



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 June 27, 2018

Attendance		Present	Absent
Dan Jones, Chair	City of White Bear Lake	X	
Jim Lindner, Vice Chair	City of Gem Lake	X	
Rob Rafferty, Secretary-Treasurer	City of Lino Lakes		X
Ed Prudhon	White Bear Township	X	
Marty Long	City of North Oaks	X	
Terry Nyblom	City of Vadnais Heights	X	
Stephanie McNamara	Administrator	X	
Brian Corcoran	Water Resources Mgr.	X	
Nick Voss	Education & Outreach Cord.	X	
Tyler Thompson	GIS Watershed Tech.	X	

Others in attendance: Mark Graham (City of Vadnais Heights Engineer & TEC Chair); Paul Duxbury (White Bear Township TEC representative)

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Jones. A quorum is present for the meeting.

II. Approval of Agenda

Discussion:

Approval of agenda as presented.

A motion was made by Nyblom and seconded by Lindner to approve the meeting agenda. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes from April 25, 2018

A motion was made by Lindner and seconded by Long to approve the minutes from the April 25, 2018 Board of Directors Meeting. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IV. Visitors and Presentations

None

V. Operations & Administration

A. TEC Report and Financial – June

The VLAWMO Technical Commission Report to the Board was presented by TEC Chair Graham and the June financial report was discussed by McNamara.

B. 2018 Workshop Review

Voss outlined an overview of the Cost Share Program/Education & Outreach workshops that provided technical information and assistance to implement and maintain citizen stormwater and native planting best management practices (BMPs). The year 3 workshops were held: Raingarden Maintenance, Native Plantings, and Rain Garden workshops. Voss discussed the results of the surveys that are filled out at the end of the workshops, and how they may guide future workshops.

C. Project Updates

1. Lambert Creek & Whitaker Wetlands

H & H modeling of Ditch 14 is nearly completed and the draft Engineer's Report will be received by July 15th that will identify problem areas and projects that will address these issues. The ICWC crew had a successful cleaning and clearing of about 1.5 miles of the Creek in May. Staff and residents have noticed improved flows. The final version of the RCD 14 Records Reestablishment Memorandum has been received.

Whitaker Wetlands are nearly complete, but the wetlands and staff are ready to begin storm sampling when a suitable storm looks to be coming. The Whitaker Treatment Wetlands Open House is set for Thursday, August 30th at 6:30-7:30 pm at Columbia Park. Parking is available in the parking lot on the south side of Highway 96.

Discussion: Long asked about the budget of the project and if we have any bills left. Corcoran responded there are 2 bills left from contractor. Bills will still be coming in for the U of M work, monitoring and reports over the next two years.

2. Birch Lake 4th & Otter Project

To begin engineering on the project, a preliminary wetland delineation and site survey need to be completed to create plans that can be bid on for construction. The wetland delineation has been completed and the WCA process has begun. The survey has been conducted by the City of White Bear Lake crew and will begin soon. This data has been relayed to Barr and staff is awaiting communication.

Discussion: Long asked about the benefit of VLAWMO transferring the property to the City, rather than them taking it in the first place. Jones clarified the advantage is to VLAWMO having control over the easement before passing it onto the City.

3. Watershed Funding: Goose Lake Subwatershed Project

After several discussions with VLAWMO's BWSR reps, as well as a site tour with them, it has been determined that the best way to use the Watershed Funding grants, due to criteria and requirements, is to bundle all of the Goose Lake Subwatershed projects under the umbrella of a subwatershed modeling and feasibility study. The previously-identified projects can be designed to 60% with the grant funds, and can select feasible projects to move forward with.

- a) Modeling & Feasibility
- b) Feasibility: Polar Channel, Oak Knoll Pond
- c) Implementation – TBD

4. Goose Lake

- a) Stakeholder meeting

A stakeholder meeting to discuss potential projects for VLAWMO staff to pursue, dependent upon the agreeance of the partners involved. July 16 from 4-6 pm.

- b) Grant application for Alum treatment of Goose Lake

Dependent on the outcome of the Goose stakeholder meeting in July, alum treatment is one of the project options for reducing nutrients in Goose Lake. Staff would like the prior authorization to begin writing the grant application process should this be an agreed upon project to pursue as guided by the stakeholders and partners. **Staff is requesting authorization to begin the grant application process to fund alum treatment of Goose Lake.**

A motion was made by Long and seconded by Jones to authorize staff to prepare a grant application for alum treatment of Goose Lake. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VI. Business

A. 2019 Budget – Re. 01-2018

Staff is recommending approval of the 2019 VLAWMO Budget, resolution 01-2018

Discussion: Nyblom asked Corcoran about the overall condition of Ditch 14 since the modeling has been started. Corcoran replied that there are a few spots that could need work, but the overall condition of the Ditch performs well. Nyblom also asked if staff thought it would be worth another ICWC cleaning of Ditch 14. Corcoran responded the Ditch is in a good condition now and can stand to wait a few years between debris cleanings. Nyblom stated he wished to wait until the Houston CD 14 Repair Report was out before passing the 2019 budget.

A motion was made by Long and seconded by Nyblom to table the 2019 VLAWMO Budget for approval at a special meeting for July 25th. Vote: 2 aye, 3 nay. Motion does not pass.

