



White Bear Lake Conservation District

Regular Board Meeting – (amended) Minutes

Nov. 19, 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, Diane Longville, Scott Costello, Chris Churchill, Susie Mahoney, Mark Wisniewski, Shari Salzman-Hankins, and Alan Kantrud. Absent: Mark Ganz. A quorum was present.
2. **Call to Order** – Bryan DeSmet called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.
3. **Approval of Agenda** – A motion to approve the agenda was made by Meredith Walburg, seconded and passed.
4. **Approval of Previous Board Meeting minutes** – A motion to approve the Oct. 15, 2024 minutes was made by Chris Churchill, seconded and passed.
5. **Public Comments** - none
6. **New Business**

- Ordinance 6 amendment – Appropriation of water from White Bear Lake, first reading – Bryan DeSmet gave a summary of Ordinance 6, which allows people to take water from the lake when the elevation is above 923.5 ft. The amendment would not allow water to be pumped from the lake, and would make a violation of the amended ordinance a misdemeanor. This is the first reading of the amendment; a final reading, and public hearing, will be held in January, unless there are any substantive changes that would require more time before the final reading. Once approved, staff will publish it and it becomes an enforceable amended ordinance.

Scott Costello asked what the impetus was for the proposed changes, and DeSmet explained that the conversation started when a landscaper wanted to connect a homeowner's irrigation system to the lake, and the fact that there is no good way to enforce the provision when the lake is below 923.5 ft. Also, everyone around the lake should have access to potable water so using the lake to irrigate is no longer necessary.

There was discussion on how lakeshore residents use water from the lake. Susie Mahoney suggested adding "irrigation is not legal" to the amended ordinance. Alan Kantrud suggested adding something about mechanical extraction from the lake. Mark Wisniewski suggested clarifying that it is surface water that is being discussed, not groundwater. Costello said some residents who live across the road from the lake would need to run a hose across the street to water plants.

A motion to approve the first reading was made by Bryan DeSmet, seconded and passed.

- VFW Post #1782 amended DNR Permit comments – The DNR has received the VFW's amended DNR permit application to increase the number of slips, and is requesting public comment. The Executive Committee reviewed the DNR permit application and would like the VFW to submit a better diagram showing the OHWL line, and ADUA lines on either side of the dock to ensure there are no violations of WBLCD ordinances. A motion to approve staff to send the comments to the DNR was made by DeSmet, seconded, and passed.

- Administrator salary (amended) – A motion to raise the administrator salary from \$28 to \$30 an hour starting Jan. 1, 2025 was made by Bryan DeSmet, seconded and passed.

7. Unfinished Business

- Lake use study – Meredith Walburg reported that Steve McComas is still compiling data and will be ready to present the results of the study in January or February. Partial payment for the study will be made in December.

8. Reports/Action Items

- **Executive Committee** – The committee met in November and discussed the starry stonewort response plan that staff is working on, notification by Ramsey County of dredging at the launches, administrator salary, and the VFW EAW finding of facts which was published in the Oct. 29, 2024 EQB Monitor. Alan Kantrud is remaking the Board training video, and Meredith Walburg is gathering information about 'LakeSmart,' an education and outreach program.

It was also noted that The US Coast Guard, which oversees watercraft registration programs, has informed the MN DNR that charging an AIS surcharge on a watercraft registration is a violation of Federal Law. Without the AIS surcharge, the MN DNR IAPM (Invasive Aquatic Plant Management) grant, which the WBLCD applies for annually to manage aquatic invasive species, will end. The MN Lakes and Rivers organization is asking for support to maintain the AIS surcharge. Staff will monitor the issue and report back later.

