



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

Administrative Committee Meeting Minutes July 11, 2024

Present: Director Ludecke

Director Brewster

Brittany Lamson, Interim General Manager

Drew Pappas, Lake Ops Manager

Public: Loren Hafen, Desi Hauer, Travis Scott, Larry Cooke, several others involved directly with a wakeboard concession and several local residents were in attendance.

1. Wakeboard Boats/Safety Discussion

- a. The committee wanted to discuss this item as it be becoming an issue in many other states and lakes.
- b. As near as Lake Arrowhead, they have completed banned the use of wakeboard boats on their water surface for safety and damage prevention purposes.
- c. The committee wanted to have this meeting to look at starting a policy which would limit the number of boats with ballast on the lake at a time which would lead to less injury due to less wakes being caused at once.
- d. Committee is happy to see so many people from the public here to discuss this issue and find possible solutions that will work for the majority.
- e. The committee wanted to start out with the fact that we are not going to ban the sport, but need to take a proactive approach to try and curb the damages and injury which has been caused by the increase in wakeboard boats within the last couple years.
 - i. Being that Big Bear is one of the only lakes that decon and let wakeboard boats launch same day, many huge ballast boats come here because they know they are going to be able to boat.
 - ii. We saw several boats with seven ballast tanks which is a huge load on staff and time which decreased the total number of boats we were able to assist.
- f. Loren was happy to hear we were not completely banning the sport, he was worried that would be the case and agrees we need to do something before we are made to limit this group by the state or someone else – doesn't like it, but understands some limits need to be put into place.
- g. The committee discussed a possible restriction to area use, meaning wakeboard boats would be given a map with areas where they could boat with little disturbance to others.
- h. The group discussed an educational video that public would have access to and be required to watch before boating on Big Bear Lake.
 - i. Travis from Visit Big Bear offered they could assist with a video.
 - ii. Ms. Lamson explained the District has tried this in the past, but if they wanted to help that would be great.
- i. Desi brought up limiting the size of the wake board boats be smaller than the boat that do not have ballast on them.
- j. Larry Cooke also wanted to consider sail boats and how they are not operating on the lake as much anymore.



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- k. Also purposed no wakeboarding or surfing 100ft from the buoy line.
 - l. Ms. Lamson explained the District is considering limiting our decontamination services to boats with ballast tanks to Monday – Friday.
 - i. This would allow our ramps to decon way more boats at the ramps.
 - ii. We will also propose imposing a larger fee on boats that have more than five tanks as the staff time and number of staff doubles for a boat of this size.
2. Admin Issues & Updates
- a. No comments were made.