

**From:** [Sarah Gaither](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Cc:** [MaryBeth Morand](#); [Jill Holder](#); [Krista Dicomitis](#); [Pam Rempt](#); [Shannon Steele](#); [Ruthi Solari](#)  
**Subject:** In support of WIA's Remodel request  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 8, 2022 3:37:55 PM

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Dear BSRAD Board,

I would like to encourage you to reconsider fulling funding the WIA request for their Counseling Service Hub remodel. I understand the hesitancy to fund a remodel in a space that only carries a 5 year lease, as you're responsible for long-term and strategic funding. However, people in Big Sky are struggling NOW. We're in a mental health crisis NOW. I know of two completed suicides and two more attempts since Jan. 2022, and I am sure there are more of our neighbors currently struggling with suicidal ideation, among other mental health issues.

I do not think that we have the luxury of planning any more long-term than what we can accomplish through this proposed remodel over the next few months. I don't think I'm overstating the problem by saying the more time that goes by, the more people we will lose. We need a space for access to mental health support that is private, confidential, and outside of a hospital setting for the best preventative, wellness-based outcomes.

In my mind, we can't really do much better than a 5 year lease, given Big Sky's current economy and phase of development. MaryBeth has proven that she can get things done quickly and with great efficiency. I would propose that you fully fund the request for the remodel of this, or another more permanent space, within THIS FY23 round based on the immediacy of our need. It might just save a life.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sarah

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**Sarah Gaither Bivins**

Operations Manager & Services Navigator

Big Sky Community Food Bank & Resource Center

Hours: Tues/Thurs 3-7pm, Weds/Fri 11am-3pm

995-3088 . [bigskyfoodbank.org](http://bigskyfoodbank.org) . [facebook.com/bigskyfoodbank](https://facebook.com/bigskyfoodbank) . [Sign Up for our Newsletter](#) . [Volunteer Opportunities](#) . [Donate](#) . [Support HRDC's Capital Campaign for our new Campus](#)

**From:** [Andrea Gladstein](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Little Coyote and West Fork River restoration  
**Date:** Saturday, June 4, 2022 8:42:05 AM

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Hello to All,  
I am strongly in favor of a resort tax contribution to this environmentally important project.

Thank you.

Andi

## **Crail Ranch Townhomes Owners Association**

June 5, 2022

To BSRAD and BSOA:

On behalf of the Board of Townhomes at Crail Ranch, we are writing concerning the proposed Little Coyote Pond and West Fork River Restoration Project. This project of dredging the pond and adding a trail to circumvent the bridge for pedestrian safety has been in discussion for several years. I think all members of this complex are very much in favor of the rehabilitation of this very valuable wetland resource. The pond has served the public for fishing for those under 15 years old and for a place for dogs to swim. The proposed ADA accessible fishing docks and pedestrian walkway appear to be well designed.

The Board and members of Townhomes at Crail Ranch do have concerns, however, about the proposed beaches and the assumption of swimming area, particularly the area adjacent to the streamside. We feel this would have a very deleterious effect on the valuable wildlife that inhabit this wetland that we most want to preserve and protect. For years this wetland area has provided nesting areas for multiple waterfowl species and shore birds, daily visits from osprey, bald eagles, and great blue herons, along with beaver and river otters that inhabit the stream.

The project will certainly attract more visitors and be a valuable natural resource but should minimize human interference as much as possible. If the proposed beach area near the church parking lot is limited to the exercising of dogs and ease of access to the water, this is historically the location of these activities and most distant from the common nesting areas. Rules will need to be established for control of dogs going to other areas of the pond.

Quiet hours or curfew should be maintained to prevent an attractant for a party atmosphere at the picnic location that would be an additional negative impact on the wildlife. The statement about "other amenities" is a little concerning not knowing what other activities might be considered.

