

***MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
BIG BEAR MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  
HELD ON THURSDAY, June 20, 2024***

**1. OPEN SESSION**

President Ludecke opened the regularly scheduled Board meeting at 1:00 PM at the Big Bear Municipal Water District located at 40524 Lakeview Drive, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315 on Thursday June 20, 2024.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Steve Ludecke, President  
Bob Reh fuss, Director  
Craig Brewster, Vice President  
Mark Lee, Director  
Tom Bradford, Director

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Journey Cheek

**3. PUBLIC FORUM**

No comments from the public in attendance.

**4. REPORTS**

A. Interim General Manager, Brittany Lamson reported she met at Valley District this morning as part of a startup/ on-going GM meeting hosted by Heather Dyer who wanted to start a conversation between as many local water people as possible. Something super informal, brainstorming, process on project updates, good ideas, things that have been and have not been successful. She explained that the enhanced water recharge project will be complete by end of August/September which will allow them to catch and store 300 more acres of water than what they could do before. This additional capture opportunity will alter some of Seven Oaks Dam operations as well to make sure as much local water is captured as possible.

Ms. Lamson continued with a brief summary of the Annual Carp Round Up, we removed 6,215 lbs of carp for the weekend. A couple Directors asked why the newspaper reported less, she explained that was what the participants weighed for their biggest ten, not their entire haul, we did not have complete disposal numbers until way after the awards ceremony. We had 147 participants, which is a decent increase from last year so all good news. Carp removal to date, is now just under 20,000 lbs so our current program is effective and we have seen more carp hunters out there this year than ever before. We told the participants about our Countin' Carp incentive program, some said it would be difficult because they don't turn fish in until after the office is closed for the day, but the program is up and running. It's all great news.

Lastly, the Miss Liberty tour boat is out of the water, being stored at our ramp only until tonight, early tomorrow morning, they had to make a couple emergency repairs and this ramp was the only one that could accommodate a vessel that large. Director Reh fuss asked about commercial

business using our ramp, and Ms. Lamson explained that is something within the marina contracts which do include certain restrictions as far as time and not impeding on public use.

B. Chief Operations Officer, Mike Stephenson, reported The current lake level is 4' 3 and  $\frac{3}{4}$  down from full, the requirement at station B is .75 CFS, were above that for now. Gates don't leak anymore, so we are really close with all our releases. The worst-case scenario for evaporation, we could lose a foot a month during these summer months. Station A & B are still seeing side flows, which is great.

Director Brewster asked about harvesting, Mr. Stephenson said he is going to do some training with a new experimental treatment, so we can use it here, this is supposed to have long term benefits, we would need to obtain an experimental use permit to use this. This chemical is specific to which plant it kills, so it could only kill invasive species we are targeting and leave our good, native plants. Again, we must make sure we do not over treat so we can avoid the algae bloom like what we had in 2008. Director Bradford asked how we were going to apply this, if we had any and if we're just going to try it in an area or throughout the lake. Mr. Stephenson responded that we are going to try it in the biggest area possible to see how effective it is. If we can't do this treatment in the next month and a half, I do not suggest we even do it. Director Reh fuss asked why we would not do it later? Mr. Stephenson explained it's only effective when the plant is actively growing which wouldn't be later than August.

C. Director Ludecke reported on the administrative committee, we sat in with the DWP technical review, via zoom, which discussed their groundwater levels which appeared to be gaining in level so that's good news. We also discussed the County Fire boat maintenance, which we were approached about, but we do not have a service facility and do not have a boat mechanic so that is not something we wanted to bring to the full Board.

## **5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. Minutes of a Regular Meeting on June 6, 2024.
- B. Warrant list dated 6/14/2024 in the amount of \$80,968.61

### **Discussion:**

No comments were made.

With a motion made by Director Bradford, and seconded by Director Lee, the consent calendar, was approved unanimously:

AYES: Ludecke, Reh fuss, Brewster, Lee, Bradford

NO: -

ABSTAIN: -

## **6. BUSINESS**

A. Full Board will have a recommendation regarding Resolution 2024-04, "A resolution of the Board of Directors of the Big Bear Municipal Water District transferring funds unappropriated as of June 30, 2024 to the District's contingency reserve account, affirming investments policy, approving the district's budget and establishing the appropriations limit for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024."

**Discussion:**

Ms. Lamson stated that this resolution gives the District permission to roll unused funds into the next fiscal year based on the budgets we have previously reviewed. There are just a couple more minor changes that I want to point out. The table of contents is now finalized. While speaking with Director Reh fuss we came across an error in the capital improvement schedule, the new maintenance building should be \$3M not \$1M. Lastly, the Resolution seen on page 34 will be updated with the one up for approval today.

**Discussion:**

President Ludecke called for the vote and any additional discussion items. Director Reh fuss wanted to speak about adding the position of Assistant GM, which was previously the Office Manager/ Board Secretary/ Executive. This new position will clearly establish a second in command which there has not been previously. This really cleans up things in, now staff know who they can take direction from when the GM is not available. This is also putting a label on someone who is doing way more work than their job title was intended. This creates a clear level of hierarchy. There is a benefit behind this investment. Now they will actually be compensated for the work they are already doing. I think it creates more strength within the organization.

With a motion made by Vice President Brewster, and seconded by Director Reh fuss, Resolution 2024-04 "A resolution of the Board of Directors of the Big Bear Municipal Water District transferring funds unappropriated as of June 30, 2024 to the District's contingency reserve account, affirming investments policy, approving the district's budget and establishing the appropriations limit for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024" was approved unanimously:

AYES: Ludecke, Reh fuss, Brewster, Lee, Bradford

NO: -

ABSTAIN: -

**B. Full Board to discuss and take possible action to approve new General Manager Contract effective on an agreed upon date.**

**Discussion:**

Ms. Lamson explained the process which the board has taken to get to this point in the hiring process. The action the board takes today will be effective June 20, 2024 with whatever terms are outlined in the contract, for the hiring of Jared Cheek as the Big Bear Municipal Water District's new General Manager starting no earlier than July 8, 2024 and no later than July 22, 2024.

Director Bradford welcomed and congratulated Jared, I (Bradford) was very happy that you changed your mind and came back and we're looking forward to working with you, likewise from President Ludecke and Vice President Brewster. Director Reh fuss continued, we are very happy you choose to take the position, and this was a big deal for us, were happy you're on board.

With a motion made by Director Bradford, and seconded by Director Reh fuss, the contract between the Big Bear Municipal Water District and Jared Cheek in the position of General Manager starting no earlier than July 8, 2024 and no later than July 22, 2024 was unanimously approved:

AYES: Ludecke, Reh fuss, Brewster, Lee, Bradford

NO: -

ABSTAIN: -

**7. Items removed from Consent Calendar**

N/A

**8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Lamson explained the first meeting in July will be adjourned due to the holiday, we will be a little busy that day. Making our next meeting July 18<sup>th</sup>.

**9. DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

Vice President Brewster wanted to thank Brittany for doing a fantastic job as Interim, and it was greatly appreciated. The board echoed the sentiment.

**10. ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:51 PM.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Date: July 18, 2024  
Location: 40524 Lakeview Drive  
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315  
Time: 1:00 PM



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Brittany Lamson, Interim General Manager  
Secretary to the Board of Directors of  
Big Bear Municipal Water District

[SEAL]