

***MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
BIG BEAR MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2012***

CALL TO ORDER

President Eminger called the Open Session to order at 1:00 PM. Those in attendance included Director Murphy, Director Fashempour, Director Suhay, Director Smith, District Counsel Wayne Lemieux (via Skype), General Manager Scott Heule, Lake Manager Mike Stephenson, and Board Secretary Vicki Sheppard.

REPORTS

General Manager, Scott Heule stated that he thought yesterday's workshop went very well. He added that it is apparent that the most urgent actions necessary in the short term are to generate expense and revenue scenarios for the various ideas the Director's presented. He commented that parking lot charges, carp boat with operator rental and charging for tows on the Lake at this point appear the most plausible. He explained that once Mr. Stephenson has a chance to calculate dredge volumes and rough business plans for fish rearing at the trout pond they should have enough information to decide the next steps for that property use. Mr. Heule reported that they were also able to see the results of the 2010 census. He explained that the District population is now nearly 18,000 people as compared to about 20,000 in 2000. He added that most of that population decline occurred in Division 1 (Fawnskin) and Division 2 (City). He commented that the result is that both division boundaries need to be adjusted to gain about 300 more persons. Mr. Heule reported that Divisions 3 and 4 are fairly close to where they should be but Division 5 is over by about 400 persons. He explained that the Administrative Committee will be reviewing a redistricting proposal prepared by Staff at their next meeting. He added that Staff is targeting the March 15th Board meeting to present a recommended revised map of Divisions for the full Board to consider.

Lake Manager, Mike Stephenson updated the Board on seasonal employee hiring. He explained that many of the applicants have taken a written exam. He added that they were then screened. He commented that the several of the Lake Patrol candidates have also taken a boat handling test and the Clerk/Dispatcher candidates have taken a gradable computer data input test. He reported that from the successful candidates, interviews will be next. Director Suhay asked how many applicants were in the practical testing phase. Mr. Stephenson reported that 10 candidates received the boat handling test and 10 took the data entry test. He explained that the ramp attendants and the maintenance candidates do not take practical tests but do get interviewed. He added that 184 applicants need jobs and many of them look very qualified. He commented that "it is kind of sad".

Mr. Heule introduced Adam Williams, Lake Operations Supervisor, who reported on a lake rescue. Mr. Williams reported that he received a call from a concerned homeowner at 1pm on Saturday. He reported that the man had taken a canoe out onto Big Bear Lake using a snow shovel for a paddle and no life jacket. He reported that the man appeared to be drunk. He explained that by the time the man got about half way across the Lake the canoe flipped over and he fell into the 34 degree water. Mr. Williams reported that, in spite of his drunken condition, he managed to drape himself over the capsized canoe until he arrived in a patrol boat for the rescue. He stated that by the time he reached the victim he was disoriented and hypothermic. He reported that he then pulled him from the water, assessed his condition, and contacted the fire department. He commented that he then transported the victim to shore where paramedics treated

him and then transported him to Bear Valley Community Hospital. Mr. Williams stated that he is just thankful for the concerned homeowner who called Lake Patrol. Mr. Stephenson explained that the victim that was saved was the same person who was responsible for attacking a snow plow operator at Bear City Post Office the next night. Director Murphy asked what would have happened if the reporting party had just called 911 instead of Lake Patrol. Mr. Stephenson stated that they would have dispatched the fire department and maybe they would have called Lake Patrol when they got to the scene. He added that by that time it probably would have been too late to save the person.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon a motion by Director Suhay, seconded by Director Smith, with Director Murphy abstaining from the vote on 5A (Minutes of February 16, 2012), the following consent items were unanimously approved:

- Minutes of a Regular Meeting of February 16, 2012
- Warrant list dated February 27, 2012 for \$10153.60
- Approval of a special event permit for the Jim Hall Memorial May Trout Classic to be held May 19th & 20th
- Approval of a special event permit for the Rotary July 4th Barbeque

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MODIFICATIONS TO THE SEASONAL EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

Mr. Heule reported that over the past couple of years some seasonal employees have abused the existing sick leave policy causing the District extra expenses and complicating summer staffing. He explained that in order to reward those who do not abuse the sick leave benefit and still provide it when it is needed the Committee is recommending that the following policy replace the existing policy in the Seasonal Employee Handbook:

Commencing January 1, 2012, and on January 1st of each year thereafter, seasonal employees shall accrue 0.0288 hours of sick leave for each hour actually worked up to 40 hours per year. Seasonal employees shall be paid for sick leave unused as of their last day of work each calendar year. Sick leave shall not be carried over from year to year. As used herein, "seasonal employee" means a District employee hired as a Lake Ranger I or Lake Ranger II.

