

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

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Tom Bradford, President

**3. PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

**4. REPORTS**

- A. General Manager, Jared Cheek, reported that the lake level is down 7'1". He noted that on February 10, 2025, one year ago, the lake level was down 7'4", and that year-over-year levels are tracking similarly. Final lake levels for this upcoming season will depend on the amount of snowpack melt.

Lake Operations Manager, Drew Pappas, attended Big Bear Mountain Mutual Aid meetings with community and government stakeholders to coordinate emergency response efforts. Several staff members also attended virtual meetings with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding the Golden Mussel. All staff completed CPR and AED training, and an additional training session will be held prior to the start of the season for seasonal employees. Staff also attended the CALMS (California Lake Management Society) meeting, where state tools for tracking Golden Mussels and updates to annual prevention plans were discussed.

The owner of Aquatechnex visited the District office to present services offered by his company, including fish mapping capabilities. The mapping identifies fish size and schooling patterns but is not species-specific. Mr. Cheek stated it would be informative to better understand what is in the lake. President Bradford asked whether the mapping could identify species, and Mr. Cheek clarified that it could not. President Bradford expressed interest in species-specific information.

Office Manager, Elsa Donoho, and Mr. Cheek attended a five-hour CSDA training on budget preparation. Director Ludecke asked whether Rick Wood had reviewed the

District's finances. Mr. Cheek stated he had not, but the District is considering hiring him on a retainer and including the expense in the next fiscal year's budget.

Mr. Cheek also announced that the District 2 Board vacancy closes at the end of the day on February 27, and that one application has been received to date.

- B. President Bradford reported the Operations Committee met on 2/17/26 to discuss special event applications.

## **5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

N/A

- A. Minutes of a Regular Meeting on February 5, 2026.
- B. Minutes of Special Meeting on February 12, 2026.
- C. Warrant List dated 02/12/2026 in the amount of \$32,900.59
- D. Authorization for Director Brewster to attend SBVMWD Training on March 12, 2026.
- E. Authorization for Director Ludecke to attend SBVMWD State Water Project Tour and Training on April 22-24, 2026.

**Discussion:** No comments were made.

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

AYES: Lee, Bradford, Brewster, Ludecke

NO: -

ABSTAIN: -

## **6. BUSINESS**

- A. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING OPERATIONS COMMITTEE (Directors Lee and Bradford – alt) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FULL BOARD'S APPROVAL REGARDING FISHIN FOR 50K SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION.**

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

- a. President Bradford reported that the Operations Committee met the previous week to review special event applications. Recurring applications with no substantial changes are typically placed on the Consent Calendar. However, due to a change in event date and an increase in occupancy, the Fishin' for 50k application was brought before the Board for full approval. All other event details remain unchanged.
- b. General Manager, Jared Cheek, provided additional clarification regarding past practice. Recurring events without substantial changes are approved at the staff level. Any material changes are brought before the Board for consideration. He noted that routine date changes associated with recurring holidays will not require Board approval in future years. Regarding the increase in participants, staff is reviewing the impact internally and does not anticipate the higher attendance to create a burden.

With a motion made by Vice President Ludecke and seconded by Director Brewster, the consent calendar was approved unanimously:  
AYES: Lee, Bradford, Brewster, Ludecke  
NO: -  
ABSTAIN: -

**7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR**

N/A

**8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

General Manager Jared Cheek announced District 2 Vacancy is open, encourage applicants to submit their letters of interest by February 27<sup>th</sup> end of day.

**9. DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

None.

**10. CLOSED SESSION**

N/A

**11. ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:13 PM.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:**

Date: 03/05/2026  
Location: 40524 Lakeview Drive  
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315  
Time: 1:00 PM



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



[SEAL]