



Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
April 12, 2019
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)
Jesse Farrell	Vadnais Heights (VH)

Commission Members Absent: Lino Lakes (vacant)

Others in attendance: Stephanie McNamara, Brian Corcoran, Dawn Tanner, Nick Voss, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO); Jeremy Erickson, Justine Roe (SPRWS); Diane Gorder, Kate Winsor (North Oaks); Andrea Prichard (RSWCD)

I. **Call to Order** Chair Grisim called the meeting to order at 7:29 am.

II. **Approval of Agenda**

It was moved by Grisim and seconded by Larson to approve the April 12, 2019 agenda, as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. **Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Duxbury to approve the March 8, 2019 meeting minutes, as presented. Vote: all aye, Motion passed.

IV. **Reports**

A. **Draft Water Plan Amendment**

Staff has been working on the draft Water Plan Amendment with guidance from BWSR, of which, a draft has been completed. Upon discussion of changes that are cataloged in the document included with the TEC packet. Staff is requesting approval to submit the Draft Water Plan amendment to the VLAWMO Board for their approval at the April 24th meeting. Staff previewed the bulleted substantive changes, as well as the Draft budget. McNamara discussed the possibility of a change to the Joint Powers Agreement to become a member of the League of MN Cities for insurance.

It was moved by Tessier and seconded by Larson to approve the submittal of the Draft Water Plan Amendment to the VLAWMO Board at the April 24th meeting and recommend approval of the Amendment. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. **Financial Report for April & authorization for payment of checks.**

Expenses for this month were presented for review.

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

C. **April TEC Report to the Board**

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Tessier to approve the April TEC Report to the Board for the April 24th meeting. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

V. **Programs**

A. **Education & Outreach**

1. 2018 Annual Report

Voss presented the 2018 annual report, annual report summary, and water monitoring summary.

2. Spring events

Voss gave an overview of spring 2019 events from April going into June.

3. North Oaks trailcam results and article in NO News

Tanner presented trail camera findings and the posting in the North Oaks News.

B. **Monitoring**

1. Report – WCA – Vadnais-Sucker Trail

Corcoran presented a culvert blowout and resulting wetland fill. Ramsey County Parks is applying for a no-loss WCA determination, and once weather is permitting, culvert repair and fill removal in the wetland.

2. Wetland Amphibian Survey

Tanner will be conducting frog/toad calling surveys in 14 sites in the watershed, representing the core wetland complex areas. Surveys begin in April and will be completed by mid-July.

3. DIY Monitoring Unit Update

Staff met with Anthony Aufdenkampe from LimnoTech to establish initial automated monitoring needs and set a date for the assembling workshop. Staff is asking for a recommendation and authorization to bring this to the April 24th Board meeting for funding.

Discussion: Grisim asked about the difference in monitoring between this gauge and the auto sampler. McNamara explained these are only to monitor flow.

It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Larson to recommend to the Board to authorize funding for the DIY monitoring equipment and assembly training. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

C. **Cost Share Program – LL1 2019-01**

A resident in White Bear Lake has submitted an application for a project for LL1 cost share program funding. The project includes a dry creek bed routed to a raingarden in their front yard, and cistern in the backyard collecting runoff from their garage roof to mitigate runoff issues onsite.

It was moved by Grisim and seconded by Duxbury to approve LL1 2019-01 for funding. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VI. **Projects**

A. **4th & Otter Project**

1. Project update

Barr is working on finalizing designs and addressing comments from partners. A meeting to discuss the project is slated for the beginning of May. After Partner comments are addressed, Barr will move forward with bid documents.

B. **Lambert Creek**

1. SEH advising to improve budget estimates and project scope

Staff has been working with SEH to develop the best plan for maintenance and repair of Lambert Lake, as well as refining budget and scope of the Project. Staff will be taking sediment samples to determine how excavated sediment from the Pond will be disposed of. Tanner also announced that VLAWMO's proposal for 319 grant funding has been approved.

