

## **Madison River Foundation**

*Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting*

*Date: 5/18/2015*

*Location: First Madison Valley Bank, Ennis*

### *Board Members in Attendance:*

J. Dilschneider

N. DiMeola

S. Shows

B. Barker

R. Clark

J. Goetz (via Telephone)

### *Board Members absent:*

J. Montag

B. Richards

M. Petroni

### *Others Present:*

Liz Davis – ED

### *Guests:*

Sunni Heikes-Knapton

Ethan Kunard

## **Update from Sunni and Watershed Conservation District**

Sunni gave us an update on the WCD activities, including a new project on Moore's Creek involving 3,000 lineal feet of bank stabilization on the Goggins property, and Flood Hazard Mapping throughout the state. The mapping contractor is seeking MRF support in scheduling informational community meetings for August-September. Liz will get in touch.

Ethan summarized recent work of the Stream Team and its data collection, leading to the "listing" of certain tributaries and spring creeks (see attached spreadsheets). Grant money is available to support mitigation projects, along with MRF volunteer labor, but the voluntary cooperation of landowners must be secured in advance.

## **Executive Director's Report**

- Liz asks about the annual ballot for election of Directors. At present, we have eight names with one slot still open. There is brief discussion about possible new Directors, but this is the responsibility and purview of the Executive Committee. Decision is made to send out the ballots with eight names and wait on the Ex Comm to act later in the year.
- Turning to the Gala, Liz reviews the Silent and Live Auction items (see Agenda for complete list), including paintings from Jill Davenport and Lexi Sundell. Some discussion about who will be Master of Ceremonies, for which parts of the program.

- Bear Creek Days were a big hit with the most kids ever! Brian Barker was there and was very complimentary of the organization of the event and quality of the presentation.
- MRF hosted a table at a recent Virginia City Chamber of Commerce event.
- Science Committee has not progressed. Ray and Liz expressed disappointment and said we would have to start over. Liz suggested a connection she has at Montana Tech. Ray will ask Mark Petroni for any further thoughts.
- Regarding the 2015 Fly Fishing Festival, Liz ran down the list of speakers and events. There was some discussion about availability of the theater for a Hank Patterson presentation and whether it was better to have one long movie or several shorter ones. Courtesy of Bruce Richards, Mr. Patterson will attend the FFF and should be showcased where appropriate (e.g. he draws the winning raffle ticket). It was agreed a check for the drift boat would *not* be sent until after we have some ticket sales. Color for this year's Festival T-shirt was agreed upon as Ouray's *Envy Green*.
- There was consensus MRF should provide limited funding support for the Greater Yellowstone Coalition Invasive Species handbook. Ray moves that – so long as this contribution fits within our budget -- no more than \$350 be contributed (initial offer to be less). Nancy seconds and motion carries.

### **Old Business**

- Free memberships through Fly Shops. We have just one taker to date. Liz still working on this.
- West Yellowstone Guide Event: June 25. Liz will be there. Brian wants to help enlist support of this community for Foundation and on behalf of the River.
- NW Energy agreements for four MRF projects. Jeff had requested the word “manage” be changed to “administer.” This was approved, and revised agreements are being prepared. Ray asked if Jim G would be willing to take a quick look at these agreements. He said if time permits, he would do so.
- Liz mentioned how much Pam Kinney is helping around the office, around 10 hours per week.

### **New Business**

- Liz mentions the \$2,000 donation from Madison River Brewing Company. Brian suggests we feature their beers at the Gala and FFF.
- The annual reception for Stewards and Lifetime Members will be held at the Clarks' house on July 25<sup>th</sup>. Sherri Shows will cater.
- Business Partners' Program (BPP) was introduced in draft form. It was received favorably. BPP committee members present agreed to try and have a final draft of the

program and presentation materials completed by June 1 in order to present to the full Board on June 8.

- Regarding the Varney Gauge, we do not know if Chris Gentry will support it again this year. It was agreed that without extraordinary and as yet unidentified support, this project will die for lack of funding. With that expectation, questions were asked about how funds raised through sale of Ken Hall's poster will be distributed? Liz to ask.
- Art show in Bozeman will feature Ken Hall's swan photos, taken on Granger Ranch near Odell. Trust for Public Lands will share in proceeds. How does Ken want proceeds divided up? TPL and Odell? Or TPL, Odell, and MRF? Liz will inquire.
- Joe reports on 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Fly Swap, which was a big success in spite of the cold weather! Over \$4,700 in equipment sales and another \$350 in hats, etc. with 30% of those funds going to MRF. Thanks, Joe, and congratulations!
- Joe also reported an unwelcome phenomenon: beavers are destroying bankside cottonwoods between Varney and town. It is causing problems with river navigation and killing beautiful old growth cottonwoods, some over 100-150 years old. Beavers are seemingly everywhere, with nothing stopping them at this point.
- Ray asked why we have not seen more newsletters to spread the word about the good work the Foundation is doing. He also asked if it is possible to schedule days when volunteers are needed in order to allow people time to plan their participation.
- Brian asked if there had been any progress on the idea of placing a conservation easement on the Walsh Ranch. Joe said he had a couple preliminary conversations on this subject with the family, but as of now he believes the ranch is under contract to a buyer. No further information is available.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, MEETING ADJOURNED**

