

BIG BEAR AREA REGIONAL WASTEWATER AGENCY

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

September 25, 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 September 25, 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

Members of the public who signed in included:

Joyce Crist, Big Bear City

Christine Smith, Big Bear City

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Segovia

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Ayes: Herrick, Russo, Segovia, Walsh, Miller

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

4. PUBLIC FORUM

Tom Sitton spoke about the upcoming election of City Council members and the potential continuation of Replenish Big Bear by the City of Big Bear Lake and BBARWA.

Daniel Gulbranson spoke about City of Big Bear Lake business and notified the Agency of upcoming FOIA requests.

Joyce Crist expressed opposition to Replenish Big Bear and emphasized that the City of Big Bear Lake has no jurisdiction over Big Bear City.

David Ybarra commented on dismissive reactions during meetings and the public's desire for Replenish Big Bear to come to an end.

5. **PRESENTATION AND INTRODUCTION**

None

6. **INFORMATION/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

6.A. General Manager's Report

The General Manager briefed the Governing Board on the status of the Lucerne Valley Solar and LPS Generator and Fuel System projects.

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR APPROVED ITEMS**

7.A. Meeting Minutes from the July 24, 2024 Regular Meeting and August 12, 2024 Special Meeting

7.B. Monthly Disbursements Report for July and August

7.C. Investment Report Identifying Agency Investments and Reporting Interest Income for July and August

7.D. Resolution No. R. 10-2024, A Resolution of the Governing Board of the Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency Adopting the Annual Statement of Investment Policy

7.E. Carryover Appropriations

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

Ayes: Herrick, Russo, Segovia, Walsh, Miller

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

8. **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR**

None

9. OLD BUSINESS

None

10. NEW BUSINESS – DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

10.A. General Manager Employment Agreement Amendment

The Human Resources Coordinator detailed the revised terms of the General Manager's employment agreement.

The Chair read the following into the record as required by the Brown Act: The General Manager's base salary will be \$21,273.79 per month (equivalent to an hourly rate of \$122.73). This reflects a 3.3% increase effective on April 20, 2024, which is the first day of the pay period encompassing Mr. Lawrence's employment anniversary date of April 25, 2024.

Daniel Gulbranson commented about the City of Big Bear Lake and expressed his satisfaction that the Grizzly Newspaper will publish the truth.

Joyce Crist expressed concern over funds being spent on Replenish Big Bear and the General Manager's performance.

Dennis Largé thanked the General Manager and commented about the General Manager's performance.

Upon motion by Vice-Chair Herrick, seconded by Chair Miller and carried, the Governing Board authorized the Governing Board Chair to execute an Employment Agreement Amendment with the approved changes.

Ayes: Herrick, Russo, Segovia, Walsh, Miller

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

10.B. Canon Copier Lease Agreement

The Board Secretary explained the need to lease a new copier and terms of the lease agreement.

The Governing Board discussed acquiring several smaller copiers to reduce the cost.

Daniel Gulbranson commented about the City of Big Bear Lake and Item 10.A.

Upon motion by Vice-Chair Herrick, seconded by Director Russo and carried, the Governing Board authorized the General Manager to enter into a lease agreement between the Agency and Canon for a term of five years.

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

10.C. Reject All Bids for the Force Main Project and Re-Bid the Project

The General Manager recommended rejecting all bids and rebid the Force Main Project at a later date.

The Governing Board asked about the location of RE Chaffee and how the \$1.3 million was estimated.

Joyce Crist expressed her concerns about spending money on pipelines and solar facilities, questioning why the community is responsible for covering these costs.

Daniel Gulbranson noted that money is being spent on solar, but he doesn't see any revenue being generated from electricity.

Upon motion by Chair Miller, seconded by Vice-Chair Herrick and carried, the Governing Board authorized the General Manager to reject all bids received for the Force Main Project and direct the General Manager to re-bid the Project with a reduced scope of work; directed the General Manager to engage Water Systems Consulting, Inc. for additional engineering services for the Force Main Project in the amount of \$48,000; and directed the General Manager to negotiate and award a contract to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the Force Main Project, not to exceed \$1,269,645.

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

11. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

11.A. General Manager Comments

None

11.B. Governing Board Member Comments

The Governing Board asked for an update on Replenish Big Bear grants and inquired why the item needs to be presented again to the Board.

12. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Governing Board, Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

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