



REGULAR MEETING OF THE WHITE BEAR LAKE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
7:00 P.M. WHITE BEAR CITY HALL
MINUTES of June 17, 2014

APPROVAL DATE: 7/15/14

1. CALL TO ORDER The June meeting of the White Bear Lake Conservation District was convened by chair Jane Harper at 7:03 pm.

2. ROLL CALL Present were: Chair Jane Harper, Vice Chair Bryan DeSmet, Treasurer Diane Longville, Directors Mike Parenteau, Mark Ganz, Gene Altstatt, Pat McCann, Scott Costello, George St. Germain, Suzanne Donnell. A quorum was present. Recording Secretary was Julie Yoho.

3. AGENDA

DeSmet – add item “Dr. Paul Bolstad” to agenda as 5b. Move item 5b to 5c.

Parenteau – add item 8b4. “Rainfall amount”

MOTION # 1 (Ganz/Altstatt) Move to approve agenda with changes noted. All aye passed.

Reminder to Board - provide more complete agenda items and details prior to meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #2 (Altstatt/Parenteau) Move to approve minutes of May. All aye passed.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

Bryan McGoldrick, Stillwater

As owner of Docks of White Bear, expressed concern over parking issue at shopping center last month. Understand permit was given conditional to getting letter from city regarding parking.

Ganz – as of today we have not received anything. No letter we know of. Called today and was told to park at Kowalski’s, not at VFW.

Tim DeWuske, Mahtomedi.

Lives on Lost Lake which is listed as Impaired with mercury contamination. Water overflows into WBL thru Birchwood. Would Board attend meeting with City to determine where contamination is coming from? Toxins have to be disclosed when property is sold. Lake is stocked by DNR. Elevated level in short time is concerning. Would like to facilitate a meeting to determine source.

Harper – clarify request – would you like us to attend or facilitate?

DeWuske – asked City of WBL, haven’t heard back. If meeting comes up will someone attend?

Harper – more appropriately City of Mahtomedi or Rice Creek Watershed District

Parenteau – MN PCA

DeWuske – There was a WB Press article. Would like to find source and eliminate

Kantrud – Board, you are WBLCD, have no jurisdiction. If you have academic interest you could attend as a resident of Birchwood or Mahtomedi in case something more directly comes up.

Harper – will attend if a meeting is set up

6. NEW BUSINESS

Perry Jones, USGS

Perry provided an update on the past years research and lake levels.

-Lake is up 1 foot over past three years June readings. Precipitation is also tracking above normal.

-The Groundwater/Surface Water report is available on USGS website

- A 3-year study for NE Metro was funded. Will be looking at statistics of lakes, seepage rates, assess impact of pumping

-From Nov 2013 – Nov 2014 working to identify main factors involved in lake levels.

Looking at surface water vs ground water in wells. Assess seepage rates between WBL and aquifers. Identify where it occurs and where. Piezometers and seepage meters are currently in lake for this purpose. Surveys done of lake bottom to determine sediments and structure. Piezometers measure downward flow and amount, will see how changes during seasons.

Q&A

Altstatt - How deep?

Jones - 30 – 60 feet

Altstatt - 2016 end date? What is the funding?

Jones - Legacy Funds with Met Council and Dept of Health with USGS Federal match. Providing info to Met Council as it comes along to help them with decisions along the way.

Donnell – on the diagram with wells and surface vs aquifer water: Some were 80% lake water - why so high?

Jones – That is a monitoring well, really close to lake.

DeSmet – Do you measure evaporation?

Jones – don't have equipment, using temperature and wind data along with methods of calculating. If Paul gets equipment in, we'll have better data for that purpose.

Paul Bolstad, UMN

Paul provided information on a climate station, what it is and what it can

-The station will be able to measure precipitation, evaporation. Need long term observations of differences between precipitation and evaporation. We've had shorter ice on days, more days of evaporation - 10 more days here in past 100 years.

-3 stations triangulating the lake would be ideal. U is installing \$60k station on WBL.

Q&A

Donnell – if we buy it who will maintain it? Monitor it?

Bolstad – I will do as long as I live here. Needs to be checked 1 day every month, calibration every few years for roughly \$200. Lightning strikes possible

Altstatt – How much time to get usable data?

Bolstad – depends on data for what. Evaporation data after year.

Altstatt – why isn't USGS doing this with Legacy funds?

Bolstad – biggest problem is groundwater, second is evaporation

Harper – similar question. Perry, is this data useful for you?

Jones – yes, would use the evaporation data directly to assess water balance. Definitely a valuable component to measure. Stations like this don't get long term funding, typically 3 to 5 years. Will be regional data source.

