

Sept 5th. 2024 GLWQD Board Meeting Minutes

Board:

Traig Howels
Alan English
John Edwards
Jennifer Boyer
Briana Shultz

Guests:

Cola Rowley
Travis Horton
Brittney Krahn
Danika Holmes
Lori Christenson

Staff:

Drew Shafer
Xiang Fan
Paige Tolleson

Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

Eric Neustrup – Is interested in pursuing the vacant City of Bozeman “At-Large” position.

August Board Meeting Minutes – Discussion and Action

Motion to approve August Board Meeting Minutes. Approved.

Belgrade Spring Creek Nutrient Monitoring Project – Discussion

Alan – If project managers are happy with the report, go ahead and finalize it.

- The board does not need to approve the final report.

Jennifer – This is a detail report with lots of technical information.

- Staff should consider creating an executive summary to be disseminated amongst decision-makers and uploaded to the website as a public-facing deliverable.

Alan – Would encourage staff to get out and present findings to the general public and local organizations.

Strategic Plan – Discussion and Action

Drew – Added an additional strategy under objective 3.2 - Collaborate with local decision and policy makers to address threats to water resources.

- Travis wrote priority area number four: Implement projects to improve water quality and quantity throughout the LWQD district.

Alan – Change ‘Implement’ on page one under goals to ‘Implementing’ to read parallel to the other focus areas.

Motion to approve with the minor changes discussed. Approved.

Ad hoc committee to evaluate resourcing the District – Discussion

Jennifer – Instead of discussing resourcing the district in a meeting, that we create a small work group to look at staffing needs and funding resources, so we can come together as a board and say ‘we would like

to advocate and ask the Commission for a fee increase in district as one of the mechanisms to fulfill our mission’.

- We only need a few folks to get together to workshop, bring to the board for approval, then bring in front of the Commission.

Committee to include *Alan, Jennifer, John, Jim, Travis, new District Manager*

Board Member Updates

Traig – The Town of Manhattan’s water reclamation facility upgrade is in Schedule 1, Phase 1 and moving along nicely and scheduled to finish next June. The DEQ issued the Town of Manhattan a groundwater discharge permit, will be under schedule 2 and part of the ‘RIP’ project and give the town a dual discharge option.

John – Excited about the work that Brittney in EHS and Adam at MSU have done fantastic work putting together groundwater and surface water quality in the valley and will be incorporated into the FLUM.

Alan – Kudos to Xiang for sampling all monitoring wells in district. Lutz Farm well is now a ‘Real-Time’ site, theoretically can see hourly water levels. They are now fencing in the property; we need to find out who operates the Lutz farm and make sure we will still have access to the well.

Jennifer – The FLUM will be released shortly and a series of public forums to start the week of Sept. 9th. Information on the Future Land Use Map can be found at Envisiongallatin.com. The Gallatin Water Collaborative the last meeting focused on the DNRC’s work, looking at closed basins and controlled groundwater areas. There is an effort to create a controlled groundwater district in the Gallatin Valley. This would create another layer of protection and address the proliferation of exempt wells.

Briana – So far for the fiscal year, the conservation district has seen a record number of well testing cost share applications.

Staff Updates

Travis – The District Manager job description has been updated and the position will be posted shortly.

Paige - Have been digging through nitrate data between South 19th and Triple Tree, rec. waters is wrapping up.

Drew – The by-laws were approved by the commission earlier this week. I will be presenting at the Gallatin Watershed Council’s interpretive signage bike tour on Oct. 3rd.

Motion to adjourn meeting. Approve.