

Valley Advocates for Responsible Development



2011: Consistency is the Key to Success

2011 was a year of sustained effort and consistent progress toward a better future for Teton Valley. VARD's Reshaping Development Patterns project continued to expand with the first tangible, on-the-ground success story when the Board of County Commissioners voted unanimously to vacate Warm Creek Manor, a 19-lot, 60-acre subdivision outside of Victor. As a result, those 60 acres will continue to produce barley rather than the spec homes that were slated to crop up there starting in 2009. With that success, VARD hopes to carry that momentum into 2012 where we will continue to advocate for the elimination of a bumper crop of zombie subdivisions.

Consistency was the name of the game as the effort to update Teton County's Comprehensive Plan "Teton Valley 2020" continued unabated throughout 2011. Throughout the process of building a new Comprehensive (Comp) Plan, VARD staff has remained active and engaged in the citizen committee process and has worked tirelessly to keep you informed of new developments in the Comp Plan process since it began in May of 2010.

Work to complete the new Comp Plan continues on past 2011, but through the dedication of VARD members and staff, this important document will provide the foundation for long-term success in Teton Valley.

In 2011, VARD continued to collaborate with other organizations to leverage your support into even more significant results on the ground than we could achieve on our own. For example, VARD secured a grant from 1% for the Tetons to plan and produce a five-part speaker series highlighting critical issues in the future sustainability of the region. With the staff support of five other organizations and the funding from 1% for the Tetons, we were able to reach a diverse cross-section of the community with a common message on the importance of thoughtful planning.

VARD's cutting-edge efforts to address land-use issues in the post-real estate bubble era continued to gain attention and recognition throughout the West in 2011. A widely read article published

VARD continues
to advocate for
the elimination
of our bumper
crop of zombie
subdivisions.

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Valley Advocates for Responsible Development

MISSION: To advocate for the private, public and civic actions that will result in the responsible development and sustainable use of natural resources (water, land, wildlife and air) in Teton Valley.

Office Hours—
M-TR 9:00am-4:00pm
Friday by appointment

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www.tetonvalleyadvocates.org

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For the first time, on August 11, 2011, Teton County, ID vacated a subdivision. Warm Creek Manor vacated 19 lots on 60 acres in Ag 2.5-acre zoning just south of Victor. Learn more about VARD's coverage of Teton County's plat vacations and re-platting efforts of distressed subdivisions on our "Reshaping Development Patterns" webpage at www.tetonvalleyadvocates.org.

— *KEY TO SUCCESS cont. from cover*

in *New West* highlighted VARD's role in solving the land-use challenges presented in Teton Valley. In addition, VARD Program Director Anna Trentadue was invited to speak about VARD's work at the annual gathering of the Rocky Mountain Land-Use Institute in Denver, CO.

The consistency of VARD's work over the course of 2011 is a testament to the incredible support of the membership and staff as Sandy Mason moved out of the executive director position and onto the board. Since being handed the reins last year, I have had the great pleasure of meeting so many wonderful VARD members and supporters. For those of you I haven't been introduced to yet, please stop me on the street,

swing by our new office space above Yöstmark and Forage Bistro, or come on out to one of our events. I can't wait to meet you and listen to your thoughts.

Thank you for so graciously welcoming me to Teton Valley and for your continued commitment to this wonderful and unique place we all call home. Your generous gifts to VARD have been put to work addressing the land-use challenges created over the past decade and laying the foundation for a more responsible future for Teton Valley. I hope you will continue to partner with us as VARD continues to build the momentum for a better tomorrow.



2011 Financial Review

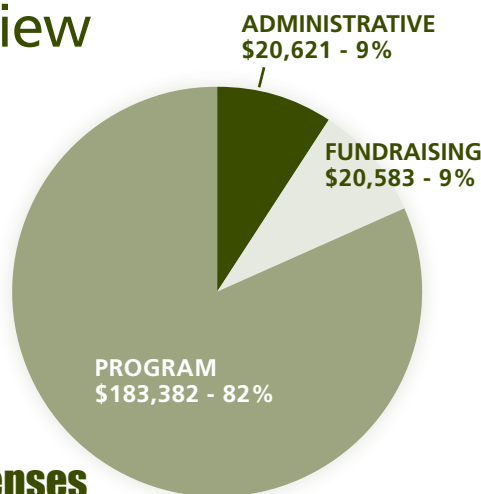
REVENUE

Donations	\$129,015
Grants	\$39,500
Special Projects	\$20,875
Fundraising Events	\$27,520
Total	\$216,910

