



White Bear Lake Conservation District Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Jan. 16, 2024 7:00 p.m., White Bear Lake City Hall Council Chambers
(6:00 pm LUC meeting)

1. **Roll Call/Quorum** – Present: Secretary-Treasurer Mike Parenteau, Chris Churchill, Scott Costello, Darren DeYoung, Susie Mahoney, Mark Wisniewski, and Alan Kantrud. Absent: Bryan DeSmet, Meredith Walburg, Mark Ganz, and Diane Longville. A quorum was present.
2. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm by Mike Parenteau.
3. **Approval of Agenda** – The following amendments to the agenda were made: removed WBL low water level study group under item 6, and Executive Committee and social media reports under item 8; and added Dec. 22, 2023 Treasurer's Report to the Dec. 31, 2023 year end Treasurer's Report item. A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed.
4. **Approval of Previous Board Meeting minutes** – A motion to approve the Nov. 21, 2023 meeting minutes was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed.
5. **Public Comments** - none
6. **New Business**
 - Nominations for Executive Board members – Mike Parenteau nominated Bryan DeSmet for chair, and Meredith Walburg for vice chair, and Chris Churchill nominated Mike Parenteau for secretary-treasurer. Nominations are open through the February Board meeting where a vote will take place. Either contact the administrator with nominations or bring it to the next meeting.
 - Board activity calendar draft – Board members are to review the Board activity calendar draft and inform the administrator of any additions or changes before the February Board meeting.
 - 2023 annual report draft - Board members are to review the 2023 annual report draft and inform the administrator of any additions or changes before the February Board meeting.
 - Annual designations – A motion to approve the 2024 annual designations was made by Scott Costello, seconded and passed.
 - WBLCD Buoy Location Map – updated draft – The actual buoy locations on the map could change depending on the lake level. When completed it will be posted on the website, social media, featured in a spring education piece on buoys, and possibly given to permit applicants. After some discussion, it was decided that the administrator will change the color dots to shapes so it can be reproduced in black and white. The map will be updated for the February Board meeting.
7. **Unfinished Business**
 - VFW-EAW update – The Environmental Assessment Worksheet is still missing some information and a final review letter from the DNR's National Heritage Review team needs to be received. on the provided by the VFW still needs some information is still incomplete waiting for completion
 - 2024 lake use study RFP proposals – Mark Wisniewski updated the Board on the subcommittee's review of the two proposals received for the 2024 lake use study project; one from Blue Water Science, and the other from Emmons and Olivier Resources (EOR). The budget for the project is \$30,000: Blue Water Science total costs are \$35,800 + \$350 per meeting and the proposal mirrors the data that was requested; EOR total costs are \$29,600, and while it didn't follow the

data requests as closely, they did suggest some other components that could enhance the study. The subcommittee deemed both of these firms as very qualified.

There are three important factors to consider as the Board prepares for a vote. One is consistency of data collection as we're reviewing back to the 2006 lake use studies and with the same individuals using the same methodology the data becomes comparable. Another consideration is costs. The last consideration is that EOR, while being a firm we haven't worked with in a long while, could offer new insights for the study. The subcommittee prefers Blue Water Science for its consistency in data collection that makes the history of reports comparable.

The Board was asked to review the proposals for discussion and vote at the February Board meeting.

8. Reports/Action Items

- **Lake Quality Committee** – Mike Parenteau reported that the lake is not frozen yet.
- **Lake Utilization Committee** –
 - The LUC reviewed the following applications, and made recommendations to the Board. At the LUC meeting, Chris Churchill made the motions to either approve or table the following permits with each voted on individually:
 - VFW Post 1782 Horseshoe on Ice Fundraiser Event permit application (Feb. 17, 2024) – A motion to approve the event permit, and waive the application fee was made by Chris Churchill, seconded and passed. The administrator will follow up with the VFW to confirm the cleanup date.
 - VFW Post 1782 amended commercial permit application (same as last year [tabled from 11/21/23]) A motion to approve the amended permit application was made by Chris C., seconded and passed.
 - White Bear Yacht Club commercial/noncommercial permit application (revised from last year) – The application was tabled until the watercraft and slip counts can be confirmed. Chris C. will reach out to them.
 - Brenda Farrell noncommercial permit application (new) – The application was tabled until a better diagram was received. Chris C. will reach out to them
 - Scott Bohnen noncommercial permit application (same as last year) – A motion to approve was made by Chris C., seconded and passed.
 - Beverly Driscoll noncommercial permit application (same as last year) – A motion to approve was made by Chris C., seconded and passed.
 - Hickory St. Dock Assn. noncommercial permit application (same as last year) – A motion to approve was made by Chris C., seconded and passed.
 - Alicia Heights Dock noncommercial permit application (same as last year) – A motion to approve was made by Chris C., seconded and passed.
 - Cottage Park Homeowners' Assn permit application (revised dock configuration from last year) – A motion to approve was made by Chris C., seconded and passed, with Scott Costello abstaining. The association's dock may extend its dock out in accordance with WBLCD ordinances should the water level be too low.
 - Your Boat Club commercial sales permit application – A motion to approve was made by Chris C., seconded and passed.
- **Lake Education Committee**
 - Educational outreach update – Scott Costello reported that the winter issue of *The Laker* was published in December featuring the Rice Creek Watershed District's chloride chart, and thin ice awareness. The administrator will contact the White Bear Press regarding their proposal for partnership in 2024. A spring article in the publication would focus on buoys.

and thin ice awareness. The administrator will contact the White Bear Press regarding their proposal for partnership in 2024. A spring article in the publication would focus on buoys.

Mahtomedi Boy Scout Troop 89 will be hosting the annual lake cleanup on Mar. 9. If they are unable to get on the ice, they will do a land cleanup in the parks around the lake. More information will follow.

9. Treasurer Reports – Mike Parenteau

- Approval of amended November 2023 Treasurer's Report – A motion to approve the amended Nov. 2023 Treasurer's Report, with check #4917 voided, was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed.
- Approval of December 22, 2023 and December 31, 2023 Year End Treasurer's Reports – A motion to approve the Dec. 22 and 23, 2023 Treasurer's Reports (approving debit cards 6a, 19, 20, 21 and EFT payment; check #s: 64-A to 64-F, and 4920-4922; and voided uncashed checks 3164, 4267, 4612, and 4896) was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed.
- Approval of January 16, 2024 Treasurer Report – A motion to approve the Jan. 16, 2024 Treasurer Report was made by Mike P., seconded and passed.

10. Board Council Report

- Alan Kantrud reported that it has been a slow month of activity on the lake due to ice conditions. Presentations will be scheduled for February (Ramsey County water patrol), and March (insurance carrier).

11. Announcements

- Please return your completed non-conflict of interest forms before the end of the meeting.
- A donation from Manitou Clothing is expected and a resolution will need to be written to accept it.

12. Adjournment – A motion to adjourn at 8:42 pm was made by Scott Costello, seconded and passed.

ATTEST:

Bryan DeSmet, Chair

Bryan DeSmet

Date 2-20-2024

Cheri Howe, Administrator

Cheri Howe

Date 2/20/2024