



Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
Technical Commission Minutes  
July 12, 2019  
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room

**Commission Members Present:**

Gloria Tessier Chair, Gem Lake (GL)  
Jesse Farrell Vice Chair, Vadnais Heights (VH)  
Bob Larson Treasurer, North Oaks (NO)  
Paul Duxbury White Bear Township (WBT)

**Commission Members Absent:** Terry Huntrods (WBL), Lino Lakes (vacant)

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

- I. **Call to Order** Chair Tessier called the meeting to order at 7:30 am.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**  
It was moved by Larson and seconded by Duxbury to approve the July 12, 2019 agenda as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**  
It was moved by Larson and seconded by Tessier to approve the June 14, 2019 meeting minutes, as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
  - A. **Financial Report for July & authorization for payment of checks.**  
It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Duxbury to approve the July Treasurer's report and payment of checks. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
  - B. **West Vadnais Flooding update**

The RWMWD Board no longer finds it necessary to hold a joint meeting with the VLAWMO Board, and asked to continue to work together towards management of West Vadnais Lake and flooding issues, and RWMWD is no longer seeking a boundary change to absorb West Vadnais Lake. The EAW is still underway and should conclude later this summer. RWMWD is still interested in lowering West Vadnais by 0.8 feet, and has the funding to do so in 2020 by upsizing and replacing the outlet pipe under 694.
- V. **Programs**
  - A. **Education & Outreach**
    1. **Show & tell**

Tanner gave an overview of the Birch Lake wetland walk on July 10<sup>th</sup> and McNamara gave a brief overview of past and upcoming events.
  - B. **WCA**
    1. **North Oaks Restoration Order**

Corcoran reported that The restoration order that was issued on 6/7/19 to both NOHOA and property owner at 7 Eagle Ridge road for wetland fill violation has been rescinded due to further internal review by staff at BWSR. It has been determined fill was due to "natural" events and cannot warrant enforcement action through WCA. Rescind orders were sent out 6/28/19. VLAWMO staff is communicating with the City of North Oaks to discuss options to remedy the issue, despite the restoration order being rescinded.

**C. Wetlands Updates**

Tanner is requesting a recommendation from the TEC to the Board to pursue permits for manual removal of Yellow iris and Flowering rush. The MnDNR supports VLAWMO moving forward to apply for permits.

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Larson to recommend to the Board to authorize applying for permits of manual removal of invasive aquatic species. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**D. GIS & Equipment Update – New GIS site & DIY flow monitors**

Thompson presented the new VLAWMO GIS site for use, as well as the new DIY live flow meters on Lambert Creek.

**VI. Projects**

**A. 4<sup>th</sup> & Otter Project Update**

Final comments were received for the IESF plans the week of the TEC meeting, and discussions were held with Ramsey County, the City of WBL and Barr for addressing these comments and incorporating them into final plans.

**B. Lambert Creek**

**1. Upcoming meeting with SEH and finalized sheetpile plans**

Staff is meeting with SEH and Joe Magner on Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>. SEH will have final plans for Lambert Lake maintenance, as well as preliminary plans for the stream meander. The U of M is working with Midwest Floating Islands to test prototypes for the biochar treatment cells.

**C. Goose Lake**

**1. Board presentation update from June, information available, and City ordinance progress for alum treatment**

Information regarding alum and boating was presented at the June Board meeting, and no specific direction was recommended to the Board at that time, though the Board authorized staff to submit a grant application for alum treatment of East Goose Lake. There is also a citizen concern that bullheads are resurging in East Goose, adding to poor water quality. Staff has solicited an estimate for another fish survey on both lakes for 2019. Staff is asking for a recommendation from the TEC to move ahead with another fish survey with Blue Water Science in 2019.

**Discussion:** Duxbury questioned if the benefit of the survey was to provide further information to solidify certainty for alum, and to affirm that bullhead are not making a large resurgence and greatly impacting water quality. Staff affirmed this.

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Tessier to recommend to the Board to authorizing the hire of Blue Water Science for a fish survey with an estimate of \$3,600 in 2019. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**D. 319 Small Watershed Funding Interview with MPCA**

Tanner announced the interview meeting with MPCA to earn 1 of 10 spots in the Small Watershed Funding program that will take place on July 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1:30 to 4:30 pm. If VLAWMO makes the cut, it will provide steady funding for regular project funding and implementation.

**E. RSWCD Wilkinson Feasibility Study**

Staff is working with RSWCD, who is provided grant funding to VLAWMO to fund a feasibility study in the Wilkinson area for scoping of projects in the subwatershed.

**VII. Commissioner Reports**

None.

**VIII. NOHOA**

Gorder presented that NOHOA is working on developing focus groups per each lake to provide input and direction on projects. She mentioned that a lake association is currently not in the cards, but could eventually build interest and organization of an association.

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

SPRWS announced that the Highland Water Tower will be open July 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> for an open house.

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

None.

**XI. Public Comment**

Winsor announced that North Oaks City formally adopted a resolution to officially become a pollinator-friendly city.

**XII. Next Meetings**

TEC: August 9<sup>th</sup>; Board: August 28<sup>th</sup>

**XIII. Adjourn**

It was moved by Tessier and seconded by Larson to adjourn at 8:55 am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.