

***MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
BIG BEAR MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  
HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2014***

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

President Murphy reported that there was no closed session at the February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**REPORTS**

General Manager, Scott Heule reported that the impacts of the drought of 2014 are getting closer to home. He explained that the Orange County Water Agency is working with the Army Corps of Engineers for an emergency modification of the Prado Dam operation to allow water storage behind the dam. Mr. Heule reported that the amendment to the In Lieu agreement may have met a snag. He explained that the Judgment requires in-lieu deliveries to be made at a point satisfactory to Mutual. He added that we assume that Mutual would want to have the water delivered pipe to pipe and not at the base of the dam. He reported that a result is a significant loss to infiltration in the sediment of Bear Creek between the dam and the confluence with the Santa Ana River and Edison's pick up. He explained that Don Evenson suggests that an amendment to the in-lieu agreement be an avenue to deliver emergency water only to Mutual from an account that Valley builds by delivering when they don't technically have to. Here is his idea "Let Valley District deliver supplemental in-lieu water and get credit for it in the lake; treat evaporation and spills just like we are doing now; when they need the water for an emergency, Big Bear releases it for Mutual only. If they run out of credits and we have to release more water for Mutual's needs, we get a credit on our annual in-lieu cost of say \$600/AF of water released when Valley District should have delivered in-lieu water." He explained that the price would need to be negotiated of course. Mr. Heule stated that he tried his best to ease peoples' concerns about the lake level while being interviewed on Channel 6 last Friday and by the Press Enterprise Tuesday. He added that he hopes he got the message across that there is still plenty of water to fish and recreate on. Mr. Heule reported that the City has decided to try to get a project rolling to reconstruct and expand Stanfield Cutoff. He added that we will be pulling together everything we have on the SCRIP project and getting them copies for their reference purposes. He explained that we collaborated with the City and the County on a grant application last year. The proposal was to replace the 40 foot wide roadway width with one that was 64 feet wide. He added that the application estimated there would be 370,000 cubic yards of cut and fill and contemplated excavation and re-compaction to a depth of 25 feet. He reported that the estimated cost of the project was \$8.3 million. He explained that Jim Miller at the City envisions a project with one lane of traffic in each direction, a bike lane, parallel parking along both sides and either

a pedestrian path or pedestrian/fishing boardwalk on each side. Mr. Heule reported that CalPERS adopted recently completed mortality projections to incorporate into its charges for funding retirement schedules. He explained that due to the fact that people are living longer additional money is needed to keep the retirement system solvent. He stated that new increased rates for State employees will begin soon and will be increased annually for the next three years. He added that for Cities and Special Districts, the increases will begin in 2016 and will be phased in over five years. He commented that he will keep the Board informed as more information becomes available concerning the financial impact on the District.

Lake Manager, Mike Stephenson reported that they have been working on a clean-up project behind Rotary Park and have removed 700 yards of material. He added that the City will gain access to their courtesy dock and will be paying for the project in full. He reported that the hiring process is about half way complete. He added that out of 107 applications, they have many good possibilities. Mr. Stephenson commented that the lake level fluctuation is very interesting. He explained that between this time yesterday and this time today (1:00 pm), the lake went down 1/4 inch explaining that if it continues that would be about 7 inches a month. He added that rain is predicted for next week however.

#### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

- Minutes of a Regular Meeting of February 6, 2014
- Warrant List dated February 13, 2014 for \$16,687.10

#### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF BIG BEAR MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT RE-ESTABLISHING FEES EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 20, 2014 AND REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 2013-02**

Mr. Heule reported that two items on the District fee schedule are being considered for revision. He explained that a daily charge to recoup District expenses for RV park utilities is calculated annually based on the previous season's actual utility expense divided by the number of days and campsites occupied. He stated that during 2013 the fee charged was \$4.90 and explained that in 2014 the daily utility charge is proposed to increase to \$5.25. Mr. Heule reported that secondly a permit is required by the District for commercial filming and photo shoots on District property. He explained that the District currently charges a flat rate of \$110 for photo shoots and \$170 for film and video production. He added that the District's recent experience with these photo and filming companies has been difficult and complex due to their poor planning, short time lines, and continual changed conditions. He explained that although the District collects a \$500 deposit that is used to reimburse the District for Lake Patrol or Maintenance personnel and equipment, there is no provision for recovery of Administrative expenses associated with the complex and continually changing conditions associated with these type activities. Mr. Heule reported that District experience has found that Staff time devoted to managing these activities increases dramatically as the number of individuals involved grows. He commented that Staff time involved is greater for video and film production than it is with still photo shoots. He added that in order to recover District expenses associated with managing photo and film/video production activities Staff researched other agency fee schedules and drafted proposed fee schedule revisions for the Committee to consider. He explained that one proposed approach