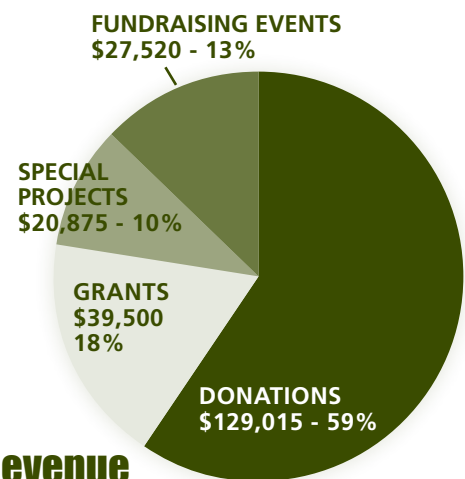
EXPENSES

Program	\$183,382
Fundraising	\$20,583
Administrative	\$20,621
Total	\$224,586

Expenses



Revenue



MANY THANKS

to our supporters
from January 1 through December 31, 2011

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l-r: Dave Hensel, Andy Steele, Lori Bantekas, and Bev Palm share a laugh during last year's Mad Hatter. Join the festivities this year at our 10th Annual Mad Hatter on Friday, November 9, at Alpine Wines in downtown Driggs.

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Molly Tyson
Natalie Volcko
Kent Werlin
Susie & David Work
Joyce Zajac

**We apologize if we have missed anyone.
If we missed you, please let us know so
that we can thank you properly.**



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Driggs, ID 83422

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VARD in 2011: Highlights & Accomplishments

VARD as a community resource:

- * Program Director Anna Trentadue and Board President David Axelrod continued their pro bono legal representation of the voters of Teton Valley as they sought recognition of the referendum election that de-annexed 267 acres of wetlands and agricultural fields in the sensitive Leigh Creek corridor. Trentadue and Axelrod's appeal seeking standing to represent additional parties to the case was accepted by the Idaho Supreme Court and will be heard in 2012.
- * Published two valley-wide newsletters, each delivered to over 4600 addresses, detailing ongoing development issues and highlighting opportunities for citizens to get involved in the community land-use planning process.
- * Provided on-the-ground public interest advocacy at public hearings and community meetings and subsequently reported back to over 500 community members via email updates, published meeting reports and posted comment letters on VARD's website.

VARD as a resource for local government:

- * One of the reasons that so many premature subdivision plats were recorded in Teton Valley over the past decade was a quirk in the county subdivision ordinances that allowed developers to sell lots before any infrastructure was installed. That led to shoestring developers gambling that lot sales would give them the cash needed to complete the project before they had to build their roads. In 2011, VARD successfully advocated against that dangerous game of speculation for an amendment to the county subdivision ordinance that requires future subdivisions to complete their infrastructure before any lots can be sold.
- * Provided comments to local decisionmakers on the applications of two unbuilt developments seeking to re-plat in exchange for additional time to begin construction. With both projects located in highly-sensitive wildlife habitat, it is critical that the redesign efforts provide meaningful benefits to the community.
- * Provided comments on a wide-variety of other land-use matters, including a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a commercial heli-

pad in a residential area that is also home to nesting bald eagles, a CUP for a proposed RV campground and waste station in a sensitive wetland, as well as upgrades to the sewer and water systems in the city of Teton.

VARD Reshaping Development Patterns:

- * Successfully advocated for the first county-initiated vacation of a subdivision plat. Warm Creek Manor, a 19-lot, 60-acre subdivision approved in 2009 but never had any lots sold or infrastructure installed. The land, which was still being used to grow barley, is now officially returned to a single agricultural parcel. With the first county-initiated vacation complete without a hitch, a number of additional projects are now willingly entering the vacation or re-platting processes.
- * Presented VARD's progress with the Reshaping Development Patterns project as an invited speaker on a panel at the Rocky Mountain Land-Use Institute's annual gathering in Denver, CO.
- * Provided input and comment for a widely-read article in *New West* discussing the challenges and opportunities faced by Teton Valley in recovering from the real estate collapse and highlighting the innovative work being done through Reshaping Development Patterns to improve the future of the community.

VARD as a collaborative force:

- * Secured a project grant from 1% for the Tetons as well as in-kind donations of time and energy from the National Wildlife Federation and the Teton County Planning Department to produce the first two of five planned Teton Valley Sustainability Series events in 2011. The series is designed to reach a diverse community cross-section in a safe, educational forum aimed at furthering community dialogue around various aspects of sustainability.
- * Utilized the keypad polling technology, laptop and projector obtained with support from the Teton Springs Foundation and the Orton Family Foundation in 2010 to put on a seminar to educate the community on how to utilize the technology. Allowed a number of organizations to use the polling pads for a variety of community presentations.
- * Participated on a number of Comprehensive Plan citizen committees to help draft the initial Teton County Comprehensive Plan frameworks and maps in collaboration with county planning staff, consultants and community stakeholders.