



REGULAR MEETING OF THE WHITE BEAR LAKE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
7:00 P.M. WHITE BEAR CITY HALL
MINUTES of November 15, 2011

APPROVAL DATE: 1/17/2012

1. CALL TO ORDER The November meeting of the White Bear Lake Conservation District was convened by Chair Mike Stawnychy at 7:00 pm

2. ROLL CALL Present were: Chair Mike Stawnychy, Vice Chair Luke Michaud, Treasurer Diane Longville, Directors George St. Germain, Mike Parenteau, Kevin Powers. A quorum was present. Recording secretary was Julie Yoho. Absent were Sue Cernohous, Yale Norwick (excused).

3. AGENDA

Add item "Dec Estimated Treasurers Report" # 8d2.

MOTION #1 (Michaud/Parenteau) Move to approve agenda with above addition. All aye, passed.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #2 (Parenteau/ St Germain) Move to approve minutes of October. All aye, passed.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

none

6. NEW BUSINESS

Molly Shodeen, DNR. Shoreline Vegetation

DNR would like to explore how to work together to get accurate information out regarding lakeshore owners vegetation removal.

Parenteau – what are exact regulations?

Shodeen – There are multiple regulations and programs. No altering lake bed is allowed without a permit. Destroying aquatic vegetation would be a violation.

Lakeshore owners have reasonable right to access water. That means a path, swimming area - not necessarily mowing entire frontage.

Stawnychy – problems have been maintenance on growing weeds due to low water.

Shodeen – many plants are aquatic veg. The seed bed from last time lake was low is coming up. There are varieties of bulrushes that emerge with the normal cycle of lakes, low and high.

Stawnychy- Everyone wants to manicure. Newspaper articles may be most efficient way to distribute info

Michaud – people are trying to understand what they can and can't do. The Public beaches are groomed
Shodeen – You may selectively remove upland vegetation. Do not disturb lake bed or bulrush
St Germain – So the seed can be there 70 yrs waiting to come up?
Shodeen – yes. (Passed out photo from 2003 & 2010). Shallow shelf became evident in 2010. It has always been there, just apparent with low water. That's what owners bought, a lake with shelf around it.
Michaud – typically area on shelf was sandy. Now owners want to keep it sandy beach for when water comes up, your saying don't do that.
Shodeen – same thing happened last time lake was low, '88. Bulrush was coming up. 2003 looks sandy because after last drought people removed any vegetation that came up, rather than balance need of lake to have aquatic vegetation.
Powers – shelf has been exposed for 2 yrs now. Was surprised that issue is just coming up now – we do need to get word out better, took many by surprise.
St Germain – certain amount can be cleared around dock, ?
Shodeen – reasonable amount yes, not property line to property line. You can remove 15 – 20 feet without permit. To remove more emergent vegetation you need a permit (free permit). Can remove submergent on a certain percent of property without permit. DNR Fisheries issues permits for the submergent veg.
St Germain – would be good to clarify and tell folks what they can do
Shodeen – plan to send letters to property owners on what can be done.
Michaud – collaboration with fisheries?
Shodeen – yes. Any way we can work together.

Q&A audience

Kathleen McKee – what about dragging with motorized vehicle on exposed lake bed?
Shodeen – motorized vehicles become more of an alteration for the vegetation. Will clarify. Shouldn't have vehicle parked there.
Parenteau – Looking at the 2010 photo is it ok to mow ?
Shodeen – upland vegetation will die when water comes back.
Powers – imagine there is a mixing of the two so not a clear line.
Shodeen – correct, blurry line, bulrush is closer to water line
Jan Holz – people that were fined, were they warned?
Shodeen – Most were warnings. One fined for using herbicide, 2 out of 25 were fined, others warned.
Longville – does bulrush disappear as water comes up?
Shodeen – different varieties – 2 persist, shorter version will die. 4 - 5 species are coming up.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

none

8. Reports/Action Items

8a. Lake Quality Committee

8a1. LQC will hold a public meeting on Jan 5 get public input on the Lake Vegetation Management Plan. Draft plan should be available for Jan 17 Board review. Would like to have it adopted by Board at the Feb

meeting. Then it goes to DNR for review and approval. Plan will allow us to treat EWM earlier.

8a2. Lake temp 41 degrees. Last year 40 degrees.

8a3. Lake level 920.11. last year 919.45. 7.9inches higher now, but down 3 inches from last month.

8a4. Next LQC meeting Dec. 6, upstairs.

8b. Lake Utilization Committee

8b1. 2012 Polar Plunge

MOTION # 3.(Michaud/St Germain) Move to approve permit with proof of insurance, and waive fee. All aye, passed.

8b2. VFW Softball on Ice

MOTION # 4 (Michaud/St Germain) Move to approve permit contingent on insurance. All Aye, Passed.

8b3. Horseshoe on Ice

MOTION #5 (Michaud/St Germain) Move to approve contingent on insurance. All Aye, Passed.

