



White Bear Lake Conservation District

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2026, 7 pm

White Bear Lake City Hall Council Chambers
(6PM Strategic Planning Meeting- No LUC)

1. **Roll Call/Quorum** – Present: Chair Bryan DeSmet, Vice Chair Meredith Walburg, Secretary Treasurer Mike Parenteau, Brian Bonin, Chris Churchill, Diane Longville, Mark Wisniewski, Shari Salzman-Hankins; and H. Alan Kantrud and Jody Savage. Absent: Shelley Dropkin, Mark Ganz. A quorum was present.
2. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 7:14 pm by Bryan DeSmet.
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 July meeting minutes was made by Mark Wisniewski, seconded and passed
5. **Public Comments** – Luke Michaud who resides at 2601 SouthShore WBL – volunteered to be on the strategic planning group but wanted to voice his concern that lake levels are still a huge problem – The lake levels should not be considered a new normal with his belief that if the levels were dealt with half of the complaints and issues this board sees would be resolved. In 1986, discussions and adjustments regarding White Bear Lake's outlet and water management benchmarks—such as the transition around the outlet elevation and ordinary high water level markers near 924–925 feet—involved historical state-local interactions, although the WBLCD was never formally made aware of the decision and remains a point of contention. In 1986 the DNR lowered the level from 925.4 to 924.4 without any consultation with current board or any information from the city. The board was not made aware of the DNR's decision – Michaud has filed a request with DNR trying to get all information regarding the lowering, what was the reasoning, and what statistics did they use to justify. He believes if we could get an extra foot of water in the spring it at least gets a shot to get through the summer without resident's having to pull out boats and docks early due to low water levels. He understands it is a cyclical thing but in the last 20 years the levels haven't come back. This should not be the new normal. We have had plenty of rain and snowfalls in the winter but haven't hit the 925 level since 2019 – not as high as when he was a kid. His ask to the board is to return us to the 925 level and actually demand this from the DNR. The DNR does not respect the WBLCD and ask us to require the reading of the 1974 enactment of the WBLCD board - we are the authority on this lake, DNR should be coming to us for approval. The Board wouldn't have to do all the additional dock permit length variance approvals if we would just address the level. It his belief that no one should have 420 feet of dock. Michaud informed the board he will continue on this and continue to bring information back to the board on the water level. Also, when we approved the 4 boats per dock, they were much smaller boats -it might be time to review this ordinance and go back down to two – we need to pull some of these boats back as this is also causing congestion and having a negative effect on lake quality.
6. **New Business**
 - o LMCIT liability coverage- H. Alan Kantrud explained that we needed approval to not waive the statutory torte limits - We have a cap of what we can be sued for called the Torte Limit – and since we are insured under this policy by LMCIT we cannot waive this. Just need to approve every year, and the ask is not to waive. DeSmet made a motion to not waive torte limit, Meredith Walburg seconded and it was approved.
 - o Free mobile friendly angler map- recommended to bring up for a vote in LUC meeting on 9/15. – DeSmet suggested to keep just as an information item for tonight and

maybe do a little more due diligence regarding if it's something that the board would want to link to on our site. The map is a digital map that shows different water levels at your location and then recommends lures for anglers based on where you are at. H. Alan Kantrud did purchase the wake map featuring the wake zones and once we receive will have the board review whether we would be interested in posting it to our website, however, the board would need to compare this map to the map we received from Washington county.

7. Unfinished Business

- Commercial Bay survey markers - scope and sequence/quote –For context, DeSmet is still looking for suggestions on getting better permanent markers for the ordinary high-water level (OHWL); how to best read the coordinates at the end of the docks to verify that they are within 300 ft of the OHWL; and how to note the angles of the docks going out into the lake. DeSmet talked with E.G Rud engineering and they are thinking through items we requested and hoping to provide input by September meeting. They have provided us with data but we don't know how to use in field. DeSmet's question is if there a way to make this data easier for us to use in the field?
- Commercial Bay drone compliance check –H. Alan Kantrud stated between weather and being out of town no good drone shots were taken but he did bring in the drone to allow board to see what he is using. Before the next meeting he will take new shots from Commercial Bay.
- Strategic Planning session update -Meredith Walburg discussed the Strategic Planning session that had just been held before this meeting at 6PM. A lot was accomplished today. She will be looking for 3 volunteer board members to move this project forward in creating the scope of the plan through first quarter of next year. If you are interested email Jody Savage prior to next September meeting.
- Wake boat discussion –For context: DeSmet stated back in June there was a webinar regarding wake boating and its impact on lakes put on by Washington County. A number of lake's are starting to set restrictions on wakeboats. Washington County has created a map of recommended wake surfing areas for White Bear Lake as well as information regarding possible actions lake associations may use to educate, place signage and possibly restrict wakeboats. The current map shows suitable areas for wake boating to be at least 500 feet from shoreline, 20 feet deep and at 50 contiguous acres in size.

