



## White Bear Lake Conservation District

### Regular Board Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2025, 7:00 p.m.,

White Bear Lake City Hall Council Chambers

(6 pm. LUC meeting)

1. **Roll Call/Quorum** – Present: Chair Bryan DeSmet, Vice Chair Meredith Walburg, Secretary Treasurer Mike Parenteau, Brian Bonin, Chris Churchill, Diane Longville, Mark Wisniewski, Shari Salzman-Hankins, Shelley Dropkin, and staff Alan Kantrud and Cheri Howe. Absent: Mark Ganz
2. **Call to Order** – Bryan DeSmet called the meeting to order at 7 pm.
3. **Approval of Agenda** – The agenda was amended with the following items: administrator salary was added under 'New Business; 2026 permit applications from Tally's, East Shore Dock Association, and McCartney Estates were removed under 'Lake Utilization Committee', and applications for the White Bear Lake Area Food Shelf Bear'ly Open and VFW Post 1782 Horseshoe on Ice events were added. 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 Oct. 21, 2025 Board meeting minutes was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed.
5. **Public Comments** - none
6. **New Business**
  - Welcome new Board member Shelley Dropkin, Birchwood – Bryan DeSmet welcomed new Birchwood representative, Shelly Dropkin, and thanked her for being on the Board.
  - Ramsey County Water Patrol 2025 activity presentation – Mike Servatka, Ramsey County Water Patrol Commander, gave a highlight of law enforcement activity on the lake in 2025, stating first that the county did not use all of the funds authorized by the District, due to staffing issues. The patrol relies on part-time help and volunteers to assist in enforcement.

Servatka reported that the majority of warnings were verbal, with most of them going to paddle boarders who were unaware that they need to wear a lifejacket. There were two major incidents on the lake this summer, one involving a drowning and the other a heart attack that required a multi-agency response. Next year, agencies will participate in a training event on the lake.

Meredith Walburg asked what other safety issues the District could focus on to educate the public. Servatka stated that current educational efforts seem to be working because there was a low number of citations written. He suggested reaching out to the Commercial Bay marinas at the beginning of the season to remind their staff that boaters need personal floatation devices (PFDs). The 2026 supplemental law enforcement contract will be available early next year.
  - Amended Ordinance 9, Part III, Section 3.01, Subd. 3 Hours of personal watercraft operation - first reading – Bryan DeSmet stated that Ordinance 9 was being amended to reflect the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Ramsey County rule that

personal watercraft may operate between the hours of 9:30 am and one (1) hour before sunset. A motion to approve the first reading was made by DeSmet, seconded and passed. A final vote will be held at the January Board meeting after input from the public.

- Chateauguet Condominium Assn – 2026 noncommercial multiuser dock permit (revised from last year) – Chris Churchill introduced the permit application requesting to extend its dock to 416 ft due to the site’s shallow lakebed. After discussion, a motion to approve the permit for a dock length of up to 300 ft from the Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL) was made by Churchill, seconded and passed, and a variance request would be considered at the public hearing.
- Administrator salary - A motion to approve an increase in the administrator’s salary by \$1/hour, effective Jan. 1, 2026, was made by Meredith Walburg, seconded and passed.

**7. Public Hearing (at or after 7:10 pm)**

- Chateauguet Condominium Assn – request for variance to allow its dock to extend out from the OHWL beyond 300 ft – Bryan DeSmet opened the public hearing stating that the applicant was requesting an addition 116 ft of dock length because at 300 ft, the water depth was only 16-18”. Seeing no comments from the public, the hearing was closed. A motion to approve the variance request was made by DeSmet, seconded and passed.

**8. Unfinished Business – none**

**9. Reports/Action Items**

- **Executive Committee** – No report
- **Lake Quality Committee**
  - Lake level and temperature – Mike Parenteau reported that the lake level today was 922.81 ft, which is 2¾ inches less than last month, and 2¾ inches more than last year. The lake temperature today was 39 °F degrees, last year it was 42 °F and the lake froze on December 12.
  - 2026 DNR AIS grant application –Parenteau reported that he submitted the grant application on November 10, and will report back when he hears something.
- **Lake Utilization Committee (LUC)** – The LUC reviewed the following 2026 permit applications and recommended Board approval. Motions to approve the permits, each voted on individually, were made by Chris Churchill.
  - Docks of White Bear Lake – commercial (identical to last year) – The motion to approve 250 slips was seconded and passed. Discussion about discrepancies in the positioning of the shared dock with Tally’s in 2025 led to the Board recommending that the two marinas consult each other prior to dock placement in 2026.
  - City of White Bear Lake (identical to last year) approved
    - Municipal marina – The motion to approve 160 slips was seconded and passed.
    - Matoska Park – The motion to approve 28 moorings and 29 slips was seconded and passed
    - Dog Beach Park – The motion to approve the fence was seconded and passed.

