

***MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
BIG BEAR MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  
HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 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, Director Eminger, 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 meeting held on March 7, 2013

**REPORTS**

General Manager, Scott Heule reported that this morning the District hosted a Rotary exchange group from India. He added that after they arrived he explained District organization, governance and mission then Mike Stephenson took them on a Lake tour. He commented that they were interested in the remote controls for the outlet works and asked questions about security. He reported that there was a mechanical engineer, fashion designer, human resources professional, oral surgeon and an attorney/accountant. He explained that each of them had multiple interests outside of their professions that include event hosting, book binding, dancing, real estate, and trekking. He added that they all seemed to enjoy their visit. Mr. Heule stated that, as reported in the Committee meeting minutes, he had a good meeting with the City Planning Department regarding the trails masterplan. He added that they are anxious to identify access easements at the Trout Pond and Stanfield Wildlife Preserve. He explained that they also understand the obligations to prevent access across the south side of Bear Loop in order to protect the conservation easement there. He commented that as plans continue to move forward he has advised them that a formal presentation and request needs to be made directly to the Board so that formal approval and any needed changes can be made to their plans. Mr. Heule reported that after meeting with the Administrative Committee to discuss new marina software the Staff is working to get answers to the Committees questions. He explained that staff should be able to provide the Committee with reviews from marinas already using the software, hardware and accounting software compatibility etc.

Lake Manager, Mike Stephenson reported that the first returning seasonal maintenance employee, Trevor Harper, started back today. He explained that one of the first projects will be to rebuild the West Ramp fishing dock. He reported on the Lake level explaining that it is down 3" more than this time last year. He predicted that unless we get a lot of rain, the Lake will be down 2' more than last summer. He reported on the visitors from India explaining that he, along with Director Suhay, took them on a boat cruise. He explained that they were cold but had a very good time. He reported that he will be going to a Western Aquatic Plant Management Society (WAPMS) Conference next week and when he returns he and Catrina Rabago are going on a visit to see how Marina Operations Software users like the software.

### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

- Minutes of a Regular Meeting of March 7, 2013
- Warrant List Dated March 14, 2013 for \$3,061,537.17
- Consider Fee Schedule update

### **CONSIDER WEED CONTROL EQUIPMENT PURCHASE**

Mr. Heule reported that the District's dump truck that is used to haul trash and weeds is scheduled to be replaced this year. He added that it is capable of hauling 1 & ½ harvester loads. He explained that last year the District replaced the tires and transmission but it does not have very high mileage because it is typically only used to drive around the lake and to the transfer station or the old Garstin sewage ponds. He stated that the Lake Manager, Mike Stephenson, suggested that in light of the expanded use of the harvester this coming summer, instead of replacing the dump truck the District add a smaller dump truck to the fleet. He reported that this would provide unrestricted use of the larger dump truck for weed hauling and the smaller truck for trash runs. He stated that Mr. Stephenson estimates the surplus value of the existing dump truck is about \$13,000 and to replace it would be more than \$30,000. He suggests that a smaller dump truck that could carry 5 tons and only require a class C driver's license could probably be purchased used from auction for between \$20,000 and \$30,000. He explained that when the smaller truck is not on a trash run it could also be used to haul weeds for the expanded harvester operations. He reported that the Committee recommends that instead of surplus the dump truck, another smaller dump truck be purchased and used in order to supplement the weed hauling capabilities of the maintenance program. Director Murphy asked if the old truck is good enough to last 4 to 5 more years. Mr. Stephenson stated yes, it is in good shape. President Smith asked if we had looked into hiring an outside company to do backup hauling. Mr. Stephenson said that was still an option. President Smith asked if trucks were found that only require a class C drivers license. Mr. Stephenson said "yes several". President Smith asked if it would come from the Capital Improvement Fund. Mr. Heule said "yes".

