

***MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
BIG BEAR MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
HELD ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2013***

CALL TO ORDER

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

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

President Smith reported that there was no closed session at the meeting of August 1st.

REPORTS

General Manager Scott Heule reported that there was another visit to the Trout Pond property by staff and a partner of the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District last week. Mr. Heule added that he provided a tour of the site to their restoration expert and an engineer with the federal National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). He explained that according to Mandy Parks "all feedback has been good". He reported that there is no firm timeline on their decision making process yet. He explained that we have had one other telephone inquiry about the property. He added that this person has some interest in returning the property to a commercial trout pond enterprise and actually visited the property over the weekend of August 3rd and 4th. Mr. Heule reported that he continues to work with Valley District on the details of the release of their water from the Lake after Labor Day. He added that due to the time constraints of Southern California Edison we will be moving the release from September 4th to September 9th. He reported that this water would have had to have been released to Bear Valley Mutual Water Company early in the season based on our in-lieu agreement explaining that Valley delivered State Project water instead. He added that this created a storage account in the Lake that Big Bear has been able to recreate on all summer. He explained that the release will amount to the equivalent of about 10 July days of normal evaporation from the Lake and about 2.5 inches of Lake level. President Smith stated that this all reflects how fast evaporation is occurring this year. Mr. Heule reported that we have completed the second lake wide aquatic plant census. He explained that our intern John Cylwik worked with field staff to sample 323 unique sites in the lake and identify presence or absence of plants, plant density, and plant species. He reported that the census indicates a decrease from 2011 of the acreage milfoil only and a corresponding increase in area of native only plant species. He added that staff is still working to interpret the basic data and a formal report will be forthcoming. Mr. Heule reported that the TMDL targets the Lake to have 30% to 40% aquatic plant coverage on a total lake area basis and a 95% eradication of Eurasian Water Milfoil and any other invasive aquatic plant by 2015. He explained that based on what we have experienced over the past couple years it appears we can probably achieve about a 30% plant coverage but will fall short of the 95% invasive plant eradication target. He added that we will likely need to expand our aquatic plant management

program in all areas (harvesting and herbicide treatments) in order to get closer to the TMDL target goals. He explained that if the Lake level continues to drop, Lake temperature and dissolved oxygen concentrations will become more difficult to manage.

Lake Manager Mike Stephenson announced that harvesting continues daily. He reported on Kool Kids explaining that there were 201 3rd graders who participated and everyone caught a fish. He added that he received many positive comments on the Director's and General Manager's participation in the event. He reported that one mother said her child was "beaming" when he arrived home after the field trip. Mr. Stephenson thanked the Directors and Mr. Heule for their participation and all their hard work. He reported that dredging continues at Cluster Pines with about 4,000 cubic yards of soil having been dredged. Director Murphy asked what the total cubic yard goal was. Mr. Stephenson reported that it is 28,000 cubic yards of soil. He reported that he had lunch today with representatives of Department of Boating & Waterways and received notice that a grant for a new patrol boat would be coming our way next year. He added that the new boat will replace Patrol 1. He explained that they take the used boats and refurbish them. Mr. Stephenson reported that the first 12 days in August were the coldest first August days since 1919 and that is why the lake flipped so early this year (and no algae bloom). Director Murphy complimented Mr. Stephenson on the great organization of Kool Kids. President Smith added that it was a great job getting Bass Pro Shop on board. Mr. Stephenson said that the Bass Pro Shop representatives were really cool with the kids and contributed a lot. Director Lewis stated that she has seen Kool Kids from both sides (as a teacher and as a Director) and now realizes how much hard work, planning, and organization goes into the event commenting that it is "mind boggling".

APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon a motion by Director Murphy, seconded by Director Suhay, the following consent items were unanimously approved:

- Minutes of a Regular Meeting of August 1, 2013
- Warrant List Dated August 12, 2013 for \$14,443.73
- Approval of a revised Special Event Permit for the 2013 Hobie Cat Regatta scheduled for September 28th and 29th
- Approval of ACWA Region 9 Board Ballot

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CHANGING THE ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK POSITION TO A YEAR ROUND FULL TIME POSITION

Mr. Heule reported that in March last year (2012) the Board approved a part time year round Administrative Clerk position. He explained the responsibilities for this position included:

- collecting fees for weeds and dock licenses
- managing dock license files for insurance
- managing new dock license applications
- correct billing per the new payment schedule
- managing the RV Park reservation system
- managing the indoors winter boat storage

- answering questions about new dock design
- answering inquiries about property dock privilege's and
- answering questions about weeds and other counter duties