- White Bear Yacht Club – commercial/noncommercial (identical to last year) – The motion to approve 22 noncommercial slips, 24 commercial slips, and one (1) skid ramp was seconded and passed.
- Snyder Bay Beach Club – noncommercial (identical to last year) – The motion to approve 11 watercraft was seconded and passed.
- Hickory Street Dock Association – noncommercial (identical to last year) – The motion to approve five (5) watercraft was seconded and passed.
- Cottage Park HOA – noncommercial (identical to last year) – The motion to approve 14 watercraft was seconded and passed.
- Forest Heights Improvement Association (revised from last year) – It was noted that the application was a revision from last year because the dock length reported in past applications wasn't exact, and actual measurements in 2025 showed that it was 300 ft. The motion to approve 10 watercraft, a dock length of up to 300 ft from the OHWL or 4 ft water depth (whichever is less), and the angling of boats on the south side of the dock was seconded and passed.
- Beverly Driscoll – noncommercial (identical to last year) – A motion to approve nine (9) watercraft was seconded and passed.
- Special Olympics Polar Plunge Event (Jan. 31, 2026) – A motion to approve the event permit, and waive the fee was seconded and passed.
- WBLAFS Bearly Open Event (Feb. 7, 2026) – A motion to approve the event permit and waive the fee was seconded and passed.
- VFW Post 1782 Horseshoes on Ice Event (Feb. 7, 2026) – A motion to approve the event permit was seconded and passed.

Bryan DeSmet noted that the application process went well and thanked Churchill and the LUC for their work.

- **Lake Education Committee**

- Lake Study presentation progress – Meredith Walburg reported that a public presentation of the lake use study will be scheduled for a Tuesday evening at the White Bear Lake library in late January or February. A motion to approve up to \$400 for the event was made by Walburg, seconded and passed.
- Educational outreach update – Walburg shared that the last issue of *The Laker* would be coming out in December. The issue will include: promoting the study presentation and annual winter lake cleanup event; an article about salt use; and a reminder to lake residents to mark docks that are left in the lake during the winter.
- Social media update – Walburg will post on social media all of the items that are going into *The Laker*, and asked the Board to let her know of any other items to post.

- **Treasurer's Report**

- October Treasurer's Report – A motion to approve North Star debit expenses 2025-13 through 2025-16, and checks 2564 through 2568 was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed.
- November Treasurer's Report (estimate) – Parenteau stated that the November Treasurer's Report was an estimate because the Board does not meet in December, and final approval of the actual report will be made at the January Board


- o meeting. A motion to approve the estimated November Treasurer's Report was made by Parenteau, seconded and passed.

December Treasurer's Report (estimate) – The estimated December Treasurer's Report was also presented as December invoices need to be paid and the financial year bookkeeping needs to be closed out. Final approval of the actual report will be made at the January Board meeting. A motion to approve the estimated December Treasurer's Report was made by Parenteau, seconded and passed.


Chris Churchill asked if the budget for supplemental law enforcement services will change going forward if the county is unable to fulfill the approved contract due to staffing issues. After discussion on how to estimate for these services going forward, Bryan DeSmet stated that this could be reviewed during the next budget planning cycle starting in April. Alan Kantrud noted that he will be talking to the water patrol commander about the 2026 contract and hopes to have something for the Executive Committee to look at early next year. Mark Wisniewski asked if they could document how many of the patrol hours were from volunteers, and Kantrud said he would ask the commander about the breakdown and other cost details.

- 10. **Board Counsel Report** – Alan Kantrud reported that DNR Conservation Officer Matt Paavola had nothing to report.
- 11. **Announcements** - The next Board meeting will be on Jan. 20, 2026.
- 12. **Adjournment** – A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm was made by Chris Churchill, seconded and passed.

ATTEST

  
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Bryan DeSmet, Chairperson, WBLCD

1-20-2026  
Date

  
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Cheri Howe, Administrator, WBLCD

1/20/2026  
Date