

Big Hole



Watershed Committee

Big Hole Watershed Committee

Monthly Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2013 - 6pm

Divide Grange Hall

In Attendance

Jen (Titus) Downing, BHWC; Bill Cain, Secretary; Liz Jones, Rancher; Steve Primm, People and Carnivores; Jim Berkey, TNC; Erik Kalsta, Rancher; George Trischman, Rancher; Mike Bias, BHRF; Steve Parker, BHRF; Russ Riebe, USFS; Jim Owens, Brainerd Foundation; Jim Hagenbarth, Rancher/Co-Chair; Jim Magee, USFWS; Kris Inman, WCS; Joe Willauer, Guide; Scott Reynolds, George Grant Trout Unlimited; Jim Olsen, FWP; Garth Haugland, Beaverhead County; Mark Kambich, Rancher; Mike Roberts, DNRC; Doug Finnicum, BSB Water;

Introduction

Attendees introduced themselves. January meeting minutes available.

Streamflow Report: *Mike Roberts, DNRC*

NRCS is using a new snowpack average period of record, now 1981 - 2010 replacing 1971-2000, which changes the average calculation slightly. In addition, the average used is based on median rather than mean. The median is more accurate, but makes comparisons to past years difficult. Current conditions are near 94% of average with the Upper Basin fairing best with a 101% of average snowpack. The full report is provided at the end of these minutes. In comparison to the rest of the state, the Big Hole snowpack is high than most others with the Smith/Musselshell having the highest snowpack. There was a request for a written explanation of the change in NRCS calculation from Mike for the next newsletter.

BHWC Annual Meeting, *by Jen Downing, Executive Director - PowerPoint*

Steering Committee Elections: Secretary (Bill Cain) and Co-Chair (Jim Hagenbarth) positions up for re-election. Consensus agreement to reappoint positions for another term.

Board Positions: Are there positions that need to be replaced or added? Jen will poll current members to determine interest in continuing position. One suggestion was to add a second guide position to represent the Upper Big Hole - such as the Complete Fly Fisher. George Trischman expressed his interest in vacating his position given that he is no longer an irrigator on the Big Hole River and has suggestions for his replacement.

Jen presented a review of 2012 - the reduced cash flow, changes made to reduce expenses, fundraising and project work - followed by the 2013 work plan and budget. Comments and questions related to the budget and work plan were addressed. In addition, BHWC is soliciting comments and suggestions for BHWC's future plans. Comments will be compiled and used to evaluate needs and direction later in 2013.

Reports & New Business

Directors Report:

Interagency Meeting: Jen attended an interagency meeting held in Dillon. The group was a collection of resource leaders for Beaverhead County, including Beaverhead county and City of Dillon representatives, USFS rangers and Forest Supervisors, BLM, Beaverhead and Big Hole Watershed Groups, NRCS, DNRC, FWP, USFWS, and more. The goal of the meeting was to coordinate work among groups to leverage resources and to be knowledgeable where efforts overlap. The group will meet three times per year.

Lower Big Hole: We have received many calls and inquiries on issues in the Lower Big Hole in the last year and most of all in the last few months. Most often concerns are landowners with problems related to river erosion. As a result, BHWC hosted the Lower Big Hole Corridor report in 2012 and proposed a new Drought Management section for the Lower Big Hole. How would you like me to address their concerns? Are individual concerns part of a greater lower Big Hole River problem that should be addressed as a whole?

-- Group Discussion:

If players in the Lower Big Hole are coming forward, we should address concerns.

BHRF has made progress on possible solutions for 1 landowners erosion problem.

Preventive maintenance is an important part of being a river landowner. New owners may not be aware of what their responsibility is. Education may be helpful.

How should Jen handle calls regarding problems? Landowners should bring their issues to the full committee and provide a description in writing.