- **Lake Quality Committee**
 - Lake level – Mike Parenteau reported that the lake level today was 922.57 ft, which is almost the same as last month.
 - Lake temperature – The lake temperature today was 44 °F and last month it was 55 °F. Last year at this time, the temperature was 42 °F.
 - DNR AIS grant application – Parenteau has submitted the grant application.
- **Lake Utilization Committee**
 - Special Olympics MN-Polar Plunge fundraising event permit application (Jan. 25, 2025) - A motion to approve the permit and waive the fee was made by Chris Churchill, seconded and passed with the condition that they use Plan B where the dumpster and boneyard are located off of the beach.
 - WB Area Food Shelf-Bear'ly Open fundraising event permit application (Feb. 1, 2025) - A motion to approve the permit and waive the fee, was made by Churchill, seconded and passed.
 - White Bear Yacht Club multiuser permit renewal (same as last year) - The application was tabled until January in order to get clarification on the diagram.
 - Tally's Dockside-commercial permit renewal (same as last year)
A motion to approve 64 slips, was made by Churchill, seconded and passed. There was discussion about their use of a transient slip to rent weekly, but it is included in the slip count. It was noted that 'G3' on the diagram marks the areas for watercraft to get gas.
 - City of WBL:
 - Municipal Marina-commercial permit renewal (same as last year)
The application was tabled to clarify the number of slips on the diagram.
 - Matoska Park-commercial permit renewal (same as last year)
A motion to approve 28 moorings and 29 skid/ramps was made by Churchill, seconded, and passed.
 - Dog Beach Fence-water structure permit (same as last year) - The application was tabled to get more information on water quality testing of the dog beach. Residents are concerned that pollution from dog waste in the water violates WBLCD Ordinance

14 and want the Board's feedback on the issue of water quality. Staff will research details about the water testing process for the Executive Committee to review.

- VFW Post 1782 commercial permit renewal (same as last year) - A motion to approve the existing dock with 26 slips and four transient slips was made by Churchill, seconded and passed. Once they receive their new DNR permit, the VFW can submit a revised application for the additional slips, and dock length.
- Docks of White Bear Lake commercial permit renewal (revised from last year) - A motion to approve 250 slips was made by Churchill, seconded and passed.
- Your Boat Club commercial sales and permit renewal (same as last year). A motion to approve the permit was made by Churchill, seconded and passed.

- **Lake Education Committee**

- Educational outreach update – Scott Costello reported that copy is being written for the final *Laker* issue, which will be published in December. The winter ice cleanup will be held on Sat. March 8, 10 am to noon.
- Social media update – Meredith Walburg stated that she will post about de-icing devices, winter salt use, the next issue of *The Laker*, ice in, winter ice rules, the public hearing for the water appropriation ordinance change, and about renting boats on the lake that do not have approved coast guard stickers.

9. Treasurer Reports – Mike Parenteau

- Approval of November 2024 Treasurer's Report – A motion to approve Debit Card 2024-20, and checks 4991 through 4996 was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed.
- Approval of December 2024 (estimated) Treasurer's Report – A motion to approve the estimated expenditures for December checks was made by Mike Parenteau seconded and passed.

10. Board Council Report – Alan Kantrud presented highlights from the Ramsey County Water Patrol report: 202 supplemental patrol hours were used, and \$9,750 out of the \$14,000 grant was spent; 89 boat safety checks and 40 safety gear checks were performed; 16 boaters were assisted, three citations for illegal conduct and 23 warnings for conduct were written; three verbal warnings were given; and seven watercraft towed.

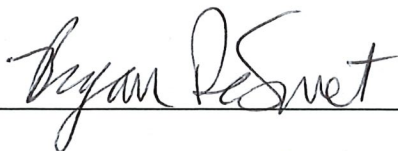
11. Announcements

- Dates for the 2025 WBLCD Board and Lake Utilization Committee meetings is located at the end of your Board packet. Our next meeting will be on Jan. 21, 2025.
- Bryan DeSmet encouraged Board directors to meet with their member communities. Staff will be preparing a summary of 2024 Board activities for the January Board meeting, which is a nice tool to have for city meetings.

12. Adjournment – A motion to adjourn at 8:23 pm was made by Chris Churchill, seconded and passed.

ATTEST

Bryan DeSmet, Chairperson



Date:

1-21-2025

Cheri Howe, Administrator



Date:

1/21/2025