In summary, we are very supportive of the overall project but with the above concerns noted. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent Meng, (406) 544-2315

Charlie Callander

Jerry Hood

Jeff Cranford

Members, Board of Townhomes at Crail Ranch

Crail Ranch Townhomes Owners Association, c/o HPM, PO Box 161242, Big Sky, MT 59716

**From:** [Bob Lewis](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Little Coyote Pond  
**Date:** Saturday, June 4, 2022 12:53:43 PM

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Please support Little Coyote Pond and West Fork River Restoration Project, a long overdue project.

Bob Lewis  
2156 Little Coyote

**From:** [clorinsky@gmail.com](mailto:clorinsky@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** BSOA Ponds Project  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 7, 2022 4:53:15 PM

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Dear Big Sky Resort Area District Board:

I write in support of the BSOA Little Coyote Ponds and West Fork River Restoration project.

This community project will not only have important environmental benefits, but provide a valuable recreational resource for all of Big Sky. In short, the project will:

- Enhance the fisheries of both the pond and stream;
- Provide essential fish and wildlife habitat;
- Improve wetlands and floodplain functionality;
- Help filter water in the West Fork;
- Improve the fisheries of the West Fork from Lake Levinsky to the confluence of Gallatin River in the canyon;
- Give the community a place to gather and for youth to learn to fish

This Project upholds the values and vision identified by BSRAD. As a community member, I feel strongly that resort tax funds should be significant part of the funds required and am taken aback that 2 board members would not support this project.

This community recreational facility will be accessible to not only the BSOA members but to the public and visitors of Big Sky.

Clay Lorinsky  
2000 North Fork Rd.  
Ste. 161392  
Big Sky, MT 59716

**From:** [Eric Ossorio](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Ponds  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 8, 2022 7:01:10 AM

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Dear BSRAD Board,

I am in full support of the BSOA Little Coyote Ponds and West Fork River Restoration project!

This is a community project will not only have important environmental benefits, but provide a valuable recreational resource for all of Big Sky. In short, the project will:

- Enhances the fisheries of both the pond and stream
- Provides essential fish and wildlife habitat
- Improves wetlands and floodplain functionality
- Helps to filter water in the West Fork
- Improves the fisheries of the West Fork from Lake Levinsky to the confluence of Gallatin River in the canyon
- Gives the community a place to gather and for youth to learn to fish and learn about wildlife and fisheries.

This Project upholds the values and vision identified by Big Sky Resort Area District (BSRAD). As a community member, I feel strongly it should be funded by Resort Tax dollars. This community recreational facility will be accessible to not only the BSOA members but to the public and visitors of Big Sky.

Name: Eric Ossorio  
Address: Big Sky, MT

Thank you!

**From:** [George Mueller](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Little coyote pond  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 7, 2022 7:34:34 PM

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We very much appreciate the Board's preliminary vote to grant funding to the BSOA for completion of the repair and upgrades to the Little Coyote pond. Those repairs and upgrades are long overdue, and are not possible without the financial support of the Resort Tax District.

The pond is a community resource, available to all, and benefits many more than just the local homeowners. It is in direct proximity to the new affordable housing behind the tennis courts.

We have been in Big Sky for 19 years and have always paid the resort tax without question or complaint. Your support of the pond improvements signals to us that those tax payments are being constructively used.

One of our favorite sights as we drive down Little Coyote Rd. Is seeing youngsters practicing fishing at the pond. We don't believe that there is another site like it in the area, where children can learn to enjoy some of what makes Montana unique in a safe and accessible setting.

Thank you in advance for your final ratification of this award on June 9.

George & Pat Mueller  
1930 Little Coyote Rd.  
Big Sky, Montana

[630-235-0606](tel:630-235-0606) cell

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**From:** [janiceskis@aol.com](mailto:janiceskis@aol.com)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** The pond project  
**Date:** Friday, June 3, 2022 5:20:54 PM

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The pond project sounds fantastic! I hope it also includes paths and walkways along the road and across the bridge. Pedestrians are imperiled on Little Coyote.

Janice Tate  
1865 Little Coyote Rd

**From:** [Jay Leopold](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Cc:** [Jay Leopold](#)  
**Subject:** Little Coyote Pond comments/feedback  
**Date:** Sunday, June 5, 2022 8:18:01 PM

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Hi,

I have owned a property at Crail Ranch for eight years and have long admired the views and habitat of the pond from our window.