Group agrees to hold a Lower Big Hole River meeting:

April 2013 meeting will focus on the Lower Big Hole River. The first half of the meeting will be short presentations on BHWC progress in the Lower Big Hole - i.e. Floodplain maps, Lower Big Hole Corridor Study, FWP's concern over lack of habitat, DMP section, etc. Report BHWC mission and role in the watershed. Second half will be a listening session on concerns and needs of the Lower Big Hole River. Outcomes will determine next steps. Invite representatives - landowners, land managers, agencies, Madison County, contractors, etc.

Wildlife Committee - Jim Hagenbarth: Elk study in Pioneers did not find Brucellosis infected elk. Range rider program in Upper Big Hole will continue through 2013. WCS held Community Exchange Day in January for livestock dogs. An FWP Moose Study is ongoing again this year to research Moose declining population. Group is interested in investigating possible carcass removal program.

Weed Committee - Mark Kambich: Weed Spray Days 2013 are scheduled (list is included with these minutes). Next Weed Committee meeting will be December 27 6pm at the Dillon Courthouse. WWB will be held Saturday September 14, 2013. They request help at the event to sell tickets, etc. Cost Share program was used this year. To use the cost share in 2013, retain and submit receipts or contractor bills. Garth Haugland and Jack Eddie will attend the Rush Skeleton Weed Symposium, a new weed that is in the Big Hole Valley vicinity. The weed is extremely difficult to spray. Airborne movement spreads seeds approximately 20 miles per year. Source was uncertified feed. Jack Eddie submitted a request to the Noxious Weed Trust Fund for the Big Hole for \$32,000 to continue spraying river edges.

Land Use Planning Committee - Floodplain Map review is taking longer than expected. the floodplain map meeting will be in May rather than April.

New Business

Russ Riebe/USFS: Wise River/Wisdom District consolidation is under discussion. USFS will hold public meetings in Wise River and Wisdom to hear concerns and comments. Goal is to reduce cost by reducing facilities. USFS intends to maintain services, but at a reduced level. No firm plans and no timeline have been established. In other news, travel planning is nearly complete and a scope will be out for public review in March. The Upper Big Hole allotments EIS will be out this summer.

Future Agendas

- March 20, 2013, 7pm @ Divide Grange: CCAA Program Update
- April 17, 2013, 7pm @ Twin Bridges High School: Lower Big Hole Meeting
- May, 2013, 7pm @ Divide Grange: Floodplain Map Adoption Public Meeting (the group agreed this will replace the standard monthly meeting)

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm

General Comments:

Snow and precipitation are slightly below average. Valley precipitation for February is below average. Temperatures are near average. The upper Big Hole above Wisdom is doing better than most of the rest of the basin in terms of snowpack (101% of average) based on the two high elevation snotel sites, Bloody Dick and Darkhorse Lake.

The Climate Prediction Center shows below average precipitation and above average temperature for the next 8-14 days. The longer range forecast (2.5 months) shows no trend towards above or below average precipitation and temperature at this time.

The following NRCS data was compiled by Mike Roberts, DNRC.

<http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/water.html>

Feb -> Low Month

SWE = 93%

Mtn PPT = 94%

<i>DARKHORSE</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>25</i>
	<i>2012</i>	<i>15</i>
	<i>2013</i>	<i>21</i>

BIG HOLE BASIN APPROXIMATE MOUNTAIN PRECIPITATION				
	elevation	Feb 20 current inches	normal inches	% avg
Barker Lakes	8250	11.4	11.3	101
Basin Creek	7180	3.9	6.5	60
Bloody Dick	7600			
Calvert Creek	6430	9.0	8.4	107
Darkhorse Lake	8600	20.6	20.6	100
Moose Creek	6200	14.4	15.6	92
Mule Creek	8300	11.8	12.1	98
Saddle Mtn.	7940	14.7	17.7	83
TOTAL		85.8	92.2	
BASIN AVERAGE		93.1%		

BIG HOLE BASIN APPROXIMATE SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT

		15-Jan		
	elevation	current	normal	% avg
		inches	inches	
Barker Lakes	8250	9.7	9.3	104
Basin Creek	7180	4.6	5.2	88
Bloody Dick	7600	8.4	8.7	97
Calvert Creek	6430	5.7	6.7	88
Darkhorse Lake	8600	21.4	20.8	103
Moose Creek	6200	9.6	12.9	74
Mule Creek	8300	10.9	10.2	107
Saddle Mtn.	7940	15.6	17.9	87
TOTAL		85.9	91.5	
BASIN AVERAGE		94%		

Big Hole Watershed Committee

2013 Work Plan

Organization

- Complete organizational requirements, including insurances, banking, record keeping, taxes etc,
- Review the existing resources, impressions, needs and desires of the board, partners, advisors, resource and communities and develop a BHWC strategy. (Spring 2013)
- Archive BHWC files (electronic and paper) and make project reports available. (2013)
- Review and update contact list and database storage (spring 2013)
- Fulfill additional needs as identified in the strategy (Fall 2013)
- Research and implement display of past restoration projects. (Fall 2013)

Grants & Contracts

- Montana DEQ 2010 contract
 - Spring quarter report (April 2013)
 - Fulfill all obligations and provide final report (June 2013)
- Montana DEQ 2011 contract
 - Spring quarter report (April 2013)
 - Fulfill all obligations and provide final report (July 2013)
- RAC 2013
 - Complete agreement with USFS (Spring 2013)
 - Hire contractor (Spring 2013)
 - Complete billings and reporting (June - November 2013)

Subcommittees

Land Use Planning

- Floodplain map adoption and regulation adoption (With FutureWest) (Spring/Summer 2013)
- Continue to develop Conservation Incentive Program (With Future West)
- Support Land Use Planning goals for future efforts in the Big Hole.

Wildlife

- Range Rider Program (July - October 2013)
- Support Wildlife planning and activities
- Work with partners, like Wildlife Conservation Society and People and Carnivores, to identify possible projects to reduce wildlife-livestock conflicts.

Weeds

- Volunteer Weed Spray Days (Summer 2013)
- Weed Spray Cost Share (Summer 2013)
- Weed Whackers Ball (September 2013)
- Provide oversight and support of Weed goals and accounting.

Water/Drought Management Plan

- Review Drought Management Plan and Phone Tree (Spring 2013)
- Review potential additional segments (Lower Big Hole River, Wise River) (Spring 2013)
- Identify monitoring needs (Spring 2013)
- Review implementation strategy (Spring 2013)

Projects

Research

- Big Hole River Flow and Temperature Report (March 2013)
- Lower Wise River Monitoring Report (June 2013)

Projects

- Identify next project and seek implementation, based on watershed restoration plans. Identify one possible project (Summer 2013):
 - Identify needs and interest
 - Identify pre-project requirements and needs
 - Identify possible funding sources
 - Develop fundraising strategy for each project
- Complete Middle-Lower Big Hole Watershed Restoration Plan (June 2013)
- Drought Management Plan - monitor, implement as needed. Provide end of season review. (June - October 2013)

Fundraising

- Big Hole Watershed Committee Annual Report (December 2013)
- Promote BHWC cattle donations
- Annual Donations
 - Work with Steering Committee on Fundraising
 - Include Steering Committee and/or Governing Committee members
 - Include individuals not on BHWC – especially business professionals (i.e. business owners, estate attys, CPA's, etc) to expand scope into larger community
 - Establish clear recognition opportunities. Create major giving level recognition
 - Review and refine "menu" of funding opportunities
 - Update, Revise and Implement list of top, current donors
 - Work with Steering Committee to set up personal meetings
 - Set-up 1-2 personal meetings with these donors. Develop fundraising strategy for each of these donors
 - Update, Revise and Implement list of top, donor prospects
 - Work with Steering Committee to set up personal meetings
 - Set up 1-2 personal meeting with these donors. Develop fundraising strategy for each of these prospects

Annual Appeals

- Produce 1 annual appeal mailing per year - Fall
 - Highlight project accomplishment and opportunities. Express priorities and needs.

