



REGULAR MEETING OF THE WHITE BEAR LAKE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
7:00 P.M. WHITE BEAR CITY HALL
MINUTES of July 21, 2009

APPROVAL DATE: 8/18/09

1. CALL TO ORDER The July meeting of the White Bear Lake Conservation District was convened by Chair Thomas Hoffman at 7:05 pm.

2. ROLL CALL Present were: Chair Thomas Hoffman, Vice Chair Luke Michaud, Directors Diane Longville, Mike Parenteau, Doug Danks, Mike Stawnychy, Yale Norwick, John Steinworth, George St. Germain. A quorum was present. Recording secretary was Julie Yoho. Absent was Sue Cernohous (not excused).

3. AGENDA

Add items: 8b2 Docks of WBL; 6c. Minutes at LUC meetings each month.
Move item 8a3 to new business

MOTION #1 (Michaud/Parenteau) Move to approve agenda with above changes. All aye, passed.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #2 (Parenteau/St Germain) Move to approve June 2009 meeting minutes. All aye, passed.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

Brian McGoldrick, DWB

Committee was going to look at slip allocation in commercial bay? What is status?

Michaud – will do prior to dock applications going out

McGoldrick – waiting until October is too long. What about Sept.?

Hoffman – any changes would apply to 2010 applications

Michaud – will try to do ASAP

McGoldrick – can you give a definitive date?

Michaud – prior to august board mtg.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6a. Matoska boat launch dredging. City had permission from DNR. Dredging occurred Monday.

Steinworth – there are 2 sediment piles by launch. The dredging may have limited value as boats move into the shallow lake areas

6b. Lake bed property rights. Questions over who owns the new beach area. The DNR has guidelines on their website. (Hoffman) Here is a draft of WBLCD statement to post on our site to provide more information.

MOTION # 3 (Hoffman/Michaud) Move to approve document for posting on website with link to DNR information.

Discussion

Steinworth – the draft document states our position is consistent with DNR, why do we need one?

Hoffman – worthy question

Steinworth – doesn't see need to take stand in separate document

Parenteau – the DNR website can be hard to navigate and to find the info. May be easier to find on our website.

Michaud – we've gotten many questions this month, appropriate for us to have statement, even if it is redundant.

Norwick – the meandered information is helpful to have

Steinworth – hesitant to concur that our statement is consistent without consulting with DNR first. In favor of posting the DNR information on our site.

Motion Vote

8 aye, 1 no Steinworth. Passed

6c. Minutes at Lake Utilization Committees meetings

MOTION # 4 (Hoffman/Norwick) Move to have Julie attend and take notes at the August LUC meeting.

Discussion

Danks – do we run afoul of work being done at the committee meeting if minutes are taken?

Kantrud – typically cities keep records at the committee level. Good policy

Vote

All aye, passed.

6d. Lake Quality Committee member application from Beth Nixon.

Beth Nixon - 28 yr resident, familiar with lake, worked as biologist on lakes & other resources

MOTION # 5 (Hoffman/Steinworth) Move to approve Beth Nixon to be community representative on the Lake Quality Committee.

Norwick – we are lucky to have someone with this background

All aye, passed

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

none

8. REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

8a. Lake Quality Committee

8a1. Milfoil Assessment

The WBLCD Lake Management plan, adopted in 1999, states "Goal 5: Protect the healthy native aquatic plant community in White Bear Lake." "Goal 6: Prevent Eurasian water milfoil or

other exotic species or natural species from becoming a recreational or ecological nuisance.”

Steinworth – We have July 2 & July 20 reports from Steve McComas. “On July 20, 2009 Eurasian water milfoil was widespread in White Bear Lake with approximately 15 – 20 acres of milfoil topping out with the biggest problem area found at Site 20 (Figure 1). Milfoil was also growing close to the water surface at several other sites covering a total of several acres. Milfoil is a hindrance to general navigation at Site 20.” The Lake Quality Committee met and reviewed the assessment. Committee recommends harvesting and removing plants in site 20, and to consider expanding to other red areas noted in assessment.

Steve McComas – The red areas indicates where the milfoil is matting at the surface and there is severe hindrance in this area. (20). There are other areas where it is present. There are categories of growth. On the East side of lake it is single stem, close to surface. The sailboats have problems here, other boats can get thru. Native plants are growing here too. In the problem area on the Southwest side it is branching, matting, no navigation possible. Has reached nuisance conditions. Milfoil is in 7-9 feet of water depth, growing in new areas with the low water levels. From west to east sections of the lake there are different growth characteristics. Site 20 is approx. 15 acres. The plants got denser from July 2nd to 20th. There is 80 – 90 days in the growing season, then they will die back. In 20 – 30days it will die back on its own. Norwick – in how many areas did EWM choke out the native plants?

McComas – on the east side, it’s mixed with natives. In the Bellaire area it’s nearly 100% milfoil. First time in 12 yrs it is dominating in that area.

Parenteau – harvesting is like cutting grass, if we cut to 4-5 feet, does the plant get stronger?