We have seen first hand the natural beauty and observed beavers, river otters, fish, osprey, eagles, ducks, geese, and many other birds rely on the pond for homes and nourishment.

While we support the reclamation project to enrich and protect the habitat for the wildlife, I believe the recreational area will be a setback for the very wildlife species you are trying to protect.

Separately, I fear that unnecessary recreational activities will create trash, noise pollution, and a potential party location for people, including guests at the Golden Eagle.

Finally, has anyone completed a study of the impact of re-routing the creek on flood risk for the creek side homes at Crail Ranch? In May and June, the height of the creek rises substantially and I would want to know that the changes wouldn't push the same amount of water into a narrower channel, leading to more erosion and rising creek levels. Could you please address this for Crail ranch owners?

In summary, I support improvements to enhance the ecosystem and protect the environment, but have concerns about the recreational amenities and dock which could hurt the habitat for wildlife.

Thanks,

Jay and Jenny Leopold  
50 Crail Ranch

**From:** [Jeff Cranford](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** RE: 125 Crail Ranch Townhome Owner supports the BSOA pond and west fork project  
**Date:** Monday, June 6, 2022 8:02:10 AM

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I wanted to add on caveat, upon a closer inspection I am concerned with what the beach extension on the north side might do to the wildlife habitat, birds, moose that winter and calve in that area. I think the beaches near the church area are fine but I would appreciate a further study on the proposed beaches on the north side of the pond. I appreciate your efforts to date.

We are moving our Corporate office! Effective July 1st, 2022 our address will be 1400 Woodloch Forest Drive, Suite 260, The Woodlands, Texas 77380.

Jeff Cranford

-----Original Message-----

From: Jeff Cranford  
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2022 7:32 PM  
To: [Info@resorttax.org](mailto:Info@resorttax.org)  
Subject: 125 Crail Ranch Townhome Owner supports the BSOA pond and west fork project

I wanted to voice our support for this project, I think it would be beneficial to our community at large and the environment.

We look forward to this project taking place! Hopefully it would include and expanded bridge and pedestrian walkway to meadow village.

Jeff Cranford  
281-703-4071

**From:** [John Seelye](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Little Coyote And West Fork River Resoration Project  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 7, 2022 4:59:12 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Tax Resort Members-

I just want to show my support for the Little Coyote and West Fork River Restoration Project. As a 26-year resident of Big Sky I really feel this project will enhance our area and expand the recreational opportunities for our community and guests. Having used the pond area over the years for fishing and skipping stones with my children this area has always struck me as a place that could be improved for the benefit of all. I highly encourage getting this project funded and approved, the community will enjoy the improvements for generations to come. The area will be safer, cleaner, visually more attractive, and I would think showcase the value we all put on our surroundings. Thanks for listening.



**John Seelye**

President

406.580.7943 (C)

406.995.3670(O)

[john@bigskybuild.com](mailto:john@bigskybuild.com)

[www.bigskybuild.com](http://www.bigskybuild.com)

**From:** [kjvmd@bigskycardiology.com](mailto:kjvmd@bigskycardiology.com)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Little Coyote Pond Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 8, 2022 6:17:34 AM

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We are in full support of funding the Little Coyote pond project as it will be of great community benefit.

Kent and Rosemary Volosin  
879 Andesite Rd  
Big Sky, MT

Kent Volosin MD

[Imagine It Done](#)  
(Clarity of Purpose Trumps Knowledge)

**From:** [Maggie Luchini](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Shifting needs of Big Sky  
**Date:** Friday, June 3, 2022 8:38:58 PM

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Hello BSRAD,

Thank you for your attention and focus on the ever changing needs of our community. Your financial accountability and assistance is why we continue to have a safe area to live. I can only imagine how difficult your service has become over the last few years. Intense I would assume.

