



White Bear Lake Conservation District

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Jan. 21, 2025, 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, Scott Costello, Chris Churchill, Susie Mahoney, Shari Salzman-Hankins, and Alan Kantrud. Absent: Diane Longville and Mark Wisniewski. A quorum was present.
2. **Call to Order** – Bryan DeSmet called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
3. **Approval of Agenda** – The 2025 *Laker* proposal from the White Bear Press was added under Educational Outreach. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.
4. **Approval of Previous Board Meeting minutes** – A motion to approve the Nov. 19, 2024 meeting minutes was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.
5. **Public Comments** - none
6. **Public Hearing** (*opened at 7:20 pm after the Executive Committee report*)
 - Ordinance 6 amendment-Appropriation of water from White Bear Lake - Bryan Desmet explained that the public hearing is an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed changes to Ordinance 6. This ordinance historically let people take water out of the lake when water was above 923.5 ft above mean sea level, and the proposal is to ban the use of mechanical pumping from the lake at any level. There were no public comments and the hearing was closed at 7:22 pm
 - Ordinance 6 amendment – Board review and action –Scott Costello read an email from White Bear Lake resident Mark Sather who suggested that the preamble might cause confusion in the future. Costello also shared concerns from neighbor Joshua Winchell about the penalty change from a petty misdemeanor to a misdemeanor and that the amendment does not differentiate between commercial and residential use.

DeSmet said that the Board could make a variance to the ordinance available for residents to apply for in the future. A motion to approve the Ordinance 6 amendment was made by Bryan DeSmet, seconded, and passed with Costello voting no.
7. **New Business**
 - Nominations for Executive Board members – Mike Parenteau nominated Bryan DeSmet for chair, and Meredith Walburg for vice chair, and Bryan DeSmet 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 annual activity calendar review - Board members are to review the Board annual activity calendar draft and inform the administrator of any additions or changes before the February Board meeting.
 - 2024 annual report draft - Board members are to review the 2024 annual report draft and inform the administrator of any changes before the February Board meeting.
 - Annual designations – A motion to approve the 2025 annual designations was made by Bryan DeSmet, seconded, and passed.
 - Non-conflict of interest forms - Bryan DeSmet reminded Directors to return their completed non-conflict of interest forms to the administrator at the end of the meeting.
8. **Unfinished Business**
 - 2024 Lake use study – Meredith Walburg reported that Steve McComas would make a presentation on the completed lake use study at the February Board meeting. Once the draft report is received, Walburg will send to the Board for comment.

