



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 August 28, 2019

Attendance		Present	Absent
Jim Lindner, Chair	City of Gem Lake	X	
Dan Jones	City of White Bear Lake	X	
Rob Rafferty, Secretary-Treasurer	City of Lino Lakes	X	
Ed Prudhon	White Bear Township	X	
Marty Long, Vice Chair	City of North Oaks	X	
Patricia Youker	City of Vadnais Heights	X	
Stephanie McNamara	Administrator	X	
Brian Corcoran	Water Resources Mgr.	X	
Dawn Tanner	Program Development Coord.	X	
Nick Voss	Education & Outreach Coord.	X	
Tyler Thompson	GIS Watershed Tech.	X	

Others in attendance: Paul Duxbury (VLAWMO TEC commissioner & rep.)

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Chair Lindner.

II. Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was presented with no changes proposed.

A motion was made by Rafferty and seconded by Jones to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. Visitors and Presentations

A. TEC Report to the Board, August 2019 Finance Report, and TEC Appointments

Duxbury presented the TECs' operations and recommendations to the Board from their August meeting. McNamara presented the August Finance Report.

IV. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the June 26th, 2019 Board meeting are placed on the consent agenda for approval.

A motion was made by Jones and seconded by Prudhon to approve the June 26, 2019 meeting minutes, as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

V. Business

A. Administration

1. Approval of storm sewer utility rates for 2020

The 2020 storm sewer utility rates are based on the budget approved at the June 2019 Board meeting, and reflect an increased budget of 7.69% over 2019. The proposed 2020 rates are \$50.40 per unit or \$72.96/acre, depending on land use type. VLAWMO is no longer drawing from its reserves to fund programs, CIPs, and maintenance. The rates include a 0.5% buffer to account for parcel changes, manual overrides, and delinquent payments. **Staff is recommending approval of Resolution 03-2019, setting the storm sewer utility rates for 2020.**

A motion was made by Jones and seconded by Youker for approval of the 2020 VLAWMO storm sewer utility rates. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

2. Joint Powers Agreement

The second amendment to the VLAWMO JPA was distributed to all 6 member JPA municipalities following the June Board meeting, and all 6 members have authorized and signed the amended JPA. Following this execution, the VLAWMO attorney is proceeding in building a revenue bond note to secure the MPCA loan for the Lambert Lake project.

3. MPCA/Minnesota CWP Loan Agreement

The maintenance portion of the Lambert Lake project, determining the necessary depth of replacement sheetpile, and determining of dredging is nearly complete. Maximum sheetpile depth has been determined at 32 feet, and dredging has been deemed unnecessary, as current pond storage remains greater than original designed volume. To enable release of funds and enter into the loan agreement, the Board must approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Loan Agreement. The loan amount will also increase from \$400,000 to \$500,000. **Staff recommends the Board approve the Minnesota CWP Loan Agreement and authorize the Board Chair to sign the Agreement.**

A motion was made by Youker and seconded by Jones for approval of the Minnesota CWP Loan Agreement and authorize Chair Lindner to sign the Agreement for loan acceptance. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. Goose Lake

1. Request to conduct follow-up fish survey

After a bullhead removal in 2013 & 2014, the bullhead population in East Goose Lake was reduced by 75%. A fish survey in fall 2017 confirmed that the reduced population had been sustained in East Goose. Staff is requesting a follow-up survey be authorized by the Board to provide supporting assurance that the bullhead population is remaining reduced for favorable conditions for an alum treatment. **Staff requests authorization to hire Blue Water Science to conduct a fish survey on East Goose Lake either in fall 2019 or spring 2020 for the cost of \$3,600.**

Discussion: Jones asked whether it would be worth it to test fish tissue for contaminants and toxicology. Rafferty and Prudhon supported this. Long questioned what the use of testing would be of use for. Jones proposed possible implementation of warnings and signage around the lake if toxicology results are positive.

A motion was made by Jones and seconded by Rafferty to hire Blue Water Science to conduct a fish survey in East Goose Lake for fall of 2019 or spring 2020, with the friendly amendment of adding toxicity testing for any applicable fish. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

2. Formal recommendation to the City of White Bear Lake

Staff has prepared a formal document for recommendation of boating restrictions for implementation on East Goose Lake if an alum treatment is applied, as requested by City of White Bear Lake staff. If applied, boating restrictions may help protect and preserve the effects of an alum treatment for greater longevity and investment protection. To enforce these restrictions, the City would need to impose a formal ordinance with specific guidelines. **Staff requests that the Board discuss, accept or revise, and authorize providing a formal recommendation to the City of White Bear Lake specifying allowable activity on the lake following an alum treatment.**

Discussion: Board members discussed that if VLAWMO is spending the money for improving the Lake, a restriction would likely increase a treatments' effectiveness and longevity. It was discussed having a no-wake zone versus no motorized boating, and no-wake was agreed to be too difficult to enforce.