Newsletters

- Prepare fundraising article for each newsletter

Grants

- Utilize Governing Board to help identify and/or open doors to potential granting organizations
- Maintain calendar of grant opportunities..
- Stay apprised of new opportunities
- Research and apply to additional foundation sources
 - Secure commitment from 1 new foundation.

Partners

- Communicate, work with, and be involved in the work of our partners.
- Engage Technical Advisory Committee to review the recovery and implementation plan and projects based on multiple existing programs and plans (CCAA/TMDL/BHWC Prioritizations etc)
- *CCAA/Grayling*: Continue to support grayling recovery by supporting of CCAA implementation requirements and CCAA partner needs. Provide annual update of CCAA-reach projects
- *DEQ and TMDL Progress*: Work with DEQ on progress in attaining water quality standards of TMDL

Education & Outreach

- Hold 10 Monthly Meetings & June Potluck Dinner
- Hold 1 Watershed Tour
- Produce and distribute at least 1 newsletter
- Continue to utilize and promote Facebook Page
- Continue to update website.
 - Add additional materials to website.
 - Increase search engine optimization.
 - Seek promotion of content through partners
- Public notices (newspapers, online, posters, e-mails, etc.)
- Increase public outreach
 - Increase public exposure to BHWC activities
 - Work with Steering Committee to engage local media in Butte and Dillon.
 - Produce press releases upon the completion of priority projects.
 - Determine potential advertising options to highlight work of BHWC.

**Big Hole Watershed Committee
Profit & Loss Budget Overview
2012 - 2013**

				2012 Budget	2012 Actual	2012 Variance	2013 Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense							
Income							
40100 - Donations / Ind. Contributions							
			40110 - Donations/Ind. Contrib - Unrest	7,000	51,064	44,064	51,064
			Total 40100 - Donations / Ind. Contributions	7,000	51,064	44,064	51,064
42300 - Foundation and Trust Grants							
			42320 - Found. & Trust Grants - Unrestricted	25,000	35,500	10,500	35,500
			42320 - Found. & Trust Grants - Restricted	15,000	0	(15,000)	0
			Total 42300 - Foundation and Trust Grants	40,000	35,500	(4,500)	35,500
45000 - Government Grants							
			45220 Federal Grants Restricted	0	15,000	15,000	16,000
			45310 - State Grants - reimbursed	144,700	135,741	(8,959)	38,268
			45420 - Local Grants - unrestricted	2,000	12,000	10,000	12,000
			Total 45000 - Government Grants	144,700	162,741	18,041	66,268
			48000 - Beginning Use Restricted	0	38,385	38,385	38,393
			52100 - Membership Dues	6,000	0	(6,000)	0
			53610 - Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	500	256	(244)	84
			5491 - Miscellaneous Revenue	0	448	448	0
			Total Other Income	6,500	705	(5,795)	84
58000 - Special Events Income							
			58050 - Event Tickets	6,700	4,775	(1,925)	4,775
			58100 - Special Events Sales (nongift)	13,500	11,149	(2,351)	11,149
			58200 - Special Events Contributions	3,000	6,630	3,630	6,630
			58000 Special Events Income - Other	0	4,975	4,975	4,975
			Total 58000 - Special Events Income	23,200	27,529	4,329	27,529
69000 - Assets released fr restrictions							
			69100 - Satisfaction of use restrictions	54,473	25,664	(28,809)	38,393
			Total 69000 - Assets released fr restrictions	54,473	25,664	(28,809)	38,393
			Total Income	275,873	341,588	65,715	257,232
Expense							
72000 - Payroll							
			72200 - Salaries and Wages	85,000	64,108	(20,892)	36,000
			72400 - Medical Savings Acct. Expenses	0	1,750	1,750	0
			72500 - Payroll taxes, etc.	6,494	5,245	(1,249)	3,000
			Total 72000 - Payroll	91,494	71,103	(20,391)	39,000
75000 - Contract Services							
			75200 - Accounting Fees	2,000	720	(1,280)	720
			75400 - Professional Fees - other		60	60	0
			75000 - Contract Services - other		1,899	1,899	0
			75410 - Outside Contract Services (projects)	130,936	140,823	9,887	26,701

