



Regular Board Meeting –Minutes

July 15, 2025, 7:00 p.m.,
White Bear Lake City Hall Council Chambers
(6 pm., LUC meeting)

1. **Roll Call/Quorum** – Present: Vice Chair Meredith Walburg, Secretary-Treasurer Mike Parenteau, Mark Ganz, Chris Churchill, Mark Wisniewski, Susie Mahoney, and Shari Salzman-Hankins. Absent: Bryan DeSmet and Diane Longville. One director position for White Bear Lake is vacant. A quorum was present.
2. **Call to Order** – Meredith Walburg called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
3. **Approval of Agenda** – A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed.
4. **Approval of previous Board Meeting minutes** – A motion to approve the June 17 Board meeting minutes was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed.
5. **Public Comments**
 - Jim and Debbie Harrod, 483 Lake Ave., Birchwood – Cheri Howe read a letter to the Board from the Harrods, who were out of town, countering statements made during the public comment time at the June Board meeting regarding a dock placement issue with 479 Lake Ave.
 - Justin McCarthy, 515 Lake Ave., Birchwood – McCarthy commented that the demand by 479 Lake Ave. to have 483 Lake Ave. move their dock would create safety issues and have consequences for the Birchwood lakeshore residents and community who would need to move their docks, and McKay Beach dock, as well.
 - Matt Duffy, 505 Lake Ave., Birchwood – Duffy stated that 483 Lake Ave. did not acquire 10 feet of McKay Beach property. Referencing surveys from the City of Birchwood (2012) and 479 Lake Ave. (2024), Duffy explained that no additional property changed hands, and reiterated comments made by McCarthy that other residents would need to shift their docks as well. He noted that residents, as well as 483 Lake Ave. and McKay Beach, have had their docks in the same place for many years. Duffy asked that, due to the impact on the community, and the conflict of interest involving a District Board member and their history of conflict with their neighbor, 479 Lake Ave.'s request be denied.
 - Larry Mahoney, 479 Lake Ave., Birchwood – Mahoney stated that they thought 483 Lake Ave owned 10 ft more property than what was owned in 2017 which precipitated their complaint. Mahoney read from a 2017 order regarding dock placement at 479 and 483 Lake Ave. Mahoney asked to renegotiate the order so that their speedboat could be placed on the other side of the dock near 483 Lake Ave.
 - Susie Mahoney, 479 Lake Ave., Birchwood - Mahoney stated that a letter was sent to the District's attorney asking to renegotiate the 2017 order but has not heard back from them.
6. **Public Hearing**
 - Proposed Ordinance 5, Part IV update (Second Reading) – Meredith Walburg explained that the purpose of the update is to make the language of the ordinance consistent with the District's practices, forms and permits, and no Board procedures have been changed. The biggest changes include, replacing the word 'license' with 'permit,' and 'secretary' with 'administrator,' and asks for liability insurance for all public dock areas. After opening the public hearing, and receiving no comments, the hearing was closed.

A motion to approve the changes to Ordinance 5, Part IV was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.

7. New Business

- Board Term status – City of White Bear Lake (White Bear Lake) – Cheri Howe reported that Board terms for City of White Bear Lake representatives Scott Costello and Mike Parenteau expired June 30th. Board Director Parenteau was reappointed for another three-year term by White Bear Lake Mayor Dan Louismet; Costello was not reappointed. The City is in a search process for a new representative.

8. Unfinished Business

- Ramsey County – drone compliance check Commercial Bay – Commander Mike Servatka, Ramsey County Water Patrol, stated that, per their contract with the District, a drone survey of Commercial Bay docks was conducted in June. The survey was reviewed at last month's Board meeting. A second drone survey will take place in mid-August.

Servatka gave a status update on lake activity stating that it was a slow start to the boating season, but it is now in full swing. He noted that there were two deaths on the lake in June, and a great response to the incidents were made by first responders from various collaborating agencies.

Addressing the Lake Utilization Committee's (LUC) discussion regarding residents renting out their watercraft, Servatka stated that anybody who rents a boat in Ramsey County has to have it approved through the Sheriff's office where they receive a safety check and a sticker. The State also has rules for rentals. He said that there have been problems with some personal watercraft rentals in the county and have had some success in getting them into compliance.

- 2024 Lake Use Study Reports update – Meredith Walburg stated that Blue Water Science has sent back a second draft to be reviewed. Meredith, Cheri and Bryan will review the documents and send feedback. It is hoped that the study will be accepted at the August Board meeting, and plan the public presentation soon thereafter.

