



White Bear Lake Conservation District

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Feb. 20, 2024, 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, Secretary-Treasurer Mike Parenteau, Mark Ganz, Chris Churchill, Scott Costello, Diane Longville, Mark Wisniewski, and Alan Kantrud. Absent: Darren DeYoung and Susie Mahoney. A quorum was present.
2. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Bryan DeSmet at 7:00 pm.
3. **Approval of Agenda** – The 2023 EOY financials were removed from item 9, and a motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Meredith Walburg, seconded and passed.
4. **Approval of Previous Board Meeting minutes** – It was noted to change the word ‘chlorine’ to ‘chloride’ in the Jan. 16, 2024 minutes, and, in future minutes, to include the number of boat slips permitted. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.
5. **Public Comments** - none
6. **New Business**

- Executive Board member elections – No additional nominations to the Executive Board election were made to the slate announced at the January Board meeting. Motion to approve the slate as presented - Bryan DeSmet for chair, Meredith Walburg for vice chair, and Mike Parenteau for secretary-treasurer – was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.
Ramsey County Water Patrol 2023 enforcement report – Deputy Sheriff Jeremy Bolen summarized 2023 services including writing 120 citations (mostly for parking lot incidents and boat and trailer registrations), and focusing their efforts throughout the week, and on the weekend, on monitoring jet skiers. Ramsey County water patrol works in tandem with the DNR conservation officer assigned to White Bear Lake.

Services also included a Commercial Bay boat count in late August that was an addendum to last year’s law enforcement contract. Their boat count was VFW: 32, Your Boat Club: 120, Admiral Ds (Docks of White Bear Lake): 174, City of White Bear Lake: 176, and Tally’s: 64. Two boat counts will be conducted this year - one early to mid-June, and one early to mid-August. Bolen stated that the boat counts were conducted by walking the docks and counting the slips occupied by a boat. Chris Churchill said that the WBLCD would share marina leased/transient slip information with the water patrol, and slip numbering. Bolen stated that Tally’s rental numbers of kayaks, canoes, paddleboards, pontoons, and jon boats are going up.

When asked if he saw a need for boater education, Bolen stated that there have been some issues with youth on jet skis who need to be in the line of site of a parent, and that the parental supervision was questionable. Churchill asked about the need for Ramsey County water structure permits for waterski courses. Bolen said regulations and permit applications are available on the Ramsey County sheriff’s office website, and once an application is approved applicants receive a sticker for a buoy. It was noted that the Washington County sheriff’s office is on the Mahtomedi side of the lake.

Bolen introduced Mike Servatka, the newly appointed Water Patrol Commander. Servatka is a White Bear resident who has worked in the sheriff’s office for 26 years. Bryan DeSmet asked about the process for getting this year’s supplemental law enforcement contract. Legal counsel will work with Ramsey County to get a contract together and to the Board in March or April.

The Laker publication–2024 education outreach proposal – A motion to approve Press Publications contract for WBLCD content to be published in four issues of *The Laker* at a total cost of \$1,750 was made by Scott Costello, seconded and passed.

- White Bear Lake low water level study group – Bryan DeSmet reported that a sub-group has been created to formulate ideas on how to address potential low water levels in Commercial Bay, and bring suggestions to the Board. Chris Churchill will lead the group which includes Mark Ganz, Darren DeYoung, Mike Parenteau, and Scott Costello.

7. Unfinished Business

- Board activity annual calendar – The Board discussed the annual Board activity calendar and made some edits. Changes will be made and brought back to the March meeting.
- 2023 annual report approval – A motion to approve the 2023 annual report was made by Bryan DeSmet, seconded and passed.
- VFW-EAW update – After administrator review and editing of the EAW draft and exhibits, the Executive Committee will work on filling in missing information. The Natural Heritage review to complete the EAW should be available in April or May. It was suggested that the whole Board receive a copy of the marked-up EAW to review, and provide any input to Cheri.
- Buoy placement map draft – Meredith Walburg stated that the map will be published on our website, social media, and *The Laker*. It was suggested to remove wording under 'Shallow Water Buoys' and to add that the map is subject to change due to water levels and the most updated copy would be available on our website. A motion to approve the amended map was made by Walburg, seconded and passed.
- Aeration regulation monitoring permit – A motion to approve the WBLCD aeration regulation permit was made by Meredith Walburg, seconded and passed. The form will be publicized through the WBLCD website and social media.
- 2024 Lake use study recommendation – Meredith Walburg reported that the Board received two qualified proposals last month for review and approval. The Lake Use Study group recommended Blue Water Science as they followed the RFP more closely than the other proposal. Another factor was the consistency of the data collection methods, and previous studies completed by Blue Water Science. A motion to approve the proposal from Blue Water Science was made by Walburg, seconded and passed.

