



Big Bear Municipal Water District

Lake Management

Board of VPs

Steve Ludecke – Division 1
Bob Reh fuss – Division 2
Craig Brewster – Division 3
Mark Lee – Division 4
Tom Bradford – Division 5

Lake Improvement Committee Meeting Minutes February 2, 2026

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

Public: N/a.

1. Aquatic Invasive Species Discussion

- a. Director Bradford initiated discussion on carp removal efforts.
- b. Jim presented a proposed shock boat schedule:
 - i. Prior year efforts included 3 to 4 days of shocking for the entire season.
 - ii. New schedule is more aggressive, partitioned by area, and allows for repeat coverage.
 - iii. Schedule mirrors the 2011 shock zone approach.
 - iv. Primary goal for the season is data collection to better understand effort and true program costs.
- c. Staffing considerations:
 - i. Brewster asked about staffing capacity. Jim confirmed one seasonal employee will be hired to support carp removal, supplemented by veteran staff. Jim and Ben will serve as boat operators.
- d. Factory training on shock boat operations will be provided in early April, prior to deployment.
- e. Program:
 - i. Director Bradford emphasized readiness for opening day and expressed strong support for the program.
 - ii. Focus will be on targeting high-density areas early and frequently, with flexibility to adjust the schedule as data is collected.
 - iii. Jared noted the option to deploy a second boat if overpopulation is observed in specific areas.
 - iv. Director Bradford suggested use of overtime, including nighttime operations, to increase effectiveness.
 - v. Data collection methods discussed included weighing approximately 1 out of every 20 carp (depending on volume) and tagging select carp to track recapture and population density.
 - vi. Emphasis on increased late-season shocking, particularly prior to spawning.
 - vii. Jared stated he expects positive results during the upcoming season.
- f. The Committee confirmed support for hiring seasonal staff as needed, with the expectation that carp removal activities do not burden daily maintenance operations.

2. Lake Improvement Issues & Updates

- a. Fish Habitats
 - i. President Bradford would like to discuss increasing fish habitat within the lake with manzanita trees. He said volunteers would be able to help build habitat. Including kids during Kool Kids event.
 - ii. President Bradford suggested setting a goal of installing 30-50 habitat structures per year.
 - iii. President Bradford references habitat examples from Lake Isabella.
 - iv. Requested social media effort by the District to highlight habitat placement and inform the public of the Districts efforts to protect wildlife.
- b. Tournaments
 - i. Director Bradford asked about staffing requirements for the carp counting tournament.
 - 1. Jim explained the event requires a full-time staff presence to both count and grind carp.
 - 2. Director Bradford expressed interest in continuing carp removal incentives while reducing staff workload and potential conflicts with participants.
 - 3. He proposed replacing the tournament format with a raffle-based incentive. Monthly raffles held April through October, with winners drawn at Board meetings. Inclusion of a youth division for participants age 16 and under.
 - a. Jim suggested narrowing operational hours to conclude by 4:30 p.m.
 - ii. Jared stated weekend staffing has not been cost-effective.
 - iii. Jared and Jim will return to the Committee with further recommendations.
 - iv. The Committee expressed they would like to minimize staff time and avoid contestant conflicts.
 - v. Jared noted that members of the public have inquired about hosting their own weekend carp tournaments independent of the District.
 - vi. Jared clarified that the District's primary objective is carp removal, not hosting tournaments.
- c. Jared stated the carp disposal bin will be deployed earlier this year compared to prior seasons.