

***MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
BIG BEAR MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  
HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2013***

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Smith called the Open Session to order at 1:00 PM. Those in attendance included Director Murphy, Director Lewis, Director Suhay, Director Eminger, District Counsel Wayne Lemieux (via Skype), Lake Manager Mike Stephenson, and Board Secretary Vicki Sheppard.

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

President Smith reported that there was no closed session meeting held on March 21, 2013

**REPORTS**

Lake Manager, Mike Stephenson reported that he has a report from General Manager, Scott Heule to read. "Mike is reading this report so you already know I am in New York on vacation right now. I will be back in the office on Tuesday April 9. I attended a TMDL workgroup meeting in San Bernardino Monday March 25. The principal reason for the meeting was to review progress on a water quality model for nutrient runoff from the watershed into the Lake. Evidently there was some misunderstanding of the scope of work by the consultant writing the model because it did not include runoff from the City. They are working to get that piece fixed and Hope Smyth said she wanted to see the completed model results end of April or middle of May at the latest. There was some discussion about the TMDL compliance deadline of 2015 and that the workgroup will have to make the case to the Regional Board about how compliance is defined. The workgroup agreed that in the annual report issued in February 2014 the framework for assessing potential compliance will need to be described so the Regional Board can weigh in while there is still a bit of time to make some changes. You all know that algae and dissolved oxygen are significantly better than in the past. The annual Lake sampling results indicate that phosphorous concentrations are also on the decline. The question now, are these improvements the result of action taken for the TMDL or a combination of other environmental factors? During that same meeting I asked about the proposed mercury TMDL. I told them about our efforts to discuss a possible rule change with California Fish and Wildlife at Big Bear Lake. I said their Sacramento leadership did not want to have separate rules for each lake in the State. Hope indicated that any TMDL for mercury would probably include more public meetings towards the end of the year. Michael Perez indicated that he had spoken with Jeff Brandt at Fish and Wildlife in Ontario who told him they would be waiting on the State Board to take action on a TMDL before they make any determination regarding fishing rule changes. He also said that he did not think that Big Bear would be placed under any significant burden to carry out the TMDL indicating that the State wants to see how new State and Federal rules that reduce mercury

emissions impact fisheries. It appears that we might be able to get away with only posting warning signs around the Lake. It does not appear that we can get out of a Statewide TMDL for mercury but our financial burden for this TMDL will likely be significantly less than we have anticipated.”

Mr. Stephenson reported that he and staff conducted a Board Walk inspection adding that it fared well during the winter and looks very good. He explained that he and Catrina Rabago went to San Diego Tuesday to see a new dock software program. He added that the company they visited, Sun Harbor Marina, has been using this software for 5 years and praised the program. He commented that he feels very comfortable with this software. He reported that the two new maintenance employees, Shawn Atwell and Jacob Caughui, began work today. He added that the first project will be to complete the fishing dock so it will be finished before May 15<sup>th</sup>. He commented on the bike race today explaining that there were complaints regarding the hours that Big Bear Marina was open as the replacement for the closure of the East Ramp. Mr. Stephenson reported on lake temperatures comparing the temperature today of 47 degrees to this date last year of 38 degrees. He explained that lake weeds grow much faster in warm water.

Director Lewis asked if staff was happy with the employee interview process. Mr. Stephenson stated that they were happy with the process explaining that using the outside interviewers was a valuable addition.

Director Eminger commented that on Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> the East Ramp was full of cars and looked busy.

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

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

- Minutes of a Regular Meeting of March 21, 2013
- Warrant List Dated April 1, 2013 for \$60,872.36
- Approval of a Dock Resolution Amendment
- Approval of a Special Event Permit for the SoCalFishn.com Kayak Angler's Fishing event series to be held April 21<sup>st</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>

