

# **BIG BEAR AREA REGIONAL WASTEWATER AGENCY**

## **Special Board Meeting Minutes**

May 22, 2024

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

A Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of the Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency was called to order by Chair Miller at 3:00 p.m. on May 22, 2024 at 121 Palomino Drive, Big Bear City, California.

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

### **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

### **OTHERS**

Laine Carlson, Vice-President, Water Systems Consulting, Inc.  
Kaitlyn Dodson-Hamilton, Vice-President, Tom Dodson & Associates  
Glenn Jacklin, General Manager, Big Bear City Community Services District  
Megan Kilmer, Associate, Best Best & Krieger, LLP  
Reggie Lamson, General Manager, City of Big Bear Lake Department of Water and Power  
Charity Schiller, Partner, Best Best & Krieger, LLP  
Ward Simmons, Partner, Best Best & Krieger, LLP

Members of the public who signed in included:

Joyce Crist, Big Bear City  
Patrice Duncan, Sugarloaf  
Kristina Nehls, Sugarloaf  
Bob Ybarra, Sugarloaf

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

Director Russo

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Upon motion by Vice-Chair Herrick, seconded by Director Segovia and carried, the Governing Board approved the agenda as presented and moved the public comment period to after the presentation.

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

**4. PUBLIC FORUM**

Public comments are included in 5.A.

**5. PRESENTATION AND INTRODUCTION**

**5.A. Replenish Big Bear Presentation**

Laine Carlson presented Replenish Big Bear's background information, alternatives, and the path forward.

The Governing Board commented about the 2023 direct potable reuse regulations, 2014 sustainable groundwater management plan regulations, new water use regulations, the Big Bear Municipal Water District ad in the Big Bear Grizzly newspaper, how future treatment standards could require plant upgrades, overall water usage and its impact to RBB operations, water efficiency in the Valley, and the Big Bear Lake level over the past 50 years.

The Governing Board clarified that Replenish Big Bear is not a direct potable reuse project, the cost per gallon of Program Water, how the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) does not address individual private views or economic factors and focuses solely on environmental impacts, the purpose of tribal consultation, the possibility of plant upgrades if forever chemical standards change, and that the Program will not fill Big Bear Lake or drought-proof the Valley. The Governing Board further discussed the timeline and process for design, an updated cost estimate, grant funds to pay for the final design, and construction bids.

Joyce Crist commented that the public needs more time to digest this information and would like a forum where she can present her ideas.

Bobbi Hazelton commented on details related to final design, easements, cost, ownership of water, and voting.

Tom Sitton commented about the sources of revenue for the federal government and continued his comments from the City of Big Bear Lake council meeting.

Kristina Nehls commented on a letter from Bear Valley Mutual Water Company dated February 20th.

Barbara Nitkin commented on project financials, cash flow, loans, grants, and ownership and monetization of the design plans.

Jim Eakin commented about the value of the Lake to East Valley residents and how the Valley economy is driven by tourism.

Patrice Duncan commented about the 36 billion gallons of water being sent to Lucerne Valley and the Big Bear City Community Services District approving rate increases that include Replenish Big Bear.

Wilma M. Hayes expressed concern over increasing taxes.

Chair Miller adjourned at 4:50 p.m. and rejournd at 5:01 p.m. This meeting was conducted concurrently with the 5:00 p.m. regular meeting.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Governing Board, Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

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