



The Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
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Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
October 12, 2018
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room

Commission Members Present:

Jim Grisim	Chair, White Bear Lake (WBL)
Gloria Tessier	Vice Chair, Gem Lake (GL)
Bob Larson	Treasurer, North Oaks (NO)
Paul Duxbury	White Bear Township (WBT)
Nolan Wall	Vadnais Heights (VH)

Commission Members Absent: Marty Asleson (LL)

Others in attendance: Stephanie McNamara, Brian Corcoran, Tyler Thompson, Nick Voss (VLAWMO); Justine Roe, Jeremy Erickson (St. Paul Regional Water Service – SPRWS); Michael Schumann (Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division); Kate Winsor, Diane Gorder (North Oaks)

I. **Call to Order** Chair Grisim called the meeting to order at 7:30 am.

II. **Approval of Agenda**

Thompson mentioned there was a cost share level 1 application that came in to be the 8th of the year, and asked that the agenda be amended to consider the project for approval under IV. Programs, B. Cost Share, 1. 2018-08 Infiltration Driveway Application.

It was moved by Grisim and seconded by Duxbury to approve the October 12, 2018 agenda as amended to include under section IV, letter B, Cost Share, 1. Infiltration Driveway Application 2018-08. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. **Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Duxbury to approve the September 14, 2018 meeting minutes. Vote: all aye, Wall abstained. Motion passed.

IV. **Administration & Operations**

A. **Welcome Dawn!**

Dawn Tanner, VLAWMO's new Community Development Coordinator, began on October 1st and has been familiarizing and learning the new position and the Watershed. She is an adjunct professor with the U of M and has conducted research in different parts of the world, as well as Minnesota. Some of her past works and research required extensive grant efforts, which made her the best candidate for the position.

V. **Reports**

A. **Financial Report for October & authorization for payment of checks.**

Expenses for this month were presented for review.

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Grisim to approve the October Treasurer's report and payment of checks. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. **TEC Report to the Board**

It was moved by Tessier and seconded by Larson to approve the October TEC Report to the Board. Vote: all aye, Motion passed.

VI. Programs

A. Education & Outreach

1. Community Blue Application: Picture Posts at Birch Lake

Voss reported a Community Blue grant application was received from the Birch Lake Improvement District, in care of Jim Grisim, to produce 2 picture posts with educational signage attached to install on the shores of Birch Lake. Nick Voss will help facilitate meetings with the Birch Lake Improvement District to educate members and citizens on how to use the posts, as well as educate about phenology and associated activities. Steve and Jim will both install the post on the Rotary Boardwalk. The grantee has submitted an application for \$350, with \$325 matched with in-kind volunteer time and materials. **Staff is recommending approval of the Community Blue grant in the amount of \$350 for 2 picture posts with educational signage and hold a BLID meeting to educate members on the project and use. Jim Grisim will abstain from vote.**

Discussion: Grisim mentioned the BLID wanted to start off small and see how much use the posts get, and expand from there.

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Larson to approve the Community Blue Application for Picture Posts at Birch Lake for the amount of \$350. Vote: all aye. Grisim abstained. Motion passed.

2. Community Blue Updates: Connect the Drops, Clean Stormdrains

Voss reported Heidi did her first outreach event at Peace United Methodists on Sept 25th and had a great turnout. The turf workshop was hosted by Fortin Consulting and included attendees from White Bear Lake and White Bear Township. Voss and Tanner hosted ASFA students teaching macroinvertebrate sampling. The Master Water Stewards opening night was this past Tuesday at the Bell Museum. Both Cici and Ed Shaplan attended. A North Oaks citizen science event presented AIS and picture post training. Picture post informational signs are ordered and will be installed when ready.

Voss also asked that funding be approved for dispersal for the 2018-02 Community Blue grant approved at the September 14th meeting, as the objectives have been met and the storm drain stenciling has been carried out. **Voss asks the full application amount of \$662.78 be dispensed.**

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Larson to approve for dispersal the amount of \$663.00 to the applicants of community blue grant 2018-02, as all objectives have been completed as stipulated. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. Cost Share – Agenda-amended item