DeSmet doesn't want any decisions made yet. John Elizandro from the Water Sports Industry Association offered to come talk to us about the issue. DeSmet suggested to Elizandro that the next September meeting would be good time to come and present to us. After we can make some decisions whether it's WBLCD's job to provide guidance or should we be creating a new ordinance. He would like to see the board have a position on this item before ice out next spring. DeSmet hasn't heard back from Elizandro so will follow-up on if he can make it in for the September board meeting. Washington County has provided maps and sample letters to use to educate and interact with the public and will distribute before the September meeting. The board needs to continue to educate themselves on this item so that we can make a better decision.

- Jet Ski rentals- Jody Savage set up an initial meeting on the 25th. Our question is if we should tighten up ordinance 9? That could take care of the issue but DeSmet thinks there is one step before this- the transaction takes place on land so this should be the cities responsibility. Are they going to require or enforce our ordinances? As its stated anything taking place on the beach or land would require a permit. We will come back after the meeting on the 25th and make a decision as a board as to what the best next step is.

- Dog Park buoys – Brian Bonin has been hearing from residents about buoys around 7th street beach and Y Dock fishing area boat racks and how they would like those buoys extended. Bonin reached out to city regarding how do we work better with them. Also asked the question as to what do we (the board) control or not control. The cities email back stated that they don't want to spend any money on it. The city is in charge of putting all the docks, racks etc. down there but won't spend any money to manage it or regulate it. This is a huge safety issue but Bonin wishes to put their comments on record. The Board has seen issues on other beaches but we need to be aware of the requests and who we are working with on these requests. Bonin is looking for guidance regarding what we can control and what prevents this from happening in other areas if the city won't do their job managing it. We would want to regulate anything we are putting in and whether or not this area is considered a marina. Bonin also wants to understand what we do when the city refuses to regulate the area. There is a safety issue with dogs running and people swimming and boats coming in but there is a question on where does the WBLCD fit in this.

Chris Churchill stated we don't regulate this currently but we do all the approvals with moorings, buoys and slips. If there are safety concerns, we have the authority to not approve the permits which gives us latitude to encourage or require the city through the permit they do certain things. We cannot force the city to spend the money but we can also not approve the permits going forward. DeSmet encouraged the board to partner and work closely with our member communities and try to get ahead of the permits with some discussions around concerns and safety issues. The goal is to get aligned before the permitting process. DeSmet stated we do have people on our current board with lots of information, (Parenteau, Longville and Churchill to name a few) Fisherman and congestion is becoming a problem with too much traffic in certain areas. Bonin also stated perhaps the board starts to think maybe we need to consider requiring permits if you have more than 2 boats on a dock.

8. Reports/Action Items

- **Executive Committee** – Bryan DeSmet stated that the executive committee did not meet so nothing to report.
- **Lake Quality Committee**
 - Lake level and temperature Mike Parenteau reported that the lake level today was 922.46 ft, which is 5 inches lower than last month, and a foot lower than last year. Temperature is 76 degrees, 4 degrees cooler than last month and last year at this time it was 78 degrees.
 - EWM treatment – EWM was completed on a sunny day so the treatment went well. Next up is the phragmites survey which is August 27th. Meredith Walburg is sending a document to send to homeowners within a certain number of feet from the treatment area to opt-out. If they don't want us to treat it however, they will have to do it on their own.
- **Lake Utilization Committee**
 - Chris Churchill had no comment
- **Lake Education Committee**
 - Educational outreach update- Laker issue is coming out Labor Day
 - Social media update – Walburg planning a post on starry stone wart, lake levels and temperature. Email Walburg with any requests for upcoming posts.

9. **Treasurer Reports**

- 2026 July Treasurer's Report – A motion to approve NS debits 2026-22 through 2026-25 and checks 2601 through 2608 was made by Mike Parenteau, seconded and passed.
- 2025 Audit Quote. The company Abdo was approved to complete our audit. Introductory meeting on August 19th at 2PM is set with Abdo, Savage and Parenteau to get audit kicked off.
- **Board Counsel Report** –H. Alan Kantrud said nothing to report from the Conservation officer, but we have had few more BWIs – especially regarding jet skis with bad conduct, they were able to make it off the lake but were intercepted at Ramsey Beach. Regarding the previous pontoon BWI, Alan is working with his attorney to bring the charge down so it's not a career ending incident. He may be asked to attend the Aquatic Invasive species camp to become an inspector and then asked to volunteer some time at Ramsey beach to do boat inspections. Also, Sergeant Mike had to pull in a few boats that have gotten in trouble but some good news is that our personal watercraft renters have appeared to have moved onto a new lake.

10. **Announcements** – Next meeting September 15th

11. **Adjournment** – A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 pm was made by Chris Churchill seconded and passed.

ATTEST


Bryan DeSmet, Chairperson, WBLCD


Jody Savage, WBLCD

9-15-2026
Date

9.15.26
Date