McComas – will not come back thicker. Harvesting will take off the canopy and allow sunlight down and let native plants grow. Will not increase density, but it will grow back 1-2 inches/day.

Parenteau – How about harvest and chemically treat?

McComas – herbicides are drawn into the growing plant. The plants will draw in more herbicide after being cut. It doubles the costs. Will not eradicate, but can kill down to root crown. If the conditions are right, it can come back next year.

Michaud – harvesting will remove the vegetation. If we do both..

McComas – Big disadvantage is the cost. There is extra safety factor in doing both.

Michaud – did committee consider doing chemical in some areas, and cutting in others?

Steinworth – no

Norwick – if it's double treated, it still does not predict it will be gone for good?

McComas - Correct- if the sediments are conducive to growth, it will come back. Maybe not next year.

Steinworth – can come and go independent of treatment with herbicides, correct?

McComas - Yes.

Danks – In other areas such as points 16 & 17 is there the same matting?

McComas – yes there is matting in the smaller area

Danks – in the July 2 report that area (16 – 17) was not identified.

Why did it appear now?

McComas – On the 2nd that area was rated a 3 with single stem growth 4 feet down. On the 20th it grew to surface matting, likely more nitrogen and nutrients in that area. The east side has sandy sediments, the west has peaty sediments.

Steinworth – increase in total acres (from the 2nd – 20th) is due to that other site being added

Parenteau – the Cottage Park area is thick

McComas – most growth is within 200 feet of shore, so WBLCD cannot manage. Outside of 200 feet, sedges are the main plant coming up with low water. The area is very shallow. There is some good native plant growth with some benefits.

MOTION#6 (Steinworth/Hoffman) Move to spend up to \$12,000 to harvest & remove aquatic plants within the 15 – 20 acres identified in the July 20 White Bear Lake Milfoil Assessment report as sites 20, 16 & 17.

Discussion

Steinworth – The cost is a high-end estimate based on \$400/per acre. The big site needs to be hit. Committee also felt Board should consider other sites, and if feasible to harvest those areas as well. We have used 24-d in the past. No experience with any treatments in the past decade. We have not harvested in past. This sites proximity to Bellaire beach allows for harvesting. Will allow us to gain experience with this management practice.

Parenteau – friendly amendment: increase spending up to \$15,000 and include all red spots on map identified as problem areas. While harvester is out, may not cost much to add those sites.

Steinworth – accept; Hoffman accept amendment

Norwick – would have preferred 12k and prioritize areas to see if we can stay within budget

St Germain – the money will come from reserves as only \$6,000 is budgeted

Stawnychy – harvesting is messy based on Forest Lake experience. Homeowners will have weeds on shore, it floats. Harvester does not get all.

Public comments

Nancy Oaks, Cottage Park resident

Has paid to have weeds removed from shoreline. Area already is a mess. Feels WBLCD is behind in management, milfoil is out of hand. Will be messy to clean it up. Damage control is warranted so people know what to expect. Not a new problem. Eradicate as much as you can with cutting and chemicals. 200 feet out from current water line or from from rip rap? Plan has to be sustained. In the bay, there is no navigable water. Feels area has been ignored and ask to include in treatment in future. Do neighbors get together to treat? Feels need to have long term consistent plan.

Jay R, WBL resident

This map underestimates the distribution and density of milfoil. Site 24 is nearly unnavigable with sailboats. Consider other areas where it's a nuisance. Site 20 is bad. Look at where growth is vs where people go. Consult with the DNR on chemical treatments as results can vary widely, keep in mind.

Janet Callahan, WBL resident

Can you clarify the red areas relative to table that accompanies? What turns table data into red area?

McComas – Green areas indicate growth. For each point depth & density is recorded. Red indicates topping out and hindrance to all boats. There are still other areas where milfoil and natives are growing within 1-2 feet of surface. Can hinder some but maybe not all navigation. Issues are within water depths of 15 feet or less.

Carole – Black Bear Yacht Racing Association

Most of their boats are docked at WBBW. All have to come out thru this area.

Steve Johnson, White Bear Township resident

Lives by area 20. Can't get out into lake, cannot swim off dock due to weeds. Question over 200 foot zone and where it starts.

Navigable definition of 2'? Whole bay is not available for use.

Lee Alnes, Mahtomedi resident, WBYC sailing division

Sailing compromised. While power boating along Mahtomedi shore and St Germain bay the boat stopped due to weeds.

Concerned this is too little too late and not planning for sustained effort. Need strong action. Has been treating in front of his property for 10 yrs with DNR permit. It has been effective with the right application & timing. Consider combination approach to get ahead of problem.

Tony Feffer - MN statutes state WBLCD can regulate within the lake. Unclear where 200' boundary came from

Norwick – Has been involved in this issue since EWM first appeared in MN. This lake does not have the sediment or depth conducive to heavy growth. Drought has caused flair up. EWM is an annual problem once established in a lake. Will not support putting chemicals in, year after year. There are lots of native plants growing there too (commercial bay). There has to be balance.

