



REGULAR MEETING OF THE WHITE BEAR LAKE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
7:00 P.M. WHITE BEAR CITY HALL
MINUTES of September 19, 2006

APPROVAL DATE: 10/17/06

1. CALL TO ORDER The September meeting of the White Bear Lake Conservation District was convened by Chair Gary Cox at 7:00 pm

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

3. AGENDA

MOTION #1 (Parenteau/Donovan) Move to approve agenda. All Aye, PASSED.

New Business / Lake Quality Committee

Steve McComas, Blue Water Science - Status report on plant growth

Low lake levels = more plant growth further out and in areas where previously there was none

Milfoil was hitting the surface in Matoska Marsh area early this summer.

Other than marsh area, no milfoil hitting surface further out than 200'

Most milfoil is single stem in marsh area – it's not branching out to become navigational hazard.

Cottage Park area residents have been treating. Milfoil is present there, but not nuisance.

In other areas present, not nuisance

2006 saw accelerated growth due to warm July conditions. Early abundance, early growth.

Q&A

Are there signs in marsh that a bigger problem is coming?

- In 2006 there was more growth than previous years – '03 was worse, then in '04 & '05 not nuisance. '06 more of boom year again. Milfoil grows in cycles.
- If we treat in marsh we would take out some native species as well.

Steinworth – milfoil grows in phases, this is not abnormal. Not emergency

McComas – Lake levels are down since late last year. Sedges are growing well now.

Yes we are in low cycle that promotes growth of other plants such as cattails, sedges, bullrush

Michaud – should we treat now for milfoil? Or maybe next year? When is it a problem?

McComas – Milfoil can crowd out natives, but the natives will come back once milfoil dies out in natural cycle. Control using a harvester would be best, cut channels to allow boating. No herbicides. Herbicides are only somewhat selective and will damage other vegetation.

McComas - last visit to lake was August 12, noticed Water celery was floating around then and this will increase as ducks uproot, this time of yr things float and break off easier.

Full 2006 report will be coming. We have data and maps since 1988.

Longville – Saw lots of dead fish floating in July, why?

McComas – After spawning, fish’s immune systems are down, and the warm water temps caused stress which led to infections. This was widespread in many lakes. The fish are vulnerable after spawning.

Audience comments/questions

Jan Holtz-Kraemer

-Kayaks in marsh regularly

-Sees milfoil on west side of Manitou Island and thinks it is worse than ever in past 50 yrs. Is concerned about the lake. Would like Steve to go out and look again to document current conditions?

McComas – We have 2 sampling stations in that area, so we have statistics going back over the years.

Holtz-Kraemer – thinks he needs to go now to see conditions.

Steinworth – milfoil has been there before, will cycle back naturally, hasn’t needed intervention.

Holtz-Kraemer – concern is that its spreading and getting foothold and will continue to spread even if lake levels come back.

McComas – milfoil has always been there, it moves and adjusts and has been behaving itself so far.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Change in August Meeting minutes – Mike Parenteau should be listed as “present”

MOTION #2 (Michaud/Steinworth) Move to approve minutes of August with change noted. All Aye, PASSED

5. PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

none

6. NEW BUSINESS

See above

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

work plan updates - none

8. REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

8a. Lake Quality Committee

Steve McComas milfoil report – see above

8b. Lake Utilization Committee

John, Luke and Mike plan to attend the meeting on Thursday regarding the Ramsey County boat launch

8c. Lake Education Committee report

MOTION #4 (Hoffman/Parenteau) Move to approve spending up to \$500 to place ad regarding fertilizer use in the White Bear Press.

Discussion

Steinworth – feels placing the ad is not worth the cost

Hoffman – text is reviewed every time and modified recently

MOTION VOTE - 9 aye, 1 abstain (Steinworth) PASSED

8d. Treasurers report

MOTION #5 (Longville/ Parenteau) Move to approve September Treasurer's report and pay checks 3706 - 3813.

Discussion:

What does membership in the League of MN Cities cover?

Primarily for us it allows us to purchase our insurance policy through them.

MOTION VOTE - All aye, PASSED.

8e. Board Counsel report

One ticket was prosecuted. Jet ski was creating wake close to swimming area near Ramsey Beach at the end of July. The party involved contested.

8f. Administrative staff report

Our October 17 meeting will be held in the upstairs conference room due to use conflict with a special WBL City Council meeting.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #6 (Michaud/Parenteau) Move to approve consent agenda. All Aye, PASSED.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

none

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #7 (Donovan/Michaud) Move to adjourn. All Aye, PASSED.
Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

Administrative Secretary

Date

APPROVED:

Board Chairperson

Date