



## White Bear Lake Conservation District

### Regular Board Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2026, 7:00 p.m.,

White Bear Lake City Hall Council Chambers

(6 pm., LUC meeting)

1. **Roll Call/Quorum** – Present: Chair Bryan DeSmet, Secretary Treasurer Mike Parenteau, Chris Churchill, Diane Longville, Mark Ganz, Shari Salzman-Hankins, and staff Alan Kantrud and Cheri Howe. Absent: Brian Bonin, Mark Wisniewski, Meredith Walburg and Shelley Dropkin. A quorum was present.
2. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Bryan DeSmet.
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 February 17, 2026 meeting minutes was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.
5. **Public Comments** – none
6. **New Business**
  - Committee appointments – A motion to approve the following committee appointments was made by Bryan DeSmet, seconded and passed:
    - Lake Education Committee: Meredith Walburg, chair; Shari Salzman-Hankins; and Brian Bonin.
    - Lake Utilization Committee: Mark Ganz, chair; Chris Churchill, vice chair; Mark Wisniewski; Scott Bohnen; and Alex Schwartz.
    - Lake Quality Committee: Mike Parenteau, chair; Diane Longville; and Shelley Dropkin.
  - Commercial Bay survey markers - draft scope and sequence – Bryan DeSmet explained that (three [3] years ago) the WBLCD hired an engineering firm to place survey markers identifying the Ordinary High Water (OWH) level in Commercial Bay to assist marinas in placing their docks, starting at that level. Some of the markers are hard to find, and the District would like to restore them. Chris Churchill wrote a draft scope of work, which the Executive Committee received and refining. Suggestions of work to be done include: marking the OWH and corners of property lines; placing an additional marker for marinas to use visually to place their docks correctly; and adding user-friendly GPS coordinates on the survey map to better locate in the field.
  - 2026 Ramsey County supplemental law enforcement contract – Alan Kantrud explained that the written contract, which purports to provide 280 hours of services, should be for 240 hours instead, with a cost of up to \$12,000. The county is committing to the same patrols as last year, emphasizing weekends, and 10 hours per month to patrol Commercial Bay slip counts and dock lengths. Kantrud stated that, with the Board's permission, he is committed to taking the drone images in Commercial Bay. The District would give the county data to investigate, and make citations, if needed. A motion to approve the agreement with the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office for a budget of \$12,000 at \$50/hr for 240 hrs was made by Bryan DeSmet, seconded and passed. Chris Churchill commented that it would be hard for the county to assess if there violations if they do not know marina configurations, so it would be on the District to work with

Ramsey County to confirm and support the District's findings. Kantrud agreed, and added that the county will have some grant money for targeted patrol. Kantrud will get an amended county contract for the Board chair and treasurer to sign.

- 2026 WBL buoy map update draft – Mike Parenteau presented the draft buoy map that shows the approximate location of WBLCD buoys, as well as buoys at the Ramsey County and Matoska Park launches. A motion to approve the buoy map was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed. Chris Churchill asked how thin ice around the Ordway rock pile is communicated to the public. It was determined that Ramsey County will be notified each September to remind them to post thin ice signage around the area as soon as ice is safe enough.

**7. Unfinished Business – none**

**8. Reports/Action Items**

- **Executive Committee** – Bryan DeSmet reported that the committee met and discussed the following items:
  - Survey marker scope draft: (see *New Business*)
  - AIS Externship: A MAISRC Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) externship was identified. While too late to apply for this year, the committee will monitor it for next year or collaborate with Rice Creek Watershed District if programming aligns.
  - Technology Upgrades: The office requires updated IT infrastructure for staff (office/home use). Cheri will research options, seek advice from technology professionals, and present a recommendation to the Board in April.
  - Watercraft Rental Ordinance: Research indicates a need for stronger oversight of casual boat rentals. As a first step, a checklist of advisory requirements from the District, DNR, and Ramsey County will be created to post on the District website. A draft checklist will be brought to a Board meeting for review and input. The ordinance will be updated later based on summer feedback.
  - Lake Management Plan: A plan will be developed in the future, and funds are needed for its creation. The District has put aside \$10,000 for the last two (2) years, and the Board could decide to put aside \$10,000 more next year for a total of \$30,000. A strategic planning session will be organized to establish goals and define the scope for the future hiring of an outside firm.
  - Resignation: The committee received the resignation of Cheri Howe, Administrator. The District is initiating a transition plan; Howe will remain on staff through July.
- **Lake Quality Committee** – Mike Parenteau reported that the lake level today was 923.02 ft, which is 2 inches higher than last month.
- **Lake Utilization Committee (LUC)** – The following permit applications were reviewed at the LUC meeting for approval:
  - 2026 Tally's Dockside commercial permit (identical to last year) – Chris Churchill has worked with Keith over the past few months to clarify Tally's slip designations in the diagram. A motion to approve Tally's permit application for 64 slips (50 seasonal slips and 14 rentals) was made by Churchill, seconded and passed. Churchill immediately realized that he forgot to add that Tally's has not received their renewed DNR permit. Tally's has been trying to contact the DNR about the permit and has not received a response. Churchill made a second motion to rescind the previous motion and approve a new motion to approve the permit for 64 slips, contingent on Tally's receiving a renewed DNR permit. The motion was seconded and passed.

