



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

Watermaster Committee Meeting Minutes January 14, 2025

Present: Director Ludecke
Director Brewster
Jared Cheek, General Manager
Brittany Lamson, Assistant General Manager
Mike Stephenson, Chief Operations Officer
Mike Schermer, Sr. Accountant/HR

Public: George Hanson, Sam Fuller, Charles Brewster

1. Watermaster Issues & Updates

- a. George and Sam from Bear Valley Mutual Water Company (Mutual) are presenting a power point about water related matters.
- b. Mr. Cheek asked that George and Sam come present on the topic they will be presenting at the City meeting on January 28th.
 - i. We appreciate Mutual coming here and doing this presentation.
 - ii. Sam Fuller stopped the meeting and explained that when the City approached them about the presentation request, Mutual had the stipulation that MWD had to be in attendance at this meeting for them to present for the City. Mr. Hanson also noted they needed the meeting to be publicly noticed.
 - iii. Mr. Cheek shared that there has been no communication from the City nor an invite to attend the meeting.
- c. Director Ludecke wished the City would have approached the entire GSA board before deciding to speak about the Replenish Project.
- d. Mr. Hanson continued with general facts about Mutual and how they operate their water company.
 - i. Broke down Mutual's delivery obligation and costs.
 - ii. No deliveries to shareholders above the Mentone Reservoir, so the City's shares would not be something that could be delivered.
- e. Mr. Stephenson expressed that the MWD would have an interest in owning shares to make sure that the lake water is never misused now or in the future.
 - i. Charles Brewster, a member of the public, asked who is the major shareholder?
 1. City of Redlands is the major shareholder, with about 35% of the shares.
- f. Sam Fuller discussed a general history of state water allocation.
 - i. If there was an allocation purchased back in the day (prior to establishment of the City or MWD) it would have made the 77' Judgment and 1996 physical solution much simpler, but Valley purchased them and it's no longer an option.
 - ii. Continued with what MWD's new responsibilities are with owning the Dam, the land, and the reservoir.
 - iii. All natural inflows belong to Mutual, and all other inflows belong to MWD.
 - iv. Mutual and MWD are the only entities that are allowed to store water in the reservoir.



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1. It's not public, except to the extent that MWD manages the water and public can recreate on it.
- v. Discussed 1995 California Trout complained the water was not enough to keep the fish alive.
 1. Small release now from the lake to maintain the flows to keep the fish alive after dam was constructed.
- vi. Releases are not for irrigation purposes.
- vii. 1996 agreement is between Valley and MWD, which states MWD will purchase all in-lieu water from Valley to be delivered to Mutual and MWD would pay for the water based on property taxes.
- viii. There are only two entities that can store water into this lake, Mutual and MWD.