

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
BIG BEAR MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
HELD ON THURSDAY, April 18, 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 18, 2024.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

John Osborn

3. PUBLIC FORUM

No comments from the public in attendance.

4. REPORTS

A. Interim General Manager, Brittany Lamson, reported on the visit/talk with the Big Bear High School students in one of the AP Government/Econ classes. The students were fantastic, very engaged, which was great. The Education Trust group is setting up these talks to show the students that there are many paths to careers and lots of ways to get to the same goal. Mike and I both shared our stories of how we got to where we are today and then the students asked many questions about lake management, public business duties, budgets, purposes, and many other things. I met with Park and Rec along with Matt, the organizer of the LakeFest Event. We contingently approved the permit as long as other involved parties all agreed. However, with the higher lake levels Veteran's Park could no longer be used with concern of the high boat traffic and swimmers in the water. The event organizer proposed having all swim and paddle events done out of swim beach. Park and Rec seemed ok with that, but they are still working out the details with the event. I had a conversation with a couple members of the community looking to improve the swimming options for the public. They originally proposed closing off swim beach to create a way to the area could remain open during low lake level conditions utilizing a pump system to keep the water clean and full. This would require installation of some kind of barrier, but we still have not found a great solution. I love the idea of creating a place for swimming under all conditions, but we are still brainstorming to most functional and cost-effective way for them to donate back to the community.

Replenish update, Laine from WSC explained that the treatment train is complete, we should have results determining which treatment process is best fitting for our end goals to discharge. Some adjustments to the treatment are being made to lower a few values of levels that were too high and we should have the final report the end of summer/ fall. This will really give us something to

look at and confirm whether the water will meet Regional Boards basin objectives or not. BBARWA also received a letter which confirmed the application they submitted to the regional water quality control board back in February 2022, was complete and they would start the review process assuming no other questions arise. Unfortunately, we had a very unproductive Replenish Managers meeting on Monday. The City Manager, Erik Sund, was present to better educate himself about the Replenish project. I also spoke with him last Friday night when he called me after hours regarding the article we published that Thursday. He used the conversation to tell me that I had no clue about partnership behavior and that I should have given them a heads up about the article to which I reminded him that we had a full Board meeting about the decision and did not need his approval to publish facts. He continued to become increasingly aggravated telling me this is not how managers act and if MWD wants a seat at the replenish table, this is not how to do it and continued to say the full article was a bunch of lies and false facts and it was ridiculous. After listening to him yell for about 10 minutes I told him I did not appreciate the way he was speaking to me, and I would tell the Board all his concerns. He threatened that I don't dare tell my Board or anyone about this conversation, if he had concerns about anything he would go directly to my Board and did not need me speaking on behalf of him. So, now back at the meeting on Monday, I was ready to move forward but before the meeting even started, he walked into the room with a sarcastic remark, and then asked if MWD was in or out. He then started pointing at me and saying I have no idea how to be a manager and it's so obvious because I would understand how my choices are wrong and degraded me personally and professionally, this degradation continued throughout the meeting for 45 minutes until he got up and accused DWP GM of wasting his time. So that being said, I have no desire to work with that individual again, the group was much more productive without his dishonest and unprofessional way of conducting business.

B. Before the COO report started, President Ludecke asked Mike to expand on the meeting a little. Chief Operations Officer, Mike Stephenson, explained a little more about the Replenish managers' meeting. The inappropriate behavior from the City Manager was unbelievable. He continued that he had never seen disrespect on such a level. He literally singled Brittany out as being a horrible and uneducated manager. He pointed his finger at her and continued to say things like, "you have no fucking idea what you're doing", "if you were a real manager you would understand how wrong the article was", "This is so far over your head, you do not even get it," They set us up, saying the article we published wasn't true, yet the project cost was \$86M and their PowerPoint was \$86M. He kept pointing and saying things like "you don't know a fucking thing, fuck this, MWD is not at the table" which is ironic coming from an agency who has contributed absolutely nothing to the project effort. It was the worst behavior I have ever seen from someone in that high of a position. The language he used, and the harassment Brittany had to endure was completely unacceptable and it was honestly just childish as hell. He made it very clear that his is dishonest and an angry person who could never be trusted.

High school was a great experience. We are currently sitting at 4.60 down from full. From the beginning of last year to now we have gained 10,427.35-acre feet better than we were last year. Understanding this is very difficult, and the water changes and this affects everything.

C. No committee meetings were held.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Minutes of a Regular Meeting on April 4, 2024.

B. Warrant list dated 4/15/2024 in the amount of \$62,932.19.

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. Board will have a recommendation regarding bids to complete our Dam's 36" Meter Removal and Replacement Project not to exceed \$32,724.

Discussion:

Ms. Lamson explained that this effort is basically part two of the outlet works project, we currently cannot read the flow coming out of the dam through the 36" meter. This was discovered at the end of the outlet works replacement project, so you guys decided to have us order the 36" meter and we did. The shipping took almost 30 weeks and then we were into winter. So now we can start the installation since all the snow has melted and it is no longer a icy hazard to work down there.

Counsel advised that although this is under the threshold for public bids, there are still public bonds that will need to be completed for public works contract. So, the motion should include the interim GM be given authority to enter into those contracts and not to exceed the agreed upon contract price.

With a motion made by Director Reh fuss, and seconded by Director Lee, the proposals for the 36" meter removal and replacement project including authority given to the Interim GM to enter into contract negotiations was approved unanimously:

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

NO:

ABSTAIN:

B. Board will have a recommendation regarding a bid from LEOCO for installation of fencing around the old/closed RV park property not to exceed \$36,693.00.

Discussion:

Ms. Lamson explained this bid was for fencing around the vacant, closed RV lot to the west of the main office. We would like to have the area fenced to further deter theft. We do not have enough indoor storage for all our equipment, so having it left outside has led to stolen parts. We did increase our security and added surveillance signs, but we are still having some issues. This fence would match the usable fence along the side of the hotel next to the lot. Vice President Brewster would like a price for it we added barbed wiring to see if it's worth it. This would include the installation of two swing gates on the southside of the lot that is off Lakeview and another one where the current fire lane parking is at the back side of the shop.

With a motion made by Vice President Brewster, and seconded by Director Bradford, the bid from LEOCO for fence installation including authority given to the Interim GM to enter into contract negotiations was approved unanimously:

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

NO:

ABSTAIN:

7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

N/A

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mike will be on vacation starting next week for about 10 days to a month.

9. DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Director Bradford has been out on the lake for the first time in a while and everything looks fantastic. Director Reh fuss asked if we had a bass spawn, Mr. Stephenson responded, yes, we should because the conditions are fantastic.

Director Reh fuss said he was sorry for having to deal with the treatment from the City Manager and no one should have to do that. President Ludecke seconded that sentiment.

10. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 PM.


DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Date: May 2, 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]