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

Lake Improvement Committee Meeting
Minutes October 21, 2026

Present: President Bradford
Director Brewster
Jared Cheek, General Manager
Elsa Donoho, Board Secretary

Public: None.

1. Consultant Conversation
    a. The Committee discussed lake water quality conditions and algae growth experienced this season.
    b. The combination of factors likely contributed to the algae issues, including increased sunlight, reduced lake inflows, and a buildup of nutrients over many years.
    c. The Committee discussed the District's last alum treatment, which was completed in 2015.
        i. Approximately 600 to 700 acres of the lake were treated.
        ii. Alum treatments typically last around 10 years, although results can vary depending on lake conditions.
    d. Alum is applied to the lake surface and settles to the lake bottom, where it helps lock up phosphorus in the sediment and reduce future algae growth.
    e. The lake does not need to be closed during treatment. Alum is a food-grade product.
    f. The consultant, Aquatechnix, prepared a proposal to collect sediment core samples and map key areas of the lake.
        i. This work would measure phosphorus and nitrogen levels in the lake bottom sediments.
        ii. The information collected would help determine whether a future alum treatment would be effective and where it should be applied.
        iii. The consultant is the same firm that assisted with the District's 2015 alum treatment project.
        iv. If approved, sampling could begin in November, with a potential alum treatment considered for the spring based on the findings.
    g. The Committee recommended forwarding the consultant agreement to the full Board for review and possible approval at the first November Board meeting. If approved, the consultant would begin data collection in November, and the results would be used to help develop a treatment strategy and long-term lake maintenance plan.
2. Lake Improvement Issues & Updates
    a. The District received 20,000 pounds of fish from the State, reaching the maximum stocking amount allowed for the year. The fish were successfully delivered and released into the lake as part of the District's ongoing fisheries management efforts.