Director Murphy moved approval of purchasing a small dump truck in order to supplement the weed hauling capabilities. Director Suhay seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

### **CONSIDER PLACING TROUT POND PROPERTY UP FOR SALE AND DISCUSS OTHER PROPERTY ISSUES**

Mr. Heule reported that the Watershed Committee discussed Board Member comments during the recent Board Workshop. He explained that based on those comments the Committee concluded that District time and financial resources would best be spent in support of the Mission by selling the Trout Pond property. He added that the Committee recommends to the Board that the District declare the Trout Pond property surplus, offer the property for sale to other local agencies, and then place it on the open market if there are no interested public agencies. He explained that the sale would not take place until the pond sediment has been fully excavated, the outlet works have been replaced, and the new bridge has been installed. He

reported that the Board will still need to make decisions about easements for trails and possibly access for dredging sediment. He added that decisions will also need to be made regarding how much if any money should be expended to remodel the house and make repairs to the bathroom and to repair and replace fencing on the property. He explained that the Lake Manager hopes to get back to work on sediment excavation by mid-August. He reported that the Committee recommends that the Board discuss and possibly take action on the following:

- a. Consider if additional funds should be spent to repair and remodel the house.
- b. Consider if additional funds should be spent on fence repair and/or replacement.
- c. Consider if the District should record an easement allowing entrance onto the property for periodic sediment removal from the pond.

President Smith stated that he first wants to decide if we want to declare the property surplus. Director Suhay commented that if we sell it, how much do we care about sediment removal and would it put us in the same position as we were before. Mr. Heule explained that our intent is to remove the sediment that is there now and to discuss if we want to have sediment removal in the future. Director Suhay commented that we need to find out the value of the property adding that we don't want to take a big loss. Mr. Heule reported that we would want to be able to say that the sediment situation is resolved. President Smith asked if we could move the timeline up for finishing the sediment removal. Mr. Stephenson stated that it is a possibility but he can't commit to finishing early. He explained that it is looking good but depends on how quickly the area dries out. Mr. Heule reported that the Watershed Committee was looking at the Trout Pond area and the area below but has no recommendation for the Rathbun Creek area up-stream. He explained that those are two separate action items. President Smith called for a motion to declare the property surplus, explaining that we are just looking at the Trout Pond property, not the upstream property.

Director Suhay moved approval to declare the Trout Pond property surplus property.  
Director Murphy seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

President Smith explained that we already have funds set aside to fix the house and for fencing asking if we still want to proceed with those projects.

To consider if additional funds should be spent to repair and remodel the house was discussed and all agreed that if it was not a safety issue, no additional funds should be spent.

Director Murphy moved approval to not proceed with repairs or remodel of the house.  
Director Eminger seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

To consider if additional funds should be spent on fence repair and or replacement was discussed and all agreed that if it was not a safety issue, no additional funds should be spent.

Director Murphy moved approval to not proceed with fence repair and or replacement.  
Director Lewis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

President Smith stated in reference to easements (item c) that he believes we should wait until a later time to discuss this. Director Suhay explained that if we grant easements it could de-value the property commenting "if we are going to get rid of it, let's get rid of it".

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

Lowell Gytri, US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla Commander for Big Bear Lake, made a presentation to the Board on what the Coast Guard contributes to Big Bear Lake. He highlighted the awards and certificates they have been given this last year. He explained how the auxiliary assists Lake Patrol. He added that they have big plans for operations and will be out on the Lake

for all events assisting Lake Patrol. He explained their plans for educating the public about paddle crafters. He said he spoke to Adam Williams and found out that swimmer safety was a concern so they are going to concentrate on swimmers more.

Sharon Gytri, US Coast Guard Auxiliary, explained that she puts out their News Letter. She reported on the special merit awards that Lowell Gytri has received explaining that he came in second in the nation on one very prestigious award. President Smith stated that we appreciate all their efforts.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Heule reported that the next Board meeting is April 4. He explained that he will be on vacation and unless he hears differently, he does not plan to Skype in. He stated that Mike Stephenson will be handling the meeting adding Wayne Lemieux will either Skype or be at the meeting. He reported that also on Thursday April 4<sup>th</sup>, the Redlands Classic bike race will hold qualifying trials on North Shore using the East Ramp all day. He explained that the ramp will be closed and boaters will be directed to Big Bear Marina where they can be inspected and launch for free. He commented that District staff will decontaminate any boats that arrive and need the work done. He explained that the Lake Operations Supervisor, Adam Williams, will enforce conditions for signage and boater notification that were included in the District permit to conduct the special event that day. Mr. Heule reported that the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District facilities tour will be Friday April 19 adding that Directors should block out the entire day for the event. He commented that he will be attending the ACWA Spring Conference in Sacramento with Director Suhay the second week in May.

#### **DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

Director Eminger stated that all the seasonal hiring is complete and we are looking forward to a busy summer season.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:54 P.M.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Open Session at 1:00 P.M.  
Thursday, April 4, 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)