

BISHOP AREA WASTEWATER AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETING MINUTES  
*March 18, 2025*

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Muchovej called the Bishop Area Wastewater Authority Board of Directors Meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. in City Hall, 377 West Line Street, Bishop, California in-person and via Zoom.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member Carr.

3. ROLL CALL

Present:

Chair Muchovej  
Vice Chair Schwartz  
Board Member Pachucki  
Board Member Carr

Others Present:

Nora Gamino, Authority Administrator  
Michele Rhew, Authority Secretary  
Matt Bullis, Assistant Administrator via Zoom  
Ward Simmons, Legal Counsel via Zoom  
City of Bishop Staff  
Eastern Sierra Community Service District Staff  
Bishop Paiute Tribal Council Members / Staff

4. PUBLIC COMMENT: NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC: See modified public comment procedure above. Under California law the Board of Directors is prohibited from generally discussing or taking action on items not included in the agenda; however, the Board of Directors may briefly respond to comments or questions received from members of the public. Therefore, the Board of Directors will be provided with all public comments but will not generally discuss the matter or take action on it.

No public comments were received.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR – NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC: All matters under the Consent Calendar are considered routine by the Authority and will be acted on by one motion.

- a. Board of Directors of the Bishop Area Wastewater Authority Meeting Minutes  
– December 17, 2024 – Minutes

No comments were made by the Board or received from the Public.

Board Member Pachucki made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar and Vice Chair Schwartz seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

Ayes: Board Member Pachucki, Board Member Carr, Vice Chair Schwartz, and Chair Muchovej  
Noes: None

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Preliminary Engineering Report Presentation

Chair Muchovej opened the item and turned the item over to Authority Administrator Gamino. Gamino shared that Lumos will be joining the meeting via Zoom, and they will provide a presentation.

Jonathan Lesperance of Lumos introduced Caroline Elliott of Lumos, who gave a presentation of the Preliminary Engineering Report to look at the future of the Bishop Area Wastewater Authority wastewater treatment plant project.

At the end of the presentation, the Board asked several questions and thanked Lumos for their presentation.

No public comment received.

- b. Willan Contract Amendment to Extend Services

Chair Muchovej opened the item and turned the item over to Authority Administrator Gamino. Gamino reviewed the contract amendment and asked the Board to approve extending services by \$34,000.00 through the end of the fiscal year.

No Board or public comment was made.

Vice Chair Schwartz made a motion to authorize the Administrator to sign and execute Amendment 2 with Willdan Engineering to extend Administration Assistance services by \$34,000 for a new total not-to-exceed amount of \$65,100 and approve the ratification of Amendment 01, signed by the Administrator, to extend the period of performance on the agreement as written and Board Member Carr seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

Ayes: Board Member Pachucki, Board Member Carr, Vice Chair Schwartz, and Chair Muchovej  
Noes: None

c. Survey of Various Sanitary Districts Who Operate Wastewater Treatment Plants

Chair Muchovej opened the item and turned the item over to Assistant Administrator Bullis. Bullis gave an overview of information he collected of other sanitary districts and how they operated their wastewater treatment facilities under a Joint Powers Authority agreement.

Authority Administrator Gamino commented that there is a typo in the Staff Report and the plant permit capacities should be 8.0 MGD for SKF, South County should be 8.5 MGD, NOR District should be 7.5 MGC, and Victor Valley is correct at 14 MGD.

The Board asked questions regarding staffing, Tribal involvement, and Sequox sanitation systems.

No public comment was made.

7. STAFF AND BOARD REPORTS

Chair Muchovej opened the item and asked for reports from the Board and Staff.

Authority Administrator Gamino updated the Board on the State Revolving Fund Grant Application and shared that Authority Secretary Rhew is retiring.

Rhew thanked the Board for turning in their Form 700 for the year.

Vice Chair Schwartz asked for an update on the land acquisition and Gamino stated there is no update at this moment and the acquisition is on the back burner at the moment. Gamino did mention that she has asked Lumos to look into what is needed for discharge with a new sewer plant system and if the land is still needed. Schwartz remarked that she is interested in the Purple Pipe concept.

Board Member Pachucki commented that the Purple Pipe concept would significantly increase the plant cost capital investment. Pachucki asked Gamino if Lumos had Resource Concept Inc.'s (RCI) study and Gamino responded that anything she had available was given to Lumos. Pachucki mentioned that with BAWA having a PER and knowing a little about the treatment, we may not need all of the acreage. Gamino explained that evaluating the irrigation field and disposal area was not part of the PER. We could add to the scope, for a cost, an evaluation of the disposal field and different options, however we would need to modify Lumos's contract.

Board Member Carr commented that he is happy the land acquisition is on the back burner because the new plant should be the main focus. Carr asked if the goal of 2029 can be achieved and how the Board can help that happen. Gamino replied that the timeline is much more aggressive than was presented on. How long it may take for the State to approve our agreement could delay the progress. As for the Board helping, to continue emphasis on the project by making it a priority for Staff would be number one. Gamino stated she checks in with the State biweekly to ask if there is anything needed.

Gamino mentioned she would let the Board know if there is support needed to keep the project on an aggressive timeline.

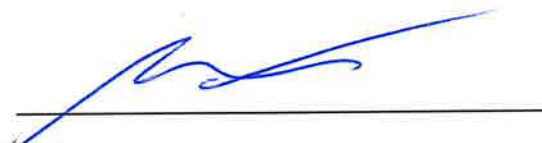
Lastly, Carr asked Assistant Administrator Bullis where we were in negotiations with the Tribe. Bullis explained that the JPA needs to be updated to include the Tribe and would make it an emphasis over the next month. Gamino responded that step one would be to get the three legal counsels together. Next would be for each organization to provide who will be the representative on the Ad-Hoc Committee that will help develop the JPA. We hope to have an update at the June meeting.

Muchovej said it is great the State Revolving Fund will get BAWA to 30%. However, Muchovej asked where we are looking at supplementing the gap 30% and 100%. Gamino responded that she asked the State why they would partially fund a design and from talking to the State, it is standard practice to go through 30%. Gamino explained she is thinking about how to get through to the final design. She is always asking the State how Proposition 4 money will be allocated and what programs it will fund as well as always looking at other options. Muchovej suggested talking to the Tribe as they may have other options as well.

No further reports were made.

9. ADJOURNMENT: The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Bishop Area Wastewater Authority Board of Directors will be June 17, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. in the Bishop City Council Chambers, 301 West Line Street, Bishop.

Chair Muchovej adjourned the meeting at 10:11 a.m. to the next regularly scheduled meeting on June 17, 2025.



Chair Muchovej



Jessica Ortiz, Authority Secretary