Staff is asking for TEC recommendation to the Board to sign and enter into the General Obligation Note for 319 grant funding.

It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Grisim to recommend authorization from the Board to sign and enter into the General Obligation Note for 319 funds. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

C. Goose Lake Feasibility

1. Oak Knoll Pond spent lime update

Staff met with Barr & RWMWD to discuss the Project. Barr is working on a monitoring plan, as well as an application method for spent lime treatment. Staff mailed letters to residents on the Pond outlining the anticipated Project schedule and components.

2. Alum treatment prep

Staff is working on a draft ordinance to ID boating restrictions that would best support an alum treatment. Barr is providing direction and review of the Draft, which will be discussed with the Ski Otters before being proposed to the City. Direction from oversight agencies has been that VLAWMO will need a letter of support for the restrictions rather than a permit.

Discussion: Grisim asked if the no-wake zones would be temporary or perpetual. Tanner responded that they would be perpetual.

D. Great River Greening Proposal Accepted

VLAWMO's proposal for 45 acres of restoration in Vadnais-Sucker Park has been accepted. The proposal will go to the legislature in July and funding decisions will follow. The grant term is 3 years, and funds will be released July 1, 2020.

E. North Oaks Projects

1. North Oaks stakeholder meetings and lake ass'n

A follow-up stakeholder meeting to discuss and facilitate development of a lake association is scheduled. Guests from MN Lakes & Rivers will talk at the meeting; the Group works closely with RCSWCD. The meeting is May 14th at Caribou Coffee.

2. Carp control for North Oaks chain of lakes

Carp control was identified in the stakeholder surveys as a priority subject. Staff has received a quote from Carp Solutions for a 2 year project to survey, tag and track carp in the Chain. Staff is proposing the TEC authorize staff to bring the proposal to the Board for their approval of funding for the Study.

It was moved by Grisim and seconded by Farrell to authorize staff to bring the Carp Solutions study quote to the Board for proposition of funding. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

3. New infestation of oriental bittersweet treated

Staff has treated stands of oriental bittersweet in North Oaks in the Deep Lake area. The treated area has been reported with EDDMapS. Follow-up visits will be conducted this season, and staff has recommended posting trail signs to help residents detect infestations.

VII. Discussion:

A. Water Gremlin questions

Due to TCE release, Water Gremlin is stipulated to hire a consultant to conduct water and soil testing to identify further contamination. Some residents have requested VLAWMO also conduct tests as a neutral 3rd party. Staff is looking for direction to aid in sampling efforts.

Discussion: Tessier added that the release of groundwater monitoring results has come back and none of the groundwater wells tested positive for TCE or other chemicals tested. VLAWMO will await further results from MPCA-enforced TCE testing.

B. Swans at Sucker Lake

Staff has received results that the swan fatalities were caused by lead poisoning. Staff has completed a handout on swan lead toxicity to compliment a handout the MPCA offers, and is requesting authorization from the TEC and Board to release the handout as a VLAWMO-supported document.

Discussion: Grisim asked if there was any way to clean up the lead-contaminated areas and mentioned metal detectors. Tanner said she is researching how to do this.

It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Grisim to recommend to the Board for authorization of release of the swan handout as a VLAWMO-supported document. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VIII. Commissioner Reports

None.

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

Water week is coming up and borrowed auto-sampler use has been successful.

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

Cops and Bobbers event is coming up to tie in with lead sinkers. Prichard mentioned they are looking to begin bathymetry surveying on Birch when conditions allow. RSWCD will be holding a public event on composting, date is TBD.

XI. Public Comment

Winsor mentioned she is working on an article for oriental bittersweet. Ken McCann is looking for urban fox study funding. Gorder mentioned the Invasive Species Workshop will take place Monday, April 29th.

XII. Next Meetings

TEC: May 10; Board: April 24

XIII. Adjourn

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Tessier to adjourn at 9:06 am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.