

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
BIG BEAR MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  
HELD ON THURSDAY, January 16, 2025**

**1. OPEN SESSION**

President Brewster 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 January 16, 2025.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Craig Brewster

**3. PUBLIC FORUM**

President Brewster wanted to thank Jessica from the Grizzly for writing about the MWD, great article.

Dan Gulbranson, Big Bear resident, shared he attended the fire meeting, and it was a public disaster. He continued, places are burning all over the state and he brought up more fire prevention and no one else said anything. He is demanding the City take fire protection seriously. We have nothing to protect us. Making a request for the City to do something, so looking for more ideas from anyone. We need to be prepared before something like what happened in LA happens here.

**4. REPORTS**

A. Jared Cheek, General Manager, reported we had a meeting with GEI, spoke about the updated estimate for the downstream side of the dam concrete work, special use launch ramp and recirculation, updating the DSOD dam improvement plan to bring the document to status which includes not using the CARPI lining. We had an admin and watermaster committee. We also had site visits from County Fire and State Fund which went really well. Sam Fuller and George Hanson from Mutual attended our watermaster committee meeting. We did receive the Spectrum refund in full, so we are going to move forward with Starlink or another alternative system. The Visitors Bureau is still actively working on the lake safety video.

B. Mike Stephenson, Chief Operating Officer, expanding on the lack of precip we've seen. Looking at the Dam keepers house precep, the biggest year was 1884, over 90" of rain! We received 33" in the last calendar year. First year since 1884 that we have had 6 months with zero percip. We have seen five months with no rain in 1944 and 1917, but never 6 months, average is about 36". However, last year, we weren't that far below average, but we did not go 6 months without anything. In 1918 it rained every single month, 1982, also rained every month but there was no huge annual precip. In 2022 there was 24" of precip, 2023 was 52", collectively they don't even make the top five highest year. In 2005, it seemed like a lot, but didn't even make the top 5 even though the lake filled. We still have nothing in the forecast, but it's still early. Jan 1993, 38" of precip

alone. So far, we are at zero, which usually January is the wettest month. Jared and Craig are now in charge of lake level so we will see what they can do.

Dan Gulbranson asked a couple questions of who owns the water coming into the lake and who determines when we need to release the water? Mr. Stephenson responded to the question. Several agencies control the flows into, and we only release water for fish habitat downstream. We do not release for the downstream users, that is why we have the in-lieu agreement.

C. Director Ludecke explained we met for admin and watermaster and there was nothing major that happened. Mutual was asked to be a part of a presentation for the City regarding "water matters" which was basically just a brief history of the lake. President Brewster found that the first meeting of watermaster very informational.

#### **5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. Minutes of a Regular Meeting on December 19, 2024.
- B. Warrant List dated 1/10/2025 in the amount of \$35,009.90.

#### **Discussion:**

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

AYES: Ludecke, Brewster, Lee, Bradford

NO: -

ABSTAIN: -

#### **6. BUSINESS**

- A. **Public Hearing and Consideration of fee changes through Resolution 2025-01 "Fee Schedule" which will increase fees based on actual cost to the District which incorporates the cost of living increase from July 2024-25.**
  - i. Open Public Hearing
  - ii. Staff Presentation
  - iii. Written Public Comment
  - iv. Oral Public Comment
  - v. Board Discussion/Comments
  - vi. Close Public Hearing
  - vii. Consider approval of Resolution 2025-01 "Fee Schedule" and will become effective immediately.

#### **Discussion:**

President Brewster opening the public hearing at 1:24 PM.

Mr. Cheek began the presentation, the draft fee schedule shows changes outlined in red, these are general updates and relevant to current operations. Page 3 begins with the fees, you can see the previous fee and what the fees are being proposed to. We are also proposing to eliminate four and five day lake use permits, we do not sell many and their cost if so close to an annual permit that many just upgrade to the annual. We changed the penalty for 'on the water' permit sales, so we would change that to \$30 dollars per interaction on top of the permit cost. Residential dock fees will increase based on COLA. Complex decon

will increase to \$300 dollars per boat, but that being said, there is still a free option through our quarantine process. Director Ludecke asked what happens when the boat comes back, if there is still water in the boat with a quarantine band, Mr. Stephenson responded the protocol is 30 days, nothing can survive that.

Charter Captain fees are now going to be \$15 PER ANGLER instead of per trip. This is to be consistent with our other fishing fees. Other changes are related to dept of fish and wildlife, we just updated these based on their current fee schedule. Violations have increased now by the common increase we have seen throughout the resolution.

#### WRITTEN COMMENTS

There were no written comments received.

#### ORAL COMMENTS

Dan Gulbranson asked what happens when Newsome comes in and tries to change these and increase fee for no reason. Council Lemieux explained, based on our special district government code, these fees are not taxes, these are fees based on service, so Newsome could not just come in here and raise our fees.

#### BOARD DISCUSSION and COMMENTS

Vice President Bradford asked how you came up with these numbers? He understood the boat permits, seems reasonable, but what are the numbers for the increase for boat docks. Doesn't make sense when comparing the docks to permit increase, and it's not all based off cost of living. Mr. Cheek explained that the boat permit fees are based off the operation budgets, whereas the cost of administratively have not gone up as much. Vice President Bradford continued, and asked about the situation when they (dock owners) call us, and ask for weed harvesting, that's included in this? Mr. Cheek explained that only navigational purposes are included in the annual fee, not for aesthetics, that's extra. Vice President Bradford said still doesn't make sense to me. Director Ludecke commented, these people are also putting their boats in the lake in addition to the dock fee. Do the Marina fees go up? If we're raising it for the everyday user, but not them? Mr. Cheek responded that those are based off their marina permit. Ms. Lamson expanded and explained that Marinas do receive an increase, but it's based off of a five-year average COLA increase on the 5<sup>th</sup> year, and they did just receive one. Vice President Bradford continued, it still looks like these are different numbers being used and it doesn't make sense. Mr. Cheek responded, some of these numbers are rounded up or down depending on where the rate landed. Vice President Bradford explained, he understands rounding, but there is a difference, and it does not make sense.

President Brewster called for any more comments, with there being none, the public hearing was closed at 1:38PM.

President Brewster asked the Board to consider approval, and if so, asked for a motion of approval.

With a motion made by Director Ludecke, and seconded by Director Lee, Resolution 2025-01, "Fee Schedule" was approved by the following roll call vote:

Director Ludecke: aye

Director Lee: aye

Vice President Bradford: aye

President Brewster: aye

**B. Administrative Committee (Directors Ludecke & Brewster) recommends full Board approval to appoint Don Evenson to remain the Big Bear Watermaster representative.**

**Discussion:**

District council Lemieux explained to the Board that once a motion is approved here, the ex parte motion will be made with the court to approve the new watermaster. The next Big Bear Watermaster is on Tuesday so there is a timing consideration, so we are requesting a rush approval, not sure what they will rule. President Brewster asked if Don is still in? Council Lemieux said no, he is not the current representative because of the Board action in May, but we will find out on Tuesday morning if the motion for the new representative is granted.

With a motion made by Vice President Bradford, and seconded by Director Ludecke, the appointment of Don Evenson to remain as Big Bear Watermaster representative, was approved unanimously:

AYES: Ludecke, Brewster, Lee, Bradford

NO: -

ABSTAIN: -

**7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR**

N/A

**8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No announcements.

**9. DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

No comments from Directors.

**10. ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:43 PM.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Date: February 6, 2025  
Location: 40524 Lakeview Drive  
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315  
Time: 1:00 PM



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

[SEAL]