



REGULAR MEETING OF THE WHITE BEAR LAKE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
7:00 P.M. WHITE BEAR CITY HALL
MINUTES of October 16, 2012

APPROVAL DATE: 11/20/12

1. CALL TO ORDER The October meeting of the White Bear Lake Conservation District was convened by Chair Mike Stawnychy at 7:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL Present were: Chair Mike Stawnychy, Vice Chair Luke Michaud, Directors George St. Germain, Diane Longville, Mike Parenteau, Jane Harper, Yale Norwick, Suzanne Donnell. A quorum was present. Recording secretary was Julie Yoho. Absent were Sue Cernohous and Bryan DeSmet (excused).

3. AGENDA

MOTION #1 (Michaud/Parenteau) Move to approve agenda. All aye, PASSED

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #2 (Parenteau/Michaud) Move to approve minutes of September. All aye, PASSED.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

none

6. NEW BUSINESS

Steve McComas, Blue Water Science - Eurasian Watermilfoil Assessment Surveys 2012

This was a high growth year. Goal was to delineate and treat heavy growth areas. First evaluation was done on June 7. On June 20 DNR assessed, same areas were noted - this verified we can identify areas on our own. Treatment was done on July 11 - 144 acres treated. Treatment sites were later evaluated for effectiveness of treatment. Treatment is considered successful if EWM is killed & native plants are still present. Only 2-3% of treated areas were not controlled well.

Based on sediment testing for nitrogen (high nitrogen = high EWM growth) we can predict areas of high growth dependent on conditions. We had an exceptional growing year in 2012. For 2013 we may not have to treat same areas again - early season scouting will be essential.

Stawnychy – is there research or a way to permanently get rid of EWM?

McComas – There is no herbicide for permanent control. Milfoil weevil have been released on Christmas lake in a concentrated area – likely will take several years to evaluate. 10 yrs ago weevil survey was done on WBL, but the sunfish ate them right off the plants.

Stawnychy – it’s just so expensive to treat on annual basis

Donnell – nitrogen levels, why do they vary? Runoff?

McComas – commercial bay has been weedy/peaty area for years – it’s a natural occurrence there. Areas with blips correlate with storm water inflows. Nitrogen has tendency to recycle.

Mike Downing, White Bear Township

Regarding Commercial bay area, would dredging help remove the nitrogen and help control milfoil long term?

McComas – sometimes spot dredging can remove nitrogen. However the peat in that areas goes down 20 – 30 feet or more. Naturally occurring, in this case would likely not help.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Lake Level Committee proposal

Stawnychy – The Board member with the most interest in this would like to discuss at the November meeting as he was unable to be here tonight. Would like to table until November.

Harper – there have been meetings, would like an update on latest

Carole McFarlane – There was an Oct. 5 meeting of the group, .many are here tonight also. We need the WBLCD to go further for funding. Mayor of Birchwood drafted resolution which I realized you hadn’t seen until tonight.

Stawnychy – I did see the draft

Harper – Would like to think about how it works and how the informal group and formal group relate

Stawnychy – want all ideas included. Apologize for not being able to complete resolution today.

St Germain – since you are going ahead with meetings, would be good to have information / get on the notification list.

Blanch Hawkins, Homeowner – The group has momentum now, time is of essence.

Bryan McGoldrick – wonderful there is task force. There is also a lawsuit. There will be a WBL restoration association meeting at 6pm at Dellwood, the Board is invited.

Donnell – I will plan to attend meeting.

8. Reports/Action Items

8a. Lake Quality Committee

Temperature - 51 degrees, 54 last year

Lake Level - 919.21 all time low. County will do official reading tomorrow. This is down over 1’ from last year.

8b. Lake Utilization Committee

8b1. Bearly Open Golf Tournament 2013

MOTION # 3 (Michaud/St Germain) Move to approve permit for 2013 event. All aye, PASSED. Note - Waive fee, benefit for food shelf.

MOTION # 4 (Michaud/St Germain) Move to approve permit for 2013 Polar plunge,

contingent on receiving insurance information. Waive fees, Special Olympics fundraiser. All Aye, PASSED.

This event is in the afternoon of the same day as the hot air balloon rally.

8c. Lake Education Committee

2013 boat inspection grant from DNR has been applied for.

Donnell – went on the boat tour. It was full with 16 people & was very informative. I was shocked at the low water level.

8d. Treasurer's Report

MOTION # 5 (Longville/Parenteau) Move to approve treasurers report and pay checks 4132 – 4141. All Aye, PASSED

St Germain – thank you for the USGS funding update sheet

Stawnychy – thank you to all communities for contributing to the funding.

Harper – have Julie communicate when money has been collected.

8e. Board Counsel Report

Kantrud – there has been no court activity. Both lake groups have kept in touch on water level happenings. Regarding attending meetings, no one of you can speak for the Board. If someone quotes you, they can note that you are a Board member. The Board is invited, I would advise against too many of you going.

St Germain – Can they identify statements as a private citizen, not Board stance?

Kantrud – Yes, not speaking for Board

Harper – not familiar with this lawsuit, what is it about?

Kantrud – haven't seen any paperwork. Only know that an organization has been formed

Harper – who? What? Why?

Kantrud – To improve the condition of lake, unknown on rest.

Harper – aware we need to work toward same goal be careful of committee we form

Kantrud – risk of having too many, be sure to concentrate effort and organize

Norwick – We are positioned to be involved, but not sure we are equipped to do this. We need to hire a part-time administrator to do things we are expecting Alan to do. Need to think about. Voluntary Board may not be capable to deal with all of this. Look at LMCD structure.

Donnell – We need to take leadership role in this, need to be involved.

Want to show interest and hear first hand. This is our mission, have to figure out how to have leadership role.

Kantrud – I'd suggest you have been a leader already. USGS study began everything. This is next steps. This will not be solved overnight.

Stawnychy – agree, needs framework and to be thought out.

St Germain – how will committee go together and who will do what?

Stawnychy – would like to discuss with Bryan, need to find format to get everyone together.

St Germain – as long as Board has some control.
 Stawnychy- This is a big issue, costly, needs thought not thrown together.
 Harper – The expectation was that tonight we'd have a resolution. Can we save some time and have the 3 of you meet with some reps to have draft to get started prior to Nov?
 Donnell – just got their draft today at 3:30. Would be good to have time to review.
 Stawnychy – will meet with Bryan and go forward
 Parenteau – I like the analogy of numerous campfires on this. This is bigger than the boundaries of WBL.
 Michaud – We are trying to figure out structure. Our not forming a committee doesn't stop their efforts. Could take 6 months to figure out ... they may not like the structure. For example, our other committees cannot make decisions without full Board. These details do not keep them from going forward.

8f. Administrative Staff Report

Items included in packet this month:

- Agenda
- Sept draft minutes
- Finance report
- Permit applications – 2

9. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION # 6 (Michaud/St Germain) Move to approve consent agenda. All Aye PASSED.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The snowmobile was found (again) and marked. Sheriff's dept. will be out.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION # 7 (Stawnychy/Michaud) Move to adjourn. All aye, passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

ATTEST:

 Administrative Secretary

 Date

APPROVED:

 Board Chairperson

 Date