A motion was made by Rafferty and seconded by Jones to authorize staff to submit the formal recommendation for a boating ordinance on East Goose Lake to the City of White Bear Lake for their consideration. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

C. Wetlands

1. Vadnais-Sucker Park RFP

This will be the first phase in multi-year project to conduct a level 2 wetland delineation and MNRAM assessment on VLAWMO wetlands within the watershed for a comparison of condition to the original VLAWMO wetland inventory. Proposals for Phase I will be available for consideration at the October Board meeting, as RFPs have been released.

2. Wetland monitoring cameras and amphibians

Tanner overviewed results from the series of amphibian and remote camera monitoring that was conducted this spring and summer. 8 different species were detected, and data layers and final reports will be compiled this fall and made available on VLAWMO's website. Results from these surveys will help inform and identify suitable wetland areas for restoration. Data and information will be compiled during the fall and winter.

3. Wetland health and compiling data layers

Tanner obtained a license from the DNR for species of concern within VLAWMO, and will be used for staff management and conservation efforts. Staff is authorized to use the data for 2 years and may not publish or distribute the data.

4. Yellow iris removal permit request

Staff surveyed and mapped invasive Yellow iris lotions on Deep Lake. MN DNR is supportive of our efforts to identify Yellow iris and work to remove this species. The TEC also recommends having VLAWMO pursue a removal permit to the Board. We would conduct Yellow iris removal with either a small group of interns or a team of volunteers, continuing to partner with NOHOA. **Staff and TEC recommend that the Board support VLAWMO applying for a removal permit for Yellow iris and pursuing removal in partnership with North Oaks during 2020.**

A motion was made by Rafferty and seconded by Jones to authorize staff to apply for a MN DNR permit for Yellow iris removal in partnership with North Oaks Homeowners Association in 2020. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

5. Flowering rush update

Flowering rush is an AIS reported on Amelia Lake previously. Reports are quite old but were confirmed by USGS and MN DNR. Staff surveyed Amelia for Flowering rush. None was detected. CWMA advises us to resurvey next year during June or July to determine if the report was inaccurate or if Flowering rush is no longer present.

6. Proposed otter project

Tanner presented a proposed project partnering with the University of Minnesota, MN DNR, MN Zoo, and others to conduct live trapping and telemetry activities to learn more about critical wetland habitat areas. **Staff and TEC recommend that the Board support the otter live trapping and telemetry project partnering with University of Minnesota veterinarians, FWCB students, MN DNR, the MN Zoo, and others to study otter habitat and health in the watershed. This project includes possible funding (small grants) in partnership with the MN Zoo and others.**

A motion was made by Rafferty and seconded by Jones to support the proposed otter project and partnerships. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

D. Birch Lake Contractor for 4th & Otter project bid consideration

The 4th & Otter iron enhanced sand filter project plans were finalized and the project was put out for bid mid-August. Grant funding for project construction is \$97,000 and the lowest acceptable bid came in at nearly \$139,000. It is not in VLAWMO's budget to accept the bid and pay the difference in funding. In their memo regarding bids, Barr Engineering recommends rejecting all bids from this first round and resubmitting the project for bid in winter 2020 for a contractor selection at the February 26, 2020 Board meeting for a spring construction. **Following Barr's recommendation, staff recommends rejecting all bids and resubmitting the project for bid in early winter 2020.**

A motion was made by Rafferty and seconded by Youker to reject all 5 of the received bids for the Birch Lake Iron Enhanced Sand Filter and to resubmit for bids in the early winter with contractor selection at the February Board meeting. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

E. Education

1. Road Salt Symposium sponsorship

The annual road salt symposium is being held at Jimmy's Event Center in Vadnais Heights this year, and staff supports a sponsorship of \$2,500 to support the event using funds from the Education & Outreach: MS4 engagement line item budget.

A motion was made by Prudhon and seconded by Youker to approve \$2,500.00 in funding to sponsor the Road Salt Symposium. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

2. Community Blue: Creative Landscaping update

VLAWMO Master Water Stewards hosted a public tour on August 24th, and their landscape project has been completed and finalized. Future guidelines for cost provisions pertaining to Master Water Steward projects are being sent to the Policy & Personnel Committee.

