

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
Technical Commission Minutes  
June 9, 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)
Paul Duxbury	White Bear Township (WBT)

**Commission Members Absent:**

Gloria Tessier	Gem Lake (GL)
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**Others in attendance:** Kristine Jenson, Brian Corcoran, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO); Margaret Behrens, (Ramsey Conservation District – RCD); Diane Gorder (NO); Terry Nyblom (VH – VLAWMO Board member); Jeremy Erickson, (St. Paul Regional Water Service – SPRWS); Ed Haddon, Jeff Moore (VH resident)

I. **Call to Order** Chair Graham called the meeting to order at 7:28am.

II. **Approval of Agenda**

It was requested that item “Thank you Photo” was removed and add item VII SMC Mitigation bond release

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Grisim approve the June 9, 2017 agenda as amended.

Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. **Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Graham and seconded by Larson to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2017

Meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IV. **Administration & Operations**

A. Administrator’s report

Our bookkeeper has moved on to a different job and Kristine is now taking on that duty. Stephanie talked to our auditor and was told that having the bookkeeping done in-house will not adversely affect us by not using an outside bookkeeper. Most small communities are given a remark in their audits for not having enough people to spread out the financial duties and we would still have that noted on our annual audit but we wouldn’t have anything more serious added.

The Budget included in your packet will go to the Board for consideration unless there are additional changes from the TEC. The storm sewer utility increase has been reduced slightly to about 7.09% for single family residential parcels. Most of the budget decreases are reflected in the Community Blue education grant which is at \$10,000 for 2018. This is the most approved for that grant so far.

B. Thank you to Chris Mann

We have a thank you gift and card for Chris Mann as a gesture of our gratitude for her years of service to VLAWMO. TEC members were invited to sign the card.

V. **Projects**

A. Project Updates

1. Wilkinson & Goose Lakes Project Study

The report by Barr Engineering and Young Environmental Consulting Group was received. The report summarizes the process for developing their recommendations – much of which was presented at the last TEC meeting. Some points to highlight include:

- Updated modeling was used to better reflect the characteristics of the lakes

- The modeling indicates that an alum treatment in Goose Lakes would provide the largest reduction in Phosphorus and could even meet or come close to state standards. The cost for both basins is estimated to be \$500,000-\$630,000. Barr Engineering said for \$10,000, they could complete the necessary work to determine the dosing needs for the lakes and to prepare a grant application. Staff feels this would be a worthy investment and will be meeting with the stakeholders to talk over the report and to see if there can be consensus and support for moving forward. We'd go to the Board for a final approval on our next steps.
- Barr also proposes a pilot study regarding the use spent lime instead of alum as an internal load treatment option. A small study was done in 1992 which had very good results. It would need to be tested on a larger scale (stormwater pond) before moving forward with trying to use it on a lake. When we meet with stakeholders (hopefully next week), we will talk about this and see if the City of White Bear Lake has a pond they'd let us try it on. The City and SPRWS have spent lime to get rid of so the source of the material is cheap and if successful, could be an alternative to alum as a treatment option. The estimate for doing this study would be \$15,000-\$30,000.
- We will be making calls to contractors who work on alum treatments to get their input on their thoughts for how to treat Goose and/or if they'd be interested in helping us pursue the spent lime pilot project.
- For Wilkinson, Barr feels that the best option is do some additional monitoring in the subwatershed area to ascertain if the wetlands in the area are releasing Phosphorus. Our small amount of sub-shed monitoring indicates this is likely happening both on the southern and northern ends of the sub-shed. Staff will be talking to Barr on June 12 to discuss the details of how to effectively do this work. If a particular wetland is found to be the "culprit", Barr is thinking of installing an iron-enhanced sand filter to reduce the loading. This is what they are looking into for the Birch Lake - 4<sup>th</sup> & Otter Lk Rd project. They also feel the fish and vegetation surveys will also be valuable information to determine next steps. We won't have those results until later this year.

## 2. Whitaker Treatment Wetlands

Brian stated that the request for bids is out at the moment. 13 contractors showed up for the walk through for the pre-bid meeting for the construction. 26 contractors have registered for consideration for the project. The bid opening will be on Tuesday at 2pm. The awarding of the bid would be decided at the June Board meeting with construction to begin on October 2.

## 3. Lambert Creek - Kohler Rd

Brian stated this project is completed and is a success.

## 4. Lambert Creek - 1987 Ditch Depth GIS report

Tyler stated that for the last year, we have been looking for historic information regarding ditch elevations for Lambert Creek. Information was found a couple of weeks ago and Tyler has been going through it and entering the information into GIS. The next step would be to go through and resurvey the sites to see how it may have changed. The survey was done from East Vadnais to Whitaker St. It was a drought when that original survey was done.

