

# **BIG BEAR AREA REGIONAL WASTEWATER AGENCY**

## **Special Meeting Budget Workshop Minutes**

**February 28, 2024**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

A Special Meeting Budget Workshop of the Governing Board of the Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency was called to order by Chair Walsh at 10:00 a.m. on February 28, 2024 at 121 Palomino Drive, Big Bear City, California.

#### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Larry Walsh, Chair  
Jim Miller, Vice-Chair  
John Russo, Director  
Kendi Segovia, Director

#### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Rick Herrick, Director

#### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

David Lawrence, General Manager  
Christine Bennett, Finance Manager  
Bridgette Burton, Administrative Services Manager/Board Secretary  
Sonja Kawa, Human Resources Coordinator/Accounting Technician  
John Shimmin, Plant Manager

#### **OTHERS**

Glenn Jacklin, General Manager, Big Bear City Community Services District  
Brittany Lamson, Interim General Manager, Big Bear Municipal Water District  
Sean Sullivan, Assistant City Manager/Director of Public Works, City of Big Bear Lake

Members of the public who signed in included:

Craig Brewster  
Joyce Crist, Big Bear City  
Steve Ludecke, Big Bear City  
Kelly Ohlson, Big Bear City

### **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Director Segovia

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Upon motion by Vice-Chair Miller, seconded by Director Russo and carried, the Governing Board approved the agenda as presented.

Ayes: Miller, Russo, Segovia, Walsh  
Noes: None  
Absent: Herrick  
Abstain: None

**4. PUBLIC FORUM**

- 4.A. Tom Sitton, of Big Bear City, expressed concern about the government and stated he did not want solar panels on the south side of the Administrative Building which would affect his property value.
- 4.B. Steve Ludecke, of Big Bear City, voiced concern over the location of the solar panels and requested another location be used.
- 4.C. Charles Brewster, of Big Bear Lake, presented lake level calculations, spoke about his concern over the cost related to the benefit he presented, and advised that Bear Valley Mutual owns the lake water.
- 4.D. Joyce Crist, of Big Bear City, advised that people do not want taxes increased or any projects that cost the community money. She further stated that the Agency needs to work within its budget.
- 4.E. Kelly Ohlson, of Big Bear City, was concerned about people on fixed incomes and increased costs from BBARWA, electricity, gas, and food.

**5. PRESENTATION AND INTRODUCTION**

**5.A. Jim Miller 5-Year Recognition**

The General Manager thanked Vice-Chair Miller for his five years of service on the Governing Board and listed Agency accomplishments that were approved or adopted during that time.

**5.B. Kendi Segovia – City of Big Bear Lake Appointment to the Governing Board**

The General Manager and Governing Board welcomed Director Segovia to the BBARWA Governing Board.

**5.C. Budget Presentation and Discussion**

- 1. Projected Performance FY 2024
- 2. New Budget FY 2025
- 3. Five-Year Forecast FY 2025 – FY 2029

The Finance Manager presented the projected performance in fiscal year 2024, the new fiscal year 2025 budget, and the five year forecast, with the General Manager

discussing a reallocation from the Oxidation Ditch Wall Rehabilitation Project to the Force Main Lining Project.

The Governing Board inquired about the CalPERS over projection and an estimate to line the Force Main. The Governing Board clarified the differences in flow between residents and visitors and the increase in salaries is due to adding personnel.

The Governing Board asked questions about the Replenish Big Bear Project which included state grant funds, state grants from federal funds, potential revenue sources from outside agencies, downward trend of winter precipitation, why beneficiaries aren't jumping on board, contributions from visitors, annual operating expenses, and the useful life of the RO unit. The Governing Board commented on the expense on the project versus the possibility of constructing a similar project in the future due to regulatory changes by Sacramento and measuring similar projects by cost per acre foot.

Joyce Crist, of Big Bear City, stated that she is not against the project but is concerned about debt and increased taxes and suggested putting the water into Baldwin Lake.

Carol Neu asked questions about how the Agency and the Replenish Big Bear Project works and conveyed concern over the RO process and beneficiaries not committing to the project.

**6. INFORMATION/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**6.A. General Manager's Report**

The General Manager advised the Agency will be lining the force main.

The Governing Board asked questions regarding the pressure of the force main, the additional EDUs from the Hampton Inn, and requested an update on the EIR.