				2012 Budget	2012 Actual	2012 Variance	2013 Budget
Total 75000 · Contract Services				132,936	143,502	10,566	27,421
78000 · Weed Whacker Ball Expense				4,000	10,382	6,382	10,381
80000 · Operations							
			81100 · Supplies	3,900	367	(3,533)	360
			81200 · Bank charges	350	242	(109)	300
			81300 · Telephone, Telecommunications	2,200	2,069	(131)	2,040
			81400 · Postage, Mailing Service	1,200	450	(750)	480
			81700 · Printing and Copying	6,000	3,948	(2,052)	3,690
			81800 · Books, Subscriptions, Reference	0	529	529	1,200
Total 80000 · Operations				13,650	7,605	(6,045)	8,070
82000 · Facilities and Equipment							
			82100 · Rent, Parking, Utilities	150	0	(150)	0
			82200 · Meeting Room Fees	650	575	(75)	625
			82600 · Equip Rental and Maintenance	1,600	110	(1,490)	0
Total 82000 · Facilities and Equipment				2,400	685	(1,715)	625
83000 · Travel and Meetings							
			83100 · Travel	700	40	(660)	0
			83200 · Conference, Convention, Meeting	1,100	355	(745)	395
			83300 · Mileage Reimbursement	8,500	2,662	(5,838)	2,400
			83400 · Meeting Refreshments	1,200	527	(673)	230
Total 83000 · Travel and Meetings				11,500	3,585	(7,915)	3,025
85000 · Other Types of Expenses							
			85210 · Insurance - Liability, D and O	2,350	3,275	925	3,275
			85300 · Memberships and Dues	250	695	445	0
			85400 · Staff Development	200	0	(200)	0
			85600 · Outside computer services	700	13	(687)	0
			85700 · Advertising expense	1,200	109	(1,092)	0
			85800 · Tax and Licenses	15	15	0	15
			85810 · Contributions	500	0	(500)	0
			85820 · Gifts and Recognition	750	0	(750)	0
			85900-Other Expenses	0	200	200	0
Total 85000 · Other Types of Expenses				5,965	4,306	(1,659)	3,290
9800							
Set up of Beginning Use Restricted							38,393
Total Expense				261,945	241,167	(20,778)	130,205
Net Ordinary Income				13,928	100,422	86,494	127,027
Net Income				13,928	100,422	86,494	127,027

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY WEED DAYS 2013

Crew Training	June 3, 2013
	June 4, 2013
	June 5, 2013
Glen	June 11, 2013
Maiden Rock	June 12, 2013
Burma	June 13, 2013
Wise River	June 15, 2013 Saturday
Blacktail Ridge	June 18, 2013
Melrose	June 19, 2013
Big Sheep	June 20, 2013
Argenta	June 22, 2013 Saturday
Lima Dam	June 25, 2013
Lima	June 26, 2013
BOR	June 27, 2013
Dewey Cemetary	June 28, 2013 Friday
Ruby Dam	June 29, 2013 Saturday
Wisdom	July 2, 2013
BOR	July 9, 2013
BVHD/Ravalli	July 10, 2013
Medicine Lodge	July 11, 2013
BVHD	July 13, 2013 Saturday
Montana/Idaho	July 18, 2013
Wise River Weed Pull	July 20, 2013 Saturday
Jones Creek	July 23, 2013
Long Creek	July 24, 2013
Grasshopper Valley	July 27, 2013 Saturday
Dyce Creek	July 31, 2013
Argenta	August 3, 2013 Saturday
Wisdom	August 13, 2013
BOR	August 14, 2013
Wise River	September 4, 2013
Argenta	September 14 2013 Saturday

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