



White Bear Lake Conservation District

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2025, 7:00 p.m.,

White Bear Lake City Hall Council Chambers

1. **Roll Call/Quorum** – Present: Chair Bryan DeSmet, Vice Chair Meredith Walburg, Secretary Treasurer Mike Parenteau, Brian Bonin, Chris Churchill, Diane Longville, Shari Salzman-Hankins, Mark Wisniewski, and staff Alan Kantrud and Cheri Howe. Absent: Shelley Dropkin and Mark Ganz
2. **Call to Order** – Bryan DeSmet called the meeting to order at 7 pm.
3. **Approval of Agenda** – The Ramsey County Water Patrol activity presentation, Chateauguet Condo permit application and Alicia Heights permit application were removed from the agenda. A motion to approve the amended agenda was made by Mark Wisniewski, seconded and passed.
4. **Approval of previous Board Meeting minutes** – A motion to approve the September 16, 2025 Board meeting minutes was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed.
5. **Public Comments** - none
6. **New Business**
 - Board appointment City of Birchwood Village – Shelley Dropkin – The City of Birchwood Village appointed Shelley Dropkin as representative to fill a vacant seat and to serve the remaining term through August 2027.
 - AIS survey presentation by Steve McComas – Mike Parenteau introduced Dr. Steve McComas who presented information on Blue Water Science's (BWS) 2025 Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) survey and zebra mussel presence in White Bear Lake. In 2025, 30.82 acres of EWM was identified to be treated compared to 33.43 acres in 2024. No presence of Starry stonewort (SSW) was found in the recent survey.
 - Wblcd.org email usage proposal - Bryan DeSmet reminded directors that they have a wblcd.org email account to conduct District business. DeSmet encouraged them to check their emails, use them for correspondence, and if they have any issues to contact the Administrator.
7. **Unfinished Business**
 - Approval of AIS prevention surveillance and treatment plan - Meredith Walburg explained that the plan was initially created to plan for a quick response to SSW but expanded to include EWM, phragmites, yellow iris, and zebra mussels. A motion to approve the plan was made by Walburg, seconded and passed. It is a working plan subject to change depending on the appearance of a new AIS or a new approach to protection.
 - Acceptance of final 2024 Lake use study and trend analysis – Walburg explained that she has been working with Steve McComas and BWS on this for about 1½ years and the reports are now finalized. A motion to approve the acceptance of the reports was made by Walburg, seconded and passed.

8. Reports/Action Items

- **Executive Committee** – Bryan DeSmet reported that the Executive Committee met in October and discussed the following topics: the new Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) act; a public presentation of the lake use study in January or February; transitioning to a new financial firm to prepare the monthly Treasurer’s reports; alerting Ramsey County and the FBI that WBLCD’s email account was compromised and that one permittee may have been impacted, which is being investigated, however, the District’s financial accounts were not impacted; the SSW signs were not yet installed at Ramsey County Beach or Matoska Park; and looking at updating the ordinance of operation regarding person watercraft (PWC).
- **Lake Quality Committee**
 - Lake level and temperature – Mike Parenteau reported that the lake level today was 923.05 ft; last year at this time, it was 6 inches lower. The lake temperature was 54 °F today, and 55 °F at this time last year.
 - AIS treatment – Parenteau reported that 6,000 sq. ft of invasive phragmites was treated on Sept. 30. 2025. It is not a big problem at this time.
- **Lake Utilization Committee**
 - 2026 Permit applications
 - **Wildwood Beach Manor** (noncommercial-identical to last year) - A motion to approve the permit for 11 watercraft was made by Chris Churchill, seconded and passed.
 - **John Redpath/Doug Wolgamot water ski course** (water structure permit) – A motion to approve the permit was made by Chris Churchill, seconded and passed. Ramsey County looks to the WBLCD to approve its permit application first before issuing a County permit.
- **Lake Education Committee**
 - Educational outreach update – Meredith Walburg reported that work will begin on the December *Laker* issue. Walburg asked directors to send any suggestions, and that she also will be working on the presentation of the Lake Use Study with BWS for the public to attend in January or February.
 - Social media update – Walburg will post about water appropriation, marking docks that are left up over the winter, and the first reading of the amended PWC ordinance to be held in November.
- **Treasurer’s Report**
 - September treasurer’s report – A motion to approve debit card purchases 2025-11 and 2025-12, and checks #2553 through #2563 was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed.
 - Change in bookkeeping for treasurer’s reports – Parenteau reported that the CHE has been doing the financials for a while though only expected to do it for a short time. The financials will be transitioned to the firm ‘By the Books’ starting in November.

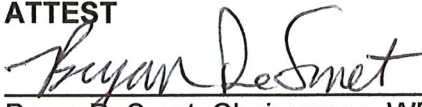
9. **Board Counsel Report** – Alan Kantrud reported that Sergeant Servatka could not make it this month and will present in November, and DNR Conservation Officer Paavola said that it was a slow month. Kantrud said that he will talk with the Executive Committee about ordinance changes on PWC and it will be on the agenda for November.

10. **Announcements**

- Cheri Howe reported that an audit was completed on the workers compensation coverage through League of MN Cities. Everything was fine and this will be an annual event.
- While comparing the June and September drone images of the Commercial Bay marinas, Chris Churchill discovered that the September images were a duplicate of the June images. Alan reached out to the Ramsey County Sheriff's office today to have them send the correct images. Howe will send them out to the Board in early November along with the marina permit applications which will be up for review at the November 18 Board meeting.

11. **Adjournment** – A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm was made by Chris Churchill, seconded and passed.

ATTEST



Bryan DeSmet, Chairperson, WBLCD



Cheri Howe, Administrator, WBLCD



Date



Date