



REGULAR MEETING OF THE WHITE BEAR LAKE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
7:00 P.M. WHITE BEAR CITY HALL
MINUTES of April 17, 2007

APPROVAL DATE: 5/15/07

1. CALL TO ORDER The April meeting of the White Bear Lake Conservation District was convened by Chair Gary Cox at 7:05 pm.

2. ROLL CALL Present were: Chair Gary Cox, Vice Chair Luke Michaud, Secretary/Treasurer Diane Longville, Directors Greg Donovan, George St. Germain, Mike Parenteau, Thomas Hoffman, Scott St. Martin, John Steinworth & Tom Alvarez. A quorum was present. Recording secretary was Julie Yoho.

3. AGENDA

3 items added

MOTION #1 (Michaud/Parenteau) Move to approve April agenda as amended. All Aye, Passed.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #2 (Donovan/Hoffman) Move to approve meeting minutes from March. All Aye, Passed

5. PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

Tracy Wemyss from Air Down There scuba shop.

- Holding a clean up event on May 12 – permit wasn't received in office yet. 50 divers will lean up trash in WBL. Provides an opportunity to dive, annual clean up event. They will have safety divers in water and shore support. No boats.

Steinworth – however we can make this happen is fine, this is good thing for lake.

LUC will look at application, put item on agenda under 6b “new business”.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6a. 2008 budget worksheet

Gary Cox reviewed his email proposal regarding the 2008 budget noting highlights and proposals for revenue increases.

Hoffman – good approach, good balance

Donovan – we gave reductions to cities in the past to spend down our fund balance
St. Germain – cities won't be willing to support substantial increase at once
Cox – increase has been avoided over last few years, now we have spent down our fund balance
St Germain – first lets look if we can spend less, and if we must increase to cities, stage over a few years.
Parenteau- spread over years, increase fees, cut spending - do a little bit of everything
Longville – We've had no fee increase since 1999. Feels WB Township would like to see fees generate more income.
Steinworth– the 10% reduction over past few years was temporary. If we cut budget we're saying those items are not important.
Hoffman – what is our average spending over past few years?
Cox – if committee chairs can cut 10% from budget, it will make it easier.
St. Martin – look at big picture, long term so that we're not in same position next year. We're trying to be more active, if we cut programs that won't be possible.
St Germain – a reasonable increase is ok. Looks like we need to come up with 20k or so.
St. Martin – be very careful about making cuts, will be hard to get back.
Cox – 5% reduction per committee may help. Agree not to eliminate too much.
Steinworth– against cutting - demoralizing. Priorities can be made, but if we cut things we see value in we are doing disservice. Have to establish what we're worth.
Donovan – budget workshop is needed. Let's discuss in depth.

We'll set up budget workshop to discuss further in next month.

6b. permit for Air Down There Scuba

clean up dive May 12 from 8 – 4 at Ramsey beach.

We'll need insurance binder and proof.

MOTION # 3 (Michaud/St. Germain) Move to approve permit for May 12 Clean Up Dive / Air Down There Scuba, pending insurance information to office.
discussion

Steinworth - Worked with group in past, they were very dedicated. Clean up dives are excellent

St. Martin – friendly amendment to waive permit fee.

Amendment accepted / seconded by St. Germain

MOTION Vote
All Aye, PASSED

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

none

8. REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

8a. Lake Quality Committee

Lake levels will be reported every meeting. 922.89
we can post on website. Currently at 922.89, within norm. Gauge is by bridge

Steinworth – Chemicals have been found in Minneapolis chain of lakes & a fish advisory is out. Do we know if anyone has done this level of testing on WB? Is it PCA? John will make some calls to find out.

8b. Lake Utilization Committee

8b1. Redpath Waterski app
Some neighbors in area asked for course to be moved out of St. Germain's bay.
LUC recommends 30 day approval of permit trying multiple locations, then review at next meeting.

MOTION # 4 (Michaud/Donovan) Move to approve 30 day permit, from this meeting until the next. Expect course to move every 2 days to different locations as it draws people to the course.

Discussion

Hoffman – is there a risk that other courses will pop up if this one is not present?

Michaud - No, a permit is needed.

MOTION VOTE

ALL AYE, PASSED

8b2. Nicholson water ski permit

***MOTION #5 (Michaud / St. Germain) Move to approve Nicholson Water ski permit.
ALL AYE, PASSED.***

8b4. Docks of White Bear

Came with a proposal to add a service dock. Drawing is not accurate. Committee suggested no vending out on the lake, shorter dock 150 -200' in length. No action tonight. New drawings are next month. Would then go out for neighbor review.

Steinworth – don't need another gas sale source. Where is the need, benefit, how are they making \$?

8c. Lake Education Committee report

- Planning boat cruise on Wed. June 20 at 4 p.m.

- Ice out was April 1.

- Fertilizer ad was debated, LEC decided not to do it this spring. Feel awareness is already there.

Steinworth – Matoska marsh photo proposal. See handout.

MOTION # 6 (Steinworth/Michaud) Move to spend no more than \$800 to obtain historical images of Matoska marsh from Bordner aerials.

Discussion

Michaud – could we use Google Earth or similar for viewing?

Kantrud – resolution would not be as good

Donovan – how many years back?

Steinworth – 80's, photographer will look at his collection

Parenteau – don't like to vote on something just presented tonight. There may be other options to explore. Is the reason of the photos to convince the board something needs to be done?

Steinworth – its to prove the marsh has been like this before, changes occur.

Point of this is to get photos back in 80's and prior. From this point on there are other options. It would provide a pictorial history of marsh.

Cox – this idea was suggested in previous months. Historic perspective is helpful.

Kantrud – DNR may have photos via request.

Michaud – withdrawing second

Hoffman will second.

Alvarez – may be other source as well via BWSR. This is big project to look at marsh, should do all at once. Starting gallery and then filling in gaps would be good project – lot of work.

Cox – asked for proposal this month. We can have these in a couple of weeks.

They can help answer immediate questions.

Longville – where is \$ coming from?

MOTION Vote

Aye – 7; Nay – 2 (Parenteau, St. Martin). PASSED

8d. Treasurers report

MOTION # 7 (Longville/Parenteau) Move to approve April Treasurers Report and pay checks 3747 – 3752. All Aye, PASSED.

8e. Board Counsel report

fishing contest held without permit – organizer went to court and paid fee.

There may be \$ out there from past paid fines – check with county

8f. Administrative staff report

none

9. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #8 (Donovan/Parenteau) Move to approve consent agenda. All Aye, PASSED.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Longville – saw pelicans on the sandbar

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION # 9 (St. Germain/Hoffman) Move to adjourn. All Aye, PASSED.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

ATTEST:

Administrative Secretary

Date

APPROVED:

Board Chairperson

Date