



White Bear Lake Conservation District

Regular Board Meeting - Minutes

April 15, 2025, 7:00 p.m.,

White Bear Lake City Hall Council Chambers

(6 pm., LUC meeting)

1. **Roll Call/Quorum** – Present: Chair Bryan DeSmet, Vice Chair Meredith Walburg, Secretary-Treasurer Mike Parenteau, Chris Churchill, Scott Costello, Mark Ganz, Shari Salzman-Hankins, Susie Mahoney, Mark Wisniewski 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** – The lake use study was added to Unfinished Business. A motion to approve the amended agenda was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.
4. **Approval of previous Board Meeting minutes** – A motion to approve the March 18, 2025 Board meeting minutes was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.
5. **Public Comments** – none
6. **New Business**
 - 2025 buoy placement map – A motion to approve the 2025 buoy placement map was made by Bryan DeSmet, seconded and passed.
 - 2025 Ramsey County Law Enforcement Services supplemental contract – The contract is for 280 hours of service, including 10 additional hours per month of targeted enforcement in Commercial Bay, not to exceed a cost of \$12,000. A motion to approve the Ramsey County contract was made by Bryan DeSmet, seconded and passed. After discussion, DeSmet amended the motion, which was approved, to specify boat count dates at Commercial Bay marinas to be on or before June 13 and Aug. 15. Alan Kantrud will set up the boat count dates and contact the county to add the dates to the contract.
 - Chateauguet Condominium Assn – 2025 noncommercial multiuser dock permit (revised from last year) – After a review of the permit application, Chris Churchill worked with the applicant to update their diagram and found that the length of the dock was longer than 300 ft and has been for some time. The updated application showed that the dock is now 416 ft, which is over the length allowed in the Ordinances. A motion to approve 11 slips and a dock length of 300 ft from the Ordinary High Water level (OHW), was made by Bryan DeSmet, seconded and passed. The applicant submitted a variance request for the additional length to be heard at the public hearing next on the agenda.
7. **Public Hearing** (at or after 7:10 pm)
 - Chateauguet Condominium Assn – request for variance to allow its dock to extend out from the OHWL beyond 300 ft – It was noted that the water level at the association is consistently very shallow and the water is only 18" deep when the dock is at 300 ft. The variance request is for the dock to extend out to 416 ft where the water is at a depth of three (3) ft. Bryan DeSmet opened the public hearing, and with no comments,

the hearing was closed. A motion to approve the variance request for an additional 116 ft, for a total dock length of 416 ft from the OWH level, was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed. It was noted that the City of White Bear Lake had commented that the additional length could impact the number of boats that moor in the area for the Independence Day fireworks. However, the extended dock length has been in place for several years, without the knowledge of the WBLCD, and should have no impact.

Tally's Dockside – request for variance to allow its docks to extend out from the OWH level beyond 300 ft – Tally's is requesting a variance to extend its dock length an additional 30 ft, for a total of 330 ft from the OWH, due to low water. Last year, Tally's was approved for a variance with similar conditions. The dock configuration, and slip count approved with their 2025 application would not change as the additional length would come from a 30 ft ramp extending from the OWH to the header dock. Bryan DeSmet opened the public hearing, and with no comments, the hearing was closed. A motion to extend the dock to 330 ft was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.

8. Unfinished Business

- Resolution for proposed bylaw amendment to Section III-Meetings – A motion to approve the resolution to change the Board meeting time from 7:30 pm to 7 pm in the WBLCD bylaws was made by Bryan DeSmet, seconded and passed
- Constituent complaints: form and process – A motion to approve the complaint form was made by Bryan DeSmet, seconded and passed.
- Lake Use Study – Meredith Walburg reported that the study group reviewed the second draft from Steve McComas and returned it with comments. As soon as the amended draft is returned, the group will share it with the Board, and the study will go on the May or June Board agenda. The Board thanked the study group, which includes Meredith Walburg, Mark Wisniewski, and Shari Salzman-Hankins, for their work.

9. Reports/Action Items

- **Executive Committee** – Bryan DeSmet stated that the committee met and discussed banking changes, the creation of a new YouTube platform, the AIS management document, the complaint form, the bylaw change, permit applications, Ordinance 5 changes, the policy for payment on all approved slips, AIS survey and treatment, the lake use study, the 4M fund, and draft budget. A strategic Board planning session to plan for the future and improve Board functions was also discussed.
- **Lake Quality Committee** –
 - Lake level and temperature – Mike Parenteau reported that lake elevation was 922.6 ft; last month it was 922.52 ft, and last year it was 922.20 ft. The lake temperature was 45°F, and ice-out occurred on March 28, 2025.
 - AIS monitoring and treatment plan – Parenteau reported that a draft of the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) presentation, surveillance, and treatment plan is in the works and part of the process is determining how much money to allocate for Starry Stonewort (SSW). A bid from Blue Water Science (BWS) for \$5,500 includes surveying and reporting on Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) for \$3,650, which is similar to last year, and a survey and report of SSW that includes four (4) searches at three (3) boat launches for \$1,850. The searches will take place once a month, June through September. Research shows that out of 31 lakes infested with SSW, 29 lakes had infestations at the launch sites. A motion to approve the BWS bid of \$5,500 for surveying and reporting EWM and SSW was made by Parenteau, seconded and passed.

- **Lake Utilization Committee** – none
- **Lake Education Committee**
 - Educational outreach update – Scott Costello reported that the committee met to work on the first issue of *The Laker*, which will be published around Memorial Day, and will include an item on SSW. The committee also is working on details for a summer lake cleanup scheduled for June 28 as part of Manitou Days.
 - Signage for SSW – After a discussion about educating the public about SSW with signage at boat launches, Alan Kantrud said he would check with Ramsey County and the City of White Bear Lake about this potential.
 - Social media update – Meredith Walburg will post on social media about the lake temperature, water appropriation, Earth Day, and the Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) shoreline planting workshop on May 20. Also, every month through the summer, information on SSW will be posted. Mark Ganz suggested adding an item about plastic pollution in the lake.

10. Treasurer Reports

- 2025 April Treasurer's Report – A motion to approve debit card purchase 2025-7, and checks #5015 through #5020 was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed. Next month, the Treasurer's Report will show that money market funds at Royal Credit Union have been converted to CDs to take advantage of a higher interest rate.
 - 2025 Workers compensation contract – A motion to approve the regular premium option for \$200 for worker compensation coverage was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed.
 - 2026 Budget draft – Parenteau presented the initial budget draft totaling \$125,803. Expenses included \$1,900 for SSW monitoring and \$12,000 for Ramsey County supplemental enforcement services. Mark Wisniewski asked if the DNR grant for EWM treatment expenses was included in the budget to which Parenteau replied that the grant was not included, but if it is received, the extra moneys will go back into AIS treatment. Bryan DeSmet stated that the budget will be firmed up at the May Board meeting based on Board input, and the final budget will be approved at the June meeting.
11. **Board Council Report** – Alan Kantrud reported the DNR Conservation Officer and Ramsey County Water Patrol had little to report about activity on the lake as it is early in the season.
12. **Announcements** – Bryan DeSmet reported that the Ramsey County boat launch was dredged recently. Cheri Howe stated that the next Board meeting will be held on May 20, 2025.
13. **Adjournment** – A motion to adjourn at 8:05 pm was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed

ATTEST

Bryan DeSmet
Bryan DeSmet, Chairperson

Cheri Howe
Cheri Howe, Administrator

5-20-2025
Date

5/20/2025
Date