



White Bear Lake Conservation District

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2024, 7:00 p.m., White Bear Lake City Hall Council Chambers
(6 pm LUC meeting cancelled)

1. **Roll Call/Quorum** – Present: Chair Bryan DeSmet, Vice Chair Meredith Walburg, Secretary-Treasurer Mike Parenteau, Mark Ganz, Scott Costello, Chris Churchill, Mark Wisniewski, Susie Mahoney, Shari Salzman-Hankins, and Alan Kantrud. Absent: Diane Longville. A quorum was present.
2. **Call to Order** – Bryan DeSmet called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
3. **Approval of Agenda** – A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.
4. **Approval of Previous Board Meeting minutes** – A motion to approve the amended August 20, 2024 minutes was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed. The LEC reported that there were no more *Laker* issues for 2024, but one more issue containing WBLCD content will be published this winter.
5. **Public Comments** - none
6. **New Business**
 - LMC liability coverage – approval of 2024-25 coverage and not waiving the statutory tort limits – Mike Parenteau stated that it was time to review and renew the liability insurance proposal through League of Minnesota Cities (LMC). A motion to approve the LMC insurance coverage and not to waive the statutory tort limits was made by Parenteau, seconded and passed.
7. **Unfinished Business**
 - Ramsey County Water Patrol marina slip count #2 – Alan Kantrud reported that they have not gone out for a second drone survey of Commercial Bay, and since the season is almost over, they do not need to conduct one. Kantrud will contact the sheriff about this and that the money saved can be used for extra patrol hours.
 - VFW-EAW status update – Bryan DeSmet reported that the EAW has been submitted and published in the Sept. 10 Environmental Quality Board *Monitor* and is open for public comment until Oct. 10. Any comments received need to be addressed within 30 days. If there are no significant comments, the Board will create a resolution on whether or not they approve a negative declaration on the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). If a negative declaration is approved, then the review process is over. Kantrud added that a findings document will be created from the comments received before the Board's resolution is up for approval. Depending on the comments received, the resolution will be on the Board's agenda at its October or November meeting.
 - Lake use study – Blue Water Science is continuing its work on the summer lake use study, reporting that it's going well and on time. There have been 50 boat ramp surveys and 40 home/slip owner surveys completed, and the paper survey will go out soon. Steve McComas will prepare a report with the survey data included.
 - City of WBL dog park fence water structure permit application – A motion to approve the application and waive the fee was made by Bryan DeSmet, seconded and passed. Paul Kauppi stated that the removable fence was installed above the OWHL, and cantilevers over the water, to delineate the City's dog beach portion of the shoreline from its swimming beach shoreline. A string of buoys also delineates the areas and keeps the dogs from

crossing the line, except when the water level is low and the buoys are on the ground. In general, the City has received positive feedback from the community about the fence.

Mike Parenteau stated that dogs are not on a leash, though they should be, and the dogs can interfere with kids swimming next to the beach. Chris Churchill expressed concern that people may see that and, if having disputes, they would want to put fences in the water between them. Meredith Walburg stated that the City fence is for public safety and if there's a dispute between neighbors, it would be hard for them to have that justification. Bryan DeSmet stated that this sets a precedent for any future applications involving fences and the lake.

Churchill suggested that going forward, the water structure permit form should have neighbor contact information on it so that they are notified when permits such as these are up for review and approval by the WBLCD.

8. Reports/Action Items

- **Executive Committee** – Bryan DeSmet reported that the committee met and discussed: Ramsey County boat launch dredging (Cheri is looking into it); the Board training video (Alan will redo to include graphics); and a starry stonewort action plan that can be used if starry stonewort shows up in the lake (Cheri is looking into resources) which will come to the Board at future meeting. As part of best practices, Meredith and Cheri also will work on a form that Board Directors can refer constituents to when registering complaints and/or concerns. Complainant's identity would be confidential and the complaint itself will be brought to the Board for discussion and action.
- **Lake Quality Committee**
 - Lake level – Mike Parenteau reported that the lake level today is 922.97 ft, and during the month it went up to 923.2 ft. Last year at this time, it was 922 ft.
 - Lake temperature – The lake temperature today is 74 °F, last month it was 74 °F, and last year at this time, it was 66 °F.
 - EWM treatment invoice – Parenteau reported that the EWM treatment this year was very effective. One thing that was done differently was that the chemical was applied a little deeper which helped it to stay in the water column longer. After adding up the acreage to be treated and reviewing Lake Management's quote, Parenteau calculated that the treatment should cost \$25,000. The invoice from Lake Management was for \$23,796, and Parenteau will check it over to be sure it is accurate. The average area of EWM treatment is 52 acres and we only had about 34 acres to treat.
 - Phragmites survey and treatment status – Mike Parenteau reported that the survey was conducted on Sept. 4 with the University of Minnesota and it will be treated at the end of September. Last year, the treatment budget was \$1,000, 16 sites were identified, and \$981 was spent. This year there are 15 sites, but the total space may be the same or more than last year. A motion to increase the budgeted amount for phragmites treatment from \$1,000 to \$1,500 was made by Parenteau, seconded and passed.
- **Lake Utilization Committee** – No report
- **Lake Education Committee**
 - Educational outreach update – Scott Costello stated that there's one more *Laker* issue that will be published this Winter with one page of content from the WBLCD. If Board Directors have any suggested content they should send an email to him or Meredith. Some suggestions include use of salt on roads and walkways, and shoreline alterations. The WBLCD-sponsored lake cleanup will be held after the ice houses are off the lake in Spring 2025.

- o Social media update – Meredith reported that posts on social media will include the lake level and temperature, and phragmites survey.

9. **Treasurer Reports**

- 2024 September Treasurer's Report – A motion to approve debit purchase 2024-18, and checks #4976 through #4982 was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed.

10. **Board Council Report** – Alan Kantrud checked in with the DNR conservation officer and Ramsey County sheriff who reported that it was a tame season, though there were reports of a stolen boat.

11. **Announcements** - The next Board meeting will be held on Tues, Oct. 15. Steven McComas will be asked to attend the October meeting.

12. **Adjournment** – A motion to adjourn at 7:35 pm was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.

ATTEST

Bryan DeSmet, Chairperson *Bryan DeSmet*

Date: 10-15-2024

Cheri Howe, Administrator *Cheri Howe*

Date: 10/15/2024