



## White Bear Lake Conservation District

### Regular Board Meeting Minutes

May 20, 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, Diane Longville, Chris Churchill, Scott Costello, Mark Ganz, Shari Salzman-Hankins, Susie Mahoney, Mark Wisniewski and Alan Kantrud. A quorum was present.
2. **Call to Order** – Bryan DeSmet called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
3. **Approval of Agenda** – The swimmer's itch letter was added under the Lake Quality Committee report. 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 April 15, 2025 Board meeting minutes was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.
5. **Public Comments** – Chris Hause, a May Township resident, presented information about Liberty Classical Academy, a private school renovating a previous school building in Hugo, and its plan to drill multiple wells that will draw a total of 15,000 gallons of groundwater. Hause is concerned that the plan is an attempt to circumvent a 2017 DNR water appropriation ruling that caps the withdrawal from one well, within five (5) miles of White Bear Lake, at 10,000 gallons. He is concerned about the aquifer, private wells, and water levels on White Bear Lake and has contacted the DNR, but received conflicting information. Bryan DeSmet thanked him for the information and the Executive Committee will review this item.
6. **New Business**
  - City of White Bear Lake rental lease approval A motion to approve a 3-year lease schedule with the City of White Bear Lake for office space in the lower level of City Hall was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed.
  - White Bear Lake Fireworks Fund donation approval – A motion to approve a \$100 donation to the fund was made by Michael Parenteau, seconded and passed.
  - Wake Safe map for White Bear Lake – Bryan DeSmet presented an opportunity from the MN Lakes and Rivers organization to create a 'wake safe' map for White Bear Lake for \$150. The map would show the 'safe' area for wake boat operation to be at 500 ft from shoreline at a depth of 20 ft of water. DeSmet noted that the University of Minnesota's study on the impact of wake boat propeller wash on the lakebed and wave action on aquatic plants and shorelines has not been completed and that best practices for wake boat operations are still being developed. Scott Costello said that the DNR's current best practices are not the same as the MN Lakes and Rivers organization, and Alan Kantrud noted that the DNR recommends boats stay 200 ft from shoreline, but there was no water depth suggested. After further discussion, the Board decided not to purchase the map at this time.
  - DNR request for comment White Bear Yacht Club riprap project – Bryan DeSmet stated that the DNR is requesting comments from the WBLCD on the White Bear Yacht Club riprap project. The shoreline is showing some subsoil erosion due to a failing fabric cover under the current riprap and they would like to remove it, replace the fabric and riprap, using different sizes for better coverage.

has an impact.

- Boat inventory – The inventory included all watercraft along the shoreline, not just at docks. Since the last study, it was found that there was an increase in personal watercraft (PWC), pontoons, kayaks and paddleboards, and a decrease in rear tiller boats and sailboats. The survey of boats moored in Commercial Bay found that the number of pontoons have increased, and the number of sailboats have decreased. The combined boat data shows that kayaks and paddleboards were the basis of the increase in all watercraft on the lake.
- Shoreline structure inventory shows that the number of docks has not increased, and the number of boat lifts have increased slightly. The average number of motorized boats at a dock was 2, and including human-powered boats it was 3.1 watercraft per dock.
- Boat MNDNR data – The data collected by the DNR was used to survey the number of boats being launched at two (2) public launches and those exiting docks in Commercial Bay. On peak days, launch rates were highest from noon to mid-afternoon and off-peak days had more launches in the evening from 3- 6 pm. Overall, the number of boats launched per hour has decreased over time.

The DNR considers a good boat density to be 20 acres per boat, and on average, the survey showed the density on the lake was at 18 acres per boat. This was primarily due to the number of boats out during peak hours on peak days. It appears that boat launches and boat density has decreased slightly from 1999.

- Lake resident surveys – Using paper surveys, and QR codes, about 100 responses were received from lake residents. Pleasure boating was the primary activity on the lake which is consistent with those surveyed in 2005. Since the last study, there has been an increase in perceived lake congestion mainly due to jet skis and wake boats.
- Other – Public access parking spaces have remained constant, and engine horsepower seems to have increased.

