

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
BIG BEAR MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
HELD ON THURSDAY, August 15, 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 August 15, 2024.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Bob Rehfuß

3. PUBLIC FORUM

No comments from the public in attendance.

4. REPORTS

A. Jared Cheek, General Manager reported our crew went down to Station A to gather readings from the flow probe and to check for possible repairs needed as they do monthly. We reviewed a special event permit for the drone show, which is on the agenda today. We also hosted the Big Bear Watermaster meeting on Tuesday, it was a hybrid style meeting. We also treated some algae on the East end of the lake which now looks really good.

B. Mike Stephenson, Chief Operations Officer, reported the watermaster meeting was productive. We had representatives from Mutual, they are also here today. They are making big strides in their water needs delivery with the on-going issue of the water being non-deliverable with Edison plants being down since 2019. Jared already touched on algae, but we did it preemptively to stop a possible bloom, but the lake is still very layered. The lake will flip, but it might be later than expected. The lake is still looking very good for how hot and dry it's been.

C. Committee members passed on their reports because both items will be covered during the business portion of this meeting.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Minutes of a Regular Meeting on August 1, 2024.
- B. Warrant list dated 8/9/2024 in the amount of \$77,696.84.
- C. Purchase of Suntracker pontoon boat for TMDL replacement (Budget approved item 6/20/2024).

Discussion:

No comments were made.

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

AYES: Ludecke, Rehfuss, Brewster, Lee, Bradford

NO: -

ABSTAIN: -

6. BUSINESS

A. Replenish Big Bear Pilot Program water quality results presentation given by Water Systems Consulting (WSC), INFORMATION ONLY.

Discussion:

David Lawerance, General Manager of BBARWA wanted to remind the public of a couple things before the presentation started. He continued that the BBARWA board did not certify the EIR on Monday night 8/12/2024, which does impact the project, there is still opportunity to change that in the future, but as of current the project is done. As of now, we have stopped work on the project. Director Bradford asked what further direction is there? Mr. Lawerance explained the board could get some additional questions answered, and they might change their mind, and continue this process, but there is a lot here that would need to be considered.

President Ludecke explained we (the District) decided to still move forward with the presentation because this could come up again in the future. It was part of our posted agenda prior to the decision being made. Director Bradford continued that he is all for the presentation still, the work is already done. He is curious what we would need to do to bring this back. Mr. Lawerance explained that his board is very concerned with the cost of the project, so if we can change this to our rate payers, it still might be an option.

Director Rehfuss asked, what if this project is tabled or really done? Does the increase to the rate schedule go away? Mr. Lawerance explained they are still working on that aspect, they have spent roughly \$10M on efforts, including MWD helping, which some has been reimbursed by grants; but it still needs to go through the process of repayment. We did not complete several components of the effort where we would not have to repay grants awarded so we may need to borrow money to pay back, we just don't know right now. Mr. Lawerance continued, we just need to clean that all up, and at that point the structure would be evaluated for back cost. Director Rehfuss asked if there was any debt that would stay on and then if the rates would be reduced back to prior to the project? Mr. Lawerance said the rate would remain the same and would not increase.

Matt Rodriguez and Laine Carlson of WSC will be presenting the pilot project water results. Reviewing the pilot program results. Reviewed steps of the pilot program and the results of the pilot system against the goal thresholds of the project water. The pilot program was considered successfully with the exception of Nitrogen, (which was the biggest concern for meeting the basin objective), but WSC explained they do have other methods that are supposed to lower that level. Keep in mind, this is not the actual project water, this is just a plan to approach and shows us what elements we need to improve on before the water is to be discharged. Went into the reason we need brine minimization. Increases the amount of water we are able to recover. Director Rehfuss asked why didn't we just do the other, more effective Nitrogen reducing procedures here? Matt explained it was the cost. Went into detail about piloting sequencing – RO

processes, very few that offer full sequencing. Seeing the recommended technology in the presentation, not all the processes that were that were considered.

Data collection was done by all certified testing labs by third parties or within BBARWAs in-house labs.

President Ludecke asked about the prior discussions about the disposal of the RO filters, can you expand on that and their lifespan? Matt responded that they have approximately a 5-10 year useable life, based on the water quality that is being displaced by the filters. That is determined by filter 'autopsy', which evaluates the success of the filter. Disposal is very common, it's not considered nuclear waste. UV membranes will be every 10 years, filters will be every 5 years, approximately.

