



The Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
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Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
September 14, 2018
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room

Commission Members Present:

Jim Grisim	White Bear Lake (WBL)
Bob Larson	North Oaks (NO)
Paul Duxbury	White Bear Township (WBT)
Gloria Tessier	Gem Lake (GL)

Commission Members Absent: Marty Asleson (LL), Nolan Wall (VH)

Others in attendance: Stephanie McNamara, Brian Corcoran, Tyler Thompson, Nick Voss (VLAWMO); Justine Roe (St. Paul Regional Water Service – SPRWS); Andrea Prichard (Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division); Ceci Shaplan, Community Blue applicant.

- I. **Call to Order** Chair Grisim called the meeting to order at 7:32am.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
It was moved by Larson and seconded by Tessier to approve the September 14, 2018 agenda as amended. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
It was moved by Larson and seconded by Duxbury to approve the August 10, 2018 minutes as amended. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
 - A. **Update on position opening**

Upon the deadline of the new open position for hire, applications were received, and 3 of those applications were deemed to be interview-worthy. Stephanie has been conducting phone interviews this week and staff will host the interviewees on a watershed van tour this next week. The following week will be final interviews.
- V. **Reports**
 - A. **Financial Report for September & authorization for payment of checks.**
It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Larson to approve the September Treasurer's report and payment of checks. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- VI. **Programs**
 - A. **Education & Outreach**
 1. **Community Blue Application: Ceci Shapland**

A Community Blue grant application was received to implement the 'Clean Storm Drains' (CB-2018-02) grant in Vadnais Heights. Stormdrain labels and supplies will be acquired with grant funds in a two-part citizen engagement program, one in November, 2018, and one in Spring '19.

Staff recommendation is to dispense funds delineated by objectives 1 + 2 (\$562.78) upfront, and objective 3 (\$100.00) upon the demonstrated completion of objectives 1-2, assessed at the January, 2019 TEC meeting.

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Larson to approve \$562.78 upfront, and \$100.00 upon completion of objectives 1-2 in the Community Blue application. Motion passed

2. Community Blue expedited application

To boost Community Blue involvement, staff recognizes a need to create a convenient, less-intimidating Community Blue application for lower cost grants. To do this, TEC recommendations will be brought to the Board to create this new funding stream within Community Blue. The goal is to model this strategy off of the rainbarrel grant program, which is low-cost cap and convenient for residents.

Discussion: Grisim suggested bumping up to a cost cap of an even \$100. Corcoran asked if there are any stipulations as far as having VLAWMO logos and where the project should go. Voss said yes, he would design stipulations about this as well. Grisim noted to space out the application form a bit more.

It was moved by Grisim and seconded by Larson to recommend approval to the Board for expedited staff approval and framework for low-cost and money pool to that similar of the rainbarrel cost share grant fund. Vote: all aye. Motion passed

3. Lake fact sheets preview

The Lake Fact Sheets are being updated with a goal to be completed by October. Examples were displayed during the meeting.

Discussion: Grisim suggested having hyperlinks to descriptions of terms and methods.

4. Turf Management workshop – Sept. 25th

The Sept 25th turf maintenance workshop met its registration goal of 12 participants. 15 participants are registered as of 9/7/18. Staff urged the TEC to spread the word homeowners association and church contacts.

Discussion: Grisim asked if a certificate of education is earned in the workshop. Voss replied yes, participants have the option at the close of the workshop to take a test and be awarded a MPCA Level 1 Certification and will be state listed upon passing of the test.

VII. Projects

A. 4th & Otter Project Update

Thompson reported Barr has created a draft site design, but needs additional survey information which the City of WBL surveyor is willing to do this fall. Greg from Barr has been great in spelling out exactly what else is needed for the survey. VLAWMO is still in the process of acquiring the 4th & Otter parcel, and the Technical Evaluation Panel met for the WCA boundary and type delineation which has been expanded to cover more of the wetland to the east.

B. Lambert Creek Technical recommendations; Board direction

Staff is working with Houston to get better estimates on cost to dredge the section of Ditch 14 from Pennington Place to the Koehler bend. Engineer estimate in Final Engineers Report had a cost of \$105,000 for dredging. Board wants to make sure this is a close estimate and has directed staff to have contractors actually look at the site and access conditions and get more estimates. Staff has asked Houston Engineering to help affirm those cost estimates by working with contractors that have done ditch excavation in Rice Creek Watershed District.

