

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
BIG BEAR MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
HELD ON THURSDAY, March 19, 2026**

1. OPEN SESSION

President Bradford 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 March 19, 2026.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Tom Bradford, President

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Dan Gulbransen, resident of Big Bear Lake, shared his concerns regarding what he perceives as government corruption at the state level and expressed frustration with the City's support of the State's "7th Step" initiative. He had other broader concerns related to homelessness and stated that, in his view, the 7th step initiative is wrong.

4. REPORTS

- A. General Manager Jared Cheek reported that the lake level is down approximately 6' 7" and noted that conditions are favorable at this time. He stated that unlike last year when lake levels continued rising into May, the lack of snowpack this winter may limit further increases unless additional Spring precipitation occurs.

Staff attended several training courses, including a three-day GFOA budget training, public safety training focused on advanced first aid, and a defensive driving course through ACWA. Director Brewster and himself also attended the SBVMWD Foundations Summit. A seasonal maintenance employee has been onboarded, and ramp and patrol attendants are scheduled to begin on March 31. He also reported that staff attended a recent Watermaster meeting where the quarterly report was discussed and the annual report is currently ahead of schedule to be submitted by April 15th.

Preparations for the early season are underway, including buoy placement and ramp maintenance. New courtesy dock floats have been installed at both east ramp docks they have an anticipated lifespan of approximately 10 years. Opening is scheduled for April 1. He confirmed staff readiness for the season, and that patrol presence has already begun due to warmer weather and anticipated early lake activity.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

PUBLIC FORUM

N/A

- A. Minutes of a Special Meeting on March 3, 2026.
- B. Minutes of a Regular Meeting on March 5, 2026.
- C. Warrant List dated 03/13/2026 in the amount of \$9,403.70

Discussion: No comments were made.

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

AYES: Bradford, Brewster, Ludecke, Lee

NO: -

ABSTAIN: -

6. BUSINESS

- A. **PRESENTATION OF A 5-YEAR EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARD TO BENJAMEN HOOVER, MARINE & VEHICLE TECHNICIAN IN THE MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT.**

PUBLIC FORUM

None.

DISCUSSION

- a. General Manager Cheek introduced Benjamin Hoover and presented him with a five-year service award. Hoover was recognized for his contributions as a Marine and Vehicle Technician and for his role in maintaining District equipment and operations.

- B. **POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF DIVISION 2 DIRECTOR SEAT.**

PUBLIC FORUM

None.

DISCUSSION

- a. President Bradford thanked all applicants and acknowledged that this was a difficult decision.

President Bradford made a motion to appoint Craig Peterson to the Division 2 Director seat until the next election in November. The motion was seconded and approved.

Directors Brewster and Ludecke both said that the decision was close.

Board Secretary, Elsa Donoho administered the Oath of Office to Craig Peterson to finalize the appointment.

With a motion made by President Bradford and seconded by Director Brewster, the motion to appoint Craig Peterson to Division 2 Director seat was approved unanimously:

AYES: Bradford, Brewster, Ludecke, Lee

NO: -

ABSTAIN: -

C. THE AD HOC WAKE COMMITTEE WILL HAVE A RECOMMENDATION REGARDING WAKE ENHANCING VESSELS.

PUBLIC FORUM

Connor Hafen stated he feels it's important to include the counterclockwise directional rule to an educational leaflet that the District distributes.

Dan Gulbransen said City of Big Bear Lake uses the Brown Act against the public. He says they didn't post the date of a special meeting they recently held. He said this behavior cuts off public attendance.

Loren Hafen thanked the Board for stakeholder inclusion and emphasized the importance of boater education.

DISCUSSION

- a. General Manager Jared Cheek reported that the Ad Hoc Committee met on Monday to discuss potential recommendations regarding wake-enhancing vessels, including a proposal to establish a no tow and no water sports Special Use Zone east of Eagle Point, with no changes to the current decontamination policy.

President Bradford noted that this topic has been discussed at two prior meetings and that stakeholder input has been gathered, he believes this approach represents the best path forward.

Vice President Ludecke asked whether the proposal would make the area east of Eagle Point a no wake zone; it was clarified that the restriction would apply specifically to towing and water sports activities, not all vessel operation. Bradford further clarified that all watercraft would still be permitted in the area, but sport related activities would be restricted. He noted that earlier discussions focused specifically on ballast boats and did not include towing language, and indicated that the Board will revisit the item at a future meeting to refine language and allow for additional public input.

Director Ludecke emphasized the importance of boater education and suggested creating materials such as a video on lake etiquette. President Bradford responded that education was discussed by the Ad Hoc Committee and that staff plan to incorporate education at launch ramps, install lighted bay markers for the Special Use Area, and develop printed materials. Director Brewster also suggested creating a leaflet. President Bradford added that the Marina Task Force would be meeting the following day.

General Manager Jared Cheek clarified that the agenda language differed due to timing of the committee meeting and noted that the term “no water sports” could be misinterpreted to include activities such as kayaking or paddleboarding, rather than addressing the specific concerns related to wake-enhancing activities. The item will be brought back at the next meeting with the appropriate language so all members of the public can weigh in.

D. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FULL BOARD APPROVAL TO APPOINT DONALD EVENSON TO REMAIN AS THE BIG BEAR WATERMASTER REPRESENTATIVE.

PUBLIC FORUM

None.

DISCUSSION

- a. General Manager Cheek informed the Board that the previously nominated Watermaster representative, Peter Kavounas, will be retiring and unable to serve. The district is asking to keep Donald Evenson to be the watermaster.

President Bradford asked how long Don plans to stay in the watermaster seat. Jared said Donald can do it as long as it takes.

Counsel clarified that the District will need to go back to the court and give notice so that that Don can be reappointed as the watermaster.

With a motion made by Vice President Ludecke and seconded by Director Lee, the motion to appoint Donald Evenson as Big Bear Watermaster was approved unanimously:
AYES: Bradford, Brewster, Ludecke, Lee
NO: -
ABSTAIN: -

7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

N/A

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

General Manager Cheek announced that a new work boat is scheduled for delivery tomorrow. He also noted that he will be out of the office Monday through Wednesday.

9. DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Vice President Ludecke thanked all applicants for the Division 2 Director position and noted that there were two strong, viable, candidates.

President Bradford thanked the applicants again.

10. CLOSED SESSION

N/A

11. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:37 PM.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

Date: 04/02/2026
Location: 40524 Lakeview Drive
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315
Time: 1:00 PM



Elsa Donoho, Office Manager
Secretary to the Board of
Big Bear Municipal Water District



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