Sand filters would not be used in the final design, they were not successful. The alternatives discussed were ion exchange to knock down the ammonium, we (WSC) are confident we can meet the Nitrogen threshold of the .15 basin objective. But no future water testing for confirmation will be completed.

If limits change after the discharge of the water, what happens then? The process would go back to public comments, new rule would come out, new rules would come into effect, new permit would be issued, BBARWA would work through a compliance plan and the timeline. Regulators cannot say to shut everything down until they have a process of what the new threshold would require. Director Rehfuss wanted to confirm that this would be functioning to current standards, but then the regional board could come back and say they want more? Matt responded yes, but we are already completing the highest quality of water with RO and UV, so a new plant would not have to be completed if additional restrictions were placed on this water. He continued, this process can handle anything thrown at it to meet those new standards.

Next steps are now contingent on what happens next with the life of the project. But if it did continue, we would look further into Nitrogen reduction and brine minimization. Preliminary design report which would cover all the remaining parts of the project.

Director Bradford commented how surprised he was by the how well the water quality came out, beside the Nitrogen. Thank you, guys, for your hard work and Dave, I know there has been a tremendous amount of work that has gone into this. Lots of boards have looked into this in great detail and we appreciate the detail that you have put into this.

Director Rehfuss repeated the sentiment, thank you for coming in, this is really important to us, and we like to see this and we know that you were planning on cancelling, but thank you for doing this for us.

INFORMATION ONLY – NO VOTE NEEDED

B. Administrative Committee (Directors Ludecke & Brewster) recommend Policy 2024-02, "Decontamination Operations Policy" for full Board approval.

Discussion:

The Administrative committee has discussed this issue a couple times regarding changing to our ballasts boat decontamination procedure, we would like to change our decontamination times to Monday – Friday only because of the heavy load this puts on our staff. We are changing the schedule for ballast boats only. Normal and simple decontaminations can be done on weekends still. Vice President Brewster confirmed this change would not become affective until next year, Mr. Cheek confirmed. President Ludecke said he

concerned about the 4pm start time, might have to pay OT often. Staff explained that is the last service for the day so that gives them a two-hour window to perform the decon. Vice President Brewster asked about fee because we discussed possibly increasing that. Ms. Lamson said that could be something that is incorporated in the fee schedule for next year if the Board would like to add an additional decon category.

Director Rehfuss asked if this is going to solve the issue of reducing the number that has enabled us? Mr. Cheek confirmed a lot of the weekend traffic would slow down with this new policy.

With a motion made by Vice President Brewster, and seconded by Director Bradford, Policy 2024-02 "Decontamination Policy" was unanimously approved:
AYES: Ludecke, Rehfuss, Brewster, Lee, Bradford
NO: -
ABSTAIN: -

C. Operations Committee (Directors Rehfuss & Brewster) recommend the special event permit from Visit Big Bear regarding the Drone Show on Labor Day be approved by the full Board.

Discussion:

The Operations committee met to review the special event permit for the drone show on Labor Day weekend, there is another event this day, but there is no conflict. VB rep was there, committee had no major concerns. Vice President Brewster asked about the viewing map that was discussed? Staff confirmed the map is being made by VB and would be distributed as soon as it is delivered.

Loren Hafen made a comment about moving the boat parade of lights to a different, less busy weekend to encourage locals and marina to participate. Having it on Labor Day weekend does not allow for a lot of local folks to participate because they are busy working themselves.

With a motion made by Director Bradford, and seconded by Director Rehfuss, Special Event Permit Application, for the Labor Day Drone show was unanimously approved:
AYES: Ludecke, Rehfuss, Brewster, Lee, Bradford
NO: -
ABSTAIN: -

7. Items removed from Consent Calendar

N/A

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made.

9. DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Director Rehfuss wanted to say that John from VB was very specific about saying they made it clear that the 4th of July Fireworks will always happen. Regardless of what you have heard, they are going to continue the 4th of July fireworks show.

Director Lee asked about Lakefest event that same weekend? Staff responded that it is, but that is hosted over in the Swim Beach area and within the buoy line around the lake. Will be done around noon.

10. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:57 PM.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Date: September 5, 2024
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]