



**White Bear Lake Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

August 15, 2023, 7:00 p.m., White Bear Lake City Hall Council Chambers
(6:00 pm LUC meeting)

1. **Roll Call/Quorum** – Present: Chair Bryan DeSmet, Vice Chair Meredith Walburg, Treasurer Mike Parenteau, Chris Churchill, Scott Costello, Darren DeYoung, Diane Longville, Susie Mahoney, Mark Wisniewski, and Alan Kantrud. Absent: Mark Ganz. A quorum was present.
2. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Bryan DeSmet.
3. **Approval of Agenda** – The lake shallow water buoy map was added under Unfinished Business, and Board emails was added to New Business. A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Mark Wisniewski, seconded and passed.
4. **Approval of July Board Meeting minutes** – A motion to approve the July 18, 2023 Board meeting minutes was made by Chris Churchill, seconded, and passed.
5. **Public Comments**
 - Mike Kirkwood and Denny Newell, Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) Board members, stated they were here to observe our meeting and share information about their organization. They instituted a 300 ft set back regulation to reduce the damage caused by wakeboards, but the regulation is not being followed.
 - Brian McGoldrick, Docks of White Bear Lake (WBL) – McGoldrick stated he did not know that Docks of WBL would be on the agenda last month and wasn't there, but appreciated the Board's flexibility in going up to 250 slips. A variance application to extend dock lengths was submitted to the WBLCD too late to be reviewed and will go on the September Board meeting agenda. McGoldrick was told that a public hearing needs to take place, and adjacent property owners, and the DNR will be given a two-week notice of the application review to give them time to review it, and/or make plans to attend the Board meeting. He was referred to Board Counsel Alan Kantrud for any questions he may have going forward with his variance application. It was noted that Docks of WBL was given a grace period to get its docks within the 300 ft from the OHWL distance, and reduce the number of slips from 260 to 250. A compliance check will be scheduled on or after Aug. 19. McGoldrick said they are doing their best to come into compliance.

McGoldrick also discussed: the possibility of dredging in Commercial Bay; notifying Commercial Bay marinas that when the lake level is below elevation 922.0 feet in April (of any year), dock structures can be extended to the limit in their DNR permit; and putting triggers in place during winter before the April deadline to help marinas prepare for low water levels.
6. **New Business**
 - Commercial Bay boat count status – Aerial photos of Commercial Bay were sent to the Executive Committee in July, and another set will be taken around Aug. 19. While Alan Kantrud has not heard back from the Ramsey County Sheriff's Water Patrol regarding their contracted work to do boat counts, no citations have been written.

- Enforcement in Commercial Bay
 - Discussed under Commercial Bay boat count status.
 - Susie Mahoney's asked if there will be any enforcement for marinas who are not permitted. It was discussed that our ordinances need to be enforced, even if there's a minimal penalty, though the process needs to be fine-tuned, and that permit applications should no longer be conditionally approved, and, if denied, applicants can come back with changes to be reviewed again.
- Carpet installation quote approval – Mike Parenteau
 - A motion to approve the purchase and installation of new carpet in the WBLCD office up to \$2,000 (under #6470) was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed. Cheri will need help moving furniture, and will send an email out to the Board when the installation date has been set.
- Board emails – Darren DeYoung asked what the expectations will be for using the new WBLCD email accounts that are being created for Board Directors. The Executive Committee will discuss a policy or guidance on this topic at its next meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

- VFW expansion-EAW: additional information needed Bryan DeSmet stated that because this is a mandatory EAW, that the Board is the entity that will complete the application. All Board members had an opportunity to contribute to the list of additional information that is needed from the applicant. A motion to send the comments to the VFW for response back to the WBLCD was made by DeSmet, seconded and passed.
- 2024 draft permit application form 5 (Commercial/non-commercial), license fee schedule, and terminology – A request was made to add the verbiage "Number of watercraft" to Unit Fees, #7-slips, mooring, lifts, and tie-ons on the application. Also requested was the removal of watercraft storage rack fees from the license fee schedule and application, although this data is requested on the permit application as informational data only for the lake use study.

A motion to approve the amended permit application forms and license fee schedule was made by Chris Churchill, seconded and passed. It was noted that commercial operations with any type of rental watercraft, including those that are beached or stored on racks, are still required to pay the commercial sales, services or rental fee (\$125) listed on the permit application and license fee schedule.

Beached watercraft, watercraft stored on racks, and temporary public use parking do count toward the slip count.

The LUC is still working on definition to terms that are not defined in the WBLCD Ordinances, and Churchill asked the Board to give the Administrator any input on the draft terms as soon as possible. The document will be used for clarification to WBLCD Board directors, committee members, permit applicants, and the general public. The term "Slip" or "Slip structure" has been defined as "a structure designed solely to secure a watercraft for the purpose of storage of one watercraft." The term 'transient parking' will no longer be used, and instead is defined as "any slip/mooring or tie-on that is for temporary public use with no overnight parking." This type of 'parking' is only requested on the permit application as informational data only for the lake use study.

- Shallow Water Buoy Map – Meredith Walburg shared that if anyone on the Board has a request to add additional buoys on the lake to send any feedback to the Administrator. A map will be published for public use before the 2024 boating season.

8. Reports/Action Items

- **Executive Committee** – There was no meeting.

- **Lake Quality Committee**
 - Lake level – The lake level today is 922.58 ft, last month it was 922.61 ft, and one year ago it was at 923.23 ft.
 - Lake temperature – The lake temperature today is 72 °F, last month it was 74 °F, and one year ago it was 71 °F.
 - Phragmites survey and treatment approval – Next week Julia Bowen (Univ. of MN), and her assistant, will survey for phragmites on the shoreline and in the reeds. Mike Parenteau noted that last year's treatment worked as there are brown spots where it was treated. A motion to approve \$1,500 for phragmites treatment was made by Parenteau, seconded and passed.
- **Lake Utilization Committee**
 - 4955 Lake Ave. follow-up – Chris Churchill said that a letter was sent to the caretaker about floating debris and possible signage lodged in the lake bed. However, an inspection of the site last week showed no floating debris (there is deteriorating rooted terrestrial vegetation), and the signage is not embedded, and appears to have been there a long time. Churchill will follow up about the letter sent by a constituent regarding this issue. Churchill also noticed a 10 inch diameter steel-sheathed cable that runs along the property line about 75 ft into the water and then stops.
- **Lake Education Committee**
 - Educational outreach update – Scott Costello reported that content was provided to the White Bear Press for their third of four Laker issues which is going to press this week.
 - Social media update – On social media this month, Meredith Walburg will post information about: lake temperature and lake level: the next August Laker; a lost WBLCD white shallow water buoy (in hopes someone found it); the phragmites survey and treatment; and the office will be closed.

Information about the September variance public hearing will go on social media and the website. It was noted that adjacent property owners and other interested parties need to be notified one week to 10 days prior to a public hearing to make comments and/or attend the meeting.

- **Treasurer Reports** - A motion to approve debit card purchases #11 and #12, and checks #4886 through #4892, was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed.

9. Board Council Report


- When Water Patrol reports come in, Alan Kantrud will get them to the Board.


10. Announcements

- The Administrator asked that if anyone has a painter reference to let her know.
- There will be no office hours on Tues. Aug 22, and Thurs Aug. 24; emails will be monitored during that time.
- The next Board meeting will be held on Sept. 19, 2023

- 11. Adjournment** – A motion to adjournment at 8:20 pm was made by Chris Churchill, seconded and passed.

ATTEST:

Bryan DeSmet, Chair  Date 8-15-2023

Cheri Howe, Administrator  Date 8/15/2023

