



White Bear Lake Conservation District

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2026, 7 pm

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, Brian Bonin, Chris Churchill, Mark Ganz, Mark Wisniewski, and Alan Kantrud and Cheri Howe. Absent: Diane Longville, Shari Salzman-Hankins, Shelley Dropkin. A quorum was present.
2. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Bryan DeSmet at 7:02 p.m.
3. **Approval of Agenda** – A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mark Wisniewski, seconded and passed.
4. **Approval of previous Board Meeting minutes** – A motion to approve the April 21, 2026 meeting minutes was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.
5. **Public Comments** – none
6. **New Business**
 - White Bear Lake (WBL) Fireworks Fund donation approval – A motion to approve a donation of \$100 to the WBL Fireworks fund was made by Michael Parenteau, seconded and passed.
 - 2026 Patel-McGauley permit application - A motion to approve the application for five (5) watercraft and a dock length of 300 ft. was made by Chris Churchill, seconded and passed.
7. **Public Hearing (at or after 7:10 pm)** – Bryan DeSmet
 - Patel-McGauley 2026 request for variance to allow its dock to extend out from the OHWL beyond 300 ft. – Chris Churchill presented the variance request from Amit Patel and Kevin McGauley, 213 Park Ave., Mahtomedi, to combine their docks and extend the length 70 ft. due to low water hardship. Bryan DeSmet opened the public hearing for comments by the public. No comments were received and the public hearing was closed. A motion to approve the variance for an extra 70 ft. of dock length, for a total of 370 ft. for the 2026 season, was made by Chris Churchill, seconded and passed.
8. **Unfinished Business**
 - Watercraft rental checklist approval – Meredith explained that the checklist was created to make boat rental safer on White Bear Lake and includes statutes and regulations from the State, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the counties. This will help people understand what they need to have in place to rent their own boat to others. The checklist will be published in the next issue of *The Laker*, and posted to the website and social media.

Mark Wisniewski suggested clarifying under the 'Counties' section that the Lake Service Provider permit is issued by the DNR. A motion to approve the watercraft rental checklist was made by Walburg, seconded and passed. Michael Parenteau

pointed out that Ordinance 16, Part V requires boat rental entities to comply with State law and DNR regulations.

- Lake management plan timeline approval – Meredith Walburg presented the draft timeline created as a guideline for the development of the lake management plan. Bryan DeSmet asked that the timeline be posted on the website.
- Commercial Bay survey markers - scope and sequence/quote – Bryan DeSmet stated that he and Chris Churchill will reach out to E.G. Rud and Sons for recommendations on: making the ordinary high water level (OHWL) markers in Commercial Bay more permanent and visible; placing the docks at the correct angles; using coordinates to ensure docks are in their proper position at the end of the dock. Any suggested scope of work will be brought to the Board for approval.
- Administrator position update – Meredith Walburg reported that there were 37 applicants for the position, and the Hiring Task Force had chosen six (6) candidates to interview. A motion to give the Hiring Task Force (Meredith Walburg, Michael Parenteau, Shelley Dropkin, Diane Longville, and Cheri Howe) the authority to make an offer and hire an applicant was made by Bryan DeSmet, seconded and passed.

9. Reports/Action Items

- **Executive Committee** – There was no committee meeting this month.
- **Lake Quality Committee**
 - Lake level and temperature – Mike Parenteau introduced Chris Wiberg who handles the WBLCD buoys on the lake and thanked him for his work. Parenteau reported that the lake level today was 923.2 ft., and last year at this time, it was 922.77 ft.

The lake temperature today was 58 °F; last month (and last year at this time), it was 52 °F, and in 2024, the lake temperatures was 65 °F.

- AIS treatment quotes – Parenteau introduced a quote from Lake Management to treat Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) with Liquid 2,4-D and Triclopyr. Typically, one chemical is applied to half of the lake, the other chemical is applied to the other half of the lake, and then the next year the chemicals are applied to the opposite halves of the lake. The cost is \$7 per acre more than last year. The EWM survey will determine how many acres need to be treated; last year 37 acres were treated, and the cost of application should fit in the \$32,000 budgeted for treatment this year.

A motion to approve this applicator and bid for the 2026 EWM treatment was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed. Meredith Walburg asked that Lake Management update their records with the current WBLCD email address.

Phragmites survey – University of MN partnership – Parenteau contacted the University's Phragmites department and they will provide a technician to conduct the survey, and the District will provide the permit and treatment. It is a real partnership, and it works out well. The survey will be conducted in late August. Board members who are interested in going on the survey should contact Parenteau.

- 2026 Swimmer itch letter – Parenteau reported that the lake municipalities will get a letter reminding them that the WBLCD reimburses them for one swimmer's itch treatment each year.

- **Lake Utilization Committee**
 - 2026 RES Fireworks event-2535 Manitou Island, June 20, 2026 - A motion to approve the fireworks event permit, contingent on receiving the application fee, was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed
- **Lake Education Committee**
 - Educational outreach update – Meredith Walburg reported that the first issue of *The Laker* was published and it looks good. Content for the second issue will include boating safety reminders, the watercraft rental compliance checklist, and Starry stonewort (SSW).
 - Social media update – Walburg stated that she will post some items from *The Laker*, SSW, the Manitou Days lake clean up event on Sat. June 27, and the lake temperature and level.

10. Treasurer Reports –

- 2025 Office of State Auditor report – Mike Parenteau explained that year-end financials are reported to the Office of State Auditor every year, and the report needs to be filed by the end of June. Parenteau has completed the report, which will be filed online.
- 2026 April Treasurer's Report – A motion to approve North Star debits 2026-12 through 2026-14, and checks 2519, and 2580 through 2585, was made by Parenteau, seconded and passed.
- 2027 Budget approval – Parenteau add the projected permit and interest fees, and the calculated community assessments to the income portion of the draft 2027 budget. In 2027, the cities will be assessed the following: Birchwood-\$999.83; Dellwood-\$2,519.56; Mahtomedi-\$7,398.70, White Bear Lake-\$18,916.69; and White Bear Township-\$10,158.22. Parenteau explained that the assessments are calculated based on a municipality's tax capacity, which changes every year. Chris Churchill asked why 2027 municipal assessments decreased from 2026. Parenteau explained that the increase in income from permit fees and interest income offsets the cost to the municipalities. Bryan DeSmet added that the 2027 budget is less than last year and so less money is needed from the communities. A motion to approve the 2027 budget was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.

11. Board Counsel Report – Alan Kantrud stated that he will get drone shots of Commercial Bay soon, and the Board will see them before the next meeting. He also reported that Ramsey County Water Patrol, along with local fire departments, and the Washington County dive and rescue team conducted water emergency training on White Bear Lake and are prepared for the season.

12. Announcements - Cheri Howe reported that five copies of the Lake Use report and the trend analysis report were printed and available to check out from the office.

13. Adjournment – A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 pm was made by Mark Ganz, seconded and passed.

ATTEST


 Bryan DeSmet, Chairperson, WBLCD


 Cheri Howe, Administrator, WBLCD

6-16-2026
 Date

6/16/2026
 Date