



Big Bear Municipal Water District

Lake Management

Board of Directors

Steve Ludecke – Division 1
Vacant – Division 2
Craig Brewster – Division 3
Mark Lee – Division 4
Tom Bradford – Division 5

Ad Hoc Wake Committee Meeting Minutes March 16, 2026 at 9 A.M.

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

Public: Loren Hafen, Connor Hafen

1. Wake Discussion

- a. President Bradford proposed no changes to the current decontamination and banding procedures for ballast-equipped vessels, noting the existing process has been effective. Director Brewster agreed.
- b. The Ad Hoc Committee discussed establishing a No Watersport Zone east of Eagle Point, regardless of vessel type, due to shallower water conditions. Watersports and towing activities would remain permitted west of Eagle Point.
- c. Director Brewster noted that watersport activity is already limited in that area.
- d. Conner Hafen emphasized the importance of increased education on lake sports etiquette, particularly as more ballast boats are launching at District ramps.
- e. Loren Hafen emphasized that boater education will be important for ballast vessel operators.
- f. Loren Hafen and Drew Pappas discussed wake impacts near marinas, noting that experienced boaters generally avoid creating wakes in these areas, but additional education could help address unintentional impacts.
- g. The group discussed potential outreach to concessionaires and camps to provide education prior to the upcoming boating season. Drew Pappas confirmed he would follow up with camps.
- h. Loren Hafen also raised concerns regarding illegal concessionaire operations and timeshare-style boat rentals occurring on the lake.
- i. Discussion continued regarding closing the area east of Eagle Point to watersports and ballast use. President Bradford asked how the change would be communicated to the public.
 - i. General Manager Jared Cheek stated the District would create graphic signage at launch ramps and provide educational materials
 - ii. President Bradford suggested ramp attendants verbally inform boat operators of the restrictions when launching watersport vessels.
 - iii. Director Brewster suggested updated lake maps be distributed at launch ramps, with the map on one side and wake etiquette information on the reverse.
- j. Jim Cummings confirmed the buoy line would be clearly marked with bay-marker style signage and lighting for visibility.

- k. Jared Cheek noted Ordinance 51, Section 2 may need to be updated to reflect the proposed changes and cautioned that regulatory changes may generate public feedback.
- l. President Bradford stated that changes in vessel technology and ballast usage require the District to evaluate regulations to protect lake conditions.
- m. President Bradford confirmed that ballast vessels would not be permitted to carry ballast water within the restricted area. Jim confirmed the markers would indicate “No Watersports, No Ballast.”
- n. The committee discussed reviewing the effectiveness of the changes after the upcoming boating season, with the possibility of additional restrictions in the future if needed.
- o. Jared Cheek summarized the committee’s recommendation to the Board:
 - i. Establish a No Ballast / No Watersports zone east of Eagle Point, marked by bay markers with beacon lighting.
 - ii. Maintain existing decontamination and quarantine procedures.
 - iii. Develop an educational leaflet for ballast boat operators to be distributed at launch ramps.
- p. Staff confirmed that enforcement would begin with education and outreach, followed by progressive enforcement if necessary.

2. Issues & Updates

- a. None