

**BIG BEAR AREA REGIONAL WASTEWATER AGENCY
BIG BEAR CITY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
CITY OF BIG BEAR LAKE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER
BIG BEAR MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**

Special Meeting Replenish Big Bear Workshop Minutes
June 23, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
121 Palomino Drive, Big Bear City, California

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Special Meeting of the Governing Board of the Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency, Big Bear City Community Services District, City of Big Bear Lake Department of Water and Power, and the Big Bear Municipal Water District was called to order by Chair Miller at 1:03 p.m. on June 23, 2021, at 121 Palomino Drive, Big Bear City, California.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Miller, Chair, Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency & Representative, San Bernardino County Service Area 53B
Rick Herrick, Vice-Chair, Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency & Mayor Pro-Tem, City of Big Bear Lake
Karyn Oxandaboure, Director, Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency & Director, Big Bear City Community Services District
John Green, Director, Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency & Director, Big Bear City Community Services District
Bynette Mote, Temporary Director, Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency & Council Member, City of Big Bear Lake
Al Ziegler, Vice-President, Big Bear City Community Services District
Larry Walsh, Director, Big Bear City Community Services District
Bob Tarras, Chair, City of Big Bear Lake Department of Water and Power
Barbara Willey, Vice-Chair, City of Big Bear Lake Department of Water and Power
Craig Hjorth, Treasurer, City of Big Bear Lake Department of Water and Power
Joe Cylwik, Commissioner, City of Big Bear Lake Department of Water and Power
Jim Smith, Commissioner, City of Big Bear Lake Department of Water and Power
Tom Bradford, President, Big Bear Municipal Water District
Bob Ludecke, Vice-President, Big Bear Municipal Water District
Bob Rehfuss, Director, Big Bear Municipal Water District
John Eminger, Director, Big Bear Municipal Water District

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

John Russo, President, Big Bear City Community Services District
Charlie Brewster, Director, Big Bear Municipal Water District

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

David Lawrence, General Manager, Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency
Jennifer McCullar, Finance Manager, Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency
John Shimmin, Plant Manager, Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency
Sonja Kawa, Human Resources Coordinator/Accounting Technician, Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency
Troy Bemisdarfer, Plant Supervisor, Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency (Zoom)

Mary Reeves, General Manager, Big Bear City Community Services District
Morgan Szabad, Human Resources Manager/Board Secretary, Big Bear City Community Services District (Zoom)
Reggie Lamson, General Manager, City of Big Bear Lake Department of Water and Power
Dani McGee, Chief Financial Officer, City of Big Bear Lake Department of Water and Power
Sierra Orr, Water Conservation & Public Information Supervisor, City of Big Bear Lake Department of Water and Power
Mike Stephenson, General Manager, Big Bear Municipal Water District
Brittany Lamson, Office Manager/Executive Assistant, Board Secretary, Big Bear Municipal Water District
Frank Rush, City Manager, City of Big Bear Lake
Steve Samaras, Division Manager, San Bernardino County Department of Public Works, Special Districts, Water and Sanitation Division

OTHERS

Ward Simmons, Best Best & Krieger
Michael Perry, CEO, Visit Big Bear
Sarah Mendoza, Field Representative for Senator Ochoa Bogh (Zoom)
Steve Foulkes, SBTF
Jana Bryant, Sugarloaf Property Owners Association
Georgia Coalson, Big Bear City resident
Jim Eakin, Big Bear City resident
Crisann Conroy, Big Bear Lake resident
Sharon Shiflett, resident
Chris Pennington, resident
Jerry Strain, resident
Richard Stanton, Big Bear City resident
Ken Discenza
Greg Mote (Zoom)
Frank Forbes (Zoom)
Bruce Wood (Zoom)
Sean Sullivan (Zoom)
B. Hammer (Zoom)
M. Bailey (Zoom)
Ken Simonds (Zoom)
Chuiner (Zoom)
John Kosmatka (Zoom)
Robert Hendricks (Zoom)
Dimas Diaz (Zoom)
Dolores Cherpin Kriley (Zoom)
S. Jacques (Zoom)
Kaylyn Johnson (Zoom)

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Rick Herrick, Vice-Chair, Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Steve Foulkes, SBTF, indicated support for the project and commented that MWD is obligated to keep water up here or buy water to make up losses. He encouraged the project team to develop a rate structure that makes sense and is transparent and supported a pass-through to beneficiaries or assessment districts.

Crisann Conroy, a resident of the City of Big Bear Lake, commented that we need to do whatever it takes to make this happen. She encouraged the project team to be creative.

Richard Stanton, a resident of Big Bear City, commented that the project team should look at less-than-pristine water for the ski slopes or figure out a way for the ski slopes to contribute financially.

Georgia Coalson, a resident of Big Bear City, indicated support for the project and commented that drinkable water is not needed for fighting fires and suggested putting less treated water in Baldwin Lake for fire use.

Ken Discenza indicated support for the project.

Sierra Orr indicated support for the project and commented that the charts shown where demand will exceed supply may be a best-case scenario. She voiced concern over climate change and that the evaporation of rain happens so quickly that it may not make it to Big Bear Lake. The financial aspect of the project is a worst-case scenario with no additional grant funding. Project costs will come down with additional grant funding.

Sarah Mendoza, Field Representative for Senator Ochoa Bogh, commented that on April 14, 2021, Senator Ochoa Bogh sent two letters to two different commissioners in Congress in support of BBARWA's application for federal grant funding and will notify BBARWA once an update is available.

Al Ziegler (as a member of the public) commented that replenishing the groundwater is important and that he is unsure if the project is on the right track.

4. PRESENTATIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS

4.A. Replenish Big Bear Project Update, Costs, and Funding

The Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency General Manager presented information regarding the Replenish Big Bear Project including project goals, an updated timeline, the treatment process, estimated project costs and funding, benefits, and beneficiaries. Discussion ensued between Agency Boards and staff regarding transparency of project costs and financial burden to ratepayers, development of an MOU, completion of the cost-benefit analysis, and possible grant funding and federal funding opportunities. The next steps include development of an MOU among beneficiaries which establishes the framework for

the funding structure, and the ongoing pursuit of grant opportunities to increase affordability.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Governing Board, Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 2:47 p.m.

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