3. Water Matters: October

Brooke Asleson will be the speaker at the October Water Matters to cover the latest efforts on chloride reduction and how local municipalities can be aware and support the metro-wide effort to reduce chloride use. The presentation will take place on October 23rd before the Board meeting at 6:15 pm.

F. Cost Share Program

1. Landscape Level 2 – Matuzak on Koehler, VH

Staff received an application for a Landscape Level 2 grant this month for a project staff has been working with the homeowner and Outdoor Lab with since this spring. Most all Level 2 grants are in public places, but this project drains directly to Lambert Creek and is in the targeted priority Lambert Creek subwatershed. The project would directly reduce nutrient loading and volume that exits to the Creek. The homeowner has agreed to make the project available for educational purposes, tours, and events. The total project cost is \$15,930.75, and if approved, grant funding would cover 75% of the project total, with the remaining \$4,002.75 being paid by the homeowner as a 25% match. **The TEC recommended the project for funding at their August meeting, and staff is recommending approval of the application and the project for funding in the amount of \$11,928.00, with the \$4,002.75 match from the homeowner.**

A motion was made by Rafferty and seconded by Jones to authorize the funding of LL2 2019-01 in the amount of \$11,928.00. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

2. Boat Works shoreline restoration, West Goose

McNamara presented the issue of shoreline erosion at the White Bear Boat Works property on West Goose Lake. They feel excessive wave action has caused their shoreline to erode even further since rip rap had been placed there several years ago. The vegetation is also mowed right up to the shore. This could either be a place for a VLAWMO Level 2 cost share grant or using VLAWMO CIP funds. Design has yet to be completed for the site, so cost is

currently unknown. Staff is asking the Board to discuss how to pursue the issue, either as a cost share grant partner, or with CIP funds.

Discussion: Board directed staff to look into possible shoreline restoration projects to armor the shore to halt further land and soil loss on the southwest shoreline of West Goose Lake.

VI. Operations and Administration – Reports

A. Project Updates

1. Remaining lake survey updates

RSWCD has one remaining survey to complete for 2019- a macrophyte survey on Birch Lake. The timing of this survey will replicate what’s been done in the past to catalogue and quantify aquatic species in the Lake. All other surveys have been completed for 2019 with Reports provided to VLAWMO. These Reports will be available to viewing on VLAWMO’s website.

2. Great River Greening proposal progress with LCCMR

The GRG grant has a recommended funding amount of \$750,000, though it is uncertain how much of this funding will be applied to VLAWMO’s portion of the restoration for the Sucker-Vadnais Park area. GRG will keep staff informed as the funding package moves forward and as they receive more information.

3. North Oaks chain of lakes carp survey and presentation in NO

Three days of electroshocking have been completed on Pleasant Lake, as part of the survey. 100 carp tagged was the goal for the survey, however, after 3 days of electroshocking, the number fell short of this goal. **To reach 100 fish tagged and tracked, staff is recommending additional funding to complete one more round of surveying.** Carp solutions will be presenting the project on November 6th at the North Oaks Community Room, slated to start at 6:30 pm.

A motion was made by Jones and seconded by Youker to approve up to \$2,000 for a final carp survey run.

VIII. Discussion

None.

IX. Administration Communication

1. West Vadnais EAW

Though the Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD) has opted not to pursue a boundary change to include West Vadnais Lake in their watershed, the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) to lower the Lake’s OHW by 0.8 feet is still proceeding. The EAW will be published in the EQB Monitor the week of September 9th for public commenting. After the 30 days of commenting, the VLAWMO Board must act on the EAW, providing either a negative or positive declaration. If the Board decides that lowering the OHW will not have a significant impact on the Lake or surrounding wetlands, and that a larger Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is unnecessary, a negative declaration may be passed. This decision may also be put on hold as project design details are developed. However, RWMWD would appreciate a ‘concept’ approval of the project. The RWMWD has funding budgeted for this project in 2020.

2. MN Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD)

Annual membership dues for Water Management Organizations (WMOs) will remain at \$500, and allows for statewide communication for watersheds and as a public voice. Training for Board members and staff on technical processes and policy areas is provided, and the annual conference and trade show will take place on December 5 – 7. There is also a Governance 101 training available on watershed structure and law on September 12th & 13th. Any interested Board members are encouraged to attend, and as of now, 2 staff and 1 Board member have expressed interest in attending.

X. Adjourn

A motion was made by Rafferty and seconded by Jones to adjourn at 8:59 pm. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.