He stated that the position is full time from March through mid-October and part time the balance of the year (1560 hours). He reported that since the District instituted this new position collections of dock fees, organization and insurance documentation, and operation of RV park reservations has all improved dramatically. He added that the revenue from private dock licensing has increased over previous years because more docks have been licensed. Mr. Heule explained that with the purchase of new marina management software last spring, the District is now ready to take the next step of entering all the private dock licensing, payment and insurance information, into the computer management system. He stated that once this work is complete, private dock management will be more efficient allowing an expansion of responsibilities and to cross train with District accounting staff. He commented that setting up the software and entering the dock data will be a time consuming job that cannot be accomplished over the winter on a part time basis. He explained that in order to complete this work, and in light of the additional revenue generated by the position, he requests that the Board approve for this position to become a full time year round title. He added that the anticipated future office staff realignment will obligate this position to perform some limited accounting functions in addition to the current duties. Mr. Heule reported that the position has reduced the number of uninsured private docks from 58 to 9, increased the number of paid licensed docks from 438 to 469, and has more effectively managed RV park reservations. He added that dock license fee revenue was increased by \$12,360. Mr. Heule explained that making this a full time year round position would cost the District another \$10,524. He reported that the Committee agreed with his request and recommends that the Board change the job description for the Administrative Clerk position to become a year round full time position. President Smith commented that getting return on our money (receiving more than we spend) usually doesn't happen but it did in this case.

Director Suhay moved approval of changing the Administrative clerk position to a year round full time position. Director Lewis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Don Bremer, valley resident, reported that he lives on Gilner Point explaining that when he first moved in years ago his children used to be able to swim and fish off of his property. He added that now the weeds are so bad that those activities are no longer possible. He explained that he has been working with Mr. Stephenson and paid to have more weeds harvested in his area but still has many weeds. He is asking that the District allocate more money to deal with weed removal. Mr. Stephenson reported that he went by Mr. Bremer's property just today explaining that it is a very shallow area and has been treated from the dock to the shore. President Smith explained that we can't use herbicide in May and the last day for the harvester is September 15th. He added that it was unusually warm in May and unusually cold in August. Director Murphy added that Fish & Wildlife determines the dates we can treat and harvest and we don't have a choice. Mr. Stephenson explained that it is to protect fish nesting. Director Suhay suggested that when the lake is down he would like to clean up the lake bottom. Mr. Heule stated that could be discussed in a future committee meeting.

Mr. Jim Hart, valley resident, asked if the mission statement on the wall was the MWD's complete mission statement (the mission of the Big Bear Municipal Water District is to stabilize the level of the Lake for recreation and wildlife). Mr. Heule reported that it was. Mr. Hart asked

other questions regarding the cleaning out of the catchment basins and the amount of silt taken out. Mr. Stephenson responded that there are six basins total and the District cleans out two and Bear Mountain cleans out four. Mr. Hart also asked who has the ultimate maintenance authority for the area from Rathbun Creek to the lake. Mr. Heule responded that no one agency has complete authority. Mr. Hart asked if the agency interested in purchasing the trout pond area has a specific plan in mind. Mr. Heule stated that there is no specific plan. Mr. Hart asked if no new catchment basins are made will the silt go into the lake. Mr. Heule responded that we do have catchment basins to prevent this.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Heule announced that the annual summer staff Barbeque will be Sunday afternoon, August 25th. He commented that the Board Workshop is next Thursday, August 22nd, at 9:30am to discuss amending the in-lieu agreement to save money and improve summertime lake levels. He reported on the next *Big Bear Thrives* "What Everyone Should Know About Water" explaining that topics include; naturally structured water, water energetically free of toxins, how to restructure our water and a documentary "Water: The Great Mystery". He added that it will be at the Discovery Center Sunday afternoon August 18th 3 to 5 PM. Mr. Heule reported that the San Bernardino County Water Conference is next Friday August 23rd. He added that Bear Valley Unified School District CNG Fueling Station Groundbreaking Ceremony is being held on Thursday August 22nd at 4:00 PM. He announced that the next District Board Meeting is scheduled for September 5th. He added that Director Eminger will be out of the Country for most of the rest of the month.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

President Smith (on behalf of the Board) thanked everyone involved in Kool Kids for a job well done.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:44 P.M.

NEXT MEETING

Open Session at 1:00 P.M.
Thursday, September 5, 2013
Big Bear Municipal Water District
40524 Lakeview Drive, Big Bear Lake, CA



Vicki Sheppard
Secretary to the Board
Big Bear Municipal Water District

(SEAL)