



White Bear Lake Conservation District

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Oct 17, 2023, 7:00 p.m., White Bear Lake City Hall Council Chambers

(6:00 pm LUC meeting)

1. **Roll Call/Quorum** – Present: Chair Bryan DeSmet, Vice Chair Meredith Walburg, Treasurer Mike Parenteau, Mark Ganz, Chris Churchill, Scott Costello, Darren DeYoung, Diane Longville, Mark Wisniewski, and Alan Kantrud. Absent: Susie Mahoney. A quorum was present.
2. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Bryan DeSmet.
3. **Approval of Agenda** – Motion to approve the agenda was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed.
4. **Approval of Previous Board Meeting Minutes** – Motion to approve the Sept. 19, 2023 meeting minutes was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed.
5. **Public Comments** – none
6. **New Business**
 - LMC liability coverage - approval to not waive the statutory tort limits – Motion to approve not waiving the statutory tort limits of LMC liability insurance coverage was made by Diane Longville, seconded and passed.
 - 2024 Form 5 permit applications correction – Motion to remove the ‘public dock and mooring fee’ from 2024 Form 5 permit applications and 2024 license fee schedule was made by Chris Churchill, seconded and passed. Churchill stated the LUC would review the license fee schedule.
 - 2024 Lake use study RFB draft - Meredith Walburg, Mark Wisniewski, and Alex Schwartz put together a draft proposal for a lake use study to be conducted during summer 2024. Request for proposals will be solicited for the study, and will include surveys for homeowners and lakeshore owners. When asked if winter data might be useful, Walburg stated that winter questions will be on the homeowner and lakeshore owner surveys. Another survey question was suggested in regard to how zebra mussels have impacted homeowners.

The Board is tasked to review the draft prior to the November Board meeting, and send any comments to Cheri to include in a final proposal to be presented for approval at the meeting. Once approved, a request for proposal will be sent out, with bids received in December for review in January or February.

- Buoy placement and map – Meredith Walburg stated that a buoy map is being created to make lake users aware of the location of buoys, and will be published on social media, website, and the White Bear Press, or *The Laker*. The timing of buoy placement, and who will do the work to place and monitor them next year was also discussed with suggestions to put buoys in around May 1 and take out around Oct. 15, and to also note that on the buoy map. Mark Ganz suggested an article about buoys and their meaning. The buoy map would be updated and approved every year. Work on the map and placement will continue through the winter.
- City of WBL – Lion’s Park and Veteran’s Park fishing pier permit applications – Bryan DeSmet stated that the fishing piers in Commercial Bay are basically permanent

structures, and rather than having owners apply for a permit every year, the Conservation District should consider them permanent.

Motion to approve established public piers, specifically Lions Park and Veteran's Memorial Park, as permanent structures, was seconded and passed. As permanent structures, they will no longer need to submit annual permit applications, unless there is intent to make changes to the permitted structure(s). Also, the responsibility for inspection of the structures belongs to the owner of the pier. It was noted that the DNR is the owner of the Lion's Park pier, but has an operating agreement with the City of WBL. Cheri will send a letter to the City of WBL regarding this.

- Aeration regulation – Meredith Walburg stated that the WBLCD bylaws require regulation of aeration on the Lake, and is developing procedures for regular monitoring. There are two DNR permits for ice control on the Lake. Cheri will get a copy of the permits for Walburg to review, and create a simple form to track aeration users. Aeration would be a topic for the last *Laker* issue.

7. Unfinished Business

- VFW-EAW 2nd draft review Board comments – The Board put together a page of comments on the 2nd draft of the EAW, however it was discovered that the submitted draft was incomplete (only the 1st page of each double-sided page was copied). The complete 2nd draft VFW-EAW was just received and Cheri will send a copy for the Board to review. Motion to approve the 2nd draft Board comments in the packet, and send to the applicant was made by Bryan DeSmet, second and passed. The Board will review the missing pages that were received, and send comments to Cheri by Oct. 24. She will incorporate any comments to the previous Board comments and send to the applicant by Oct. 26.

8. Reports/Action Items

- **Executive Committee** – A meeting was held with DNR East Metro hydrologist, Dan Scollan, regarding how the WBLCD and the DNR could work more closely together with permit procedures. It was suggested that the DNR would still regulate the number of slips, and other standard provisions, giving the WBLCD flexibility in permitting dock lengths and dock configurations. Ideally, the DNR permit would be general enough to give the WBLCD flexibility in permitting as long as the number of DNR approved slips is not exceed. Scollan was open to that approach, and asked that a copy of the dock configuration that is approved with the permit be sent to the DNR for its files.

The committee also discussed the lake study proposal, buoy monitoring during the boating season, VFW-EAW, aeration for ice control, and ordinance review work.

- **Lake Quality Committee** – Mike Parenteau
 - Lake level – The lake level today is 922.24', three inches more than last month.
 - Lake temperature – The lake temperature today is 54°F.
 - Phragmites and EWM Treatment – Phragmites treatment was completed on Oct. 11, and we'll find out next spring how effective it was. Steve McComas will present on the EWM survey and treatment at the November Board meeting.
- **Lake Utilization Committee** – Mark Ganz
 - Snyder Bay Beach Club – Motion to approve their 2024 noncommercial dock permit application was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed with Scott Costello abstaining. The permit application is identical to last year.
 - Redpath Wolgamot water Ski Courses – The 2024 ski course permit application was tabled to look into the need for slalom/buoy permits from Ramsey and Washington Counties. Cheri and Alan will research and inform the applicant.
 - Manitou Island Association – The 2024 swim buoys/floats permit application was tabled to look into the need for swim buoy permits from Ramsey County. Alan will research and Cheri will inform the applicant.

- **Lake Education Committee**

- Educational outreach update – Scott Costello stated that copy for the winter issue of *The Laker* (the last issue in our contract with White Bear Press), will be submitted by the WBLCD by the Nov. 30 deadline.
- Social media update – Meredith Walburg will post an invitation on social media to the McComas presentation in November, and lake temperature and level.

9. Treasurer's Reports

- October Treasurer's Report – Motion to approve debit card 16 and 17, and checks 4901 to 4908 was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed.
- HEPA filter and dehumidifier – Motion to approve the purchase of a HEPA filter air purifier and dehumidifier to help control moisture issues in the basement office was made by Bryan DeSmet, seconded and passed. Cheri will research and purchase.

10. Board Council Report

- Your Boat Club contacted Alan Kantrud offering to donate their services to install and remove shallow water buoys during the boating season. Mike Parenteau stated that they did a good job, and Alan will call them tomorrow to have them remove the buoys. Their services will be considered for next year.
- Water patrol activity has been quiet, and Sgt. Jeremy Bolen is the new head of the patrol. Cheri will remind Ramsey County to send their invoice.

11. Announcements

- Cheri thanked everyone who helped move furniture and got rid of old stuff in the office to get ready for the carpet installation. However, the installation was cancelled due to water entering the basement. The City of WBL is looking into the issue. A new installation date will be rescheduled, leaving an uncarpeted space near the wall for the City to do repairs.
- The next Board meeting will be held on Tues., Nov. 21.

12. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.

ATTEST:

Bryan DeSmet, Chair *Bryan DeSmet* Date 11-21-2023
Cheri Howe, Administrator *Cheri Howe* Date 11/21/2023