You have reached out to the community to ask for their opinion on current applications for FY23 and I wanted to give a quick remark. Overall I see wonderful promise for our community. The focus on housing, infrastructure needs, emergency agencies, and childcare are greatly appreciated. Thank you. My one remark is that it looks like some budget items sight payroll for some applications. I feel like this is a very grey area for BSRAD funding. You are not the boss nor board for certain organizations so you should not be funding their payroll. Private donations and/or grants should satisfy that requirement. I know it must get sticky in the weeds of the applications, it took me quite some time to review them, (and I may have erred in my interpretation) but we need to prioritize the needs of the community over that of certain organizations' employees. That's my one remark.

Thank you again and good luck on the 6th!

Maggie Luchini

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Learn something new everyday!

**From:** [magoode](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Morningstar Learning Center Support  
**Date:** Monday, June 6, 2022 9:06:33 AM

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Dear Resort Tax Board,

Morningstar provides a service that is vital to our community and supports our local economy. Our community needs quality day care and early learning for our children.

I strongly support all three of MLC's applications for Resort Tax as this funding will make tuition affordable for those in need, support paying teachers living wages while keeping tuition increases reasonable, and help figure out the best next steps and affordable housing solutions that will keep MLC running for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Marie Goode

**From:** [Marilyn Hoecker](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Little Coyote Pond and West Fork River  
**Date:** Monday, June 6, 2022 3:32:26 PM

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Hello!

We are part-time residents of Big Sky who own a residence in Crail Ranch Townhomes. We are so pleased to hear about the BSRAD project regarding the pond and river near us! We enjoy every aspect of these waters--watching wildlife, fishing, playing with our children nearby, and enjoying the changing views throughout the seasons!

Please proceed full speed ahead with this project and know that we will be among many who greatly appreciate it!

Thanks very much!

-Marilyn and Perk Hoecker  
[marilyn.hoecker@gmail.com](mailto:marilyn.hoecker@gmail.com)

**From:** [marilyn hill](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Little Coyote Pond and West Fork River Restoration Project  
**Date:** Saturday, June 4, 2022 10:22:48 PM

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Dear Members of the Resort Tax Board,

This is a worthwhile project which is long overdue. The many positive outcomes of this beautiful project will benefit the entire community and those who visit, as well as the aquatic life in the West Fork and in the off-line Little Coyote Pond. This will be a beautiful extension of the Community Park and a valuable asset to Big Sky.

We strongly encourage you to support this with the requested funds..

Thank you for your continuing work for our community!

Marilyn and Wayne Hill  
PO Box 160277  
2925 Little Coyote  
Big Sky MT 59716

**From:** [slade.winyahcapital.com](mailto:slade.winyahcapital.com)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Pond reclamation project(s)  
**Date:** Friday, June 3, 2022 6:12:24 PM

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All five of the Slade family, Sean, Karla, Amelia, Natalie and Henry are very much in favor of the reclamation and enhancement projects and the funding proposed funding mechanism. Further, we would love to see the Silverbow project receive the necessary funding to complete that portion of the project.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Stephanie Kissell](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** In support of Morningstar Learning Center  
**Date:** Friday, June 3, 2022 5:14:46 PM

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Good evening BSRAD Board,  
Thank you for your ongoing commitment and support of local issues, projects, and organizations that are critical to the success and vitality of our unique community. I am writing in support of Morningstar Learning Center and their funding requests.

Morningstar provides a vital service to my family as well as our community and supports our local economy. I strongly support all three of MLC's applications for Resort Tax as this funding will make tuition affordable for those in need, support paying teachers living wages while keeping tuition increases reasonable, and help research and implement the best next steps and affordable housing solutions that will keep MLC sustainable for years to come.