DeSmet – can you explain the need for multiple stations, year round? Also the value of data – research quality?

Bolstad – national caliber equipment. Most continue readings thru winter. 3 stations to capture wind directions and different profiles with wind direction.

Costello – could data go on website as public data?

Bolstad – yes. Do-able with 1 station, more tricky with 3 stations. Wind speed, direction, humidity. Water temp.

Parenteau – What about the DNR stations by the bridge?

Bolstad – only measures rainfall, water depth

Meredith Keller, MN Waters Coordinator, Conservation MN

Meredith provided an update of the current MN Waters and several programs

-In 2012 MN Waters joined Conservation MN

-AIS citizen monitoring program does trainings for lake associations on how to identify, prevent and monitor.

-DNR offers training for lake service providers, citizen training for watercraft inspectors for volunteers, training for official inspectors.

-We offer citizen training for general public. How to prevent spread. ID books, dvds manual. 2 hr. session.

- Hosted 8 this year, average of 20 people attend. No cost.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

none

8. Reports/Action Items

8a. Lake Level Resolution Committee

Handout provided. Marketfest plan similar to last year.

MOTION #3 (DeSmet/Altstatt) Move to spend \$500 for Marketfest handouts.

Discussion

Clarification over items and costs

MOTION Vote

All aye, passed.

8b. Lake Quality Committee

EWM survey will be in later June due to slow growth. Survey goes to DNR, goes to applicator who checks again then treats.

Lake temp: 73 degrees

Lake Level: 921.57, 1 foot higher than last year, 7.2 higher than last month

Rain amount – 7.43 inches since last meeting

8c. Lake Utilization Committee

MOTION #4 (Ganz/St Germain) Move to approve dock permit for Andrew Kruse/ Alnes dock. All aye, passed.

MOTION #5 (Ganz/ St Germain) Move to approve July 4 fireworks permit and waive fee. All aye passed.

8d. Lake Education Committee

Altstatt provided a handout on hits on website. Unknown if usages increase is due to ads or time of year.

-General discussion was held on the need for Twitter and if/what would be posted. It was decided a monthly meeting board was not conducive to tweeting at this time.
-Discussion was held on what is posted on the website and the procedure for doing so. It was generally agreed that lake related factual postings should be there. Copy Julie at the office.

8e. Treasurer's Report

MOTION #6 (Longville/Parenteau) Move to approve checks 4234 – 4237. All aye, passed.

2015 budget

Discussion on items

-Monitoring station would be for this year, remove from 2015 budget

MOTION #7 (DeSmet / Donnell) Move to spend up to \$8000 for 1 climate research station from reserve funds this year.

Discussion

Parenteau –No one has asked for evaporation data, this is not the time. The product it would provide doesn't seem to be being requested.

Donnell – disagree. Dr Bolstad was using very old data because that is the only available. We should be leading this effort to get the data.

DeSmet – if data was available it will be used. Perry said he is using estimations, would use more precise if available. The more we know the better off we'll be. No one would be disappointed if we have too much data about the lake.

Costello – can't know if there's a proven need for data.

Longville – heard them say many times these get pulled out after study is done, it would be good for board to do and commit to

Harper – would like LLRC to plan for long term use of data and contingency plan for continuing operation, program on how it will be used in future

Altstatt – would like to make contingent to other organizations participating

DeSmet – if we add amendment, we won't be able to get it installed this year. Ideally we'd have 3. With this we'll have 2. Can work toward 3rd. Do not accept amendment.

Motion vote

1 nay (Parenteau) 2 abstain (George, Altstatt). Motion Passed

MOTION #8 (Harper /Ganz) Move to approve 2015 budget. Put extra in EWM control to balance budget. No increase to cities. All aye, passed.

8f. Board Counsel Report

Slow month, no report

8g. Administrative Staff Report

Budget will go out with letter for review to Board, then to cities by July 1

Items included in packet this month:

- Agenda
- May draft minutes
- Permit applications – 1

- Dock applications – 1
- 2015 proposed budget

9. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION # 9 (Parenteau/Ganz) Move to approve. All aye passed.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Get details for next month agenda to Julie

St Germain – send letter reminding city of WBL of condition to permit – ask for letter
 Ganz – understand McGoldrick’s point, but WBLCD does not monitor parking lots.

McCann –why are we in middle?

St Germain – in dock application we ask about parking, and ask they follow city ordinances. In their application city said “same as last year” which is now filled with construction.

Donnell – agree he has complaint, but if it’s not our issue shouldn’t be on our application

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION # 10 (Ganz/Longville) Move to approve. All aye passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

ATTEST:

 Administrative Secretary

 Date

APPROVED:

 Board Chairperson

 Date