



## White Bear Lake Conservation District

### Regular Board Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2024, 7:00 p.m., White Bear Lake City Hall Council Chambers

(CANCELLED: 6:00 pm LUC meeting)

1. **Roll Call/Quorum** – Present: Chair Bryan DeSmet, Vice Chair Meredith Walburg, Secretary-Treasurer Mike Parenteau, Scott Costello, Diane Longville, Chris Churchill, Mark Wisniewski, Susie Mahoney, and Alan Kantrud. (Chris Churchill arrived at 7:27 pm) Absent: Darren DeYoung and Mark Ganz. A quorum was present.
2. **Call to Order** – Bryan DeSmet called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
3. **Approval of Agenda** – A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed.
4. **Approval of Previous Board Meeting minutes** – A motion to approve the May 21, 2024 minutes was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed.
5. **Public Comments** - none
6. **Public Hearing** (*held after the Lake Quality Committee report*)
  - Patel-McGauley, 213 Park Ave., Mahtomedi combined dock length modification – Bryan DeSmet explained that the public hearing was for the applicant's request to allow the Patel-McGauley dock to extend out from the Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL) to 400 ft for the remaining 2024 season and to hear if there were any concerns from the public. Last month, the Board approved the combining of the applicants' docks, and conditionally approved the dock length to go to 400 ft on the condition that a public hearing be held to consider whether to approve the variance for the remaining 2024 season. The applicant was also required to apply reflective tape on the last 100 ft of the dock.

After DeSmet opened the public hearing, Amit Patel, 213 Park Ave., gave some information about the dock and variance. His boat requires a deeper draft than what is available at 300 ft. He stated that measurements showed that at 375 ft there was 49 in of water, and that he did not hear any complaints about the dock length from neighbors. No other comments were made, and DeSmet closed the public hearing

- Patel-McGauley dock length modification application - A motion made by Chris Churchill to remove the contingency on the variance so that applicant may have the dock at 400 ft for the 2024 boating season was seconded and passed. Going forward, request for variance applications will be heard at the same Board meeting as the public hearing.
7. **New Business**
    - Commercial Bay compliance checks and drone pix – Chris Churchill explained that he did not make progress on that and will get it done and share that with the Executive Committee. After review of the drone photos taken by Alan Kantrud on July 13 around 6 am, the slip count looks good, except we still need an up to date diagram from Tallys to see which ones are transient slips. Cheri Howe compared the drone pictures to the marinas' diagrams and agreed with Churchill's assessment. Kantrud will send the drone pix to the Ramsey County Water Patrol (RCWP) who will be doing a slip count in the next couple of weeks. The results will be available at next month's Board meeting.

Bryan DeSmet reported that Mike McGoldrick met with the City of WBL to see how they could set a post/mark on Admiral Ds to be able to annually line up the approved ADUA line between Docks of WBL and Lion's Park.

- Resolution accepting Manitou Clothing donation – A motion to approve Resolution 24-01 accepting a \$500 gift from Manitou Clothing Co for general use in preserving and managing White Bear Lake was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed. A thank you letter and a copy of the resolution will be sent to the donor.
- Request to use Commercial Bay docks – A motion to approve a request from the Classic and Vintage Boat Show organizers to use several Commercial Bay docks to moor boats for the Classic and Vintage Boat Show was made by Bryan DeSmet, seconded and passed.

**8. Unfinished Business**

- VFW-EAW draft application – Bryan DeSmet updated the EAW with additional figures, and consolidated previous work on the EAW into a more concise document, and has given it to Chris Churchill to review. After Churchill's review, the draft will go directly to the VFW to review, sign and submit back to the WBLCD with hopes that action can be taken at the July Board meeting.
- Lake use study – Meredith Walburg reported that the Blue Water Science study is on schedule. They surveyed the lake on Memorial Day and reported moderate activity. They will go out again on the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. The homeowner and lake user surveys have been completed.
- 4955 Lake Ave. dock permanency issue – Alan Kantrud reported that he had no update, and is waiting for a call back from the Rice Creek Watershed District, on this issue and the City dog fence. Kantrud talked with Conservation Officer Paavola and from the DNR's perspective, there is no issue here. Kantrud will report back on the watershed district's response next month

