

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
Technical Commission Minutes  
January 13, 2017  
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room**

**Commission Members Present:**

Mark Graham	Vadnais Heights (VH)
Jim Grisim	White Bear Lake (WBL)
Bob Larson	North Oaks (NO)
Marty Asleson	Lino Lakes (LL)
Jim Lindner	Gem Lake (GL)

**Commission Members Absent:**

Absent White Bear Township (WBT)  
Jim Lindner

**Others in attendance:** Stephanie McNamara, Tyler Thompson, Nick Voss (VLAWMO); Margaret Behrens (Ramsey Conservation District – RCD); Diane Gorder (NO Natural Resources Commission, WAV member); Justine Roe (SPRWS); Marty Long (VLAWMO Board Member)

I. **Call to Order** Vice Chair Graham called the meeting to order at 7:36 am.

II. **Approval of Agenda**

It was moved by Jim Linder and seconded by Mark Graham to approve the January 13, 2017 agenda as amended. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. **Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Jim Grisim and seconded by Mark Graham to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2016 Meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IV. **Administration & Operations**

A. 2017 Organizational work – search for TEC chair. Mark in charge until someone wants to take the lead. Jim continue to serve as treasurer, willing to do double duty. Marty will be vice-chair.

Stephanie

B. Buffer report from BWSR-RCD meeting

Tyler- VLAWMO must make a decision to elect to become jurisdiction or not for buffer enforcement by March 31, 2017. There are 4 parcels in Ramsey County, and likely 6 in Anoka that the law will apply to. It is uncertain yet whether the legislature will pass funding for LGU There will be more discussion at the February meeting. Mr. Graham commented that it may not necessarily be worth it for VLAWMO to join.

V. **Projects**

A. Project Updates

1. Whitaker Treatment Wetlands – Stephanie mentioned final contract pieces coming together, sent to attorney for review, assessing liability for each party. Hope to move ahead by the next TEC meeting.

Brian

2. Wilkinson & Goose Lakes Project Study

Barr and Young ECG have begun their work on this project. A meeting was held on January 10<sup>th</sup> with representatives from multiple agencies and other stakeholders to review existing data and reports and come to a consensus on how to move forward to improve the water quality of these lakes.

\*\*\*Add more info after the meeting on 1/10\*\*\*

3. Birch Lake – 4<sup>th</sup> & Otter Lk Rd

Barr is preparing a proposal to do the initial project analysis and concept design for a project at 4<sup>th</sup> & Otter Lake Road. We directed them to focus on the Wilkinson & Goose project and send us a proposal once they have time.

4. Sucker Lake Channel

Mark Graham provided a summary of a meeting held on 12/29/16 with Ramsey Parks, SPRWS, RCD, VLAWMO, and the City of Vadnais Heights regarding this project. Ramsey Parks has completed a survey of the grounds and using the plans already developed by RCD to create a set of plans that meets their expectations. Funding for this project was discussed. RCD was awarded \$60,000 from the Clean Water Legacy Fund to go towards the purchase and installation of native plants for the channel and VLAWMO reiterated that its funds (\$53,700) can only be used to match the Legacy grant and for water quality improvement efforts and not for park amenities such as trails, picnic tables, or seating areas (although the fishing nodes could be included since we proposed them from the start in order to reduce the chances of the public trampling the native plantings to access the shoreline). SPRWS has promised \$30,000 towards the project and Parks has \$190,000. Ramsey Parks will be working on a new JPA for all the agencies to review and will proceed with plan and spec development. RCD will provide the planting plan as part of this process. The hope is that the project will be installed in the fall of this year.

VI. **Programs**

A. Education & Outreach

1. Planning school programs, winter WAV, spring and summer initiatives  
Nick

B. Landscape Level 1

1. 2017-01 Application consideration

The first application of 2017 for the Landscape grant program has arrived. The request with this application is to install native plantings throughout a large property in North Oaks to reduce the erosion currently occurring on site. Kristine met with the homeowner this fall and provided advice on immediate steps that were necessary to protect the property. The homeowners would like to remove some scrub trees on areas of the yard and install numerous native plants and shrubs in 50,000 square feet of their property. The area is shady and has little to no vegetation which was causing the topsoil to erode down the slope of the property and cause sink holes. In the fall of 2016, the homeowner put down erosion control fabric in the most critical areas, and installed straw logs along the slope to protect the hillside. She also allowed for the leaves that fall in her yard to lay along the open soil areas to protect what soil is left. This year, the homeowner will install native plants and shrubs and install more erosion protection materials where necessary and they are asking for a \$2,000 grant. Kristine will continue to work closely with her to ensure the project is completed correctly and recommends approval of LL1 grant 2017-01.

It was moved by Jim Lindner and seconded by Jim Grisim to approve LL1 grant 2017-01 in the amount of \$2,000. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

C. Monitoring

1. 2016 Monitoring Report

The 2016 monitoring report is now available on the VLAWMO website. Brian will begin doing summaries of the results for the lakes and Lambert Creek at next month's TEC meeting.

VII. **Reports**

A. Financial Report for January 2017 & Authorization for Payment

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

VIII. **Commissioner Reports**

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

A tour will be investigated between VLAWMO TEC/board and SPRWS.

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

Monthly RCD board meetings will now be the first Thursday of each month, 6:30 pm.

**XI. Public Comment**

**XII. Next Meetings**

TEC: February 10; Board: February 22

**XIII. Adjourn**

It was moved by Jim Lindner and seconded by Bob Larson to adjourn at 7:35 am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.