Big Bear Municipal Water District

Lake Management

Board of Directors
Steve Ludecke – Division 1
Craig Peterson – Division 2
Craig Brewster – Division 3
Mark Lee – Division 4
Tom Bradford – Division 5

Operations Committee Meeting
Minutes October 26, 2026

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

Public: Josy Verdonkschot and Will Daley (Special Event Applicant).

1. Special Event Application – US Rowing 2027
    a. The Committee reviewed an updated special event application from US Rowing for 2027.
    b. Due to the cancellation of another regatta, US Rowing is requesting revised event dates of June 1 through June 18, 2027, prior to leaving for an event in July.
    c. It was confirmed that rowing activities would not take place on Saturdays.
    d. Athletes and event participants may still be in town on June 19 and 20, but no rowing activities are planned for those dates.
    e. The General Manager reminded the applicant that a letter of support from the marina owner where operations will be based is still required.
    f. The General Manager also confirmed that afternoon rowing activities would be restricted to areas inside the buoy line.
    g. Committee members discussed that special event approvals apply only to the specific event, dates, and conditions approved by the Board and do not guarantee future approvals.
    h. The Operations Committee supported the 2027 application as discussed and recommended forwarding it to the Board for consideration.
    i. The applicant may attend the November 5 Board meeting to answer questions regarding the application.
2. Special Event Application – US Rowing 2028
    a. The Committee reviewed a preliminary application from US Rowing for June 5 through June 23, 2028.
    b. The applicant noted that buoy installation would occur after Memorial Day.
    c. It was confirmed that there would be no rowing on Saturdays, and Sunday rowing activities would only occur inside the buoy line after 3:00 p.m.
    d. President Bradford stated that the proposed dates would not conflict with the annual trout tournament.
    e. Committee members agreed that, because the event is more than two years away, the District should focus on the 2027 event first and revisit the 2028 application after evaluating the success of the 2027 event.
    f. The applicant explained that the early submission was intended to make the District aware of its future plans and interest in hosting the event again in 2028.
3. Issues and Updates
    a. The Operations Committee discussed reviewing the District's special event policy, agreement, and application process detailed in Ordinance 51.

b. Committee discussed factors that should be considered when reviewing applications, including how long an event has been established and its overall impact on the community.
c. The Committee discussed the possibility of requiring applications to be submitted up to 364 days in advance.
d. Committee members expressed support for limiting holiday events, except for recurring events that have previously been approved by the Board.
e. Discussed the importance of balancing special events with public access to the lake and ensuring that private events do not unreasonably impact public use.
f. Members noted that special consideration has been given to the US Rowing event because of its connection to national level athlete training and the unique opportunities it may provide to the community.
g. The Operations Committee recommended revising Ordinance 51 to clarify and strengthen the special event application and approval process.