

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
BIG BEAR MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  
HELD ON THURSDAY, February 6, 2025**

**1. OPEN SESSION**

President Brewster 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 February 6, 2025.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Steve Ludecke

**3. PUBLIC FORUM**

No comments from public in attendance.

**4. REPORTS**

A. Jared Cheek, General Manager, reported that on January 21 there was a Big Bear Watermaster meeting, standard meeting, January 22 BBARWA meeting attended and their board discussed their potential steps forward with the Replenish Project. On January 28 we met with VBB and went over the application process for their events with their new staff. Then on January 31 all staff attended an annual fire extinguisher training and evacuation. On Feb 4<sup>th</sup> we had finance training for a new potential software system. We repaired our existing boom line in-house and it's currently in the water, but it will need to be replaced, which we will discuss later today. President Brewster asked about the magazine and the format, if it was the same as last year. Mr. Cheek confirmed it's the same.

Counsel Lemieux wanted to make sure Don was seated and attended the Big Bear Watermaster meeting, Ms. Lamson confirmed.

B. Mike Stephenson, Chief Operations Officer, reported the lake is currently at 7.42 feet down. 1.29 inches total precip. We are in February and we are very dry still. But there is good news, 126 inches in the Sierras, which is where snowpack is measured for state water allocation. They expect 48 inches up there in the next 24 hours. So hopefully, the allocation will change. Reviewing the flow reports, there was 80 CFS reported at the Big Bear Watermaster meeting, and it did not seem right, but looking at the flow reports, there was a high surge in flows, but Seven Oaks Dam (SOD) operations filled the debris pool which caused the increase. Now it sitting at 30 CFS, most water is on the Mill Creek side, 10 out of 30 CFS is being recharged from Valley District. City of Redlands does not own the water in the lake, they own shares like every other prior rights holders. Our stilling well used for lake level is slightly off right now, so we are taking manual weekly readings until our SCADA person can recalibrate the scale.

C. Director Ludecke explained the admin met as a follow up to BBARWA meeting so we met to discuss what we are talking about under business item A. The Budget & Finance committee was just reviewing our quarterly reports, everything looks good to date.

#### **5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. Minutes of a Regular Meeting on January 16, 2025.
- B. Warrant List dated 1/31/2025 in the amount of \$53,867.03.

#### **Discussion:**

With minor edits typo edits to the minutes, the consent calendar was approved.

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

AYES: Ludecke, Brewster, Lee, Bradford

NO: -

ABSTAIN: -

#### **6. BUSINESS**

- A. **Administrative Committee (Director Ludecke & Brewster) recommend full Board discussion and approval of Aleshire & Wynder, LLP drafting a water storage/water use contract for Replenish Big Bear project water.**

#### **Discussion:**

Mr. Cheek stated the BBARWA board approved the EIR at their last meeting, which had been idle, but they are now moving the project forward again, it seems. The admin committee met to see what we needed to do, if anything, the admin committee decided the full board needed to discuss a possible water storage/water use contract for water to be discharged into the lake.

Director Ludecke discussed getting ahead of all these efforts, if the project does go through, we want them to know what our expectations are way before construction starts. We are getting ahead of the game by drafting a water storage agreement. Counsel Lemieux confirmed the contract itself is pretty basic, but the presentation and negotiation is where it can take some time. In general, this will outline pretty obvious items like, who's water is it, what the mitigation requirements will be. President Brewster explained we do not want to present something like this after they have already built it because it could impact design or future decisions.

Vice President Bradford would like to know what happened the other day with BBARWA and their approval process to move forward. He understands that BBARWA is going out to design and then they will send that out for bids to find the price of the project. The Board confirmed. He understood the rough estimate for the design concept was 1-2 years out to complete it? Mr. Cheek confirmed that timeline. Vice President Bradford asked why they haven't come to us and asked what they want, is that correct? They have not requested this from us, and they have an estimate of the build, but I never believe those numbers. Director Ludecke confirmed they have not formally come to us and asked about it, correct? Vice President Bradford asked if we putting the cart before the horse on this? President Brewster explained our fear is that they are not going to ask us until the project is complete, and we don't want to spend the taxpayers' dollars and end up not being able to discharge based on the terms. Director Ludecke explained we think many already assume that they assume that the water is just going to go in the lake, we want to set our expectations and

let them know what terms would need to be met before we consider this. Director Ludecke continued, the cart is already before the horse, Director Bradford agreed, if we were doing a huge project like this, we would have discussed with the partners. He does not want to overstep another agency's project. Director Ludecke agrees but does not want another agency to spend a huge amount of public money on something that will not meet MWD and environmental requirements. Director Bradford feels it's the other agency's responsibility to reach out, not ours.