Discussion: Duxbury asked about the distance of the dredging, and Grisim asked about access and bank restoration. Corcoran mentioned dredging spoils will be placed on the banks, reducing costs, but the only issue is limited access and steeper banks, but we do have willing landowners along the Ditch to allow access.

No motion for action taken. Will update and seek motion for any action at the October 12th meeting if necessary.

C. Whitaker Treatment Project

Staff reported great weather for the Whitaker open house in August. Attendees were treated to ice cream and a tour of how the system works. Sampling is underway, and 2 storms have been sampled so far, and staff is looking to get a 3rd in yet this monitoring season.

D. Goose Lake Feasibility

The Board approved the proposal from Barr to do the engineering for this project at their August meeting. They hope to complete the work on a one-year timeline, and roughly \$47,000 of the \$100,000 grant budget will go towards an in-the-ground project. Water quality benefits depend on which project is selected, based on budget and site feasibility, and cost estimates will be known in the spring of 2019.

E. Sucker Channel

The two educational signs are designed and ready to be manufactured. However, the final efforts are waiting on a trail regrading to fix some stormwater flow that caused a channelized washout of mulch in one of the planting beds. Also, the posts for the signs are coming from Ramsey County parks, so VLAWMO staff is working on coordination of sign size with the posts. Once all that is done, the signs can be produced and installed. Voss mentioned that he will be ordering the signs soon.

F. Oak Knoll Pond project

Barr Eng. has approached VLAWMO about being a partner in a research grant application studying in-lake treatments using spent lime. They anticipate doing the treatment in Oak Knoll pond and at least one other pond in another watershed. VLAWMO staff has agreed to assist with the sample collection and monitoring. No cash but just in-kind contribution to this grant request. We understand SPRWS and perhaps Ramsey Washington Metro WD may be partners on this grant request. If funded, there will be a spring 2019 treatment and associated monitoring.

Discussion: Roe noted the SPRWS had an internal meeting to determine how the spent lime was to be prepared to the slurry form that is used for application treatment. McNamara mentioned that Barr will be working with an applicator to help figure out the logistics as well.

G. Alum Treatment Application on East Goose

On August 31st, the grant application for Clean Water Funds was submitted for an alum treatment on East Goose Lake. The application requested \$180,000 in funding, with a 25% match, or \$45,000 of local money to complete 2 applications of in-lake treatments to reduce the internal phosphorus loading in the basin. If the grant is approved, the first application would occur as early as spring 2019, with another application expected in 2021 to treat the decaying effects from the first treatment. Barr Engineering completed the feasibility and sediment study on the Lake, and estimates a lifespan around 15 years. Staff will know by December if VLAWMO will be awarded the grant.

H. RWMWD study of W&E Vadnais geohydrology & hydraulics

This is a follow-up study to address stormwater storage options in RWMWD in West Vadnais Lake. While there is no surface connection between West and East Vadnais, it is assumed that there is underground seepage, particularly in the earthen berm area between the lakes. The study is funded by RWMWD. Five soil borings are planned along the berm area to identify what type of material is in the berms. Piezometers will be installed in three of the borings allowing water level monitoring, and the installation of pressure transducers and data loggers. The trails will be closed when the borings are installed.

VIII. WCA: 4th & Otter delineation

A boundary and type review was done on the wetland at 4th & Otter in White Bear Lake. This information was needed to move forward with the grant and BMP process at the site. Corcoran

mentioned Rupnow will be going back out to perform an extended delineation to continue past the parcel boundary, as there may be site disturbance that reaches into this area.

IX. Commissioner Reports

X. St. Paul Regional Water Service (SPRWS) Report

Roe reported the Highland towers will be open for tour October 13 and 14th

XI. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division (RSWCD) Report

Prichard reported that they are out on Deep Lake finishing up the shoreline vegetation survey in concert with the earlier bathymetry and aquatic vegetation surveys.

XII. Public Comment

XIII. Next Meetings

TEC: October 12; Board: October 24

XIV. Adjourn

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Duxbury to adjourn at 9:11 am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.