8. Reports/Action Items

- Executive Committee – Bryan DeSmet reported that the committee met on Feb. 6 and discussed administrative items, buoy placement map and installation/removal, 2024 low water level planning, Commercial Bay permits, planning with surveyor to measure marina dock lengths, updating the WBLCD permit, the lake use study RFP, the ADUA line b/w VFW and City of WBL, aeration for ice control, ordinance review work, and the St. Germain bay sign.
- Lake Quality Committee
 - Mike Parenteau reported that ice-in didn't occur until Jan. 18, 2024.
- Lake Utilization Committee – 2024 application review - Mark Ganz reported that the LUC reviewed and approved the following 2024 permit applications, and made recommendations to the Board:
 - Redpath Wolgamot waterski course permit (tabled 10/17/23) A motion to approve the watercourse permit – conditional on the applicant submitting a copy of the Ramsey County permit application to the Conservation District office – was made by Ganz, seconded and passed.
 - Brenda Farrell noncommercial dock permit (new-tabled 1/16/24) A motion to approve the permit for five (5) watercraft was made by Ganz, seconded and passed.
 - White Bear Yacht Club multi-user dock permit (revised from last year-tabled 1/16/24) A motion to approve the permit for 22 noncommercial watercraft, 24 commercial slips, and 1 ramp was made by Ganz, seconded and passed. The sheriff's boat is not included in the slip count.

- Birchwood Dock Assn noncommercial dock permit. (identical from last year) A motion to approve the permit for the sites listed below was made by Ganz, seconded and passed.
 - Ash Beach – 6 boats
 - Birch Beach – 8 boats
 - Elm Beach – 4 boats
 - Dellwood Beach – 7 boats
- Wildwood Beach Manor Condominiums noncommercial dock permit (identical to last year) A motion to approve the permit for 11 watercraft was made by Ganz, seconded and passed.
- East Shore Dock Association noncommercial dock permit (identical to last year) A motion to approve a permit for 12 watercraft was made by Chris Churchill, seconded and passed, Mark Ganz abstaining.
- Forest Heights Improvement Inc noncommercial dock permit. (identical to last year) A motion to approve a permit for 10 watercraft was made by Ganz, seconded and passed.
- Russ Becker docks and swim rafts water structure permit (identical to last year) It was noted that the rafts are marked and sitting higher in the water. A motion to approve a permit for two (2) docks and two (2) swim rafts was made by Ganz, seconded and passed.
- Lake Education Committee
 - Educational outreach update – Scott Costello reported that the Lake Education Committee will work on ideas and content for the first issue of *The Laker* and discuss the possibility of a summertime lake cleanup and participation in Marketfest. The annual lake cleanup, scheduled for Mar. 9, will most likely be on the shore at parks around the lake. The WBLCD Board is signed up to volunteer at Lions Park starting at 10 am.
 - Social media update – Meredith Walburg will post about the lake cleanup, the icehouse deadline, the historical ice-out dates, and possibly a current ice-out date.

9. Treasurer Reports

- 2024 February Treasurer Report - A motion to approve debit card purchases 2023-1 through 2024-3, and checks #4926 through 4932 was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed.


10. Board Council Report – Alan Kantrud

- Alan Kantrud thanked Deputy Boland for his presentation and service. Commander Servatka will be conducting a safe and sober boating campaign the first week of July and he will get more information.

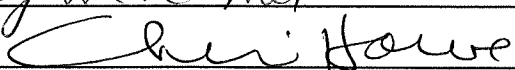
11. Announcements – none

12. Adjournment – A motion to adjourn at 8:08 pm was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.

ATTEST

Bryan DeSmet, Chair 

Date: 3-19-2024

Cheri Howe, Administrator 

Date: 3/19/2024