

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
BIG BEAR MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
HELD ON THURSDAY, October 3, 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 October 3, 2024.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mike Stephenson

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Daniel Gulbranson, a resident of Big Bear, handed out a couple pictures of trees by the new castle rock parking lot area, he is concerned they are going to fall and kill someone. He continued to comment on the Research vessel on the agenda, seems great, but why are we getting it? He claims the city council meetings are unbelievable; we would not believe what they're doing. Says he will be going to all the public meetings. Says the MWD board should go to the City meetings because what they do affects everyone in this building. He would like to see some of what the City is doing so we can stop it. He is claiming the city just retaliates against anyone who they don't like. Director Rehfuss asked that Mr. Gulbranson refrain from using continued profanity because we like to keep a level of professionalism in our meetings. He continued to complain about the City's parking lot procedures.

Mr. Cooke, a resident of Big Bear, deals with many lake-front owners and has heard some questions/comments and wanted to talk about shoreline maintenance and wants to bring that issue back to the board to revisit.

4. REPORTS

A. Jared Cheek, General Manager, reported last Tuesday and Wednesday we hosted the KOOL Kids program which was reviving it after an eight-year hiatus due to low lake level. We had a great time hosting them, and had about 140 students went through the program and we have heard nothing but positive comments. We continued Mike's success rate of every kid catching a fish, so that was great. Lastly, Mr. Cheek thanked staff for all their hard work to make this a great event.

We took a tour with our watermaster committee and some staff and toured the East End water facilities hosted by Mutual and saw where "our" water goes. Saw a couple reservoirs, and then headed to Seven Oaks Dam. We got to see firsthand what natural biofiltration can do. Valley District has entered an agreement with Edison for the powerhouses, we are thinking we are going to be invited to join that JPA with our role within that water travel. We will see.

Fire is still going, we have been holding a perimeter for the dipping aircraft and have been surprisingly busy keeping it usable. Public likes to get as close as possible so we kind of push them at a safe distance.

I will be on Vacation the week of October 14th, so if pressing business does come up, Brittany and Mike will host a meeting, if not, we will adjourn October 17, 2024.

B. Mike Stephenson, Chief Operating Officer, thanked the Directors for helping with the KOOL Kids, said they were really great. Now to echo what Jared said, the water literally coming out of the dam is black, but by the time it gets down to the downstream users, it's clean. I have worked with groups who design natural biofilters and what we see at Seven Oaks Dam and what they have designed through their enhanced wetlands is really impressive.

Our releases at the dam have never been more accurate. We are within .02 within the requirement and have not fallen out of our requirement since the new system was installed, which is incredible. We have only been over the release requirement, slightly, once. Our current release is 1.20 CFS and were sitting at 1.22 CFS on the actual meter. It's really amazing. We will continue to collect and save more water by being more efficient, which is what this system upgrade did. This is a big deal for the District.

This system adjusts every 12 minutes depending on the weather. We do not have any more leaking, so now we only need one valve to meet our requirement, but now we must worry about freezing issues. So, we will keep open the 3" minimally and adjust the 6" to reduce that down to prevent freezing. Saving all this water will eventually have a huge impact on lake level. It's completely dry down at the valves now, which has never happened before.

Vice President Brewster asked who cancelled the TroutFest, who did that and why? Mr. Stephenson explained that the City pulled all permits for events. Vice President Brewster asked if Western Outdoor News had anything to do with it, and Mr. Stephenson explained, no, the City just pulled the permits, thus making our permit null. Vice President Brewster expressed his disappointment with the City making that decisions way earlier on before seeing what the conditions would be. Explained it was a huge hit to the Valley.

C. President Ludecke spoke briefly about the Watermaster Committee meeting, the tour was incredible, we learned and saw a huge portion of where the water goes. Continued with the Admin committee, but we will be covering this in business, it's about ADA compliance with websites and radio equipment upgrade.

Vice President Brewster and Director Bradford discussed the counting carp incentive program and how they would like to continue and increase the prizes, and what that program should look like next year.

Mr. Stephenson added that we also discussed a possible promotion or educational opportunity to teach new hunters and get local businesses involved. Director Bradford wanted to solicit businesses where they could promote the sport and keep everything as useful as possible. Big Bear Sporting Goods would be a great option because of their knowledge base.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Minutes of a Regular Meeting on September 19, 2024.
- B. Research Vessel purchase not to exceed \$129,732.00.
- C. Day Wireless Radio Equipment Upgrade not to exceed \$12,478.04.
- D. Warrant list dated 9/27/2024 in the amount of \$323,790.49.6.

Discussion:

Director Bradford would like to pull item B, Research vessel. It will be moved to item 7A.

Mr. Gulbranson said he was glad we spend money on some upgrades, he appreciates that we don't spend the money like the City does. He complimented, it seems like you all have a much better handle on your spending. Directors asked about the fish purchase. Can that be postponed because the City cancelled the tournament? Mr. Stephenson explained we changed out to our normal fall stocking and pushed the catchable size to spring so we did not waste any money.

