



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 August 28, 2026

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

Public: Will Daley (Special Event Applicant).

1. Special Event Application – US Rowing 2027

- a. The District received two applications from US Rowing for 2027 and 2028 training events.
- b. The committee confirmed dates with US Rowing. President Bradford noted the Fishing for 50K annual tournament, the event would be both Saturday and Sunday.
- c. The current suggested training schedule runs Sunday through Friday; however, no training would occur on the Fishing for 50K weekend (Saturday and Sunday).
- d. Will Daley (US Rowing) stated that the application includes additional dates for course setup and removal.
- e. US Rowing requested access to the entire lake during quiet morning hours on weekdays. The committee discussed limiting full-lake access to before 10:00 AM on midweek days.
 - i. US Rowing confirmed that rowing shells on open water would be accompanied by coaching and follow vessels.
- f. No rowing activities would take place on Saturday mornings during the training period.
- g. US Rowing offered to install large yellow marker buoys to define the training course. These buoys would be placed outside the 5 MPH buoy line if needed.
 - i. The committee acknowledged that the primary challenge during the previous year was that the 5 MPH buoy line extended farther than approved, requiring additional chain to be added.
- h. Staff reviewed the submitted course map and agreed that, if Option 1 is installed as shown and dependent on lake levels, the 5 MPH buoy line should not be an issue this year.
- i. Confirmed that the same course setter from previous years would be used and would follow the established lake inspection and setup procedures.
- j. Staff plans to install the District's 5 MPH buoys around April 1, weather permitting. General Manager Jared Cheek noted that the additional yellow markers proposed by US Rowing are welcome but not required.
- k. US Rowing stated that course setup will be installed east-to-west this year, rather than west-to-east, to avoid the previous year's issue of extending too far into the lake near Windy Point.
- l. General Manager Jared Cheek expressed concerns about open-lake access as recreational boating activity increases throughout the season, particularly during morning hours and vessel wakes become more common. He suggested limiting full-lake access from sunrise until 10:00 AM.

- m. President Bradford suggested limiting all-lake access to weekdays only, and US Rowing agreed.
- n. General Manager Jared Cheek questioned language in the application referencing “any activity.” Will confirmed the application would be revised to include the phrase: “subject to District approval with 48 hours' notice.”
- o. General Manager Jared Cheek asked about first aid plan.
- p. Will confirmed that all coaches and staff are CPR and First Aid certified.
- q. The committee asked where base camp and parking would be located. US Rowing indicated the plans to use North Shore Landing and Gray’s facilities, contingent upon approval from MWD.
- r. The committee requested written confirmation from the marina/property owner granting permission to use the facilities. This can be an email.
- s. Will requested a map showing the 5 MPH buoy locations for the course setter.
 - i. Jared advised that a final conversation would be needed closer to spring, as buoy placement depends on lake levels and winter runoff conditions.

2. Special Event Application – US Rowing 2028

- a. Jared noted concerns with the proposed dates because they extend into June, peak boating season.
- b. Will explained that the timing is intended to position training approximately 3 weeks before Olympic semifinal competition in Los Angeles.
 - i. US Rowing’s first Olympic race day is expected to be July 15, with competition continuing through July 22.
- c. Participant numbers are expected to increase due to the Olympic team having more people, including alternates and coaches.
- d. Training activities would continue to occur at varying times.
- e. Jared emphasized that granting full-lake access during these dates would be challenging due to high recreational use.
- f. President Bradford expressed concern regarding Memorial Day impacts and suggested restricting training to the designated course area rather than the entire lake for this event.
- g. The committee suggested, at a minimum, prohibiting Saturday training and potentially restricting all weekend training for this event.
- h. The committee discussed tentatively and conditionally acknowledging the application, with further review after the 2027 event.
- i. US Rowing acknowledged that a two-day weekly training break may be difficult but could be a possibility. Will agreed to return with any additional questions or concerns.
- j. Jared requested that the applicant attend the Board meeting at which the application will be considered to answer questions and provide additional information.
- k. The committee again requested written consent from marina owners authorizing the use of their facilities.
- l. The committee recommended placing both applications on the September 17 Board Meeting agenda as separate action items:
 - i. US Rowing 2027 Application
 - ii. US Rowing 2028 Application
- m. Will thanked the committee and reported that the 2026 Big Bear Lake training program contributed to strong World Cup results.

3. Special Event Process

- a. The committee and staff discussed the challenges of reviewing special event requests several years in advance.
 - b. Ordinance 51 currently does not specify how far in advance special event applications may be submitted.
 - i. Staff will revisit this issue during the next review of Ordinance 51.
 - c. The committee discussed the distinction between a special event and a concessionaire operation on the lake.
 - i. This issue arises during the summer season when camps and similar programs operate on the lake.
 - ii. Questions remain regarding whether nonprofit and for-profit programs should be classified as special events or concessionaire activities.
- 4. Issues and Updates**
- a. None.