would charge the permit applicant based on the number of individuals involved and the other would depend on the number of days required for the shoot. Mr. Heule reported that Staff advised the Committee that they believe a charge based on the number of persons involved would be most equitable for the District. He added that Staff also indicated that occasionally a request is made to film or still shoot by students working on school projects or assignments. He explained that a separate reduced cost fee schedule and list of conditions is proposed for this situation that recognizes the lower level of impact on District resources by this usually less intrusive activity. He stated that conditions would include a letter from the school confirming the student is enrolled and the work is a part of his/her curriculum and a limitation on the number of persons involved among other items. He explained that after a review of the Staff proposals the Committee believes that fees should be based on the numbers of persons involved in the shoot. He reported that they also want any student rates to apply only to groups of 5 persons or less and with only a \$250 deposit instead of the usual \$500. He added that subject to these modifications the Committee is recommending that the Board approve the Fee Schedule Resolution.

Director Smith moved approval of a Resolution of the Board of Directors of Big Bear Municipal Water District re-establishing fees effective February 20, 2014 and repealing Resolution No. 2013-02. Director Lewis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

#### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A PROPOSAL FROM MWH AMERICAS TO PROVIDE DAM ENGINEERING SERVICES**

Mr. Heule reported that MWH has provided dam engineering services for the District for several years. He explained that the work they have recently completed has satisfied the California Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) that expensive radial arm spillway gates are not required. He added that MWH found that even with an overtopping flow during the 100 year flood and probable maximum flood the dam will remain structurally sound. He reported that they did note however that some loose rocks and potentially loose boulders at the dam abutments downstream of the dam need to be cleared and anchored respectively. Mr. Heule stated that the other piece of work that is necessary is to paint the steel struts and anchors that are attached to the dam buttresses. He explained that some additional information that the DSOD wants is a dam operations plan that reduces the likelihood of floodwaters overtopping the dam. He added that MWH has already completed a portion of this work but some refinement and a report are needed to complete this task. He explained that MWH had exhausted funds authorized in its most recent contract. He stated that MWH has submitted a new proposal for engineering services associated with support during bidding and work associated with the strut painting and rock anchoring, permitting from the USFS and Caltrans and dam operations guide implementation to satisfy the DSOD. Mr. Heule explained that the proposed cost is \$71,000 during calendar year 2014 and the District's FY 2013-14 budget includes \$15,000 for the dam operations guide and \$25,000 for other dam engineering efforts for a total of \$40,000. Funding for this work would come from FY 2013-14 budgeted funds in the amount of \$15,000 from the Lake Improvement Fund, \$25,000 from the Dam Repair Fund with the balance from new funding in FY 2014-15's Dam Repair Fund. He commented that the Committee recommends approval of the MWH proposal dated January 30, 2014.

Director Eminger moved approval of a proposal from MWH Americas to provide dam engineering services for an amount not to exceed \$71,000. Director Lewis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

No comments were made

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Heule announced that the next Board meeting will be on March 6, 2014. He added that he hopes to have a recommendation for the purchase of a new harvester at that meeting. He reported that our next Workshop is scheduled for March 19 at 1:00 pm and the agenda will be issues from the Budget and Finance Committee. He commented that he is speaking to the Kiwanis Club on Tuesday February 25<sup>th</sup>. He explained that he will be out of the office visiting family in North Carolina for a week beginning next Wednesday and returning to work on Wednesday March 5.

**DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

No comments were made

**ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION**

The meeting was adjourned to Closed Session at 1:27 P.M under Government Code Section 54956.8 Conference with Real Property Negotiator, Scott Heule General Manager, concerning 440 Catalina, Big Bear Lake, California, APN #2328-202-15, #2328-202-08, #2328-291-27

**RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 2:03 P.M.

No reportable action.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:04 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING**

Open Session at 1:00 P.M.  
Thursday, March 6, 2014  
Big Bear Municipal Water District  
40524 Lakeview Drive, Big Bear Lake, CA



Vicki Sheppard

Secretary to the Board

Big Bear Municipal Water District

(SEAL)