Jones proposed increasing the 2019 Lambert Creek line item 3.420 budget from \$30,000 to \$45,000 in anticipation of repair recommendations from Houston Engineering when the Report was to be delivered in July.

A motion was made by Long and seconded by Prudhon to increase Lambert Creek line item 3.420 budget to from \$30,000 to \$45,000 for 2019 and to cancel previously proposed July 25th special meeting and to approve resolution 01-2018 (appendix A) as amended for the total amount of \$832,650.00. Vote: 4 aye, 1 nay. Motion passed.

B. Gem Lake Local Water Management Plan – Res. 02-2018

The LG LWMP is consistent with the VLAWMO Water Management Plan approve them. The Implementation plan portion of the LWMP has been enhanced and includes the required information.

Staff is recommending approval of the Gem Lake Local Water Management Plan, resolution 02-2018.

A motion was made by Lindner and seconded by Long to approve the Gem Lake Local Water Management Plan, resolution 02-2018 (appendix B). Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

C. Vadnais Heights Surface Water Management Plan – Res. 03-2018

A request has come from the City Engineer asking VLAWMO Board to consider approval of the Vadnais Heights Surface Water Management Plan after minor revisions to the Appendix addressing design standards. The current VH SWMP was considered approved after it was removed from the April VLAWMO Board agenda. The 60-day approval window expired within the following week.

Staff is recommending approval of the VH Surface Water Management Plan, resolution 03-2018.

A motion was made by Nyblom and seconded by Long to approve the Vadnais Heights Surface Water Management Plan, resolution 03-2018 (appendix C). Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

D. Purchase agreement for 4th & Otter parcel – Res. 04-2018

Staff at The City of WBL have verbally confirmed their willingness to ultimately be the property owners of the parcel, however, VLAWMO legal counsel suggest the smoothest means to make the transaction is for VLAWMO to first acquire the property, put an easement on the parcel under VLAWMO's conditions, and transfer ownership to the City for the cost of \$1.

Staff is recommending for Board approval to proceed with the purchase agreement and legal work for the 4th & Otter parcel, Ramsey County 153022420114.

Discussion: The Board discussed it is beneficial the City will ultimately own this parcel, but not all of the legal fees should be a burden upon VLAWMO if the watershed is essentially bearing the entire workload and legal fees just to give it to the City of White Bear Lake. Jones stated he would like to have confirmation and agreeance from City staff to move ahead with this. VLAWMO staff acknowledged this.

A motion was made by Long and seconded by Prudhon to proceed with resolution 04-2018 (appendix D) the purchase agreement for Parcel 153022420114 with the stipulation that VLAWMO will not exceed more than \$1,000 in legal fees for the purchase and sale of this property to the City of White Bear Lake, and this sale will occur on or before July 1, 2019. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

E. Monthly Board meeting direction

With Board meetings running longer, the discussion and option has been raised to consider moving VLAWMO Board of Directors meetings from every 2 months to once a month in order to efficiently consider and pass business.

Discussion: Linder stated it could benefit to plan for monthly meetings, but if they are not needed then they can be cancelled. There was discussion of having the normal meetings every 2 months, and having a light meeting every month if necessary. The Board had questions about what powers are delegated to the TEC. McNamara stated the Board is responsible for delegating responsibilities to the TEC, and changes are subject to the Board's approval. Jones proposed being ready to schedule a Board meeting monthly depending upon business needing to be approved, as "placeholder meetings". It was agreed upon by the Board to continue with "business as usual" Board meeting schedule of every 2 months, with the understanding that a special meeting every now and then may be necessary.

No motion for formal action taken. Vote: none.

VII. Discussion

A. VLAWMO direction

Jones made a presentation and brought the discussion to the Board that VLAWMO still has the need to exist as an entity or if there are different options such as existing as is, merging with another Watershed, or having an engineer on retainer, or moving to be as big as one of the larger watersheds. Jones proposed several options for VLAWMO: stay the course, attempt to disband and dissolve VLAWMO and the JPA to merge with another larger neighbor watershed district, or move to a larger budget and restructure staff and capabilities around this.

Discussion:

Lindner asked what more does the Board wish to accomplish, as VLAWMO has accomplished and continues to accomplish goals as previously set forth and there are currently no issues or discrepancies in what the Watershed is accomplishing. Jones stated he wants to go bigger and be capable of more. Long echoed Lindner in that the Watershed and staff are performing well at completing projects and tasks, and that having elected officials comprise a watershed board is important for accountability, and for the Joint Powers control of the local watershed of VLAWMO, rather than a watershed district board. Board decided for the direction to not seek merging with another watershed, but will research and consider moving to a larger budget to have an engineer on retainer and/or the expansion of staff, temporary or permanent, for the ability to accomplish more business and in a more streamlined and efficient manner.

B. Lambert Creek Maintenance

Nyblom asked if filtration or another BMP at the mouth of Lambert Creek just before it enters East Vadnais Lake had been explored. Staff mentioned that it had been done before and also mentioned the weirs and other projects upstream that add water quality treatment before entering the Lake. Nyblom asked that staff stay on the alert for new projects that could be done to improve water quality on the Creek before exiting to East Vadnais Lake.

VIII. Administration Communication

XI. Adjourn

A motion was made by Long and seconded by Jones to adjourn at 8:58 pm. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.