#### **CONSIDER PURCHASE OF STATION A MONITORING AND DATA TRANSMISSION EQUIPMENT**

Mr. Stephenson reported that last fall John Tuttle provided information about remote sensing and reporting equipment that could be installed at Station A in Bear Creek below the dam. He explained that the monitoring equipment would record weir water levels and then send, via an imbedded cell phone, the collected data once or multiple times daily to a web site for later download and viewing. He added that the technology to accomplish this has improved dramatically over the past few years and this particular equipment can operate for multiple years

without new battery installation or other service. He reported that the use of this equipment would eliminate the monthly hike down into the canyon to retrieve the data and allow daily or more often review of the flow conditions as they related to the requirements imposed on the District by the State Water Resources Control Board in order to keep the Bear Creek Fisheries "in good condition". Mr. Stephenson explained that once installed, when Staff sees that Station A flows are falling below required minimums changes can be made in dam release rates immediately instead of observing the problems months after the fact as is the case today. He added that the cost proposal from SCS Engineers details the equipment, installation and web hosting expenses (see attached). He stated that the equipment purchase price is \$2,845.00 and installation at the site and configuration of the flow monitoring equipment is \$1,617.00 and the total cost for this work will be \$4,462.00. He reported that, in addition to this price, the cellular monthly fee will be \$11.99. John Tuttle added that the cost of this equipment has come down significantly explaining that 3 years ago it was more than twice the cost than it is now and he thinks it is well worth the price. Director Suhay explained that it is almost a "real time" control. President Smith asked if the contract is with SCS Engineers. Mr. Tuttle explained that it is with HACH and SCS gets the equipment and installs it. He added that HACH has the satellite up-link. Mr. Stephenson explained that HACH owns the software. President Smith asked if this equipment can withstand a rough winter. Mr. Tuttle explained that the existing equipment was installed in the middle of a creek and was covered with boulders and debris during a heavy winter storm but now it goes through a pipe and is not in a creek so is out of the way of debris. Mr. Stephenson added that if we have a heavy storm event like before it could sustain some damage but it is not likely. Director Eminger asked if anyone was ever hurt hiking down to Station A. Mr. Tuttle explained that he is allergic to bees so he always carries an EpiPen adding that one time two other employees went down without an EpiPen and were attacked by a swarm of bees and stung but were not allergic so no severe reactions were experienced. Mr. Stephenson explained that it is potentially dangerous to hike down there.

Director Lewis moved approval of the purchase of Station A Monitoring and Data Transmission Equipment from SCS Engineers. Director Suhay seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

No comments were made

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mike Stephenson read Scott Heule's announcements: "Next Board meeting is April 18. The Annual Water Education Foundation Santa Ana River Conference will be held April 11, 2013 at the Westin South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa. We did not attend last year. If any Directors wish to attend see Vicki who has a complimentary ticket. The San Bernardino Valley Municipal

Water District facilities tour that we are all attending is on Friday April 19. We will need two cars to get us there by 8:00 AM that morning." Mr. Stephenson had no other announcements.

**DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

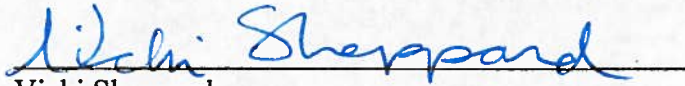
No comments were made

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:33 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING**

Open Session at 1:00 P.M.  
Thursday, April 18, 2013  
Big Bear Municipal Water District  
40524 Lakeview Drive, Big Bear Lake, CA



Vicki Sheppard  
Secretary to the Board  
Big Bear Municipal Water District

(SEAL)



TASK	DESCRIPTION	COST ESTIMATE
Procure Flow Monitoring Equipment	Procure HACH monitoring equipment	\$2,845.00
Assist with Installation and Implementation	Assist Client staff in installation and configuration of flow monitoring equipment	\$1,617.00
As-Needed Consulting	Additional out-of-scope work associated with this scope of services is to be conducted on an "as-needed" basis upon the request of the Client on a time and materials basis per the enclosed Fee Schedule.	Not included in this budget.
Total Estimate: \$4,462.00		

Compensation described herein shall be subject to renegotiation if authorization to proceed has not been given within 30 days of the date of the Agreement for Services. We propose to perform our services, and invoice, in accordance with the enclosed Consulting Agreement and the attached Fee Schedule and Conditions of Service.

