

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
BIG BEAR MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
HELD ON THURSDAY, May 7, 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 May 7, 2026.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Tom Bradford, President

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Daniel Gulbransen, resident of Big Bear Lake, addressed the Board regarding ongoing issues throughout the valley that he stated are out of the public's control. He says he is looking into it. He stated the local fire authority is separating and he feels the City is "acting like children" when dealing with the "east side" of the valley in which the authority is a partnership with. He says its pathetic and this will cost Big bear Lake residents more attorney fees for childlike behavior.

4. REPORTS

- A. General Manager Jared Cheek introduced Phillip Young III to the Board, he is a local growing up in Big Bear with lots of experience that will be valuable to the District. Phil said he appreciates the opportunity and was welcomed by the Directors.

Mr. Cheek reported the lake level remains the same as the previous week and said that at the same time last year the lake was down 6' 1". He stated there have been 54 paid decontaminations completed this season so far. The East Launch Ramp remains the only ramp open until Memorial Day, and there have been 383 launches this season, which is consistent with last season's numbers.

He also reported that weekly meetings continue with the hydropower JPA partners (SAWHA). He also attended the State Water Project tour with Vice President Ludecke, which he described as a valuable experience that provided insight into the facilities and the various components involved in the State Water Project. He also attended the Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency special workshop with Vice President Ludecke.

A Budget and Finance Committee meeting was held and all seasonal staff completed CPR and first aid training in preparation for the upcoming season.

- B. President Bradford reported we will talk about the Operations Committee within Business Item 6B.
- C. Vice President Ludecke reported we will talk about the Budget & Finance Committee within Business Item 6C.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

PUBLIC FORUM

None.

- A. Minutes of a Special Meeting on April 14, 2026.
- B. Minutes of a Regular Meeting on April 16, 2026.
- C. Minutes of a Special Meeting on April 20, 2026.
- D. Warrant List dated 04/29/2026 in the amount of \$201,182.50.
- E. Authorization for Director Peterson to attend CSDA Special District Leadership Academy May 11, 2026 to May 14, 2026.

Discussion: No comments were made.

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

AYES: Bradford, Brewster, Lee, Ludecke, Peterson

NO: -

ABSTAIN: -

6. BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION ONLY: VISIT BIG BEAR FISH DONATION

PUBLIC FORUM

None.

DISCUSSION

- a. Travis Scott with Visit Big Bear provided a brief comment saying that the Visitors Bureau's goal is to increase economic impact within the community through events such as Fishin' for 50K. He thanked the District for its continued partnership and cooperation and presented a check to the District for \$50k for Fish.

B. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE (Directors Lee and Bradford) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FULL BOARD'S DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF PADDLEFEST SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION.

PUBLIC FORUM

DISCUSSION

- a. General Manager Jared Cheek reported that the Operations Committee met to discuss requested changes to the Paddlefest event.

The event promoter, Matt Smith, explained the changes resulting from the event no longer being associated with Lakefest. Paddlefest and Swim the Bear are scheduled to take place on Sunday, June 28, with both events beginning and ending at Swim Beach. He stated there is interest in creating a future 10K open water swim event.

With a motion made by Director Brewster and seconded by Director Peterson, the motion to approve the Paddlefest Special Event Permit was approved:
AYES: Bradford, Brewster, Lee, Ludecke, Peterson
NO:
ABSTAIN: -

C. FIRST DRAFT BUDGET FY2026-27 REVIEW & DISCUSSION

PUBLIC FORUM

Dan Gulbransen commented that he appreciated the Budget presentation and stated he wished the City did as well. He believes the State has gone downhill.

DISCUSSION

- a. General Manager Jared Cheek reported that the Budget and Finance Committee reviewed the proposed budget, including the overall budget timeline and goals. He reviewed the first draft budget line-by-line, including revenues, the General Fund overview, departmental expenses, and various funds.

Direction included the potential development of a Reserve Policy and the creation of a \$1 million Reserve Fund funded by the Capital Improvement Fund.

Vice President Ludecke asked what interest rate the District is currently paying on its debt obligations. Staff would get back to him on rate.

President Bradford thanked the Budget and Finance Committee for their work on the budget process, he understands the significant amount of effort involved to get to this point.

No motions were made, as the document presented was a first draft, and an updated draft budget will be presented at the May 21 meeting.

7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

None.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

General Manager Jared Cheek announced next Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday he will be attending CSDA Special District Leadership Foundation and, as always, is available via phone or email.

9. DIRECTOR COMMENTS

None.

10. CLOSED SESSION

None.

11. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:07 PM.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

Date: 05/21/2026
Location: 40524 Lakeview Drive
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315
Time: 1:00 PM



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



[SEAL]