

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
BIG BEAR MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
HELD ON THURSDAY, April 4, 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 April 4, 2024.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mark Lee

3. PUBLIC FORUM

No comments from those in attendance.

4. REPORTS

A. Brittany Lamson, Interim General Manager, East Ramp opened on the 1st, contamination site wells are delayed. While digging the first well, there was water discovered at about 5' down so the proposed work needed to change to address the water that was not originally planned for. A revised workplan for the remaining well is going to be reviewed. The County was here actively inspecting, and they are going to review that and the work should be done shortly. Our 36" meter replacement project is starting up. I am hoping to have a quote by the next Board meeting for approval. We are waiting on crane numbers because we are trying to stay local so we do not have to be delayed for the 60 day period for the escort needed up the mountain roads. BBARWA has their regular board meeting and they decided that they wanted to move forward with a "Study Session" to better inform the public and newer Board members and see where the project needs to move toward.

B. The current lake 5.21 as of right now down from full so we are still getting good slow water in. there is still a bit of water on the shed waiting to get rolling in. our requirement is 1/3 of a CFS, we would meet our requirement with no release if our telemetry was functioning properly. Side flows has been very active as of now. There is still areas that are having water coming out the "side of the mountain". We have so much side flows that we are exceeding our required release. Lots of groundwater movement. Creeks are huge right now. Valley District turned out 62.5 CFS into their recharge basin. Mill Creek is moving really well too. We will find out more on Edison in around July during our next quarterly Big Bear Watermaster meeting. Director Rehfuß asked if we needed to consider their water quality, and our judgment does not discuss that. The document just says we will provide the water, but do not have to treat the water in any way.

C. Admin committee, everything discussed is on the agenda and no further comments are needed.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Minutes of a Regular Meeting on March 21, 2024.
- B. Warrant list dated 4/1/2024 in the amount of \$52,424.86.

Discussion:

No comments were made.

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

AYES: Ludecke, Reh fuss, Brewster, Lee, Bradford

NO:

ABSTAIN:

6. BUSINESS

- A. Full Board to discuss and possibly approve frequently asked questions for Grizzly article.

Discussion:

Ms. Lamson explained this article is in response to an increasing number of misinformation going around about Lake management, how the District benefits from the proposed Replenish project, and what that means for the District. Back in 2018 we did another "Fact vs Fiction" article because there was a lot of misinformation circulating then on how much water we were releasing, where all the water was going, and that we were mismanaging the lake. So in order to get all the same, factual information out at once, the Board took a similar approach to the current proposed article. President Ludecke asked how often should we run this article? Ms. Lamson replied we can run as early as next week. President Ludecke suggested waiting on the second publication until maybe right after the next replenish related publication.

Director Bradford suggested more detail about the "In-Lieu Agreement" because no one understands it. Mr. Stephenson explained that is a very complex subject and we have explained it in the quickest way possible in this article. Director Reh fuss wanted a couple questions explained a little more, wants to see this published at least a couple times. Director Bradford continued, wants clarification on number 3, 9, 16 in regards to units used to simplify. Vice President Brewster explained we cannot use simple inches or feet because those change depending on the level of the lake, we have to use acre-feet for consistency.

President Bradford opened the discussion up to the public for more input on this draft article.

Kristina Neils representing the Grizzly thanked the Board for their honesty on all business being discussed. She explained that she is working on a series of articles related to the lake and Replenish Big Bear which will run for multiple weeks. She was interested in having this article run alongside her series.

Pat Enyard, resident of the Valley, would like to see a glossary of terms so she can better follow and understand the questions and answers.

Larry Cooke, resident of the Valley, would like the term "in-lieu" explained in great detail, would like to see at least a paragraph of what that means.

Lee Tabor, resident of the Valley, asked what does in-lieu mean anyways? President Ludecke briefly explained, that it is an agreement that says instead of releasing water from the lake, we will pay to have water delivered.

With a motion made by Director Bradford, and seconded by Vice President Brewster, the draft article for the Grizzly for educational purposes discussed today should publish as soon as possible with all revisions discussed and was approved unanimously:

AYES: Ludecke, Reh fuss, Brewster, Lee, Bradford

NO:

ABSTAIN:

B. Administrative Committee (Directors Ludecke & Brewster) recommends full Board approval on a nomination for the District's Watermaster representative transitional period starting in the 2025 water year.

Discussion:

President Ludecke explained the District has had Don Evenson as our Watermaster for the last, nearly 40 years and we think it's time to nominate a new person while Don still wants to work and help the District through this transition. The Administrative committee would like to nominate Mike Stephenson to serve as the new Big Bear Watermaster after a year of shadowing our current watermaster presentative, don. The timing is perfect because we just finished our annual report so this will give Mr. Stephenson a full year of integration into the position before submitting our next report. He would take over solely starting 2025. However, we will get court filings going to make sure we give the process enough time.

With a motion made by Director Bradford, and seconded by Director Lee, the nomination for Mike Stephenson to become the new watermaster representative starting 2025, and shadowing efforts alongside Don Evenson to begin immediately was approved unanimously:

AYES: Ludecke, Reh fuss, Brewster, Lee, Bradford

NO:

ABSTAIN:

7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

N/A

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Lamson announced that Mr. Stephenson and herself will go to the High School next week for a presentation about the agency and different paths taking toward the same goal to an AP class.

9. DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Vice President Brewster was glad the grizzly was here. He also wants to see the lake map updated. Director Reh fuss thanked everyone for showing up and thank you for the questions.

10. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:18PM.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Date: April 18, 2024
Location: 40524 Lakeview Drive
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315
Time: 1:00 PM



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

[SEAL]