



Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
May 10, 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); Connie Tailon (City of White Bear Lake)

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

II. **Approval of Agenda**

Thompson stated that a level 1 cost share grant was received the week of the TEC meeting and asked that the agenda be amended to review the application for approval as action item V. B. 2. LL1 2019-03, as well as listing action item LL1 2019-02 as item V. B. 1. for approval, as well as item VI. D. 1 Commons.

It was moved by Grisim and seconded by Larson to approve the May 10, 2019 agenda, as amended to include items V. B. 1. & V. B. 2. for review for approval, as well as adding item VI. D. 1. Commons.

Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. **Approval of Minutes**

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

IV. **Reports**

A. **Draft Water Plan Amendment**

Tanner & McNamara have been working with BWSR to prepare the Plan Amendment, and at their April meeting, the Board approved the Draft for distribution as well as establishment of a notice for a public hearing to present these changes. The public hearing is slated for the June Board meeting.

Discussion:

B. **Joint Powers Amendment**

McNamara has been working to switch insurance providers to the League of MN Cities for better rates, as well as improved coverage. The LMC requires additional language regarding insurance in VLAWMO's JPA to become a member, and at their April meeting, the Board authorized the distribution of an amended draft JPA to the 6 member municipalities for comments. Comments are due back by the end of May, and signed amended JPAs will go out by July 15th.

Discussion:

C. **Financial Report for May & authorization for payment of checks.**

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

V. Programs

A. Education & Outreach

1. Adopt-a-Drain & Adopt-a-Raingarden overview

Voss discussed the new Adopt-a-Drain & Adopt-a-Raingarden website that targets by watershed and subwatershed.

2. GIS web map tutorial video

Voss created a tutorial video available on YouTube that helps the public utilize these tools for project planning and scoping for their yard, as well as generate area figures to input into cost share applications.

B. Cost Share Program

1. Review for approval: LL1 2019-02

Conrad Nguyen is applying for a cost share grant to complete the second half of their shoreline on Birch Lake. The project will be completed by the homeowners themselves, as was the one last year that resulted in professional-like restoration.

The applicant is seeking \$2,000.00 for implementation. **Staff is recommending TEC approval for funding of application LL1 2019-02 in the amount of \$2,000.00.**

Discussion: Farrell asked about the adequacy of the cost share budget and scaling for funding of repeat applicants, as well as larger funding amounts for projects in target areas. Thompson & McNamara explained that funding scaling is done on a year-to-year basis depending on application volume and funds demand, but that this will be further explored and discussed.

It was moved by Tessier and seconded by Larson to approve LL1 2019-02 for funding in the amount of \$2,000.00. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

2. Review for approval: LL1 2019-03

Chris Knopf in North Oaks is applying for funding to complete a native plant restoration himself that will cover nearly 13,000 square feet in his backyard. His yard has issues with poorly-growing grass, shade, and erosion. The applicant will complete the work himself and is applying for \$588.68 to cover native planting materials. **Staff is recommending TEC approval for funding of application LL1 2019-03 in the amount of \$588.68.**

It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Larson to approve LL1 2019-03 for funding in the amount of \$588.68. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VI. Projects

A. 4th & Otter Project

1. Project update

Project partners from the City of White Bear Lake, BLID, Ramsey County, and VLAWMO met with the project engineer from Barr to discuss partner comments and changes to amend the draft plan set. Barr is incorporating these changes in an updated draft plan set that will be distributed to the project partners for their approval and then to be finalized and bid documents drawn up.

B. Lambert Creek

1. SEH advising to improve budget estimates and project scope

SEH is solidifying project estimate numbers, and SEH has been given the go-ahead for soil borings to solidify how deep the replacement weir sections need to be. We are hoping for solid project cost estimate for the June Board meeting. Staff is working with VLAWMO's attorney to clarify how to go about accepting approved loan funding for the project.

C. Swans at Sucker Lake

The lead sinker awareness sign is ready for printing and placement in 4 locations; 2 signs north of County Road F, and 2 signs south in popular fishing locations.

Discussion: Grisim suggested QR codes could be used on future signs for alternate language display and space preservation.

D. Commons

Tanner presented that VLAWMO is doing a planting restoration at the Vadnais Heights Commons, as well as signage. The City of Vadnais Heights will be paying for the plantings and the mulch, and the labor will be done by volunteers.

VIII. Commissioner Reports

Grisim mentioned the BLID had their annual spring cleanup day on May 4th, with 15 volunteers and collected 8 bags of trash. Gorder mentioned there will be a frog & toad event, as well as a second lake association meeting for establishment of an MOU. Gorder noticed emerald ash borer was found in several trees in North Oaks and will be removed.

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

Erickson mentioned the SPRWS had their open house on 5/9/19 with Voss in attendance representing VLAWMO, as well as Capitol Region WD.

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

The RSWCD has an upcoming Conservation Forum on May 17th.

XI. Public Comment

Tailon mentioned the resilient yards workshop will take place on May 21st at WBL City Hall at 1 pm.

XII. Next Meetings

TEC: June 14; Board: June 26

DIY workshop: May 29

XIII. Adjourn

It was moved by Tessier and seconded by Larson to adjourn at 8:25 am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.