With a motion made by Director Brewster, and seconded by Director Lee, the consent calendar, with the removal of item 5B, was approved unanimously:

AYES: Ludecke, Rehfuss, Brewster, Lee, Bradford

NO: -

ABSTAIN: -

6. BUSINESS

STREAMLINE SOLUTIONS WEBSITE DESIGN PROPOSAL AND MONTH TO MONTH MONITORING/SERVICE PLAN NOT TO EXCEED ONE TIME CHARGE OF \$1,500 AND A REOCCURRING MONTHLY CHARGE OF\$500.

Discussion:

Mr. Cheek explained that more agencies are being sued in California for websites that are not fully accessible. This company has their specialty in this area. They are a CSDA verified/recommended vender, their customer service is less than an hour for assistance guaranteed. President Ludecke asked Counsel Lemieux if there is any issues with this, make sure we are not taking your job away. Counsel Lemieux said it's a good defense for sure, and has seen other agencies using this. Director Bradford asked how does someone with no mobility access this? President Ludecke responded that all those issues are covered under this rebuild, it's a fantastic thing that we do this, because we truly do want everyone to be able to access the site.

Mr. Cheek continued that we have 129,000 views year to date on our site, which is more than we thought. Director Rehfuss asked about cost and said it seemed very reasonable.

With a motion made by Director Bradford, and seconded by Director Rehfuss, the website rebuild proposal not to exceed a onetime charge of \$1,500 and monthly charge of \$500 for continued compliance monitoring submitted by Streamline Solutions, was approved unanimously:

AYES: Ludecke, Rehfuss, Brewster, Lee, Bradford

NO: -

ABSTAIN: -

7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

Item 5B: Research vessel purchase.

Director Bradford explained he just wanted to discuss a little more before buying it. He is all for buying it, but we need to make sure we use it. Would like to use it on a regular basis and not just have it sit in the shop. The boat we had was not getting used as much as he would like. He understands it's broken down, but also that we did not have the staff to operate it. We just want to make sure we are going use it.

Vice President Brewster agreed we have lost a few days this year because it was broken. Director Rehfuss asked if we planned to use it the next couple years or do we need to scrape it until the new boat comes? Which cost analysis makes more sense? Mr. Cheek responded, we plan to nurse it along until the new boat arrives, we will continue to make this boat work. Director Rehfuss asked if we currently have staff to operate this? Mr. Cheek said, yes we do have the staff, seasonally, we do. Director Rehfuss continued, can we set a goal to make sure that we do use it. We have met every other goal we have set as a District, and we need to make sure we do that.

Mr. Stephenson said we need to continue to draft a program based on conditions through an integrated pest management plan. We need to vary our process for the best results. We now have staff that knows how to run the boat, it's a tough thing to operate. The current boat has literally outlived itself. The manufacturer was surprised that we even had that boat. The new boat is worth it just from the updated recording data alone. This will help us then go back and create an even better pest management plan for the following year.

Director Bradford wants to make sure that by buying this equipment we are going to destroy these fish. Mr. Stephenson explained we need to keep a varied management plan to keep the healthiest lake. Not just killing carp, but doing all these activities, harvesting, treating weeds, planting habitats, stocking fish that are a predatory of the carp eggs. That is how we improve the problem, not just going out shocking every day.

Mr. Gulbranson asked how many people it take to run this boat? Mr. Stephenson responded it take three people, which we have in house. Mr. Gulbranson continued, when will you all order it? Mr. Cheek explained it is backordered for two-years now. Mr. Gulbranson said he would like some more detail, asked for more clarification on the agendas. Counsel Lemieux wanted to clarify why the agenda is written the way it's written and if extra discussion is needed, it would happen during the business item at the meeting. The agenda is to bring up subject matter, not to disclose the entire subject. Vice President Brewster told Mr. Gulbranson if he wanted more detail about the boat, he could have referenced the board packet which had all the specs and uses for the boat listed on the second page.

With a motion made by Director Bradford, and seconded by Director Brewster, originally consent calendar item 5B, which was pulled to 7A for further discussion, to purchase a new research vessel not to exceed \$129,732.00 was approved unanimously:

AYES: Ludecke, Rehfuss, Brewster, Lee, Bradford

NO: -

ABSTAIN: -

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Stephenson explained we have the most approachable Board and staff with transparency, anyone here will talk to you any time of the day. The Board thanked Mike for his comments.

9. DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Director Rehfuss thanked the public for the accolades about the responsible spending and that goes back to staff on them keeping us informed with what we really need and don't need. MWDs has good management of staff and water management and it gives us the opportunity to aid others in emergency situations and protect the community and allow fire to do their jobs and we get to give back to the community and some don't see that and our guys working late to help the fire guys and keep access to the lake. We would not be able to do that without this staff we have here.

Director Bradford commented, KOOL Kids was a fantastic two days for me. Taking an informal poll and introducing the kids to fishing. My main question was have you caught a fish before and about half of the kids have caught a fish or have gone fishing with their parents. It was great to see the kids having such a good time and it was a blast.

President Ludecke explained that Director Brewster and he thought a very small number had been on the lake, but we were happily wrong! To Mr. Gulbranson, we only rule the lake, we do not rule the world. We have no control over any other group except for our group and this is our focus. We pay attention, but we have no say in what they do or how they vote. Our focus is on the lake.

Director Brewster, thank you Mike, Brittany, Jared and other staff because the event was just amazing and the staff did an awesome job and you could tell there was a huge effort in set up and the amount of organization.

12. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:12 PM.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Date: October 17, 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]