



REGULAR MEETING OF THE WHITE BEAR LAKE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
7:00 P.M. WHITE BEAR CITY HALL
MINUTES of March 18, 2014

APPROVAL DATE: 4/15/14

1. CALL TO ORDER The March meeting of the White Bear Lake Conservation District was convened by Chair Jane Harper at 7:02pm

2. ROLL CALL Present were: Chair Jane Harper, Vice Chair Bryan DeSmet, Treasurer Diane Longville, Directors George St. Germain, Mike Parenteau, Mark Ganz, Gene Altstatt, Suzanne Donnell, Pat McCann. Absent was Scott Costello (excused). A quorum was present. Recording Secretary was Julie Yoho.

3. AGENDA

Add item 6b Scott Mueller & Tom Snell re: lake augmentation

MOTION #1 (Altstatt/Parenteau) Move to approve agenda with addition above. All aye passed.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #2 (Parenteau/Ganz) Move to approve minutes of February. All aye passed.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

Brian McGoldrick, WBL Restoration Association.

Mr. McGoldrick provided a handout to the board of the order from the judge on the lawsuit

6. NEW BUSINESS

6a. Forum with DNR.

Kantrud reported that 1 – 3 DNR representatives could come out and present information on shoreline vegetation. May 20 is the tentative date.

6b. Scott Mueller & Tom Snell, WB Chamber

WB Area Chamber has been involved in lake level issue and what can be done to restore lake level. We've joined with St Paul Chamber to bring bonding measure to legislature this session. Asking for 22 – 23 million dollars. Looking for endorsement of letter and allow us to use WBLCD logo and support for this effort. Would like WBLCD support.

Ganz – who else is supporting?

Scott – so far all communities around lake have been asked

McCann – timing of this?

Mueller – this is a bonding year and we want to be included in bill. Session is short and things are moving quickly. Before House this Thursday. Senate last week.

Altstatt – how does it fit with Met Councils cost estimate of 55 million?

Mueller – it doesn't match. Haven't seen the detail of Met Councils. If there is shortage of funds it's added on in next session. Legislature wants a reliable number Altstatt – on going maintenance? How could they pass without ongoing?

Mueller – this is just for development. Ongoing cost have not been determined

Altstatt – Legacy funds?

Mueller – for bonding, no. Legacy money is potential for overruns or operating.

We are not part of the lake restoration lawsuit. We are looking at details their experts have pulled together regarding conservation and augmentation.

Ganz – I have questions on the quality of water and phosphorus levels coming in.

Mueller – we'll have more info coming in

DeSmet- level of treatment that is needed would be defined during permit process.

My concern is that we have asked Met Council to look at this option, they will have report in June/October. They may come back and say this is not a feasible option and others are better use of funds.

Mueller – frustrated with Met Council. I feels more urgency on this issue. They may be at odds with this since their number is so much higher.

Parenteau – I wish we knew right solution. What you're asking us for is our endorsement?

Mueller – yes. Endorsement for augmentation.

Harper – I appreciate all your hard work and efforts. I'd be more comfortable supporting a placeholder for a solution when a project is determined to be the right one, rather than endorsing a particular solution when there could be others. What happens if project is funded and a different solution comes up?

Mueller – This letter does not validate the numbers or the engineer, just augmentation. If approved and not spent within timeframe, I don't know the mechanics.

Harper – in past wells were used for augmentation.

Mueller – This would be a surface water source

McCann – It is being done in other places with success

DeSmet – Regarding timing, can we revise letter? Could we write our own letter and supply it?

Mueller – would like WBLCD to be part of this letter. You can provide your own letter, but bonding session will be over by April.

Altstatt – I'd like Kantruds opinion

Kantrud – This is a general letter of support. Do a resolution of support and keep on file/record. You are endorsing the effort.

Donnell – haven't we already done this with the option report?

McCann – this shows legislature they have broad support.

Mueller – letter shows support of many organizations

MOTION # 3 (Altstatt/Longville) Move to endorse the letter the White Bear Lake Chamber of Commerce has presented us.