Warmly,  
Stephanie Kissell

Sent from my mobile

**From:** [Steve Daily](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Restoration  
**Date:** Friday, June 3, 2022 6:02:00 PM

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I support the Little Coyote Pond and West Fork restoration project.  
Steve Daily  
2500 Little Coyote Rd., Unit 17  
Big Sky, MT

**From:** [Office](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Little Coyote Pond and West Fork River Restoration Project  
**Date:** Friday, June 3, 2022 6:02:30 PM

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Dear BSRAD Board Member, Please fund this project with the maximum amount of money you can. We live in Helena, but have owned in Big Sky (originally Deer Lodge Condo then Yellowstone Condo) since 1974. We have spent many hours with our children and now grandchildren fishing , skipping rocks and watching wildlife at the Pond. It is a resource worth saving. Thank you for your service and consideration. Tom and Barbara Keegan.

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Vince Meng](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Little Coyote Pond project  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 8, 2022 10:47:21 AM

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To; BSOA and BSRAD

I was the spokesperson for the Little Coyote Pond project at the Tuesday June 6th meeting representing the board of Townhomes at Crail Ranch. I was confused by some of the discussion of the tax board members after public discussion was closed. I want to reiterate that we are very much in favor of this project going to fruition as the pond is slowly being replaced by a sea of sediment as is obvious in the summer months.

The comments concerning easement or access from homeowners associations is puzzling as I do not see that any of the project involves Crail Ranch property.(see attachment) The state stream access law gives the public access to any floodplain high water mark all along a stream bank even if that were the case of it being on private property.. Beyond that only 3 to 4 association owners even have a view of the pond.

Our concerns about wildlife interference was only confirmed by the presence of a cow moose with newborn twins observed this week on the streambank near the pond.. A nature trail on the berm of the stream bank would be appropriate but access should be restricted during nesting and calving season

Respectfully,

Vincent Meng  
Co- Vice President Townhomes at Crail Ranch Board of Directors

**From:** [Shaun McManus](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Cc:** [Shannon Steele](#)  
**Subject:** In support of WIA's Remodel request  
**Date:** Thursday, June 9, 2022 1:20:18 PM

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Dear BSRAD Board,

It has come to the understanding of many that you are not planning to fully fund WIA's request for their Counseling Service Hub remodel. I understand it is hard to quantify the financials for this, I ask you though, what is the cost of one life, please spend a moment pondering on this.

There is a dark side of Big Sky whether people choose to see it or not, if you go to PBR, Music in The Mountains, Milkie's, Brothel, the Spoke, Tips Up, and every venue in between you can find people who are struggling behind the short term enjoyment of alcohol and drugs, there is a pain behind their eyes. I see it because I've lived it. I lived in Big Sky from 2010-2012 and just came back 2 1/2 years ago, the reason that I left originally is because of this reality, because I saw these things.

For better or worse Big Sky has changed, this is impossible to argue. Gentrification of Big Sky is in full swing and it is causing a rift in the community. Workforce is low and people are burnt out and tired and reaching for drugs and alcohol to cope.

I have been sober for almost 6 years, I have a sober community up here, I get asked a lot about sobriety. When the question of help comes up most people have nowhere to turn and don't see counselors because they're not readily available up here. Most of those people I talk to have also considered suicide at some or multiple points in time.

There are many that struggle from many other disorders such as depression, anxiety, OCD and other afflictions. They need help too.

Just because a bunch of us walk around looking like we are fine and have everything figured out doesn't mean that we do.

There is a serious need and the need is now for more help and I urge you to reconsider and fully fund the Counsel Service Hub.

--

Shaun McManus  
208-670-2736

**From:** [Liv Grubaugh](#)  
**To:** [Big Sky Resort Tax District Information](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- VBS and The Chamber -- Resort Tax Meeting 6.9.2022  
**Date:** Thursday, June 9, 2022 3:08:10 PM

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Dear BSRAD Staff and Board,

My name is Liv Grubaugh and I would like to voice my support for the Chamber of Commerce and Visit Big Sky's requests for resort tax funding. Over the last few years our community has asked the teams at The Chamber and Visit Big Sky to refocus their efforts on tourist education, as opposed to driving visitation, and they have stepped up to the plate and answered that request. Our community is in need of a collective and consistent voice--one that speaks directly to our guests--and the Chamber and VBS do just that.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Liv Grubaugh