

***MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
BIG BEAR MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
HELD ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2011***

CALL TO ORDER

President Suhay called the Open Session to order at 1:02 PM. Those in attendance included Director Murphy, Director Fashempour, Director Eminger, Director Smith, District Counsel Wayne Lemieux (via Web X), General Manager Scott Heule, Lake Manager Mike Stephenson, and Board Secretary Vicki Sheppard.

REPORTS

General Manager, Scott Heule reported that today we are trying out some new technology (Web X, instead of Skype). He commented that he believes it may be a better image on our end adding that Mr. Lemieux seems to have some connection issues however. He reported that we will give it a try for a few meetings explaining that for the time being we don't anticipate purchasing any new software. He stated that Carrie Shirreffs reported that we received a property tax check and along with what we receive for the Rathbun Creek fund from the City RDA, we are close to the estimated figure of \$130,000 under budget. Mr. Stephenson reported on the progress of weed harvesting adding that it is looking very good. He commented on the Kool Kids program explaining that there were 146 children the first day and 94 children the second day commenting that both days went very well. Director Fashempour asked if home-schooled children were included in the program. Mr. Stephenson explained that they were invited but because a parent needs to accompany them, no home schooled children participated this year. He reported on the latest limnological report explaining that the lake is re-stratifying and there is no significant algae bloom. He stated that the trout pond clean-up is slowly progressing. He added that all of the abandoned vehicles are gone and so far staff has taken at least 16 truckloads of debris to the dump. He reported that they try to work at the trout pond at least one day a week. Mr. Stephenson commented on a report from the Department of Boating & Waterways showing the three major causes of boating deaths: (1) alcohol and boating (2) lack of a proper look-out (3) no life vest. He explained that the report shows that 95% of boating deaths are attributed to one these three things. President Suhay asked if the harvester was still working at Stanfield Cutoff. Mr. Stephenson reported that they will have the harvester out until everything is gone. He added that the wind has been a negative factor explaining that staff is still working daily. He commented that they have taken over 100 loads of debris to the dump. District Counsel Wayne Lemieux reported that there will be a closed session next meeting regarding Conroy. Mr. Heule asked if there is just one draft (of the Conroy decision) and if it is ready to go to the Board. Mr. Lemieux reported that it is ready to be distributed to the Directors. Mr. Heule stated that he will re-distribute it.

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 August 18, 2011
- Warrant List dated August 25, 2011 for \$29,584.69

RECEIVE OPERATION COMMITTEE REPORT ON FIRE AIR OPERATIONS AND PROVIDE DIRECTION TO STAFF

Mr. Heule reported on an Operations Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, August 31st regarding Lake Operations during fixed wing aircraft scooping. He stated that according to Staff's recollection the Lake has only been closed or subjected to significant limited use on three occasions. He reported that the first was in September 2007 during the Butler fire and the second and third times were this past Saturday and Sunday August 27 and 28. He explained that unlike when helicopters are drafting water from the Lake, fixed wing aircraft require a very large area of the Lake to safely operate. He commented that this past weekend the District was informed the Lake was to be used by fixed wing aircraft for fighting several lightening strikes in the region. He explained that in order to keep boaters safe, the Lake Manager limited boating to the buoy line on the south shore and west of the line between Gilner and Windy Points. He stated that both public launch ramps were closed for a period of time, after which the East Ramp was closed except for vessel recovery and all operations were moved to the West Ramp with extended operating hours. Mr. Heule reported that the marinas were all notified by phone and communication with the Miss Liberty tour boat was maintained using radio. He commented that fixed wing operations were extensive on Saturday afternoon. He explained that the Lake Manager was in telephone communication with dispatch at the fire tanker base in San Bernardino; however the dispatch office did not provide accurate information about when fixed wing operations would begin or terminate. He reported that in spite of advising the Lake Manager in the morning that operations would be conducted all day on Sunday, no planes scooped from the Lake. Mr. Heule reported that he and the Operations Committee are satisfied that Lake operations during the weekend were appropriately managed. He explained that there would have been much less interruption of Lake recreation if fire tanker base communication to the District would have been accurate. He added that as a result boaters and marinas were unnecessarily impacted on Sunday. Mr. Heule reported that the Committee believes that the District can improve on its operations during these type events in two areas: The first is to develop a clear communication plan and secondly to prepare guidelines for Staff to follow as they consider how Lake use should be restricted to safely accommodate aerial fire-fighting operations. He added that the Committee would like him to identify the appropriate contact at fire tanker base operations and discuss with them the feasibility of developing an MOU that would guide our two agencies during these type events. He explained that one objective of the MOU would be to be sure that in considering locations for drafting water, and assuming all other variables are the same, the potential negative impact on recreation would be a consideration for Big Bear Lake. Mr. Heule stated that the Committee told the represented marinas that they would be asked to comment on any draft plan or policy before it goes back to the Board for formal consideration. Director Murphy stated that the Committee Meeting was a little tense but he believes Mr. Stephenson did a very good job considering the lack of communication from fire base. He explained that our main concern will always be human safety. President Suhay stated that we do need to establish a better communication with tanker base adding that overall Mr. Stephenson did a very good job with what information he had. Director Smith commented that the District was never given the word that the plan of action had changed. President Suhay added that one of the major problems was that there were over 25 spot fires in 15 to 20 different jurisdictions. Mr. Stephenson reported that communication was horrible with different crews working at different times and no one individual or entity in charge of the operation. President Suhay stated that one of the marinas asked that we not use the word "closure". He added that the committee will work on this and hook up with tanker base and come up with a plan of action. Director Smith stated that we can only do what we do if we get good

information from tanker base and will always do what is needed to fight fires and protect life and property. President Suhay stated that we need to get something in writing. Director Fashempour asked if MOU's are shared with all concerned and if they are a legal document. Mr. Heule responded that we don't have one at this time but when we do then hopefully the various agencies will get the agreement to the correct people. Director Fashempour commented that she appreciated being notified and updated by staff during the entire incident. Mr. Stephenson reported that he understands that the pilots need to be able to determine what the best course of action is at the time but he explained the frustration of having the forest service notify the District to say they are coming to scoop and then not showing up. Director Eminger commented that he feels the Forest Service should have admitted that they made a mistake acknowledging that they cost the community and local businesses a lot of money. It was the consensus that the Operations Committee will work on a plan of action.

PUBLIC FORUM

Kim (Eminger) stated that her husband is a fire fighter and they have an incident command plan that they all follow explaining that it works very well. She added that they also have a "unified command" that all area agencies work together to follow.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Heule reported that President Suhay's summer staff BBQ is scheduled for Sunday, September 11th, with a "red, white & blue theme" adding that Director Murphy is working on the games that will include a salsa contest. He stated that the ACWA Conference is scheduled for November 29 through December 2 in Anaheim. He asked that the Directors let him know who is going. He added that the JPIA Conference is at the same time asking Director Fashempour to coordinate with Vicki Sheppard. Mr. Heule stated that the Christmas party is scheduled for December 3rd at Northwood's Resort. He explained that after the meeting is adjourned Directors should get a hard hat and meet for the Special Meeting to tour the new bridge and view the progress of the highway bridge demolition process.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

No comments were made

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:39 P.M.

NEXT MEETING

Open Session at 1:00 P.M.
Thursday, September 15, 2011
Big Bear Municipal Water District
40524 Lakeview Drive, Big Bear Lake, CA



Vicki Sheppard
Secretary to the Board
Big Bear Municipal Water District

(SEAL)