

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
BIG BEAR MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
HELD ON THURSDAY, December 5, 2024**

1. OPEN SESSION

President Ludecke opened the regularly scheduled Board meeting at 1:01 PM at the Big Bear Municipal Water District located at 40524 Lakeview Drive, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315 on Thursday December 5, 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

Daniel Gulbranson, a resident of Big Bear, City is doing every they can to create injustice. They made up stuff about Replenish with three options. Claims they already voted on unwinding it, but they aren't going to move forward with that. They are going to keep working on it. They are going to try to kick her off the committee and then threaten about the money.

4. REPORTS

A. General Manager, Jared Cheek, reported that he met with Aqua Technics, consultant for lake services. We discussed services they could provide for our lake. President Ludecke asked what kind of services they provide. Mr. Cheek responded, they treat ponds and lakes for algae. We did attend the BBARWA meeting on Tuesday, they plan to reconvene Jan 22 to decide on what to do with Replenish, no real conclusion there. East ramp closed Nov 30, officially marking the end of season. The current lake level is down 6' 8" from full. Staff working on maintenance items now, and serving equipment. VBB boating safety video is underway, they are doing interviews next week with Drew.
B. Vice President Brewster reported on the admin committee, where we discussed the fee schedule for next year, possible increase to a couple items.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Minutes of a Regular Meeting on November 21, 2024.
- B. Warrant List dated 12/2/2024 in the amount of \$27,678.50.

Discussion:

No comments were made.

With a motion made by Director Reh fuss, and seconded by Vice President Brewster, the consent calendar, was approved by the following:
AYES: Ludecke, Reh fuss, Brewster, Lee
NO: -
ABSTAIN: Bradford

6. BUSINESS

A. Lake Operations Season Summary – INFO ONLY

Discussion:

Drew Pappas had a presentation about the season summary regarding lake usage and stats. This is a condensed presentation of what was given at a previous committee meeting with the marinas. The following items were discussed:

- The District's biggest concerns are safety, compliance, invasive species, and customer service.
- Lake level: low point = 8'3", highest point 3'10', current is 6'8".
- 39,927 vessels counted using the lake, boats on the water.
- 1,050, contacts, these are not all violations, majority are public services assist.
- Less than 3% of stops resulted in citations.
- CA boater card is the biggest violation this year, this is now required for all boaters starting next year, boating basis and helps educate boaters.
 - Correctable violation now.
- Second most cited is for under 13 and no PDF.
- We had 6 patrollers out there this season and one patroller at the ramps all year to assist with anything that may become elevated.
- Boulder Bay Park is probably the most popular area for non-registered vessels, so we spent lots of time over there.
- Increased on the water sales violations, most are from the ocean and are unaware of rules.
- We saw a 47% increase in boaters, but our violations did not increase by the same ratio.
- Boating education does appear to be a direct correlation with boating accidents and safely operating a vessel.
- Life Jackets are the most important thing when boating, and properly fit life jackets that save lives.
- Another point emphasized at the marina task force meeting was making sure the renters have proper fitting jackets before sending them out.

Bradford asked how often do calls come in on emergency, and they call directly? Mr. Pappas responded maybe 20 times, and also the tour boats info us of incidents they witness while on tour.

- Our east ramp is our main place of operations, all our services are available there compared to the west ramp, which is half the size and only has potable water.
- We switched out schedule to M-F on ballast boats because they are only becoming more and more complex boats and it's just taking way to much District resources.
- Ballast are creating injury to other recreators on the lake caused by their large wakes.
- 3,351 inspections, 764 failed inspections
- We have had consistent fail rates since 2020 WID can provide that proof.
- WID is a database we and all bodies of water across the nation which input vessel travel data, and we provide tablets to the marinas.

- President Ludecke asked the marina owners if it's easy to use WID, and they agreed it was simple.
- Marina fail rate aligned with our fail rate and it's great they are similar.
- Reviewed a WID data Map which showed where all our boats came from.
- 4 of the top 10 lakes visited before big bear lake are from infested lakes.
 - Mussels can be found on dirty and clean boats.
 - Golden Mussel just showed up in the CA delta, very similar to Quagga Mussel, will not change our inspection process.
 - Boater card is now something that can be looked up in the moment.
 - Change of address deadline changed from 90 – 60 days

Daniel Gulbranson – appreciates your professionalism (Drew), it really shows, so thank you. When people show a positive attitude, unlike the neighborhood enhancement officers, they always threaten people, he has heard people even in Thousands Oaks talking about how horribly they are treated by City employees when visiting.

Director Rehfuss explained why these stats show that we are doing the right thing by having a bigger presence on the lake and the marinas are working with us to make sure these boaters are educated out there. Huge increase in vessels, but incidents and contacts did not. We are doing something right. Increase in vessels are our wakeboard boats, based on these stats which is why we need to change before it becomes a really big issues. We need to derail the wakeboard use before its completely out of hand.

Loren Hafen – very supportive of the boater card and wanted to give a marina feedback. Boater cards don't make good boaters, lifejackets are more of a focus for us. I don't want to put too much weight on the card, the for-hire card is much harder to obtain. It would be devastated to the marina business if boater cards were required. We give the renter the instruction and safety lesson, which is way more information than what the boater card would provide. Decontamination was offered marinas, we originally all turned it down, just too much to take on.

Loren continued, Holloways is going to donate another \$5K to the fish plant donation. The Board and staff thanked Loren for the contribution.

Larry Cooke – what we need to discuss is, can the driver actually drive the boat? Do we need to have further discussion on that?

President Ludecke asked Drew how do you deal with a language barrier? Drew explained he uses a lots of hand signals. How often? Drew responded 10-15 times a year. Director Rehfuss said it might be worth getting the google translator on our phones to make sure we can communicate, its free.

INFORMATION ONLY – NO VOTE TAKEN

7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

N/A

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No comments were made.

9. DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Director Bradford shared at least three experiences this year launching with the ramp attendants and they were absolutely fantastic. Great experience with me, very helpful, gave the kids stickers for doing the right thing, it was a great experience.

President Ludecke echoed the sentiment, said staff has always been great and friendly when I go over to eat lunch. Director Lee again thanked Drew for the presentation.

Director Reh fuss wanted to thank Drew and thanks to the marinas for being here and increasing our positive working relationship.

Director Bradford closed with gratitude toward the Grizzly reporter, Jessica Madison, for being here, we went a long time without having the local paper present and it's appreciated.

10. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:04 PM.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Date: December 19, 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]