

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
BIG BEAR MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  
HELD ON THURSDAY, May 16, 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 May 16, 2024.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice President Brewster

**3. PUBLIC FORUM**

No comments from the public in attendance.

**4. REPORTS**

A. Interim General Manager, Brittany Lamson, reported that she, Mike, and Jim attended a forest tour of an upcoming clean-up project for the North Big Bear Project, hosted by a private company Blue Forest, who are an investment conservancy group that works with the US Forest service to expedite forest maintenance projects and assists with future planned projects to complete more through partnership funding. The District attended because of the possible benefit we could see from the reduction in sediment runoff and increase in water inflows. We also had a meeting with our on-call consultant about our environmental document which looks at 12 different possible project areas around the lake. They are closer to being complete with the draft document and moving into the CEQA scoping around end of August. The carp bin has been placed out today, we are seeing warmer temperatures, and the need is now there to start disposing of them for the public. Lastly, the fire dock builder has been a very frustrating effort. He refuses to do anything we ask, and has made this project as difficult as it could be. We are being a cooperative partner, but will not work with this builder again. That being said, the contractor agreed that the weights suggested by the dock builder were not needed, and in order for this build to be complete prior to Memorial Day weekend, we need to add this revised fire dock plan showing the install without weights which was just given to the district late yesterday.

President Ludecke asked for a vote to add an emergency item, revised fire dock plans, to the agenda.

With a motion made by Director Rehfuss, and seconded by Vice President Brewster, the motion to add this revised fire dock plan to the consent calendar, was unanimously approved:

AYES: Ludecke, Rehfuss, Brewster, Lee, Bradford

NO:

ABSTAIN:

B. Chief Operations Officer, Mike Stephenson, reported the lake level sitting at 3.95, a little deceiving because the probe that sits on the side of the dam creates pressure, however, when the lake varies drastically it does not have time to recalibrate automatically. The lake level changed 8 feet before we noticed an inch difference between a manual measurement and the digital probe reading. The new system, set to be installed once we finished up the 36" meter replacement project will be so much more efficient. The fencing project for the vacant lot next to us is underway.

C. Vice President Brewster spoke about the admin committee meeting, met with the Blue Forest group, his main concern is the trails that would be decommissioned by this forestry work and doesn't feel like the District should invest in anything that would have a negative impact to the recreational locals or visitors. Hard sell for him. Director Lee spoke about the budget and finance committee meeting, the group went over a couple of changes to the budget, but nothing huge. Director Bradford explained the lake improvement committee discussed carp removal strategies on the lake, wants to solidify a real program (outside the current strategic plan), wants to create a program that would last all season, person with the most carp at the end of the year gets a bigger prize.

Director Rehfuss brought up people asking where to dispose of fish that was on Facebook. Thinks the district should answer these questions more proactively. Ms. Lamson explained that we do monitor sites for questions like these and address them in a post as a group, not individuals.

John Osborn of Pine Knot Marina asked about the damage being done on the docks from carp shooting? What can be done about this considering it is public water? Does the marina permit allow some kind of enforcement within their zone? Director Rehfuss asked how big of a deal is this? Addressed to both marina operator in attendance. They replied it's every weekend, and maybe two or three times a week. Loren Hafen clarified that he is in favor of the sport, but personal property damages are difficult. They explained the biggest issue is the folks from boats that float in our marina and hit floats.

Mr. Stephenson explained that we inform those who participate in the sport to be cautious of docks and other possible damages that may occur as they are liable. During our tournament we hand out a full sheet of rules.

## **5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. Minutes of a Regular Meeting on April 18, 2024.
- B. Warrant list dated 4/15/2024 in the amount of \$62,932.19.
- C. Revised Fire Dock plan -removal of weights and addition of spuds. (emergency agenda item)

**Discussion:**

Ms. Lamson wanted to point out there was a small typo, this is approving of the April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, not the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.

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

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

NO:

ABSTAIN:

**6. BUSINESS**

**A. Board will have a recommendation regarding the change order from EnviroMonitoring Services in the amount of \$8,591, to finish closeout and destruction of monitoring well at the Big Bear Marina Site.**

**Discussion:**

Ms. Lamson explained that additional work will be required as the lake level has changed, so the method of destruction now must change as well. The County inspector was there during the first attempt of destruction, and the change order will incorporate the new method and then we can officially get this closeout done. President Ludecke asked how they have used all the budget and only completed one well. Ms. Lamson explained that she asked the same question, and the state representative who manages these contamination sites assured us that payment for additional services would be reimbursed completely. I do ask that if approved, negotiation authority is given to the GM so if another change order comes up I can just sign it and get the work finished rather than waiting until the next Board meeting.

With a motion made by Director Reh fuss, and seconded by Director Bradford, the motion to approve the EnviroMonitoring Systems change order not to exceed \$8,591 with future negotiation authority given to the GM to avoid further delay of well site closeout was approved unanimously:

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

NO:

ABSTAIN:

**B. First DRAFT Budget FY 2024-25 Review & Discussion.**

**Discussion:**

Ms. Lamson went through the draft 2024-25 Budget on items that have changed since the last budget FY 2023-24. Majority of the budget was increased by 3.5% which is our current COLA rate, there are a few things, like training that increased by more as we have several new employees and others who have gained licenses that will need more training this first year around, so that line item has been increased higher. Another item that is higher across all departments is the liability insurance rates. This increased nearly 30% year over year so that is elevated enough to cover that. Other big items are the proposed capital improvement project which consist of a new main office building, new maintenance building, replacement facility truck, replacement shock boat and TMDL boat, and an operations vehicle. All these items have been available for replacement except the operations vehicle which would be an additional vehicle to our fleet.

We are also requesting a larger budget for our server upgrade, we have been trying to get this completed, the new server has just taken some time to become available. We also are still perfecting the operation of the new destratification system at the dam, it's much more efficient, but we still want to modify a couple things. If we did everything outlined in this budget, which has not happened before, we would be in the red. If you have any comments, please provide them as soon as possible. The next reading is on June 6<sup>th</sup>, so I would like to have all, and any comments incorporated at that time.

No Vote Needed – Review and Information ONLY

**7. CLOSED SESSION:**

Public Employee Appointment

Discussion of employee pursuant to government code 54957 (b): Title: General Manager

President Ludecke asked for any comments before going into closed session, there was one, but just about the proposed building size which is 80 X 100. Open session was closed at 2:53 PM.

Board reconvened at 4:18 PM for open session. Legal report out of closed session, the board met in closed session pursuant to government code 54957 (b): public employee appointment: general manager, the board took no reportable action.

**7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR**

N/A

**8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

N/A

**9. DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

President Ludecke said he was approached by Rick Herrick to meet with himself and Bob Rehfuss about community relations, being that it has two of our Directors, he is assigning an Ad Hoc committee for a term through the end of the year for "Community Relations" the members assigned are Ludecke and Rehfuss.

Director Bradford also wanted to compliment the ramp staff for being great stewards of the ramps and our lake. Every time he launches there, they are friendly, go above and beyond to ask questions and hand out little stickers to the kids who are wearing their life jackets, and they have all been fantastic.

**10. ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:23 PM.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Date: June 6, 2024

Location: 40524 Lakeview Drive  
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

Time: 1:00 PM



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

[SEAL]