



REGULAR MEETING OF THE WHITE BEAR LAKE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
7:00 P.M. WHITE BEAR CITY HALL
MINUTES of October 20, 2015

APPROVAL DATE: 11/17/15

1. CALL TO ORDER The October meeting of the White Bear Lake Conservation District was convened by Chair Jane Harper at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers.

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

3. AGENDA

MOTION #1 (Parenteau/Ganz) Move to approve agenda. All aye passed

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

Mike, Interested in organizing a regatta style race on ice with snow kites.
Jan 2, 2016 proposed date.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6a. Aquatic Plant survey, Steve McComas, Blue Water Science
Steve provided a summary of the EWM growth and treatment during the 2015 season. Performed plant assessment, delineation of EWM in July, then assessed effectiveness of treatment.

EWM has been in WBL since 1988. Increased growth with lower lake levels. 2010 had highest acreage treated.

Lake water quality & clarity is good. Native plant community is still robust and is what's helping keep the water clear.

Q&A

DeSmet – would higher water level result in fewer EWM acres needing treatment?

McComas- Yes, 923 or higher makes it harder for sunlight to penetrate and stimulate the EWM growth. Nutrient pool gets used up, then regenerates.

DeSmet – how high can lake get before it overflows?

McComas –there is an outflow structure, likely above 925

Mike Downing – S Shore Blvd. - 924.5 is overflow

Ganz – zebra mussels will filter nutrients, what happens to lake?

McComas – likely the water will clear up. Mussels will multiply and clear up, sunlight will penetrate further. However many sediment nutrients have been used up, so unknown if that will cause EWM to spread

DeSmet – will deeper water slow zebra mussels?

McComas – depends on available oxygen, they may be limited on how far down they can grow. Typically under 50’ no oxygen, under 30’ low enough oxygen that will limit growth

Parenteau – found zebra mussels on shallow water buoys when they were removed, not many.

McComas – They are at low density, alive and being distributed. Another year or two before we hit exponential growth rate. Buoy is more suitable surface than chain so will start there. Then will spread to secondary choice, then will spread to grow on plants. In Minnetonka they are colonizing on plant stems.

Harper – Ash dock in Birchwood had mussels on lifts and dock.

McComas – distribution will be based on wind and currents. The algae we have is very edible to the mussels. Growth will be limited after they eat the algae. Will cycle.

Audience Q & A

Mike Downing – came to 2010 meeting when EWM was really a problem. I want to thank you and the board for the treatment, have not had a problem since, able to use boats

Brian McGoldrick – weeds in commercial bay are terrible. Don’t know what they are

McComas – they are native plants; pond weeds and water celery. Historically fertile area for native plants. Lake boards manage for the invasive species, natives are what helps keep water clear. If out of control they can be managed, however natives are usually left.

McGoldrick – also cattails

McComas – cattails there are a hybrid and are invasive. Will grow more with low water levels. Those can be controlled but you need a permit for. Lakeshore owners can do with permit (DNR)

St Germain – is that taller thinner cattail?

McComas- hybrid is narrower than typical and taller than natives. Taking over most of the cattail beds. Need permit to control as they are an emergent plant

Parenteau – coontail?

McComas – good conditions for coontail. Can grow 10’ thick and can float at surface. Challenge is treatment. Working on research to sink it.

Longville – any concern on phosphorus levels?

McComas – increased but still very low overall. Many metro lakes are much higher.

Watch for increase over 2-3 year period then we’d have concern over what’s going on.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

none

8. REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

8a. Lake Level Resolution Committee

Protected lake level document

DeSmet - Intent is to encourage the DNR to consider recreational factors when they look at establishing a protected lake level. Would like to approve this document and forward via chair to the DNR.

Parenteau – 924 – 924.5; is that optimum or what we want maintained?

DeSmet – Lake level committee has defined as optimal for those activities. Lake benefits from fluctuation, but when too low Ramsey Co can’t use beach

Harper – this is level safe for recreational use?

Parenteau – DNR has duty to set level?

DeSmet – yes. This is not intended to be scientific document, but we want them to consider it and know what our position is in this

Harper – committee wanted to get info to DNR. They have been directed to set level for lake by November 2016.

Mike Downing, LLRC committee member. DNR has until Nov 1, 2016. Biologists like 2-3 foot fluctuations in lake. Ramsey co beach has been closed for 8 yrs. Worked with Ramsey co to establish what is needed to reopen beach. 923 to open 924 for best use.

Harper – comments were taken from board

St Germain – There is discussion over use for sailboats, silent on commercial uses

DeSmet – tried to focus on safe recreational use.

St Germain – that includes access?

Downing – tried to go to Tallys to get input - good point

Harper – could add paragraph stating consideration

McGoldrick – that is point, it's not accessible. Boat launch in commercial bay can hardly be used. Need to be broad in scope.

DeSmet – will add that information

MOTION #3 (DeSmet/Parenteau) Move to accept recommended lake level document with addition of paragraph addressing commercial bay; Chair to write cover letter, and send to DNR. All aye, passed.

Next LLRC meeting will be January 19, 2016

8b. Lake Quality Committee

8b1. Lake level - 921.22 nearly same as last month and last year at this time.

8b2. Water temp 54 degrees. Last year this month 52

8c. Lake Utilization Committee

8c1. 2016 Bearly Open

MOTION #4 (Ganz/St Germain) Move to approve & waive fee for charity event. All aye, passed.

8c2. Chateauguet Condo Association

MOTION #5 (Ganz/St Germain) move to approve 2016 dock application. All aye passed.

8d. Lake Education Committee

none

8e. Joint Powers Task Group

Harper - Met this month to find out more what fiscal agent role would be for the WBLCD. More involved than with USGS study. Would involve a grant agreement. Would require WBLCD own or have ownership in a facility; funds would not be released until legal agreements were set; WBLCD would run facility, on reimbursement basis. This is if bonding funds were used or any state money depending on what legislature designates it for.

8f. Treasurer's Report

MOTION # 6 (Longville/ Ganz) Move to accept October treasurers report and pay checks 4315 – 4323. All aye passed

8f. Board Counsel Report

none

8g. Administrative Staff Report

Items included in packet this month:

- Agenda
- September draft minutes
- Dock Permit application : 1
- Event permit application : 1
- Finance reports
- Protected Lake Level Document

9. CONSENT AGENDA

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

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

none

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST:

Administrative Secretary

Date

APPROVED:

Board Chairperson

Date