**7. CONSENT CALENDAR APPROVED ITEMS**

**7.A.** Meeting Minutes from the December 19, 2023 Special Meeting

**7.B.** Monthly Disbursements Report for December and January

**7.C.** Investment Report Identifying Agency Investments and Reporting Interest Income for December and January

**7.D.** Second Quarter Report, Six Months Ended December 31, 2023

Upon motion by Vice-Chair Miller seconded by Director Russo and carried, the Governing Board approved the Consent Calendar as presented.

Ayes: Miller, Russo, Segovia, Walsh  
Noes: None  
Absent: Herrick  
Abstain: None

**8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR**

None

**9. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**10. NEW BUSINESS – DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

**10.A.** Resolution No. R. 01-2024, A Resolution of the Governing Board of the Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency Making Emergency Findings and Authorizing and Ratifying the Emergency Contracts for the Oxidation Ditch #1 Shaft #1 Repair; Reallocate \$134,487 from the Capital Budget for Repairs

The General Manager detailed the need for an emergency repair on Oxidation Ditch #1 Shaft #1.

The Governing Board asked if replacement parts are on the shelf for these type of situations.

Upon motion by Director Russo, seconded by Vice-Chair Miller and carried, the Governing Board adopted Resolution No. R. 01-2024; reallocated \$134,487 from the Capital Budget for costs related to the repair; and authorized the General Manager to take any other actions necessary to remediate the emergency repair to Oxidation Ditch #1 Shaft #1.

Ayes: Miller, Russo, Segovia, Walsh  
Noes: None  
Absent: Herrick  
Abstain: None

**10.B. Governing Board Reorganization**

The Governing Board discussed the past practice of the member agency rotation for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair.

Upon motion by Vice-Chair Miller, seconded by Director Russo and carried, the Governing Board appointed Director Miller to the position of Chair.

Ayes: Miller, Russo, Segovia, Walsh  
Noes: None  
Absent: Herrick  
Abstain: None

Upon motion by Vice-Chair Miller, seconded by Director Segovia and carried, the Governing Board appointed Director Herrick to the position of Vice-Chair.

Ayes: Miller, Russo, Segovia, Walsh  
Noes: None  
Absent: Herrick  
Abstain: None

**10.C. Consideration of Solar Panel Installation in Lucerne Valley**

The General Manager explained the Agency was approached by two solar companies to install solar panels at the Agency's Lucerne Valley property.

The Governing Board asked what the financial impact would be, if the solar panels for Replenish Big Bear could be installed in Lucerne Valley, and clarified the developer would be responsible for an environmental impact report.

Steve Ludecke, of Big Bear City, commented that if an opportunity exists to build solar panels in Lucerne Valley and sell power to offset costs in Big Bear, the Agency should pursue it.

Upon motion by Vice-Chair Miller, seconded by Director Segovia and carried, the Governing Board authorized the General Manager to negotiate an agreement with a developer for use of Agency property located in Lucerne Valley (APNs 449-082-01, 449-082-02, 449-082-03, 449-082-04) for solar panel installation and directed the General Manager to investigate the opportunity for a solar panel project with Bear Valley Electric Service at the same location.

Ayes: Miller, Russo, Segovia, Walsh  
Noes: None  
Absent: Herrick  
Abstain: None

**10.D. Consideration of Pine Knot Marina Trailer Storage**

The General Manager explained that Pine Knot Marina approached the Agency to lease property for trailer storage.

The Governing Board discussed being a good neighbor to the Garstin residences, zoning, and its concern over complaints going to the City of Big Bear Lake.

Upon motion by Director Segovia, seconded by Chair Walsh and carried, the Governing Board directed the General Manager to not move forward with the Pine Knot Marina Trailer Storage.

Ayes: Miller, Russo, Segovia, Walsh  
Noes: None  
Absent: Herrick  
Abstain: None

**11. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**11.A. General Manager Comments**

The General Manager thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting.

**11.B. Governing Board Member Comments**

Director Segovia thanked everyone for having her on the Board and looks forward to making a positive contribution. The Governing Board expressed support for Replenish Big Bear and concern over the expense.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Governing Board, Chair Walsh adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

ATTEST: Bridgette Burton  
Bridgette Burton, Secretary to the Governing Board  
Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency