

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
April 11, 2014
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room**

Attending:

Paul Peterson	White Bear Township (WBT), Chair
Jim Grisim	White Bear Lake (WBL)
Mark Graham	Vadnais Heights (VH)
Marty Asleson	Lino Lakes (LL)
<i>Absent</i>	Gem Lake (GL)
Chris Mann	North Oaks (NO)

Others in attendance: Stephanie McNamara, Kristine Jenson, Brian Corcoran, Vanessa Strong (VLAWMO); Margaret Behrens (Ramsey Conservation District); Bob Larson (NO Natural Resources Commission Chair); John Murphy (North Oaks Homeowners Association); Sarah Brown (St. Paul Water Regional Service)

I. Call to Order Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:30am.

II. Approval of Agenda

Stephane asked for an addition under IV. D. Boundary Discussion

It was moved and seconded by Graham & Mann to approve the April 11, 2014 agenda as amended. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes

It was moved and seconded by Graham & Grisim to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2014 Meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IV. Administration & Operations

A. BWSR Grant Audit Results

Stephanie and Kristine met with BWSR staff to review our Clean Water Legacy Grants which we received for Central Middle School and Community Blue. It is estimated that Kristine spent about 40 hours preparing the materials needed for the audit. BWSR said they were very impressed with how organized our materials were. A report of any findings will be ready in about 3 months.

B. 2013 Audit

The annual audit of the books also went very well. The bookkeeper and staff were able to resolve one finding this year involving year-end Quick books entries. Actual expenditures in 2013 were \$52,074 less than revenues. This means our General Fund has increased again and now stands at 70% of the annual VLAWMO budget. Again, grants have offset some anticipated expenses.

C. Intern Update

Stephanie and Brian reviewed the applications for the Intern position and are conducting interviews this week and Monday. We are looking for a half-time intern resulting in fewer applicants. Interviews are scheduled.

D. Boundary Issues

Stephanie reported that there have been two issues regarding our boundaries. Houston Engineering (representing Rice Creek Watershed District) came to us to discuss a development just north of our boundary. The development would change the water flow and bring more water into VLAWMO. The Engineer thought, based on modeling, the additional water would meet our water quality standards for the 1 or 2 year storm events but wouldn't for the large storm events. It is currently an active farmed area but would become a dense development with storm ponds. Wenck reviewed the plans and wrote a technical memo stating that the volume of water would not meet our standards and suggested enlarging culverts that would send more water to the east. The Engineers made the adjustment and Rice Creek was going to approve the change this week. The other boundary issue that arose was from the City of White Bear Lake. They are doing road work in a neighborhood near Goose Lake on our southeastern border. One of the streets will be getting a storm sewer. The storm sewer was examined to send it to either White Bear Ave and then to Goose Lake or to Hazel and then into White Bear Lake. Sending it to Hazel and White Bear is the easier path to take but it means that water that hits the road on Floral will go to White Bear Lake rather than stay in VLAWMO. We are not going to address changing the boundary at this time because technically the water that hits their yards will stay in VLAWMO. It may be something we address in the future.

VI. Projects

A. Community Blue Update

In this month's bills, we are sending out first payments of Community Blue Grants to Vadnais Heights Elementary and Lakeaires Elementary. Of the final 3 projects that were approved by the Board in February, we are just waiting on the signed contract from White Bear Township for their raingarden project at Fox Meadow Park. The contract had to be reviewed by their Park Board and then go through approval at their Town Board before it could be signed. We should be receiving it shortly.

B. Facilities Maintenance: Oakmede, Birch, Central

Contracts for maintenance will continue on several projects this year. Oakmede Streambank restoration – Outdoor Labs; Birch Lake shoreline restoration – Natural Shores Technology; and Central Middle School swale – Earth Wizards. As noted last month, Ramsey County Public Works has postponed Whitaker maintenance until summer.

C. Strategic Planning – project short list and workshop

Staff had a workshop with Burns & McDonnell to discuss what they feel are priorities for the watershed in terms of projects for 2014-2016. A list was created which will then be considered at the April 23 Workshop with TEC, Board, and other stakeholders. Other projects may be considered as well but this list gives us a good idea of what could be worked on through 2016.

- Lambert Creek Source ID – determine areas where E.coli is entering the creek with projects to be determined after the study is complete.
- Sucker Lake Channel Restoration
- East Goose Lake Shoreline Restoration
- East Goose Lake Sediment Core Study

- Deep Lake Channel Restoration
- West Goose Shoreline Restoration
- Goose Lake Weed Survey
- Lambert Creek Lower Kohler Road Stabilization

All TEC members are encouraged to come to the April 23rd workshop. Please rsvp to Kristine if you will be there so we can have a head.

VII. Programs

A. E.coli sourcing/monitoring

Brian and Kristine went along the creek this week to GPS inflow areas as part of the E.coli study. Brian said our consultant is going through the data and looking for any data gaps. By the end of this month, they will send us a detailed description of what gaps we may have. In the middle of May, the consultant will come to walk the creek and work with staff to develop a monitoring plan. Brian collected chloride samples and regular sampling will begin in May.

B. WCA – City Center Wetland Replacement Plan

Graham showed plans for a project that will have some wetland effects. They are working with SEH on this. A road will be going through a really tight area that will impact a wetland. The City needs to buy 0.86 acres of wetland credits for the amount of about \$45,000. An application for wetland replacement for the Vadnais Heights road project has been received by VLAWMO and comments from the WCA TEP have been received.

Stephanie said we have been looking for the establishment of a wetland bank somewhere in VLAWMO. We looked at a couple of areas in the fall but they did not work out due to the size and conditions. Stephanie said we would want an area at least 2 acres in size to make it worth the work entailed. Stephanie said it could be an added item for us to work on within the next couple of years as part of our Strategic Planning or within our next 10 Year Watershed Management Plan.

C. Workshops

Kristine will be teaching 4 workshops in April and May. The dates are:

4/16 – Intro to Raingardens

4/30 – Shoreline Restoration

5/14 – Raingarden Design and Installation

5/21 – Raingarden and Shoreline Maintenance

Vanessa will be teaching a raingarden workshop to Vadnais Heights Elementary teachers and staff on April 15th as part of their Community Blue project.

D. Outreach

The Shallow Lakes Forum is on Saturday, April 12 from 8-11:30am at the Arboretum in Chanhassen. The Birch Lake Improvement District (BLID) will have representatives on a panel discussion.

E. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

The implementation meeting for the Gilfillan and Wilkinson portion of the TMDL was held last week. We received a lot of input and feedback. We are still working on having the implementation meeting with Gem Lake. The big news regarding the TMDL is that the EPA has officially approved our TMDL. The Implementation Plan needs to be done by the end of June. The Implementation Plan does not need approval by the EPA but will be approved by the MPCA.

F. Website preview

Vanessa showed a test of the new VLAWMO website and a link to the test site will be sent to everyone to get input. One issue we had with the current website is that people never went past the first page. The front page has been redesigned to make it easier for people to find what they are looking for with more visual cues. Vanessa reviewed other changes that have been made as well. It was suggested by Grisim and Graham to put the search bar at the top of the webpage rather than the bottom. Asleson asked if it was possible to use the mapping function in a way that allows homeowners to know where water from their yard goes to. Vanessa said it is possible to see their subwatershed area off of our GIS mapping service. The new website will allow people to look up the waterbodies they are interested in as well as look up projects that have happened or are happening within a certain distance from their home. While there are still things to be entered and bugs to be fixed, it is largely put together. Vanessa said it will go live to the public by April 28th. Grisim asked Vanessa to submit a short synopsis about the new website to him that he can include in the next BLID newsletter.

VIII. Reports

A. TEC Report to the Board

It was moved and seconded by Graham & Mann to approve the April TEC Report to the Board Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. Financial Report for April 2014 & Authorization for Payment

It was moved and seconded by Mann & Grisim to approve the April Financial Report and approve payment of checks. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IX. Commissioner Reports

Graham stated that there was a Policy & Personnel Committee meeting last week with himself, Marc Johannsen and Dan Jones from the Board. Information from that meeting will be discussed with the Board soon.

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

We learned that Dave Schuler, a longtime advocate of the watershed and has helped bring in over \$1 million in projects for VLAWMO in the 1990s and 2000s. He was on leave pending retirement and now on full retirement. We planted a tree at Vadnais-Sucker Park in memory of John Blackstone and would like to do the same for Dave Schuler.

Stephanie would like up to \$400 authorized to spend via the Friends of the Ramsey County Parks for a tree for Dave as well as plaques for both John and Dave.

It was moved and seconded by Graham & Mann to approve up to \$400 for trees and plaques to honor Blackstone & Schuler. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

XI. Ramsey Conservation District (RCD) Report

XII. Public Comment

XIII. Next Meetings

TEC: May 9 & April 23 Workshop

Board: April 23 – TEC & Board Workshop begins at 6pm.

XIV. Adjourn

It was moved and seconded by Mann & Graham to adjourn at a8:39am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Jenson.