1. 2018-08 Infiltration Driveway Application

Thompson reported a Landscape Level 1 cost share grant application was received the week of the October TEC meeting for an infiltration driveway in Vadnais Heights. The applicant, Joan Pelzer, had received a grant in 2017 for a streambank restoration and stabilization on her property, directly on Branch Ditch 5A to infiltrate water and stabilize the bank slope. Thompson met with Joan and her contractor in August to discuss an infiltration driveway on the side of her house that would infiltrate the runoff coming from her driveway and most of the house's roof line, further decrease volume and erosion into the branch ditch. The project is 400 sq ft,

and has the proper 8” depth filled with trap stone for infiltration in this HSG soil type. If approved, this would effectively use up nearly all of the LL1 funds for 2018, as the grant application is asking for a \$2,000 reimbursement, and would leave the fund at \$175 for 2018. **Staff is recommending approval of this grant application, 2018-08 for the amount of \$2,000.00.**

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Larson to approve the Landscape Level 1 Grant application for an infiltration driveway for the amount of \$2,000.00. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VII. Projects

A. 4th & Otter Project Update

Additional survey is set to begin to support further engineering on project. VLAWMO staff is seeking direction to be sole owners of the 4th & Otter parcel that is being obtained, rather than recording an easement on the property and then transferring ownership to the City.

B. Lambert Creek Technical recommendations; Board direction

Staff made a site walk with Houston Eng. and Peterson Excavating on the portions of Ditch 14 that were recommended for dredging. Engineer estimate in Final Engineers Report had a cost of \$105,000 for dredging, and the VLAWMO Board wanted a more accurate opinion from an experienced contractor. Speculation was made that as much as 1000 feet of the dredging may need to be either trucked out, or moved further down the banks of the Creek, as the steep creek bank may not be suitable for holding spoils without significant sluffing or washout back into the Ditch. Staff is waiting to hear back on this estimate.

More information has come in from VLAWMO’s attorney on need for the need for a Ditch Realignment public hearing. As it was determined by both VLAWMO’s 2017-2026 Comprehensive Water Mgmt. Plan, as well as its 2017-2026 JPA, legally, the Watershed operates and manages CD Ditch 14 and its branches under statute 103B and not 103E. A realignment hearing to approve the ACSIC of Ditch 14 and its branches may trigger a need to legally update these to be compliant. VLAWMO has reached out to the DNR to explore the possibility if not holding a public hearing for an updated realignment could mean less legal ability to perform work, or if only more permits would be necessary. Staff is waiting to hear back on this.

Discussion: Commissioners discussed the need for a public hearing for realignment if the Watershed’s attorney’s advice is that managing the Ditch under 103E instead of 103B is outstepping VLAWMO’s current JPA and Comprehensive Water Management Plan. Direction depends on the DNR and BWSR responses for the ability to undertake dredging maintenance, under proper permitting. If it is allowed by the oversight agencies to dredge under correct the permits without needing a public hearing for the new alignment of the Ditch and its branches, then there may be no need for the public hearing. Depending on oversight agencies’ answer, proceed, or do not proceed with public hearing at the October Board meeting, especially as VLAWMO does not have the current budget to undertake the project. If it is recommended after the October meeting, then a public hearing may always take place at the December 2018 Board meeting.

No motion for recommended action taken. Public hearing at future Board meetings is dependent upon oversight agency, attorney, and Board direction.

C. Goose Lake Feasibility

The Work Plan for this project has been submitted to BWSR. When that is considered complete, the grant agreement will be executed. Barr Eng. should be able to start on the modeling before the holidays.

D. Sucker Channel

Planting is complete. The two educational signs should be installed in the next few weeks after utility locates have been done in the area. A picture post is also planned for this area to do phenology documentation.

VIII. WCA: Betsy Larey De Minimis Application

A De Minimis exemption application for a 372 sq. ft. type 2 wetland has been received. Owner is looking to develop site and build a house in location of the wetland. A B&T was approved on 7/27/17 for this site. Subject wetland qualifies for up to 400 sq. ft. of impact since located in Ramsey County, less than 50% area, is outside of building setback and within 1000ft of Birch Lake (PW62-0024-3901). TEP is currently reviewing the application.

IX. Commissioner Reports

Wall reported that the City of Vadnais Heights will wait until after the holidays to air a 2nd round of looking for a new City Engineer.

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

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

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

Schumman reported the Division submitted 3 CWF grants, and 2 other grants for well sealing. Many site design projects are still coming in and ongoing. Working on Snail and Grass Lake shoreline restorations, about 38 restorations.

XII. Public Comment

XIII. Next Meetings

TEC: November 9; Board: October 24

XIV. Adjourn

It was moved by Tessier and seconded by Larson to adjourn at 8:43 am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.