9. Reports/Action Items

- **Executive Committee** – Meredith Walburg stated that the committee did not meet but had a brief email discussion about invasive yellow iris found in a bay in Birchwood, the Birchwood dock complaint letter, and the follow-up from the DNR about the well concern that was presented by a citizen at the May Board meeting. The DNR is aware of the well situation and continues to work with the school to find the best solution.
- **Lake Quality Committee**
 - Lake level and temperature - Mike Parenteau reported that the lake level today is 923.06 ft, last year it was 922.8 ft., and the average lake level is 923.42 ft. The lake temperature is 80°F, and last year at this time, it was 79°F.
 - AIS survey update – Parenteau reported that Blue Water Science did a Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) survey on July 1. Parenteau reviewed the results, determined what to treat, signed a contract for the treatment and received the treatment permit. Treatment is planned for July 17 dependent on low winds and clear skies. Buoys will mark the treated areas.
- **Lake Utilization Committee (LUC)**
 - 479 Lake Ave, Birchwood complaint – Mark Ganz stated that the committee discussed the complaint, and it stands by the letter regarding placement of the docks that was sent by the LUC to the complainant. A motion to send a new letter to the complainant was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed with Susan Mahoney abstaining.
 - Permit application form updates – Mark Ganz presented the following updated permit applications and permit terminology sheet for approval from the Board
 - 2026 Event permit application (Form 1) - Chris Churchill noted that there were only minor changes to this form. A motion to approve the event permit application was made by Ganz, seconded and passed.
 - 2026 Water Structure permit application (Form 3) - Churchill noted that ordinance language and information about applying for county permits was added to the form. A motion to approve the water structure permit application was made by Ganz, seconded and passed.

- 2026 White Bear Yacht Club application forms (Form 5) - Ganz noted that this permit application is a hybrid form that addresses the commercial and noncommercial aspects of the Yacht Club. A motion to approve the White Bear Yacht Club permit application was made by Ganz, seconded and passed.
- Permit terminology sheet – Churchill noted that a diagram was added to give applicants an example of what is needed on the dock permit applications, and defined several terms used in the permit applications. A motion to approve the permit terminology sheet was made by Ganz, seconded and passed.

- **Lake Education Committee**

- Educational outreach update – Meredith Walburg asked for ideas for the late August issue of *The Laker*. Mark Ganz suggested an article on the speed limit on the lake, and pointing out the rock bars. Susie Mahoney suggested reminding watercraft users to go out farther into the lake before taking off. The deadline to get content ready is coming up, so if there are any other ideas, please send to Meredith or Cheri ASAP. The second issue was published and sent out around July 4.

The Manitou Days Lake Cleanup went well and the WBLCD volunteers collected about 20 lbs. of trash. This cleanup is less formal than the winter cleanup so there is no total amounts of trash collected available. Walburg thanked everyone who participated.

Signs for Starry Stonewort are going up at boat launches and all Board members are encouraged to talk with their neighbors at the August neighborhood night out event, or neighborhood get-togethers, about checking the area around their dock for Starry Stonewort.

Invasive yellow iris was found in the area of lake near Hall's Marsh. An item will be posted on social media asking residents to check their shorelines in shallow water for this invasive plant, especially in the Mahtomedi and Birchwood area where it was found.

- Social media update – For social media items this month, Walburg will post about starry stonewort, invasive yellow iris, the Eurasian Water Milfoil treatment, the RCWD buoy, and lawn care and its impacts on water quality.

10. Treasurer Reports

- 2025 May Treasurer's Report – Mike Parenteau noted that last month the total financial reports were not yet available, and only expenses were approved at the June meeting. The May reports were presented, and a motion to re-approve debit charges 2025-01 and 2025-02, and checks 2528 through 2534, was made by Parenteau, seconded and passed.
- 2025 June Treasurer's Report – A motion to approve debit charges 2025-03 through 2025-05, and checks 2534-2539 was made by Parenteau, seconded and passed.

11. **Board Counsel Report** - Alan Kantrud noted that it was good to have Mike Servatka here to answer the Board's questions about the Commercial Bay compliance check. After the presentation, Kantrud asked him how things were on the lake on July 4 and Servatka reported that it was busier than usual for that day because it was a Friday. The only place that was a little stressed was Ramsey County beach as it was very busy and overcrowded. Many people received parking tickets, but no citations were given on the water.


Kantrud stated he has already written a response to the 479 Lake Ave complainant's reaction to the LUC's letter. In order to have a candid conversation about the letter and so that the Board can approve what that message is going to be, Kantrud asked to go into a closed meeting, and that the Birchwood representative, and any visitors, leave the Board meeting. After the closed meeting, it will be opened so that Kantrud can give a summary, and the Board may vote. He explained that the Board was able to go into 'closed' session due to the fact that the District had been threatened with civil litigation and that the Board needed to be advised of the situation. The next steps would require legal advice and thus the conversation would be considered 'attorney-client-privileged' and an exception to the open meeting law.

Meeting Closed: Meredith Walburg closed the meeting at 7:57 pm. (NOTE: Due to technical issues with cable casting, the video did not resume after the meeting was re-opened.)

Meeting Opened: Meredith Walburg opened the meeting at 8:21 pm. Kantrud summarized the meeting by saying that the Board agreed to having members Wisniewski, Ganz and DeSmet advise on a final draft of its letter in support of the LUC's response to the complaint the District received. A motion to approve the correspondence, that will go out on attorney's letterhead, was unanimous. One Board member was excluded from the discussion and vote due to conflict.


12. **Announcements** – Cheri Howe noted that the White Bear Lake Fireworks Committee sent a letter thanking the District for its contribution to the Fireworks Fund. The next Board meeting will be held on Aug. 19.
13. **Adjournment** – A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 pm was made by Chris Churchill, seconded and passed.

ATTEST:



Bryan DeSmet, Chairperson, WBLCD

Date 8-19-2025



Cheri Howe, Administrator, WBLCD

Date 8/19/2025