9. Reports/Action Items

- **Executive Committee** – Bryan DeSmet reported that the committee met Dec. 19 and discussed: the Starry Stonewort response plan, the VFW DNR permit comments, ordinances related to the dog beach fence, the Ordinance 6 public hearing, the treasurer's report process, City water quality testing, a lake stewardship program, and the meeting of the Northeast Groundwater group's possible solutions to low water levels in White Bear Lake. DeSmet also corrected the administrator's salary increase approved November 2024 to be from \$28 to \$30.
- **Lake Quality Committee**
 - Lake level – Mike Parenteau reported that the lake level today is 922.44 ft.
- **Lake Utilization Committee (LUC)** – Mark Ganz stated that the LUC reviewed the following applications, but did not have a quorum to vote on recommendations.
 - Wildwood Beach Manor Condominiums-noncommercial permit renewal (same as last year), previously tabled: Chris Churchill worked with them to be sure the dock is in the correct place in 2025. A motion to approve the permit for the mooring of 11 watercraft was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.
 - City of WBL - Municipal Marina-commercial permit renewal (same as last year), previously tabled: An updated marina diagram was submitted and a motion to approve the permit for the mooring of 160 watercraft was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.
 - White Bear Yacht Club-multiuser permit renewal (same as last year), previously tabled: A motion to approve the permit for 22 sailing school boats, 24 commercial slips, and one ramp was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed. Meredith Walburg recommended that the applicant send a better diagram next year.
 - VFW Post 1782 - Horseshoe on Ice event permit (Feb. 15, 2025): A motion to approve the permit was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed. It was noted that the event is not a fundraiser, and an application fee was paid.
 - Alicia Heights Dock noncommercial permit renewal (revised from last year): A motion to approve the permit for seven (7) watercraft was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.
 - Scott Bohnen noncommercial permit renewal (same as last year): A motion to approve the permit for six (6) watercraft was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.
 - Cottage Park HOA noncommercial permit renewal (same as last year): A motion to approve the permit for 14 watercraft was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.
 - Manitou Island Assn (water structure permit): The application was tabled to clarify Ramsey County's updated water structure permit information and its application to private swim areas. LUC members Chris Churchill and Mark Ganz will review both the Ramsey and Washington counties water structure permitting process and how to integrate it into the WBLCD's process.
 - East Shore Dock Assn noncommercial permit renewal (same as last year): A motion to approve the mooring of 12 watercraft was made by Chris Churchill, seconded and passed with Mark Ganz abstaining.
 - Birchwood Dock Assn noncommercial permit renewal (same as last year): A motion to approve the permit for the sites listed below was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed. The permit includes mooring of
 - Ash Beach – 6 watercraft
 - Birch Beach – 8 watercraft
 - Dellwood Beach – 7 watercraft
 - Elm Bach – 4 watercraft
 - McCartney Estates Homeowners Assn noncommercial permit renewal (same as last year): The application was tabled for additional information regarding ADUA lines and distance to neighboring property water structures on the diagram.
 - City of WBL – Dog Beach Fence-water structure permit (same as last year), previously tabled: Bryan DeSmet stated that the Board's role was to look at the water quality information and approve the fence that cantilevers over the water. The water quality testing data does not show evidence that dogs are causing an issue. Churchill said that the data does not show it is not causing a problem either, and suggested more frequent water testing. Mike Parenteau noted that the City has added more buoys to a rope that extends from the fence. Churchill questioned the future of the fence and buoys, and wanted a better description of the buoy's distance into the lake.

A motion to approve the permit, conditioned on receiving proof of permitting from Ramsey County and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), was made by Bryan DeSmet, seconded and passed with Chris Churchill and Susie Mahoney voting no.

- **Lake Education Committee**

- Educational outreach update – Scott Costello reported that the White Bear Press sent their proposal to include WBLCD content as part of its education outreach goal in the 2025 *Laker* publication. A motion to approve Press Publications contract for WBLCD content to be published in four issues of *The Laker* at a cost of \$1,850 was made by Costello, seconded and passed.

The annual lake cleanup is scheduled for Sat. March 8, and Costello will sign up the Board for an area to clean. Additional trash bags will be ordered if needed.

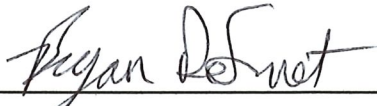
- Social media update – Meredith Walburg reported that upcoming social media posts will include; use of salt, winter rules on ice, and 'save the date' for ice cleanup. Walburg reported that Mike Parenteau noticed open water on the lake by Manitou Island. The Ramsey County Water Patrol was called, and they marked the area for caution.

10. Treasurer Reports

- Approval of December 31, 2024 EOY Treasurer's Report - A motion to approve debit card payments 2024-21 through 2024-23 and checks 4997 through 5004 was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed.
- Change to end of month Treasurer's Reports - Parenteau explained that the Treasurer's Report will include expenses and income through the end of each month, and reported at the next meeting. There may be times that expenses will need to be approved before the next Board meeting, such as State of MN and insurance payments.
- Approval of expense payments: - A motion to approve payments to the MN Unemployment Insurance program for Quarter 4 (2024), for not more than \$50, and League of MN Cities 2025 membership fees for \$2,358 was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed.

11. **Board Council Report** - Alan Kantrud stated that the Conservation Officer reported there were a few ice fishing license violations and the lake ice was clean. Kantrud also said that, in response to the Governor's office proposing to cut AIS management funding, he would write a draft letter from the Board to keep the AIS funds in the state's budget. The administrator will send the draft to Board members and any comments should be made back to the office.
12. **Announcements** - The administrator reminded the Board to return their completed non-conflict of interest forms at the end of the meeting. The next Board meeting will be held on Feb. 18, 2025.
13. **Adjournment** – A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 pm was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.

ATTEST

Bryan DeSmet, Chairperson 

Date 2-18-2025

Cheri Howe, Administrator 

Date 2/18/2025