

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
Technical Commission Minutes  
November 18, 2016  
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room**

**Commission Members Present:**

Paul Peterson	White Bear Township (WBT)
Nolan Wall	Vadnais Heights (VH) - alternate
Jim Lindner	Gem Lake (GL)
Jim Grisim	White Bear Lake (WBL)
Chris Mann	North Oaks (NO)

**Commission Members Absent:**

Marty Asleson	Lino Lakes (LL)
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**Others in attendance:** Stephanie McNamara, Kristine Jenson, Tyler Thompson, Nick Voss (VLAWMO); Margaret Behrens (Ramsey Conservation District – RCD); Bob Larson, Diane Gorder (NO Natural Resources Commission, WAV member); Kimberly Murray (North Oaks Homeowners Association – NOHOA); Jeremy Erickson (SPRWS); Tom Riedesel (WBT)

- I. **Call to Order** Chair Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:30am. Paul Peterson announced that he is leaving the TEC due to a job change and this is his last meeting.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**  
It was moved by Mann and seconded by Lindner to approve the November 18, 2016 agenda as amended. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**  
It was moved by Lindner and seconded by Mann to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2016 Meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
  - A. **Water Plan, Water Policy, and Education Plan adoption**  
Stephanie let the TEC know that all 3 documents have been formally adopted by the VLAWMO Board and are now available on the VLAWMO website.
  - B. **Letter to new parcels within VLAWMO**  
The Board directed staff to send a letter to the 96 properties affected by the boundary change informing them of the change in case they have questions once they receive their property tax statements.
  - C. **Board/TEC Retirements – Save the Date for Dec 14<sup>th</sup>**  
In addition to Paul Peterson leaving the TEC, the VLAWMO Board Chair, Marc Johannsen is retiring from local politics and will be stepping down from the Board. We would like to honor these two valuable volunteers before the December Board meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup>. We invite all of you to come to a reception at 6pm where we will have cake and light refreshments to thank them for their service. Lindner stated that he is not sure if Bob Uzpen will be continuing on the VLAWMO Board. Lindner has attended the last two Board meetings on Bob's behalf and will discuss what he would like to do in the future at their December Council meeting. Lindner would prefer to be on the TEC but Gem Lake will need to determine who can fill the role of Board Director.
- V. **Projects**
  - A. **Project Updates**
    1. **Kohler Streambank Restoration**

Brian reported that the project is ready to start. RCD approved the contract and work will begin shortly.

**2. Whitaker Treatment Wetlands**

The site topographic survey along with geotechnical & hydrogeologic characterization will be starting as soon as contract between VLAWMO and Burns & McDonnell is finalized. We will be sending that contract to our lawyer for review. The subcontractors are ready to begin and just waiting for the go ahead.

**3. Wilkinson & Goose Lakes RFP**

Kristine reported that the RFP to analyze all the data and reports we have assembled for Wilkinson Lake, East Goose and West Goose Lakes and to provide guidance for project implementation is due on November 21. At this point, it looks like we may get 3 responses. Once they are received, staff will review and make a recommendation for who to hire at the next TEC meeting which would then go to the Board for final approval.

Mann asked what may be done with Wilkinson Lake for projects. Kristine stated that one option for Wilkinson may be to ask for a change in classification from lake to wetland. Discussion was had about how that process may take place.

**4. Birch Lake Potential Projects**

Kristine has met with Brent Thompson and Connie Taillon from the City of WBL, along with Dale Bacon from the Birch Lake Improvement District to talk about potential projects for the Birch Lake subwatershed. The new Water Plan calls for project development in 2017 with installation in 2018. At the most recent meeting, it was suggested that VLAWMO would ask whoever is hired for the Wilkinson-Goose RFP to include a feasibility analysis and possible engineering for a pollutant reduction project at 4<sup>th</sup> & Otter Lake Road. The City said they could put some money towards that work as well. The City will also be redoing South Birch Lake Blvd and will look into what water quality improvement work could be done that goes above and beyond their requirements. The BLID said they would approach homeowners on the east side of the lake to see if they'd be interested in shoreline restorations because there are many properties along there that could benefit from a native shoreline. The BLID would also explore if they would be able to provide funding for additional sampling at inlets to the lake.

**VI. Programs**

**A. Education & Outreach**

**1. WAV**

Nick stated that he worked with the WAV to create a video about fall lawn care which is now up on the VLAWMO Facebook page and YouTube channel. Nick has also made contacts with the local cable station and will utilize them to show our videos. The storm drain stenciling supplies have arrived and are available for people to use for a service opportunity. Nick and Tyler made a video about it and have it available on the VLAWMO website for people to check out the stencil kit and use it. Nick and WAV member Lisa Fenander worked at the Vadnais Heights Halloween event with a VLAWMO booth.

**2. Website Developments**

Nick stated he has incorporated VLAWMO history, wetlands, and drainage information to the website. It provides a resource for people to understand the hydrology of the watershed.

**3. Salt Cups**

Nick showed the giveaway item he created to educate others about salt use on driveways and streets. He will be distributing these to our communities with an informational piece. Mann was concerned that we are just promoting the use of salt. Nick stated that the use of salt is commonplace and this is meant to give people information and we can always adjust the information as necessary. Murray stated that she loves the idea and will probably allow people to use less than they usually do.

**4. Zebra Mussel Removal**

Nick stated that a video of the most recent zebra mussel removal by the SPRWS is now up on the VLAWMO YouTube. 30 truckloads or 275 cubic yards of mussels were removed.

**B. Ditch Management – Pennington section of Lambert Creek**

VLAWMO is the ditch authority for Lambert Creek/Ditch 14. As we have discussed in the past, the Pennington Place section just south of Lambert Lake is very flat and some of the residents have been experiencing high water in their backyards. Branch #3 of the ditch goes through the Basswood Lane neighborhood and residents there are also complaining about the water getting further and further up their yards. Staff is looking at VLAWMO's responsibility and ability to perform maintenance where it may be necessary. The Policy and Personnel committee has directed the administrator to work with the VLAWMO attorney to help clarify both VLAWMO responsibility and funding mechanisms for work done on the creek. The Board also directed staff to have a wetland delineation completed for the homes along Pennington Place but that won't be able to take place until Spring 2017.

**VII. Financial Report for November 2016 & Authorization for Payment**

It was moved by Lindner and seconded by Grisim to approve the treasurer's report and November payment of checks. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**VIII. Commissioner Reports**

**IX. St. Paul Regional Water Service (SPRWS) Report**

**X. Ramsey Conservation District (RCD) Report**

Behrens won her election to the RCD Board and will be continuing her service. Behrens stated that RCD forums are being planned through next year.

**XI. Public Comment**

**XII. Next Meetings**

TEC: December 9; Board: December 14

**XIII. Adjourn**

It was moved by Lindner and seconded by Mann to adjourn at 8:18am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Jenson.