



White Bear Lake Conservation District

Regular Board Meeting – Draft Minutes
Aug 19, 2025, 7:00 p.m.,
White Bear Lake City Hall Council Chambers
(LUC meeting - cancelled)

1. **Roll Call/Quorum** – Present: Chair Bryan DeSmet, Vice Chair Meredith Walburg, Secretary-Treasurer Mike Parenteau, Diane Longville, Chris Churchill, Shari Salzman-Hankins; staff Alan Kantrud and Cheri Howe. Absent: Mark Ganz, Mark Wisniewski, and Susie Mahoney; one director position for White Bear Lake is vacant.
2. **Call to Order** – Bryan DeSmet called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
3. **Approval of Agenda** – Ramsey County sign review was added under 'New Business', and the Executive Committee report presentation was changed to Bryan DeSmet. A motion to approve the amended agenda was made by Meredith Walburg seconded and passed.
4. **Approval of previous Board Meeting minutes** – The minutes were amended to show that Wisniewski, Ganz, and DeSmet would draft a letter in response to a complaint the District received. A motion to approve the amended July 15, 2025 Board meeting minutes was made by Meredith Walburg, seconded and passed.
5. **Public Comments** – none
6. **New Business**
 - LMC liability coverage – confirmation of bond coverage and approval to not waive the statutory tort limits – Alan Kantrud explained that our liability insurance is through the League of MN Cities (LMC) and they require that you don't waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability set by state law. Every year the Board elects to not waive the limits. A motion to approve to not waive the statutory tort limits was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed.
 - Ramsey County sign review – Ramsey County asked the WBLCD for input by Aug. 25 on the draft public launch signage they are creating. Input from the Board included: changing the speed limit to 35 mph, as stated in WBLCD ordinances; changing the QR code, as it currently sends a user to Lake McCarron's website; adding locations of WBLCD buoys that mark shallow water/rocks (especially Ordway rock bar and area in lake north of Century Ave); and note that Eurasian watermilfoil and zebra mussels are present in the lake and/or that starry stonewort is not present yet in the lake.

Meredith Walburg noted that Ramsey County's personal watercraft (PWC) operation hours are 9:30 am to one hour before sunset, which differs from our ordinances stating that operation hours are 8 am to 8 pm. Walburg suggested we amend our ordinance to reflect Ramsey County's hours. Bryan DeSmet asked to make Ramsey County aware of our hours, but that we are okay using the Ramsey County hours. Shari Salzman-Hankins' asked what would be the enforceable consequence if a PWC was launched before 8 am. Alan Kantrud stated that it would need to be called in to Ramsey County dispatch who would have to send someone out. They would need to wait until the PWC returned, or if they were close enough to see the registration number, they would probably get a citation for the violation.
7. **Unfinished Business**
 - 2024 Lake Use Study Reports update - Meredith Walburg reported that we are still working with Steve McComas on finalizing the report. Not all of the edits we requested were made, so Walburg will send them back to McComas.
8. **Reports/Action Items**
 - Executive Committee – Bryan DeSmet reported that the committee met and discussed: liability insurance renewal; investigating a switch to create Treasurer's Reports using Excel with Mike, Diane, and Cheri handling the preparation of them; a boat rental ordinance, which Meredith and Mike will prepare a draft for the Executive Committee to review and then it will come to the Board for review and comment; the phragmites survey; the Aquatic Invasive Species response plan, which will be brought to the Board in September; the starry stonewort signage and making sure the QR code continues to work long-term; the updated permit applications; and how to handle personal information

when constituents speak during the public comment time. Speakers will write their contact information on a sign-in sheet, and then only asked their name at the podium.

The committee also discussed a request, from the group that is studying options to stabilize the lake level, to identify possible impacts that could occur on raising the elevation of the lake outlet. Board members were asked to submit comments and a map of White Bear Lake was marked up and sent to that group.

Another discussion item included the Liberty Classical Academy wells, which the MPCA decided no Environmental Assessment Worksheet was needed. The proposed project includes installing three wells, the combination of which would be over 10,000 gallons per day of extraction from the aquifer, which seems that it might violate an order. DeSmet sent an email to Dan Scollan, DNR, asking to clarify the situation.

- **Lake Quality Committee**

- Lake level and temperature – Mike Parenteau reported that the lake level today was 923.49 ft, and the average elevation is 923.42 ft. It is 5 inches higher than last month, and 4 inches higher than last year. The lake temperature was 78 °F.
- AIS management update – The phragmites survey was conducted on Aug. 12. Two new sites were found and only a few old sites reoccurred; the majority of the sites that were treated in the past are phragmites-free. Treatment will take place in the fall and Parenteau will forward the survey map to Board members. Parenteau talked with Steve McComas (who was surveying for starry stonewort) and he said that the Eurasian watermilfoil treatment was excellent.

- **Lake Utilization Committee** – There was no LUC meeting, but Chris Churchill stated that 10 ft easements, setbacks, and docks that are too close to other docks or structures continue to be an issue on the lake. The committee may bring something to the Board next month for discussion.

- **Lake Education Committee**

- Educational outreach update – Meredith Walburg reported that content for the third issue of *The Laker* was finalized and will be out around Labor Day. If anyone has ideas for content for the winter issue, which comes out in December, let Cheri or Meredith know. Walburg also mentioned heading up the winter lake cleanup.
- Social media update – Walburg will post on invasive yellow iris, starry stonewort, and phragmites. Bryan DeSmet asked to post an item regarding water extraction from the lake.

9. Treasurer Reports

- 2025 July Treasurer's Report – A motion to approve debit card payments 2025-06 through 2025-08 and checks 2942 through 2946 was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed.

- 10. Board Counsel Report** – Alan Kantrud stated that Ramsey County Water Patrol reported things are going well on the lake. Kantrud will draft a WBLCD ordinance to match Ramsey County's posted lake hours, and also mentioned that there was discussion at a Birchwood City Council meeting regarding one of the representative's seats on the WBLCD Board, but no action had been taken yet.

11. Announcements

- The search process by the City of White Bear Lake to fill the vacant Conservation District Board Director seat is ongoing.
- The next meeting of the WBLCD will be on Sept. 16, 2025.

- 12. Adjournment** – A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 pm was made Chris Churchill, seconded and passed.

ATTEST


Bryan DeSmet, Chairperson, WBLCD

Date: Sept 16, 2025


Cheri Howe, Administrator, WBLCD

Date: 9/16/2025