8b4. Bob Broen – change is boat on shore rather than on lift

MOTION #6 (Michaud/St Germain) Move to approve Broen permit. All aye, passed

8b5. Wildwood Condos – no change

MOTION # 7 (Michaud/St Germain) Move to approve Wildwood permit All aye, passed.

8b6. Chateauguet

MOTION # 8 (Michaud/St Germain) Move to approve Chateauguet permit. All aye, Passed.

8b7. Snyder's bay

MOTION # 9 (Michaud/St Germain) Move to approve Snyders Bay. All aye, passed.

8b8. Hickory St. – says change but not able to see what change is.

MOTION # 10 (Michaud/St Germain) Move to approve contingent on identify slight change. Show in January. All Aye, Passed.

8b9. Forest Heights

This was the only app with comments from neighbors. Same as last year. Reality is there is no water where dock drawing is. In past few years had dock and 4 boats at site, by the time it was out there it was our Sept. meeting.

MOTION # 11 (Michaud/St Germain) Move to approve.

Michaud- Recommendation to come up with configuration that will work this spring with current water levels and bring it to board for variance request so we can follow procedure.

Stawnychy – didn't need permit last year, too few boats

Michaud – correct, but will follow procedure for multi use dock

Longville – when?

Michaud – put in dock then bring to mtg. to allow for comment time

St Germain – have Luke check layout before proceeding?

Michaud – unless significant change, will be similar to last year

Powers – letters express frustration with variance process.

Michaud – didn't do it, didn't work. Will do it this year.

Longville – would feel more comfortable setting date for variance review.

Michaud – we don't know they'll need one/ speculation on water levels.

Longville – if they need on, when? Can dock go in before board sees variance?

St Germain – if they do dock as on diagram it's fine. If they move it, change it, variance. If less boats, no variance needed.

Michaud – can order it moved or reconfigured.

Longville – don't want neighbors seeing dock in and variance hasn't been approved, want review in timely manner.

Jon Wheaton – We have a contingency plan if water does not come up, assoc. will meet early spring to develop acceptable plan and apply for variance. Wouldn't put dock in without variance.

8b10. North Star Sled Dog Race permit

LUC had questions and concerns in committee meeting. Application is not complete. Event is same day as Polar Plunge, first time event, unsure number of spectators. Parking at VFW is not sufficient. Need agreement with other property owners for parking. Also satellite toilets. Group is meeting tomorrow.

Stawnychy – Concerns are security, clean up, satellites,

Michaud – If I attend their meeting tomorrow and poll members ...

Can we vote via email?

St Germain – There is a series of unanswered questions here.

Parenteau – how is trail groomed?

Rick – VFW – Hugo snowmobile club will groom.

Parenteau – will you have sheriff check ice thickness?

Rick – yes

St Germain – Who will clean up after dogs?

Rick – Musher's are responsible for dogs, also volunteers. The group is in contact with the City of WB regarding traffic control and security.

Ramsey county is also involved.

Stawnychy – parking?

Rick – permission from area businesses, trying to get permission from Trach properties. Can use shuttle if needed.

Stawnychy – think the even it is a great idea, would like to have little holes filled before I make decision.

Michaud – need more details. Logistically how can Board give approval?

Stawnychy –unsure if vote via email is legal.
Parenteau – no, have to host meeting, this issue came up earlier this summer.
Stawnychy- I agree we shouldn't have emergency meeting every time someone is late with an app, however would like to see this event happen.
Michaud – any other questions and concerns?
Powers – route around lake? Can people still get out to fish?
Rick – yes, would mark at access points. Route flagged.
Michaud – show support now, final vote at 17th?
Stawnychy – would be available for special meeting, need 5 day notice
Rick – markings will be taken down after race. I'm unsure about the satellite issue. 7:00 tomorrow at VFW the group is meeting.
Michaud – will attend and call special meeting if necessary.

8c. Lake Education Committee

none

8d. Treasurers report

MOTION #12 (St Germain/Powers) Move to approve treasurers report for November and pay checks 4072 – 4077. All aye, passed.

MOTION #13 (Longville/Parenteau) Move to approve estimated treasurers report for December. All Aye, Passed.

Any outstanding bills need to be turned in prior to Dec 30.

8e. Board Counsel Report

none

8f. Administrative Staff Report

Items included in packet this month:

- Agenda
- Oct draft minutes
- Finance report
- USGS Quarterly Report
- 2012 Meeting dates
- Event permit applications – 4
- Dock permit applications - 6

MOTION #14 (Michaud/Parenteau) Move to approve meeting schedule for 2012. All aye, passed.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #15 (Michaud/St Germain) Move to approve. All aye passed.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #16 (Michaud/St Germain) Move to adjourn. All Aye, Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

ATTEST:

Administrative Secretary

Date

APPROVED:

Board Chairperson

Date