**9. Reports/Action Items**

- **Executive Committee** – Bryan DeSmet reported that the committee met and discussed Board training in August, preparing digital binders for new members, reviewing DNR permits for Commercial Bay, and the St. Germaine sign progress.
- **Lake Quality Committee**
  - Lake level – Mike Parenteau reported that the lake level today is 922.70 ft, which is 4 in. higher than last month.
  - Lake temperature – The lake temperature today is 70 °F, last month it was 65 °F and last year it was 77 °F.
  - EMW treatment budget increase – Last month Lake Management was approved to treat EMW and the bid had three prices for three different products-2,4-D, Triclopyr, and ProcellaCor. We've used 2,4-D and Triclopyr in the past, and the DNR has asked us to try ProcellaCor which costs \$1,617/acre, though it is the most expensive product, and it needs a minimum treatment area of 10 acres, though we've never had one area that size in the past.

The 2024 budget assumed the receipt of a DNR grant for EMW treatment, but we did not receive one this year. Also, with low/no snow cover this winter, the EWM has had prime growth conditions. The current budget does not reflect the probable costs of assessing and treating EMW this year, which is based on treating an average of 52 acres. Depending on how many acres need to be treated, with a possible maximum of 72 acres at a cost of \$42,000, \$27,000 more is needed from reserves. A motion to make available up to \$27,000 from the general fund for EWM treatment was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed. Depending on the EMW assessment, Parenteau has the flexibility to choose which products to use for treatment up to 72 acres. Blue Water Science will conduct an EMW assessment late June, and then submit it to the applicator who will check with the DNR to be sure the permit is up to date. Treatment will begin after July 4. (Chris Churchill arrived at 7:27 pm)

- **Lake Education Committee**
  - Educational outreach update – Scott Costello reported that everyone should have received the first *Laker* issue, which had our four-page insert, and content was just submitted for the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue. The remaining three issues will all have a one-page insert.
  - Lake Cleanup – We had our first summer lake cleanup connected with Manitou Days, and at least four members of the WBLCD went out to Ramsey County Beach and did a good job of cleaning up. The committee will decide whether to participate again next year, and it's possible the Boy Scouts might organize it if we do.
  - Social media update – Meredith Walburg stated that she will publicize about the new *Laker* issue, the lake cleanup, the EWM survey, and when treatment will be done. DeSmet thanked the LEC for organizing the activities.

**10. Treasurer Reports**

- 2024 June Treasurer's Report – A motion to approve one debit card credit, debit purchases 2024-12 and 2024-13, and checks #4955 to #4963 was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed.
- 2025 Budget final draft – Mike Parenteau reported that they are trying to create a balanced budget, and have been very conservative by only adding reserve funds for future planned uses, including payment for the 2025 audit, and the creation of a lake management plan. Chris Churchill asked about community assessments, and Parenteau stated that they are trying to put more of the financial responsibility on lake users, which lessens the load that municipalities need to pick up. A motion to approve the 2025 budget was made by Bryan DeSmet, seconded and passed.

**11. Board Council Report**

- Ramsey County Water Patrol May report – Alan Kantrud reported that the water patrol has not been very active on the lake as the weather conditions have made for low activity on the lake. They will be doing a slip count of Commercial Bay marinas as per their contract. The DNR Conservation officer has been busy doing fishing compliance checks and reminding people that they need a fishing license.

Kantrud noted that more buoys are needed on the south shore. Susie Mahoney brought up a concern that there should be buoys marking the Manitou Bridge area. Mike Parenteau will check into these areas.

- Kantrud also noted that he received a complaint from a lakeshore resident who motored over to the Commercial Bay area and couldn't find any public watercraft parking.

**12. Announcements** - The next Board meeting will be held on Tues, July 16, 2024.

**13. Adjournment** – A motion to adjourn at 7:59 pm was made by Chris Churchill, seconded and passed.

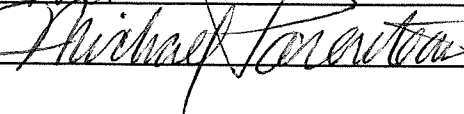
Attest

Bryan DeSmet, Chair



Date 8-20-2024

Michael Parenteau, Secretary/Treasurer



Date 8/20/24