

# Grant helps continue effort to control invasive weed

WHITE BEAR LAKE — Good news for the fight against Eurasian watermilfoil.

The Lake Conservation District will get \$6,750 from the Department of Natural Resources to survey and treat White Bear Lake for the invasive aquatic weed.

District board member and lake quality committee Chair Mike Parenteau applied for the grant in November. He announced at the Feb. 21 meeting that the district was successful in garnering funds. "We are fortunate to get it," said Parenteau, adding, "I applied like lightning" as soon as it was posted.

In other business at the district meeting, board members:

- Tabled discussion regarding the watercraft storage fee. "The city of White Bear Lake took exception to us charging them for canoe/kayak storage on racks," noted Chair Bryan DeSmet, White Bear Township. He recommended the lake utilization committee (LUC) revisit district ordinances to "make the topic more clear to member communities." Currently the

district charges \$7 per watercraft.

- Accepted a \$9,800 bid from E.G. Rud & Sons to survey Commercial Bay.

The district wants edges of the authorized dock usage area (ADUA) better identified in the crowded bay. The information is needed to evaluate whether docks are within a marina's ADUA and to give boaters enough room to get in and out of slips without entering neighboring space.

- Approved nominations for officers. DeSmet remains chair, Meredith Walburg of Dellwood replaces Mark Ganz as vice chair and Mike Parenteau was reelected treasurer.
- Approved a \$2 per hour pay raise for Cheri Howe, administrator. Her hourly rate was bumped to \$26.
- Approved dock permits for McCarthy Estates in Mahtomedi and Cottage Park Homeowners Association. Cottage Park residents requested two more boats, bringing the total to 16, which was denied. The number will remain at its current 14. The group also asked to extend the dock to 250 feet. Lake utilization committee Chair Mark Ganz said it would be 250 feet or

4 feet of depth, whichever comes first, per ordinance. "We are telling everyone we are not increasing boat numbers this year," he added.

The district is still waiting for an application from Fletcher Driscoll, which was tabled.

Also late are applications from two commercial marinas, Docks of White Bear and Tally's Dockside. "We're getting radio silence there, as well," Ganz said. Both marinas committed to providing drawings that neither has provided.

Attorney Alan Kantrud was directed to send the marinas a letter.

- Received update on the illegal dock at 4955 Lake Ave. Attempts to reach the owners via certified mail and email to remove the dock have been unsuccessful. According to Ganz, a relative lives in the house while the owners work for an oil company in Indonesia. A board member plans to knock on the door with a certified letter.
- Heard from DeSmet that the executive committee will be looking at suggestions from a League of Women Voters report back in 2011 on how the board might improve.

- In the education committee update, Walburg said she plans to post reminders on social media that the deadline for ice house removal is March 6 and to remind snowmobilers that they must stay at least 200 feet from shore.
- Costello added that the committee is considering sending a flyer or newsletter to lakeshore property owners. He's not sure what content will be at this point but may include update on invasive species and the role lakeshore owners might play.
- District attorney Kantrud reported he reached out to law enforcement regarding extra patrol in Commercial Bay this summer. He didn't hear back from the DNR, but was "welcomed with open arms" by Sgt. Mike Tombaga, Ramsey County water patrol. "He is more than happy to put out extra patrol," Kantrud said. He added there were no citations on the lake last month. Two Birchwood members were absent: Susie Mahoney and Darren DeYoung. A Dellwood position remains vacant.

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