After the presentation, the Board provided comments on the documents. Board members are to email any other comments to Cheri or Meredith within the week. Once the draft reports are finalized, and is accepted by the Board, plans will be made for a community presentation.

## 9. Reports/Action Items

- Executive Committee – Bryan DeSmet reported that the Executive Committee met and discussed the bank change, permit application form updates, a possible permanent dock structure, the AIS survey and treatment plan, and the lake use study.
- Lake Quality Committee
  - Lake level and temperature – Mike Parenteau reported that the lake level today was 922.77 ft, last month it was 922.6 ft, and last year it was 922.37 ft. The lake temperature was 52°F, last month it was 45 °F, and last year it was 65 °F.
  - WBLCD AIS monitoring and treatment plan – Parenteau shared that the WBLCD has drafted an AIS monitoring and treatment plan and it is a work in progress. Bryan DeSmet mentioned that it started out small and has grown to include more. Board members are to email Parenteau or Cheri if they have any other input on the plan.
    - Lake Management AIS treatment bid – Parenteau discussed the options and costs for treating EWM that was received in the Lake Management bid. Options are liquid M2,4D at \$598/acre, and Triclopyr at \$606/acre; both have been used with good results, most of the time.

A motion to approve the treatment option costs, and the use of Lake Management as applicator this summer was made by Parenteau, seconded and passed.

Mark Wisniewski, Susie Mahoney, and Shari Salzman-Hankins opposing. The administrator will inform the City that their existing fence was not performing as well as one citizen would like and that we denied the request for a fence to go up on private property.

- 2026 VFW Post 1782 marina expansion – A motion to approve the 2026 application for 38 watercraft and a 300 ft dock was made by Chris Churchill, seconded and passed.

- **Lake Education Committee**

- Educational outreach update – Scott Costello reported that the content for the 1<sup>st</sup> issue of *The Laker* is being printed, and a lake cleanup has been scheduled for June 28 as an official event of Manitou Days. Costello also reported that plans are being made to create signage on SSW for the three (3) public launches. Alan Kantrud reported that the County is okay with a sign that is small and vertical. A motion to create up to three (3) SSW signs for the boat launches at a cost of up to \$500 was made by Costello, seconded and passed.
- Social media update – Meredith Walburg stated that she will post about the lake level and temperature, the SSW link in *The Laker*, summer rule reminders, the June 9 shoreline restoration workshop at Lion's Park, the June 28<sup>th</sup> lake cleanup, and a reminder to keep plastics out of the lake.

**10. Treasurer Reports – Mike Parenteau**

- 2025 April Treasurer's Report – A motion to approve a North Star Bank service charge and checks number #2520 to #2527, and US Bank debit 2025-8 and 2025-9 was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed. The US Bank account has been closed and remaining funds deposited into North Star Bank.
- Transfer of funds to 4M Account – Parenteau reported that a CD was purchased at Royal Credit Union, and would now like to transfer money to the 4M account. A motion to transfer \$50,000 from North Star Bank to the 4M account was made by Parenteau, seconded and passed.
- 2026 Budget draft – The final draft of the budget will be voted on at the June Board meeting and the community apportionments, of which there is only a small increase, will be added.

**11. Board Council Report** – Alan Kantrud stated that the county and DNR have nothing to report as far as activity on the lake is concerned. There was a report of a possible permanent dock being constructed in Birchwood without a permit, but Kantrud reported that it was an older existing structure that residents are rebuilding. Once the SSW signage is made, Kantrud will get them to the County to get installed.

**12. Announcements** – The next Board meeting will be held June 17, 2025.

**13. Adjournment** – A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 pm was made by Chris Churchill, seconded and passed.

**ATTEST**

  
Bryan DeSmet, Chairperson

  
Cheri Howe, Administrator

6-17-2025  
Date

6/17/2025  
Date