**  
**Annual Governing Board Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Fairmont Hot Springs Resort**  
**11am – 4pm**

## **In Attendance**

Jennifer Downing, BHWC; Tana Nulph, BHWC; Sarah Washko, BSWC/BHWC; Jim Hagenbarth, BHWC/Rancher; Randy Smith, BHWC/Rancher; Garth Haugland, Beaverhead County; Doug Finnicum, BSB Water; Mark Kambich, Rancher; Liz Jones, Rancher; Cindy Ashcraft, Rancher; Roy Morris, GGTU; Joe Willauer, sportsman; Steve Luebeck, BHWC/Fairmont Hot Springs Resort; Jim Olsen, MFWP; Jaime Wood, Rancher; Tom Welsch, BHR Foundation.

## **Introductions**

*Attendees introduced themselves.*

## **Meeting Minutes**

*2014 Accomplishments and updates were reviewed.*

## **2014 Review/Status Report**

*Information summarized in attached PowerPoint handout*

- ❖ Capacity building since December 2013 – making BHWC a stable organization, so that we don't have a repeat of 2012
- ❖ 4 major projects
- ❖ 2 staff, 1 Big Sky Watershed Corps member
- ❖ New stock and bonds account at DA Davidson
- ❖ BHWC attorney
- ❖ National Drought Resiliency Partnership
- ❖ Arctic Grayling Listing Decision

## **2015 and Beyond**

### ❖ **BHWC Elections and Governing Board Positions**

- Everyone present at the meeting wanted to keep their board positions
- Joe Willauer suggested that it would be beneficial to have a sportsman/guide representative from the Upper Big Hole
- Officers positions – periodic elections to be held in the future
- 3 new board members in 2014 – Jaime Wood, Peter Frick, Erik Kalsta

## ❖ Capacity Building

- Tom Welsch suggested to put emphasis on organizational branding – keep putting the logo out there so people will recognize it. Possibly in MFWP Wildlife Minutes.
  - Jim Olsen suggested publicity via signage at restoration sites

## ❖ Bylaws and Critical Documents *Steve Luebeck, BHWC Treasurer*

- Attorney Laura Hoehn identified a problem with organizational bylaw 3.4
  - Current Organizational Structure
    1. Officers (4)
    2. Board of Directors (4)
    3. Members (22)
  - The way the Bylaws are currently written, all 22 committee members have personal liability for the actions of BHWC. This could create an issue with other organizations whose representatives are BHWC members. Additionally, these members are not covered by an insurance policy.
  - Options:
    1. No change
    2. Strike section 3.4
      - Randy, Jim, Steve, and Bill
        - Will be insured
        - Will be liable
        - Will have ultimate control over decisions
        - This works for now, but how will it work with future officers? This is a leap of faith.
    3. Restructure Bylaws to make the 22 members board directors instead.
      - Would there be an issue with county/agency representatives serving on the board?
      - Consensus is easy now, but in the future, as members retire and new members are instated, will we be comfortable having 22 board directors?
      - We are based on consensus, so we would never be able to remove board directors.
        - One way to get around this is to require consensus to elect board directors and 2/3 majority vote to un-elect board directors
      - What are the ramifications for insurance coverage?
      - Board directors would be insured, but they would still be liable.
- **Recommendation:** Make 22 board members into a board of directors. Will have attorney review; will update the committee at a later date.

- We want to insure that the essence of the committee will not be lost as members change and that everything the committee members have worked so hard for, over the last 20 years, will not be forgotten.
- We may want to consider a membership program for donors, to assist with branding, fundraising, etc.

❖ **Weed Committee**      *Randy Smith, BHWC Co-Chair*

- Problems with the weed committee have led to three options:
  1. No change
  2. Reorganize/restructure weed committee
  3. Disband weed committee and transfer money to the Montana Weed Control Association (MWCA).
- **Recommendation:** Option 3: Disband weed committee and transfer money to MWCA.
  - Activities will largely stay the same, but a different organization will house the funds.
  - MWCA has been around for over 50 years and is a trusted organization.
  - Everyone seems supportive of the move; it makes sense for the Big Hole Weed Committee to be housed under the MWCA.
  - There is concern over the Watershed Committee/Weed Committee's money being spent in a way that benefits the Big Hole and satisfies the Weed Committee members.
  - Money raised in the watershed (at the next Weed Whacker's Ball, etc.) needs to be spent in the watershed.

❖ **Finances**      *Jennifer Downing, BHWC Executive Director*

- 2014
  - Total Assets: \$207,294.95
  - Reviewed donations, donors. Total donor revenue in 2014: \$41,320.00
  - 2014 Gross Profit: \$226,639.99; budgeted: \$172,436.21
  - Total Expense: \$215,216.72
- 2015
  - Current funds: \$132,869.61
  - Total incoming funds: \$200,969.24
  - Total expenses: \$199,585.43
  - Net income: \$1,383.81

❖ **2015 Work Plan**

- Jim Hagenbarth suggested that we may want to look into managing the movement of elk herds.
- Randy suggested that we maintain communications and coordinate with MWCA.