

***MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
BIG BEAR MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2009***

CALL TO ORDER

President Murphy called the Open Session to order at 1:00 PM. Those in attendance included Director Eminger, Director Smith, Director Fashempour, General Manager Scott Heule, Lake Manager Mike Stephenson, and Board Secretary Vicki Sheppard.

REPORTS

Mr. Heule reported that he along with Mike Stephenson and Travis Carroll have been going over many seasonal job applications. He added that they have already interviewed and selected two applicants for Lake Patrol. He explained that many of the applicants for ramp attendant and maintenance will be in for testing tomorrow, Friday. Mr. Heule reported that he met with Simon Wong Engineering regarding the railing designs for the bridge. He explained that there have been many internal debates regarding whether or not the lake will full this year. He added that the consensus seems to be that unless we have a good amount of spring rain, it will not fill.

Lake Manager Mike Stephenson reported that there has been numerous episodes of ice training by the Fire Department lately. He stated that he went to Lake Poway for some training on the Quagga Mussel veligers sampling. He also reported on a training event that he and Mr. Carroll attended at UC Riverside regarding Quagga Mussel inspection. He commented that the District received over 100 applications for seasonal work.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon a motion by Director Eminger, seconded by Director Fashempour, the following consent items were unanimously approved:

- Minutes of a Regular Meeting of February 5, 2009
- Warrant List Dated February 12, 2009 for \$107,182.76
- An excused leave of absence for Director Skip Suhay

PUBLIC HEARING

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF BIG BEAR MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT RE-ESTABLISHING FEES COMMENCING FEBRUARY 23, 2009 AND REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 2008-01

Mr. Heule explained that District rates and fees are evaluated annually in order to balance program or operational expenses with income. He reported that staff has identified a disparity between the cost of providing services for recreation on the lake and operational income from boat permit sales, dock licenses, marina revenue, RV park rent and boat storage rent. He added that the Quagga Mussel Initiative has created an additional financial burden on the District that the current rate and fee schedule does not address. Mr. Heule made a PowerPoint presentation explaining this and the fact that under the current pricing structure, taxpayer income must subsidize recreation on the lake and the Board of Directors desires to balance income from recreation with their associated expenses. He reported that during the upcoming season expenses associated with responding to the Quagga Mussel threat is estimated to be \$55,800 and assuming

that boat permit sales during 2009 will be similar to 2008, a surcharge for Quagga Mussel related expenses is being proposed. He explained that the surcharge will be \$5 on seasonal permits and daily permits for boats and sailboards and \$2 for float tubes. He added that this will fund additional hours of operation at the two public launch ramps above what was provided during 2008. He stated that this Quagga Mussel surcharge will be collected as long as the threat exists. Mr. Heule explained that analysis of costs and income for other recreational activities on the lake has shown that expenses of \$788,600 exceed income of \$689,500 by \$99,100 annually. He stated that assuming that boat permit sales during 2009 will be similar to 2008, an increase in boat permit costs is being proposed and the increase would be \$10 on an annual permit and \$5 on a daily permit. He explained that this will assure that the District can continue to provide services such as free boat launching and parking, free boat towing, public restroom facilities on the lake, public restrooms at each public launch ramp, boating safety patrol officers, trash services, and picnic areas. Mr. Heule compared the rates proposed to other lakes in the area reporting that Big Bear Lake's proposed fees are still below the fees charged by other lakes.

The public hearing was opened at 1:18 pm.

Valley resident, Chuck Gormley, asked if the District thought that permit sales would be the same as last year. Mr. Heule stated that the District thought permit sales would have gone down last year due to the rise in gasoline prices, but they went up instead. He added that perhaps the increase in sales was due to the fact that the ramps were staffed longer and sold permits well into October and November (that was not the case in previous years), or the fact that boaters were staying closer to home due to economic issues. He added that the District doesn't have any other way to know how many sales will be made other than to compare previous years. Mr. Gormley stated that perhaps the District should charge more than the proposed fees since the number of permit sales predicted for 2009 is uncertain. Mr. Heule stated that even if permit sales turn out to be the same as last year, the District will still be shy of the money needed to cover the recreational costs. He added that the Committee feels that the best way to predict sales is to go by last year and is hesitant to raise the fees any more than proposed at this time. No other comments were received and the hearing was closed at 1:20pm.

Director Fashempour thanked Mr. Heule for the PowerPoint presentation adding that it helped to clarify the fee proposal. Director Smith agreed that the burden of the cost of operating the lake should be born by those who use the lake rather than the tax payers but feels that even if the District is a little short this year that it would be better to be a little conservative this year and possibly consider raising fees again next year if necessary.

Director Fashempour moved approval of a Resolution of the Board of Directors of Big Bear Municipal Water District re-establishing fees commencing February 23, 2009 and repealing Resolution No. 2008-01. Director Smith seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC FORUM

No comments were made

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Heule announced that there is a proposal for a new fishing tournament, Fishin' for 50K, to be held in May.

Mr. Stephenson gave some details of the event stating that it was being put together by the Resort Association and its member marinas. Mr. Stephenson commented that when he and Mr. Carroll

went to the invasive species event training at UC Riverside that the Department of Fish & Game said that Big Bear Municipal Water District had the best Quagga protection program in the State of California.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

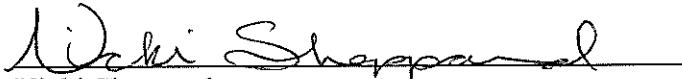
No comments were made

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:38 P.M.

NEXT MEETING

Open Session at 1:00 P.M.
Thursday, March 5, 2008
Big Bear Municipal Water District
40524 Lakeview Drive, Big Bear Lake, CA



Vicki Sheppard
Secretary to the Board
Big Bear Municipal Water District

(SEAL)