



## Regular Board Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2026, 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, Brian Bonin, Chris Churchill, Diane Longville, Mark Ganz, Mark Wisniewski, Shari Salzman-Hankins, and staff Alan Kantrud and Cheri Howe. Absent: Mike Parenteau and Shelley Dropkin
2. **Call to Order** – Bryan DeSmet called the meeting to order at 7 pm.
3. **Approval of Agenda** - 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 November 18, 2025 meeting minutes was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.
5. **Public Comments** – none
6. **New Business**
  - Nominations for Executive Board members – After Bryan DeSmet asked if there were any nominations for the Executive Committee, Mark Ganz nominated Bryan Desmet for chair, Meredith Walburg for vice chair, and Mike Parenteau for secretary-treasurer. There were no other nominations. DeSmet stated that nominations will remain open through the February Board meeting where a vote will take place.
  - Board activity calendar review – A motion to approve the 2026 WBLCD Board activity calendar was made by Bryan DeSmet, seconded and passed.
  - 2025 annual report draft – A motion to approve the 2025 WBLCD annual report was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.
  - Annual designations - A motion to approve the 2026 annual designations was made by Bryan Desmet, seconded, and passed.
  - Non-conflict of interest forms - Bryan Desmet reminded Directors to return their completed 2025 non-conflict of interest forms to the administrator at the end of the meeting.
  - Alicia Heights Dock - noncommercial multi-use dock permit application (revised from last year) – DeSmet explained that when an applicant requests a variance at the same time their application permit is up for review, the Board will first approve the permit application, then hold a public hearing for the variance request. Mark Ganz stated that Alicia Heights has a 15 ft easement on which they have placed a dock and in order to use the dock, some of their watercraft go into the south neighbor's ADUA. A variance request was also submitted to allow the applicant's watercraft to extend into the south neighbor's ADUA and the neighbors sent an email stating that they are okay with their variance request. Brian Bonin asked if their permit application from last year was approved without a variance. Chris Churchill said 'yes,' and that the District is working to document these situations and be more consistent so that applicants and neighbors are on the same page. Alan Kantrud suggested working toward an agreement that could be drawn up between parties and then included in the annual permit process, so that a variance was not needed every year. The agreement could be revocable, should parties not agree in the future. A motion to approve the Alicia Height's 2026 permit application as presented (with seven [7] slips) was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.
7. **Public Hearing** *(to commence at or after 7:10 pm)*
  - Alicia Heights variance request to allow watercraft to extend over southern ADUA - The public hearing was opened, and with no comments, the hearing was closed. It was noted that the back end of the watercraft extend into the south neighbor's ADUA. Bryan DeSmet stated that the letter from the neighbor does ask for a restriction that the angled boats on the dock do not exceed 20 ft from the dock, and asked if that should be included in the motion. An amended motion to approve the variance for Alicia Heights to go into the neighboring ADUA with the restriction that it does not extend 20 ft from the dock was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.

- Ordinance 9 amendment-hours of personal watercraft operation and summary for publication – Bryan DeSmet explained that a first reading of amended Ordinance 9, aligning the District's hours of personal watercraft (PWC) operation with those of Ramsey County and the MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR), was approved at the January Board meeting. The amended ordinance states, "No person shall operate a personal watercraft between one hour before sunset and 9:30 a.m. on any given day". DeSmet opened the public hearing, and with no comments, the hearing was closed.

Meredith Walburg commented that neighbors said 9:30 am seems too late, and that PWC are not any different than other watercraft. Chris Churchill stated that he felt that the change in time restricts people's use of the lake. Mark Wisniewski commented that he was in favor of being consistent with the other government entities. A motion to approve the second reading of amended Ordinance 9 was made by Bryan DeSmet, seconded and passed.

A motion to approve a summary publication of the amended portion of Ordinance 9, instead of the entire ordinance, was made by DeSmet, seconded and passed.

## 8. Unfinished Business - none

## 9. Reports/Action Items

- **Executive Committee** - The committee met and was joined by Matt Kocian, Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD), to discuss wake boats and potential restrictions on areas where they can operate based on the University of MN (UMN) recommendations. Bryan DeSmet explained that to protect the lakebed and aquatic vegetation, both of these organizations advocate that wake boats shouldn't operate in an area that has less than 20 ft of water depth or are within 500 ft from the shoreline. While the RCWD is able to help us with educating the public on these types of things, the Board has not taken a position on wake boat operations or restrictions until the UMN comes up with something definitive. The committee and Kocian also discussed water quality monitoring on the lake. DeSmet commented that several entities monitor the White Bear Lake water quality, and that information is given to the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) as keepers of the data.

The committee discussed the survey markers in Commercial Bay that were installed several years ago to identify the Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL) and marina ADUAs, which are now difficult to find and/or are not in place. Chris Churchill commented that he had asked E.G. Rudd surveyors to determine the degree of the ADUA lines that go into the water, as some dock owners are trying to connect points and are not agreeing on it. DeSmet suggested putting this on the February Board agenda, and between now and then, come up with a limited scope of work that would capture the items we want from them. Chris Churchill will write a limited scope and sequence of work, to also include reinstalling the markers so that their location is visible to marina owners, and includes GPS coordinates of the markers.

