



# Big Bear Municipal Water District

## Lake Management

### Board of Directors

Steve Ludecke – Division 1  
Bob Rehfuss – Division 2  
Craig Brewster – Division 3  
Mark Lee – Division 4  
Tom Bradford – Division 5

## Lake Improvement Committee Meeting Minutes May 14, 2024

**Present:** Director Bradford  
Director Brewster  
Mike Stephenson, Chief Operations Officer  
Brittany Lamson, Interim General Manager/Board Secretary

**Public:** None

### 1. Carp Removal Efforts & Strategies

- a. We are here to discuss carp removal that would be outside our current strategic management plan that has been supported by Fish and Wildlife and other industry experts for years.
- b. Our lake management program has been used as an example at several other lakes because of how good our lakes self-sustaining ability.
- c. Director Bradford would like to start the shock boat earlier, but there are some concerns about nesting fish, fertile fish, and possible early eggs that would be damaged from the shock.
  - i. Director Bradford is definitely against shocking over nesting fish, but believes there are areas now that could be utilizing the shock boat.
  - ii. He would like to reduce the carp population by 50% over the next 5-years.
  - iii. Mr. Stephenson added that the lake only has a certain carrying capacity so with less fish, there will be more mating so there is a very fine line between hurting and helping the population.
- d. Director Brewster inquired about how many carp in the lake is the right number for the most benefit of the lake overall?
  - i. Director Bradford suggested the only way to figure out this is going out and tagged a ton of fish, and then trying to catch them again the following year to gain knowledge of the real number.
- e. Director Brewster asked about paying people for carp when turned in, Mr. Stephenson explained that we cannot legally have a bounty on fish.
  - i. Why don't we look at doing a year long tournament or raffle prize that could be done on a monthly basis or bi-monthly basis.
- f. Discussed conditioning trap nets which would bring large groups of carp to a netted area and then pull them.
- g. Discussed hiring a consultant to create a newer management plan and implement it.
- h. Discussed creating a new position.
  - i. Ms. Lamson and Mr. Stephenson would not prioritize this option as it might be difficult to justify the full-time position when a large amount of the work responsibilities are something that current staff are already doing.



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- ii. Would still look into similar biology-related positions with the state and see what we can create for the office without duplicating the job responsibilities.
- iii. Also consider working with near by colleges and graduate students as additional hands to assist with this effort.
- i. Mr. Stephenson explained that aquatic weed management is also considered carp removal because when we treat or cut weeds, they hold the carp eggs so we are removing them prior to them hatching.
- j. Director Brewster would like to implement an educational program which would provide classes for the public to learn how to carp shoot.
  - i. We would provide bows for the lesson.
  - ii. Show proper techniques.
  - iii. Educate on why we want to remove this species from the lake.
  - iv. Wants to look into different incentive programs.

## 2. Admin Issues & Updates

No comments were made.