- 2026 White Bear Yacht Club summer club sailing event permit – A motion to approve the summer event application was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.
  - 2026 Black Bear Yacht Racing Association summer event permit – A motion to approve the summer event application was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.
  - 2026 White Bear Lake Fireworks Committee event permit – July 4 – A motion to approve the July 4 event permit and waive the application fee was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.
  - 2026 Manitou Island Association – temporary water structure permit for swim area (identical to last year) – A motion to approve the buoys for the swim area was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed. It was noted that the diagram looks like there are ropes connecting the buoys, but that is not the case.
- **Lake Education Committee**
    - Educational outreach update – Cheri Howe read the following report from Meredith Walburg:
      - Lake ice clean up: Thank you to all who participated. We are waiting on results from Jim Schuster on the total amount of trash collected. The event was spread out over a couple days due to snow on the morning of the event.
      - Spring issue of *The Laker*: The first issue will be published for Memorial Day and the District has four (4) pages of content to produce. If anyone has ideas, please send them to Cheri or Meredith. The Laker editor will be doing profiles of Board members. Watch for an email from Cheri with questions to answer and a request for a photo from each member.
      - Manitou Days: The District has done a summer clean up the last two years as part of Manitou Days. We will continue this year, and it will take place on June. 27.
    - Social media update – Walburg will post: a reminder to call the District office if they plan to use a mechanical de-icing device, lake ice-out date when it occurs, a reminder that buoys are not yet in for the season and to be extra cautious. If there are any other items that the Board would like posted, please contact Meredith.

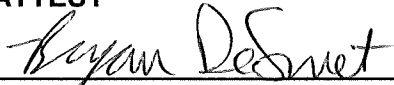
## 9. Treasurer Reports

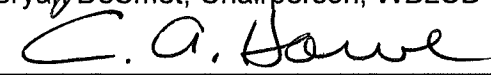
- 2026 February Treasurer's Report – A motion to approve North Star Bank debit 2026-04 through 2026-06, and checks number 2508 through 2513 was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed.
- Royal Credit Union certificate of deposit renewal – Parenteau reported that the certificate of deposit (CD) at Royal Credit Union for \$54,676.75 is up for renewal on April 3 with an interest rate today of 3.65 percent. A motion to approve the CD renewal was made by Parenteau, seconded and passed. He also recommended taking \$25,000 out of the North Star Bank balance of \$129,000 to purchase a second CD at Royal Credit Union, with a renewal period of nine (9) months. This would require writing a check from North Star to the credit union in the first week of April. The CDs would mature at different times and would allow for a cash withdrawal from one of them, should money be needed. A motion to approve the purchase of a \$25,000 CD at Royal Credit Union with check number 2514 was made by Parenteau, seconded and passed.

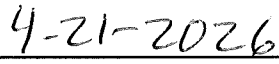
10. **Board Council Report** – Alan Kantrud reported that ice fishing houses are off the lake with Ramsey County using a hovercraft to get one abandoned structure safely removed. Kantrud asked the county to put the ‘thin ice’ signs out in a timely manner next year, as they were posted after a car went through the ice this past winter.
  
11. **Announcements** – Cheri Howe is still working on getting all Board members operational on the wblcd.org email account and will connect with Board members who haven’t connected. Howe shared that SCC was still experiencing issues with Board meeting tapings and that they hope to have a permanent resolution by the next meeting.  

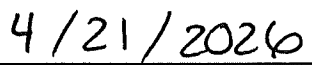
The next Board meeting will be held on April 21, 2026.
  
12. **Adjournment** – A motion to adjourn at 7:34 pm was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.

ATTEST

  
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Bryan DeSmet, Chairperson, WBLCD

  
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Cheri Howe, Administrator, WBLCD

  
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Date

  
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Date