Kantrud – friendly amendment to add the WBLCD as supporter of effort.

Amendment accepted.

Discussion

DeSmet – I'm concerned the Met Council study hasn't come to fruition. Without analysis completed I'm concerned we may not be at the point of direct augmentation as the best option. This states direct augmentation is supported by the Board.

Donnell – Met Council has worked very quickly for a state agency. They are working hard, I don't want to be on record that they haven't done a good job. As Bryan said,

concerned over what Ali will think as part of subcommittee knowing all the background work.

MOTION Vote

3 nay. (Harper, DeSmet, Donnell)

6 aye. Motion passes

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

none

8. Reports/Action Items

8a. Lake Level Resolution Committee

LLRC did not meet in March.

Altstatt – Why did the LLRC members have concern over supporting the Chambers request?

DeSmet – Studies show augmentation is 14% effective and costs are significant. I have concern over difference in costs estimates. We asked Met Council to look at feasibility of augmentation option. Supporting a bill to construct a system before the feasibility analysis is completed seems inappropriate. If funds come in, where do maintenance funds come from? I'm not against option, just against moving too fast before feasibility study is done.

Harper – The subcommittee hasn't recommended this?

DeSmet – correct. Scott is here as a Chamber rep.

St Germain – even if they get bonding funds, the money can go away if other options are presented.

Parenteau – if no bonding results, this will be a dead issue.

Longville – nice to keep issue out there in discussion

8b. Lake Quality Committee

8b1. EWM Survey bid from Steve McComas is \$2700. This is the same as last year. The DNR permitting process will be a little different this year.

Altstatt – question over the \$300 presentation cost

Parenteau – he itemizes items out for our budget information

St Germain – he has served us well and helps us understand the reports during his presentations

8b2. Watercraft Inspection grant

We received the 2013 bill and report. 1259 boats inspected. 346 hours. Grant for 2014 is 375 hours.

We'll have the option to increase up to 5k for next year as there will be a new limit.

8c. Lake Utilization Committee

8c1. East Shore Dock association

MOTION # 4 (St Germain/Parenteau) Move to approve 2014 East Shore application. All aye, passed.

8c2. WBYC racing season. They are coordinating with Black Bear YC.

MOTION # 5 (Ganz/St Germain) Move to approve WBYC racing schedule. All aye passed.

Altstatt – question over City of WBL bill and letter

Ganz – history in commercial bay. With low lake levels slips are unusable. City came in and paid for only slips used. Other users complained. Board decided with low water we would not charge.
St Germain – the first year, others paid full bill
Parenteau – charge for slips used
Harper – question over when to determine number used
Altstatt – seems odd they can make their own numbers

8d. Lake Education Committee

Altstatt provided a handout on the new website which will be up June 1. Would like to run an ad and promotion of new website, estimate \$1000 costs.

Lake clean up went well.

8e. Treasurer's Report

MOTION # 6 (Longville / Parenteau) Move to approve February treasurers report and pay checks 4222 – 4225. All aye, passed

8f. Board Counsel Report

8g. Administrative Staff Report

Items included in packet this month:

- Agenda
- February draft minutes
- Finance reports
- Event applications – 1
- Letter from City of WBL
- DNR watercraft inspection summary – 2013
- Bid for EWM Survey
- Watercraft Inspection Grant 2014

8h. WBLCD Bylaw's review and schedule for approval

Bylaw discussion

Review of changes made last month.

Issues not resolved:

-reserve funds

-Annual meeting /report/goal setting

Could do an update of board actions for the year. Send out with financial report as a 1 page summary

Discussion over having another meeting in Dec

Jane will re-write this section

Jane, Suzanne, Gene will bring back in a couple months and schedule for approval.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION # 7 (St Germain/Ganz) Move to approve. All aye passed.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jane gone next month.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #8 (St Germain/Ganz) Move to adjourn. All aye passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

ATTEST:

Administrative Secretary

Date

APPROVED:

Board Chairperson

Date