Mr. Heule added that at the Board Meeting of February 1st the Board approved edits to the Full-Time Employee Handbook in regards to a Social Networking policy and a Holiday Policy and indicated Board action should be taken to add these to the Seasonal Employee Handbook as well.

Director Murphy moved approval of modifications to the Seasonal Employee Handbook concerning sick leave, social networking and holidays. Director Fashempour seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A FISHING EVENT FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT FEE POLICY

Mr. Heule reported that over the past several years there has been a variety of methods used to evaluate fishing event impacts on Lake fisheries. He explained that some events purposely fund fish plants intended to enhance the population and variety in the Lake, while others rely on an earlier event to be sure there are large fish for their participants to catch. He added that due to recent revenue declines the District has not been able to financially support fish purchases to the level it has in the past. He commented that one thing that has helped to stretch the money the District has used to buy fish is the caged fish rearing program. He reported that the District

purchases relatively smaller fish in the early fall, feeds them in a cage over the winter and by the time they are tagged or released prior to a fishing event there are hundreds of sub-trophy to trophy sized fish that dramatically enhance the fisheries for everyone fishing in the Lake. Mr. Heule explained that in order to continue and possibly expand the Districts efforts of fisheries enhancement the Operations Committee recommends that the District adopt a policy requiring every fishing event to pay a \$500 or \$15 per angler fee, whichever is larger, for this purpose. He added that the fee would be collected in cash from the applicant or the applicant could coordinate their own fish purchase and plant under the supervision and with the approval of the Lake Manager. He explained that the uniform collection of this fee ensures that special fishing events will be contributors to enhancing the fishing experience for all visiting anglers and will assist the District in its Lake recreation mission. Director Smith commented that we just haven't been able to do as much as in years past. Mr. Heule added that trophy sized trout raised in Big Bear Lake are really promoting the lake and tournament events. Director Smith explained that trout don't really reproduce in Big Bear Lake so it is more than fair to ask for this fee. Director Fashempour asked for an explanation of the Fish & Game lawsuit regarding planted trout. Mr. Stephenson reported that the Center for Biological Diversity brought a lawsuit against Fish & Game regarding stream protection for the Southern California Steelhead Trout. He stated that F&G was planting hatchery trout and the Center for Biological Diversity was saying that they were "bastardizing" native steelhead trout. He explained that steelhead spend most of their adult lives in the ocean, but spawn in freshwater streams and when F&G stock hatchery trout in certain bodies of water they spawn with the steelhead. Mr. Stephenson commented that because of this many lakes don't get fish plants, but Big Bear Lake is saved by Prado and Seven Oaks Dams so we can get many plants because F&G doesn't have other places to take them.

Director Fashempour moved approval of a fishing event fisheries enhancement fee policy.

Director Murphy seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC FORUM

No comments were made

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Heule announced that he will be meeting with Jim Miller at the Marsh next Monday to discuss requirements for rail spacing. He added that he will also discuss possible cooperative measures we could take to widen the Boardwalk. He reported that next Thursday he and Mr. Stephenson will be hearing the report from the AQMD on Mercury deposition in the valley from the sampling they did last year. He explained that he hopes to have them make a public report of their work at a Board Meeting in April. Mr. Heule reported that he would also be attending a statewide Mercury CEQA scoping meeting on March 12th where he hopes to learn more about timing and their thoughts on what the State is proposing for possible actions.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

President Eminger commented that the workshop yesterday was very successful. Director Fashempour complimented Adam Williams for his quick response and lake rescue. Director Murphy commented that it is nice to be back from vacation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:43 P.M.

NEXT MEETING

Open Session at 1:00 P.M.
Thursday, March 15, 2012
Big Bear Municipal Water District
40524 Lakeview Drive, Big Bear Lake, CA



Vicki Sheppard
Secretary to the Board
Big Bear Municipal Water District

(SEAL)

