

BIG BEAR AREA REGIONAL WASTEWATER AGENCY

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

July 24, 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 5:00 p.m. on July 24, 2024 at 121 Palomino Drive, Big Bear City, California.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Miller, Chair

Rick Herrick, Vice-Chair

John Russo, Director

Larry Walsh, Director

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Kendi Segovia, 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

Laine Carlson, Vice-President, Water Systems Consulting, Inc.

Matt Rodrigues, Senior Engineer, Water Systems Consulting, Inc.

Members of the public who signed in included:

J. Bishop, Big Bear City

Joyce Crist, Big Bear City

Joe Cylwik, Fawnskin

Patrice Duncan, Sugarloaf

Jim Eakin

P. Enyart, Sugarloaf

Joseph Kelly

S. Ludecke

John Osborn, Sugarloaf

Bob & Jo Rowe

Tom Sitton

Sandy Steers, Fawnskin

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chair Herrick

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon motion by Vice-Chair Herrick, seconded by Director Russo and carried, the Governing Board postponed Items 9.A. and 10.A. to a special meeting on August 12, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. and approved the remainder of the agenda as presented.

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

4. PUBLIC FORUM

Joyce Crist commented that BBARWA does not have regulatory authority over Big Bear City.

Tom Sitton expressed concerns about majority rule and government control over infrastructure and demanded the water project be stopped.

Sandy Steers asked whether the public would have any input or influence on the Replenish Big Bear design and inquired about the lead time available for reviewing the design.

Daniel Gulbranson commented about the lack of trust in the government, long-term liability, and the final cost of Replenish Big Bear.

Joe Cylwik thanked the Board and management of BBARWA for continuing Replenish Big Bear efforts.

5. PRESENTATION AND INTRODUCTION

5.A. Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, Government Finance Officers Association

The Finance Manager presented the award.

5.B. Replenish Big Bear Summary: Preliminary Pilot Facility Water Quality Testing Presentation and Pilot Report

Matt Rodrigues with Water Systems Consulting, Inc. presented the Preliminary Pilot Facility Water Quality Testing summary, pilot purpose and objectives, background, piloting sequence, data collection, results and findings, and next steps.

The Governing Board asked about the list of tested constituents and constituents of emerging concern, reasons for using drinking water objectives for comparison, duplication of winter temperatures, full-scale flow rate, brine minimization, reverse osmosis membranes, mitigation measures, laboratory testing, permit objectives, and potential impacts on the Program Environmental Impact Report from changes to the treatment process.

Further discussion addressed the process of setting new water quality objectives, future regulations, the water softening process, pilot equipment issues, and performance testing.

6. INFORMATION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.A. General Manager's Report

The General Manager highlighted potential changes to the California Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act (CUPCCA) and provided an update on the Lake Pump Station Generator and Fuel System Project.

6.B. Replenish Big Bear Report

The General Manager provided information on the Title XVI grant, the completion of the Water Infrastructure and Finance Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, and an email from George Hanson of Bear Valley Mutual.

The Governing Board inquired whether Bear Valley Mutual had received the pilot presentation and report and requested details about the meeting with San Bernardino County.

6.C. Bear Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency on June 27, 2024

Chair Miller briefed the Governing Board on the meeting topics, including a presentation on Replenish Big Bear and the budget.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR APPROVED ITEMS

7.A. Meeting Minutes from the May 22, 2024 Special and Regular Meetings

7.B. Monthly Disbursements Report for May and June

7.C. Investment Report Identifying Agency Investments and Reporting Interest Income for May and June

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

Ayes: Herrick, Russo, Walsh, Miller

Noes: None

Absent: Segovia

Abstain: None

8. **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR**

None

9. **OLD BUSINESS**

9.A. Resolution No. R. 08-2024, A Resolution of the Governing Board of the Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency Adopting Environmental Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Certifying the Replenish Big Bear Program Final Environmental Impact Report (SCH #2022110595), Adopting the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and Approving the Program

This item was postponed to a special meeting on August 12, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

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

10.A. Award Contracts for Municipal Advisory and Placement Agent Services and Retain Bond Counsel for Replenish Big Bear Final Design Funding

This item was postponed to a special meeting on August 12, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

10.B. Resolution No. R. 09-2024, A Resolution of the Governing Board of the Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency Approving the Force Main Slip Lining Project and Finding the Project Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) and Authorization to Advertise and Solicit Bids

The General Manager provided details on the Force Main Slip Lining Project.

The Governing Board asked about the engineer's estimate, the age of the force main, the anticipated timeline and funding, and confirmed the total number of force main repairs.

Upon motion by Vice-Chair Herrick, seconded by Director Russo and carried, the Governing Board adopted Resolution No. R, 09-2024, directed staff to file a Notice of Exemption within five (5) working days of this approval and authorized the General Manager to advertise and solicit bids from qualified contractors to perform contracted services for the Force Main Slip Lining Project.

Ayes: Herrick, Russo, Walsh, Miller

Noes: None

Absent: Segovia

Abstain: None

11. **COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

11.A. General Manager Comments

None

11.B. Governing Board Member Comments

The Governing Board commented on the 36 billion gallons of water going to Lucerne Valley, Big Bear Lake evaporation, and the upcoming Tour de Big Bear.

12. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Governing Board, Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

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