President Brewster asked if BBARWA would still need our approval to discharge regardless of regional boards approval. Mr. Stephenson responded there is speculation from BBARWA that if they get the approval, they are going to discharge it and they believe it's still their water and they can pump whatever water we want based on their documents. The purpose of this is to let them know now before because we do not want them to spend this huge amount of money. We are trying to save the public money here instead of blindsiding them once the plant is already built. We are pursuing this, because they are not asking the questions that need to be asked. The liability issue is huge for us and whose issue is it when something changes down the road and now the water cannot be served domestically. These are huge things that have been ignored and we can no longer allow this approach to continue.

Vice President Bradford commented if your cards are up, you should have already come to us with this so now we have to step in and make it right. They are trying to go around us. Who is going to pay for it when it turns bad. We need to make sure liability is black and white.

Mr. Stephenson explained they are planning the whole sale prior to the water even being pumped, but they need the lake for the conveyance. Discussions of what they are going to do with the water are already happening, without us. We have very strict rules to follow so we need to make them aware. MWD and Mutual are the only people who can store it. Them knowing our terms might change the design based on what our requirements will be.

Director Ludecke understands the angle for posing the questions rather than saying these are concerns. But after what Ms. Lamson stated, we might need to say these are going to be terms that will need to be met.

Counsel Lemieux asked if Mike thought we are going to have any oppositions of ownership, yes. He continued, asking if this is going to prompt something large, probably. President Brewster commented, this is why this needs to get now, we might go to a judge to determine who owns what prior to anything else moving forward.

Director Ludecke made a motion to direct Alex to work on possible conditions or concerns of the water and see if it goes back to the committee or back to full board or where the discussion goes after that.

With a motion made by Director Ludecke, and seconded by Vice President Bradford, the board directed counsel to work on possible conditions/ concerns for the possible project water discharge into the lake was unanimously approved:

AYES: Ludecke, Brewster, Lee, Bradford

NO:-

ABSAIN:-

B. General Manager recommends full board approval of the Dam boom line replacement, Tuff Boom, replacement quote from Worthington Waterway Barriers not to exceed \$61,045.84.

Discussion:

Mr. Cheek explained we had heavy winds and had some damage to the docks and the boom line. Boomline is from about 2013, it's aged and the storm damaged it. Maintenance got it out, repaired it temporarily, this quote in front of you is a total replacement, it will be higher in the water, more visible, its important because it protects the dam. We looked at another builder and in-house rebuild costs and this was the best, longest lasting product with a 5-year warranty. President Brewster asked about removal and disposal of the old one? Mr. Cheek said we will keep the old boom line for emergency situations so there will not be a disposal cost. Director Ludecke asked if it will work anywhere else on the lake? Mr. Cheek said we can add sections or make it smaller for use elsewhere. Vice President Bradford asked if they were installing it? No, they will build it, delivery it and installation is pretty straightforward so we will be placing it. President Brewster asked if a boat hits it, can we replace it. Mr. Stephenson said yes, we have kept pieces and parts and replaced them in the past. Can we use the old boom segments on the new boom? Yes. Director Ludecke is concerned about the boat gate, says it's 15ft, can the fire boat to get through? Yes. Vice President Bradford asked what historically has caused damage? Mr. Stephenson responded wind, people tied up to it, and wind comes and it breaks. President Brewster asked how many times it's broke, how many times did this happen? Do we have a simple divider so people can't even reach the actual boomline. Not a big enough issue to spend the extra money on the additional divider. Director Ludecke asked what the warranty covers. The warranty will not cover if a boat drives through it. Director Ludecke shared that he spoke to Jim, Facility Manager, in great detail about the boomline replacement and feels comfortable with it.

Mr. Cooke, a member of the public explained he had a number of concern, over \$20K of just signage? On both sides, why? He was concerned about the materials listed, he does not think it should be used because it takes on moisture, not what we should be using. How is this product sealed? Good capability, but it comes down to units, we don't need the debris nets. This is going to freeze in, think about snow load, going underwater or going under ice, which it won't work. What metal is the connections, engineers should look closer at this before approval.

Mr. Cheek explained that cost is not signage, that cost is the actual log float, the only signage is the painting on the boom itself. President Brewster wants to ask the manufacturer about the ice and snow, no debris gates are included in the quote, ask about how the foam is sealed. President Brewster would like to know the answers to these questions as well.

With a motion made by Director Ludecke, and seconded by Vice President Bradford, the proposal for the new boom line, not to exceed \$61,045.84 from Worthington Waterway Barriers, was approved unanimously:

AYES: Ludecke, Brewster, Lee, Bradford

NO:-

ABSTAIN: -

7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

N/A

**8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Lamson reminded the Board their Ethics training will be held during the next Board meeting, so please make sure to be here.

**9. DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

Director Ludecke just wanted to bring notice to one of BBARWAs directors that made a comment at the last meeting, that we see no value in water, which is not true, he also said we are going to charge 3K an acre foot, which is simply not true. Just wanted to make sure public knew this was not true.

**10. ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:06 PM.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Date: February 20, 2025  
Location: 40524 Lakeview Drive  
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315  
Time: 1:00 PM



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Brittany Lamson, Assistant General Manager  
Secretary to the Board of Directors of  
Big Bear Municipal Water District

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