This is most I've seen but the heavy growth is not because it's

been neglected, but because of low water levels. Its here, it's not taking over. It's worse than in past, but are other considerations.

MOTION # 6 (review) for vote (with amendment):

Move to spend up to \$15,000 to harvest and remove milfoil from all areas noted in red in the July 20 White Bear Lake Milfoil Assessment report.

Michaud – how long will the harvesting effects last?

McComas – for 30 – 40 days. The rest of the boating season will be controlled

Michaud - and chemical?

McComas – will take 7 – 10 days for chemical to kill and for milfoil to down die down. Then it will be controlled for rest of season.

Michaud – controlled next spring?

McComas – no, it is a perennial. It dies down over winter and if the sediments are right, it will come back in spring.

Michaud – will likely vote for the motion. Without lake levels coming back, the LQC needs a plan for next year.

Vote

All aye, passed.

8a2. Sediment testing in new EWM growth areas

MOTION #7 (Steinworth/Norwick) Move to spend up to \$400 to collect and test sediments at EWM sites identified in assessment.

Discussion

McComas – this is a chemistry test, the zebra mussel evaluation is a substrate test

Stawnychy – if there is any money left, can we cut path between commercial bay and deeper part of lake?

Parenteau – what is the reason to test sediments if we know the milfoil is there?

McComas – EWM has not grown like this in the Bellaire area in the past. Will it come back? Tests will indicate what to expect in the future. In the past the Cottage Park area was identified to have sediments conducive to growth; also commercial bay. If high nitrogen is found, we know it will occur again next year with low lake levels. If there is low nitrogen, this is a boom year and may not indicate future heavy growth. This will provide a baseline for management.

Vote

All aye, passed.

8a3. lake level is 920.125. 2 inches above all time low, 2 feet lower than last year, 3" lower than last month. Temperature is 72 degrees.

8b. Lake Utilization Committee

8b1. Dennis Schoeller complaint

1990 was the first complaint in this area. Last month we hoped parties would work it out on their own. LUC is going to site and

will develop a plan for permanent dock placement. Will bring plan to board.

8b2. DWB has requested to extend the end of their docks because inside slips are not usable due to low lake levels. LUC agreed the north dock “gh” be extended 20’, ab dock 40’, cd dock 40’. Temporary change to the permit to accommodate boats already there due to low water. Send Brian letter.

MOTION #8 (Michaud/St. Germain) Move to approve extension for remainder of this season.

All aye, passed.

8b3. Dock placement issue. We were copied on letter. White Bear reps look at issue and try to resolve prior to formal complaint.

8b4. East Shore Dock Assoc. is requesting to move dock out to water line. Neighbors to north ok, south is city property.

MOTION # 9 (Michaud/St Germain) Move to approve East Shore Dock association moving dock out to water line. All aye, passed.

All the neighbors here agree and the lakeshore is conducive to the change.

8c. Lake Education Committee

In August Craig Wills, DNR Area Hydrologist will come to speak on hydrological issues in area

Drafts of the zebra muscles signs will be in for review in Aug.

ADUA information went out June, let Doug know any feedback prior to board aug

Kantrud – debate to proposed changes should be done in public.

Hoffman – good depiction

Kantrud – bring both scenarios out for consideration for public review

Hoffman – reminder it will be discussed in August agenda.

Danks – have copies for public next month

8d. Treasurers report

MOTION # 10 (Longville/ Parenteau) Move to accept and pay checks 3921 – 3925. . All aye, passed.

8e. Board Counsel Report

Birchwood was noted in citations that were issued so there was some question over enforcement between Ramsey & Washington Counties. Alan is going forward with directions from last month.

8f. Administrative Staff Report

Items included in packet this month:

Copies of correspondence:

- Notice of Discussion regarding Dennis Schoeller complaint
- League of MN Cities letter regarding lawsuit
- Cc. letter from Connie Archer
- Letter from Steve Wolgamot

Other items:

- Agenda
- June draft minutes
- Dennis Schoeller complaint & photos
- Lake Quality Committee application
- July 2 Milfoil assessment
- Lake bed ownership information (2)
- Memo from Steinworth re: July milfoil assessment
- EWM growth characteristics sheet
- June finance reports

9. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION # 11 (Michaud/Parenteau) Move to accept consent agenda. All aye, passed.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hoffman – we received a proposed resolution for naming a shallow area of WBL A Mahtomedi resident ran ashore and proposes “Shoal area be designated Wolgamot Shoal.”

MOTION # 12 (Michaud / Norwick) Move to adopt resolution for month of July.

Friendly amendment (Hoffman) For rest of year.

All aye, passed.

Norwick – law enforcement update. Trying to see what free patrol we are entitled to. Have to talk with Washington county to see what to expect. Will be meeting with them next.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #13 (Michaud/St Germain) Move to adjourn. All Aye, Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm

ATTEST:

Administrative Secretary

Date

APPROVED:

Board Chairperson

Date