



## White Bear Lake Conservation District

### Board Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2022, 7:00 p.m., White Bear Lake City Hall Council Chambers

*(6 pm LUC meeting cancelled)*

**Approved July 19, 2022**

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Bryan DeSmet at 7:00 pm
2. **Roll Call/Quorum** – Present: Bryan DeSmet, Diane Longville, Mark Ganz, Meredith Walburg, Mike Parenteau, Scott Costello, Scott O'Connor, Susie Mahoney; Board Counsel Alan Kantrud (Absent: Christopher Churchill, Darren DeYoung). A quorum was present.
3. **Approval of Agenda**
  - Move up items related to lake enforcement and water patrol earlier in agenda. Motion by DeSmet to approve amended agenda, seconded by Parenteau and passed.
4. **Approval of May Board Meetings Minutes** Motion by O'Connor to approve, seconded by Ganz, and passed.
5. **Public Comment's** - none
6. **Lake Enforcement Introduction/Ramsey County Water Patrol**
  - Michael Tombaga, Sergeant, Ramsey County Water Patrol thanked the WBLCD for the additional monies that added increased water patrol personnel and hours to policing activity on White Bear Lake, and answered questions regarding Ramsey County water patrols duties.
  - Board members shared issues that the water patrol can be on the lookout for such as bow riding, boats getting too close to tubers; noise complaints, and wildlife harassment. The board thanked the water patrol for their work.
7. **New Business**
  - WBLCD office reopening - New administrative assistant Cheri Howe introduced herself; the physical office is now open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 2 pm; on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month, the office is open until 6 pm.
  - Bid to purchase buoys - Motion by Parenteau to purchase 6 shallow water buoys from Rolyan Buoys for \$1,049.74, seconded by Ganz, and passed.
  - Invasive Yellow Iris Infestation Survey
    - Invasive Yellow Iris was recently spotted on land, and in the water by Lion Park, and Docks of WBL. Plants along Lake Ave. were treated in 2021, and there's concern of it spreading from Lake Ave along commercial bay area, and elsewhere.
    - It seems appropriate for the WBLCD to track infestations, but not necessarily treat it. Property owners should be able to do that.
    - Need to get information out to lakeshore owners about this, and who to report it to so that it can be monitored. Lake Education Committee will develop a brochure for lakeshore owners to use this year or next.
    - Plan of action:
      - information on social media, White Bear Press, add language on the Yellow Iris webpage on our website to report its location to the WBLCD office if observed on White Bear Lake lakeshore or water so it can be mapped for continued surveillance, and send lakeshore owners a letter

- Cheri will check to see if lakeshore resident mailing labels in the office are accurate to send out a letter and/or brochure
  - Cheri get information from Meredith (who discovered the infestations this year) to get in touch with the property owners of the 2 reported Yellow Iris infestations to make them aware it was reported on their property.
- University of MN Prop Thrust Study research support
  - Bryan shared a conversation with Jeff Marr regarding the University's research on boat-generated wave and propeller wash data: waves generated from wake boats have wavelengths 2 times longer than wind-generated waves, and therefore more energy; the longer the wavelength, the deeper the wave impact; lakeshore can be armored from wind-generated waves but not necessarily from boat-generated waves; most boats plane across the water, but wake boats try to get deeper to produce a wake; prop wash against the bottom of the lake is more significant from wake boats than regular boats, due to the sharper angle of its prop.
  - They are requesting \$400,000 from the state for research into a variety of factors.
  - Video: Boat wake impacts on MN Lakes-Phase II Research - covered the things mentioned by Jeff
  - Scott Costello reported that the WBLCD contributed \$2,000 to their Phase I research and would like to support Phase II. Motion by Costello to spend \$2,000 from cash reserves to support Phase II research, seconded by Ganz, and passed. A check will go out next month, but can notify them earlier.
    - Meredith would like to see in the study how wind stirs up sediment in the water, while boat activity doesn't seem to cause this.

#### 8. Unfinished Business

- Coordination with Rice Creek Watershed District - Bryan connected with Matt Kocian, Rice Creek Watershed District – they will prepare a summary of WBL water quality data and attend the August 16 board meeting to discuss data, any gaps and observations. The goal is to develop a comprehensive database of WBL water quality data, establish a stronger working relationship with Rice Creek, and determine if additional WBL data would be beneficial (ex-additional water sampling).

#### 9. Reports/Action Items

- Executive Committee – didn't meet
- Lake Quality Committee
  - Swimmer's itch letter was sent out, no reports yet of swimmer's itch. The cycle is usually over by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, but water has been cold.
  - Lake level (as of 6/21) – 923.97 ft., 1½" lower than last month.
  - Lake temperature – 74 °F
  - Approve budget and grant money for the treatment of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM)
    - Would like to modify original budget of \$12,000, by adding the \$7,500 grant from DNR. We spent \$25,700 treating the lake last year so it didn't explode in growth this year, so would like to add \$5,500 for a total budget of \$25,000 for this year. It's over budget, but we have the funds for it.
    - Motion by Parenteau to approve up to \$25,000 for EWM treatment for this summer, seconded by Mahoney, and passed. If more money is needed, will come back to the board.
  - EMW survey will be done before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, treatment will be done after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Walburg would like to join in the water survey process.

- Lake Utilization Committee
  - Birchwood DA-Birch Beach permit amendment approval - Birchwood approved movement of the dock 10 ft. from what was presented in original application, and is now asking WBLCD to approve the changes. Motion by Ganz to approve movement of Birch Beach dock 10 ft. west of its original placement, seconded by O'Connor, and passed. Mark will get documentation to Cheri.
  - Letter sent out to 4711 Lake Ave to remove one of 5 boats from dock; letter to go to owner of wooden dock falling apart near Optimist Beach; letter to go to Tally's about straightening the south dock to meet the drawing that was approved.
  - Susie observed that there is a buoy in Birchwood that is out beyond anyone's ADUA – might be a safety hazard - does it need to be removed? She will contact Washington County water patrol (requires permits for buoys), could also call Ramsey County, to see if it's an approved/permitted buoy
- Lake Education Committee
  - Adopt a drain challenge update – seeing progress, started with 298 in March now up to 417; would like to get to 596.
  - Social media update – Averaging 2,000-4,000 views; will post about yellow iris, Adopt-A-Drain, and milfoil treatment
  - Marketfest presence – July 28 is environmental focus at Marketfest, and groups can reserve a booth for free. Waiting to hear back if there is any space available, and anyone is welcome to join Scott and Meredith at the booth. We would promote Adopt-A-Drain program, and have yellow iris information. Mark has a canopy and plastic table we could borrow.
- Treasurer's report
  - June 2022 report – Motion by Parenteau to approve payment of all debit card purchases and checks #4764 through #4770, seconded by Ganz, and passed.
  - Finalize 2023 Budget
    - Budgeted income is \$83,172: communities will be assessed \$45,841, substantially less than the last four year; and licensing fees will add \$37,331 to the total.
    - We're going to deficit spend \$10,000 as budgeted expenses are \$93,172.
    - The Community Assessments sheet shows what the cost per person is in each of the communities.
    - Motion by Parenteau to approve the 2023 budget, seconded by Ganz, and passed.
- Board Counsel Report
  - Washington County water patrol was invited to attend tonight, but did not get a response back. Alan will pass on any water patrol concerns to Washington County.
  - Prosecuted 1 case in Ramsey County
  - Waiting to hear from DNR if a new conservation officer has been hired.

**10. Announcements – none**

**11. Adjournment** - Motion by Costello to adjourn at 8:12 pm, seconded by O'Connor, and passed.

ATTEST:

Bryan DeSmet, Chair



Date:

7-19-2022

Cheri Howe, Administrative Asst.



Date:

7/19/2022