**Discussion:** Graham asked what is involved with dredging a wetland or ditch.

Asleson stated that you can't dredge a wetland without mitigation. With a ditch, you can dredge them but you have to haul the spoils away and if the ditch runs through a wetland, it gets even more complicated and the answers aren't clear. Tyler and Brian went into part of the creek yesterday and cleared some logs and debris to help move water. The culverts were clear and flowing. Stephanie stated that an engineer would have to examine the scope and effect of doing any clearing within the watershed. Graham stated that the City could possibly

hire contractors to assist with removing debris but they'd need to know where to do the work and then what to do with the debris. Moore stated that he doesn't think dredging is needed but clearing out vegetation within the ditch would probably be enough. Graham stated another concern is flow pattern changes – if we make a change somewhere, it will have an effect downstream. Graham stated that he and Tyler are going out next week with Mr. Haddon to walk Branch 5 of the creek.

Asleson stated that Tom Schmidt with Rice Creek Watershed District would be a good person to talk to about how to start handling the issue.

Haddon said that Branch 5 is a 24" concrete drainage pipe that was installed to drain water from the area to create a residential neighborhood. He said has had nothing done to it since it was originally built and a study in 1994 stated that a installing a pipe that would move water to Ditch 14 more effectively. Graham stated that part of that pipe is now under homes.

## VI. Programs

### A. Cost Share

#### 1. Landscape Level 2 Considerations

We have received two LL2 grant applications. The process for LL2 is that the TEC reviews the applications and makes a recommendation to the Board for approval and award amount.

a) The Pines of North Oaks (L2-2017-01) is a home association within North Oaks and they are asking for assistance to upgrade their existing irrigation system on their property from a conventional controller to a "smart" controllers which monitors daily weather conditions and provides adjustments to the system. They will be using two different types of "smart" controllers. There are 7 irrigation points on the property. They plan to install the Rainbird IQ system at two of the points which they expect will reduce water use by 20-40%; the other five locations will use a Wireless Solar Sync system will provide 10-15% water use reduction. They are installing the Rainbird system on only 2 spots at this time because they are \$6555 each. The Solar system will cost \$410 for each spot. They say that their water bill is their biggest budget item. If the Rainbird systems are as successful as they predict, they hope it will convince the association to invest in more of them – not only from a financial standpoint but also for the positive environmental impact as well. The total cost of this project is \$15,165 and they are requesting a grant of \$11,375.

b) Cabin 61 (L2-2017-02) is the site of what was formally known as "The Little Bar" on West Goose Lake. The business entity that owns the property is Little Goose Development Corp which is made up of members of the Ski Otters Club. They have done extensive work to rehabilitate the bar and restaurant, as well as the rental cottages next door. They would like to work on the landscape now and implement projects that will capture most of the stormwater runoff that would otherwise go into West Goose. They are working with HabAdapt which is a landscaping company that has done other projects in the watershed. They have initial designs and will be finalizing their plans and do the installation later this summer and fall. The initial plans include permeable patio, shoreline buffer, and raingardens.

If the TEC recommends approval of both projects, a determination would need to be made regarding the grant amounts. We have \$30,000 in the LL2 budget and the total request for these two grants is \$31,375. The TEC can make a recommendation as to how to proceed for award amounts.

*Staff recommends the TEC to recommends that the VLAWMO Board of Directors approve L2-2017-01 for \$10,000 and L2-2017-02 for \$20,000. L2-2017-02 would need to provide finalized plans for review prior to any funding being distributed.*

It was moved by Grisim and seconded by Asleson to approve LL2 grants L2-2017-01 for \$10,000 and L2-2017-02 for \$20,000. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

### B. Education & Outreach

1. June 3<sup>rd</sup> Summary: North Oaks & WBL Water Symposium  
Tyler recapped the two events staff were at to represent VLAWMO. There were drawings for rainbarrels.
2. State of the River Report  
We have copies of the current State of the River Report available for check out if anyone would like to read it.
3. WB Preserve Purple Loosestrife Control – Year 2  
Tyler stated that the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of catch and release of beetles was done this year. They will have one more year for catch and release. Tyler assisted with the efforts and they are seeing effects of their grazing on purple loosestrife.

## VII. Reports

### A. WCA

Specialty Manufacturing Co impacted a 1/10 acre of wetland with a construction project in 2006. They replaced it with a half-acre replacement site. It is required that these sites be monitored to make sure it is successful. Brian met with a delineator last week and it was determined that the wetland is successful and they will be receiving their bond (plus interest) back. Staff and the WCA technical committee recommend approving the release of SMC's bond.

It was moved by Graham and seconded by Grisim to release the bond to SMC. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

### B. Financial Report for June 2017 & Authorization for Payment

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Graham to approve the treasurer's report and June payment of checks. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

### C. TEC Report to the Board

## VIII. Commissioner Reports

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

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

Next Board meeting is July 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

### XI. Public Comment

### XII. Next Meetings

TEC: July 14; Board: June 28

### XIII. Adjourn

It was moved Grisim & seconded by Graham to adjourn at 8:55am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Jenson.