Other items discussed were: the paid family medical leave act and Cheri's contribution; the new QuickBooks support company; Board members use of wblcd.org emails; the documentation of WBLCD's email issues; a boat rental ordinance that Meredith is putting together, with LUC input, and will be brought to a future board meeting; the option for residents near a phragmites treatment area to opt out of the treatment, but then would be responsible for treating the phragmites themselves; the Starry Stonewort awareness signs that have yet to be installed at Ramsey County and Matoska Park; the lake use study public presentation; and the Ordinance 9 amendment.

- **Lake Quality Committee**
  - Lake level – Cheri Howe reported that the lake level was 922.95 ft which is one inch higher than last month.
- **Lake Utilization Committee (LUC)** - Mark Ganz presented the following applications that were reviewed and approved at the LUC meeting:
  - Birchwood Dock Assn – noncommercial dock permit application (same as last year) – An email opposing the number of watercraft at Birchwood's Dellwood Beach dock was received and reviewed. It was noted that the City of Birchwood first approves the association's permit application before it is submitted to the conservation district, and concerns should be brought to the Birchwood Council meeting when their permit application is up for review. A motion to approve the permit was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed for the following docks and

slip counts: Ash Beach-six (6); Birch Beach-eight (8); Elm-four (4); and Dellwood-seven (7).

- Russ Becker – water structure permit application (same as last year) - The application for two docks, and two swim rafts 190 ft out from shore was discussed and it was noted that the structures have reflective material on them. A motion to approve the permit was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed, conditioned on applying for their Washington County water structure permit and submitting a copy to the WBLCD.
- Your Boat Club – commercial sales/services permit application (same as last year) - A motion to approve the permit was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed. A question was raised as to whether they need to be licensed by the City. Cheri will check to see if they have a business permit. Diane Longville commented that the materials they submitted with their application do a good job of educating their clients about boat safety.
- Scott Bohnen – noncommercial dock permit application (same as last year) - A motion to approve a permit for the diagrammed dock placement for six (6) slips was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.
- Brenda Farrell – noncommercial permit application (same as last year) - A motion to approve a permit for five (5) slips was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.
- McCartney Estates – noncommercial permit application (same as last year) - A motion to approve a permit for six (6) slips was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.
- **Lake Education Committee**
  - Educational outreach update –
    - Approval of 2026 Press Publications contract for *The Laker* – A motion to approve a two-year agreement with Press Publications for 2026 and 2027 was made by Meredith Walburg, seconded and passed.
    - LUS presentation – Walburg reminded the Board of the lake us study public presentation next Tuesday, Jan. 27, 6 pm, at the White Bear Lake Library. The presentation will be taped and added to the WBLCD website and YouTube channel.
    - Winter lake cleanup – Walburg said there are eight (8) groups signed up, so far, to participate in the annual winter lake cleanup on Sat. March 7. Board members are welcome to join the WBLCD group who will be out on the ice to clean up.
  - Social media update – Walburg will make social media posts about Salt Week, removing the Christmas trees that are on the ice, ice safety, ice ridges, cold plunge holes, and the winter lake cleanup. Board members were asked to keep their eyes open for any developing pressure/ice ridges on the lake, and if any are spotted, let Meredith or Cheri know, and call the Ramsey County water patrol.

## 10. Treasurer Reports

- Approval of November 30, 2025 actual Treasurer's Report – At the November meeting, the estimated November Treasurer's Report was approved. A motion to approve the actual November Treasurer' Report (debit card 2025-17 through 2025-20, and checks 2569 through 2576) was made by Bryan DeSmet, seconded and passed.
- Approval of December 31, 2025 actual EOY Treasurer's Report – At the November meeting, the estimated December Treasurer's Report was approved. A motion to approve the actual December Treasurer's Report (debit card 2025-21, and checks 2577 through 2579, and 2500 and 2501) was made by Bryan DeSmet, seconded and passed.
- Approval of January expense payments: MN UI (2025-Quarter 4) – A motion to approve a payment of \$27 to the MN Unemployment Insurance program was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.

11. **Board Counsel Report** - Alan Kantrud stated that the 2026 proposed contract supplemental law enforcement from the Ramsey County Sheriff's office should be available by the next Board meeting. Officers from both Ramsey County and the DNR said activity was slow on the lake this month.

12. **Announcements** - Cheri Howe reminded the Board to drop off their non-conflict of interest forms by the end of

the meeting, and that she will be checking in with every Board member about their official wblcd.org email account to be sure they can receive and send emails so that WBLCD communications can be conducted through this system.

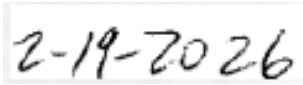
The League of Minnesota Cities has a good cybersecurity video available on how to keep yourself safe online. Howe will send to all Board members.

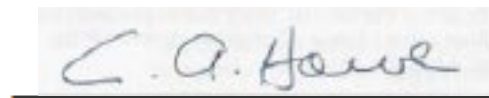
The next meeting of the WBLCD will be held on Feb. 17, 2026

13. **Adjournment** – A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 pm was made by Chris Churchill, seconded and passed.

ATTEST

  
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Bryan DeSmet, Chairperson, WBLCD

  
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Date

  
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Cheri Howe, Administrator, WBLCD

  
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Date