



The Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
800 East County Road E, Vadnais Heights, 55127 651-204-6070  
Website: www.vlawmo.org; Email: office@vlawmo.org

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
Technical Commission Minutes  
February 14, 2020  
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)
Terry Huntrods	White Bear Lake (WBL)
Andy Nelson	Lino Lakes (LL)

**Commission Members Absent:** none.

**Others in attendance:** Stephanie McNamara, Brian Corcoran, Dawn Tanner, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO); Ed Prudhon (VLAWMO Board Director); Jeremy Erickson & Justine Roe (SPRWS); Justin Townsend (RCSWCD); Connie Tailon (WBL); Kara Ries, Diane Gorder, and Patricia Orvid (NO); Tim Grape, Michael Ginsbach (MPCA) Katherine Kanne (CAC)

- I. **Call to Order** Chair Tessier called the meeting to order at 7:28 am.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**  
The agenda for the February 14, 2020 Technical Commission Meeting was presented for approval, as presented.  
It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Farrell to approve the February 14, 2020 TEC agenda, as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**  
It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Huntrods to approve the January 10, 2020 meeting minutes, as presented. Vote: all aye; Motion passed.
- IV. **Presentations: Water Gremlin monitoring results – current & planned, MPCA**  
Staff from the MN Pollution Control Agency presented on current lead testing results on the Water Gremlin site, along with steps moving forward for future monitoring and mitigation. Outlined more further surface water sampling for VOCs, and deep aquifer sampling to ensure no contamination has taken place.
- V. **Administration & Operations**
  - A. **TEC Report & February 2020 Financial Report for authorization for payment of checks.**  
McNamara presented the February 2020 Financial Report for review and authorization of payments. The February TEC Report to the Board was also presented for review and comment for the February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.  
It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Larson to approve the February TEC Report & February Treasurer's Report. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
  - B. **Admin Update**  
The job posting for a Watershed Administrator has been posted on several spots and has a closing date of February 21<sup>st</sup>.

VI. Programs

A. Education & Outreach

**1. Watershed Steward Award Nominations**

Nominations for the Watershed Stewardship Award closed on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Voss reported that 2 nominations were received, and the TEC then voted on the nominations and then submitted for determination.

**2. 2019 annual report and summary review**

The 2019 VLAWMO Annual Report, summary, and water monitoring summary were included in the TEC packet in draft form for review and comment. The drafts will be brought to the February Board meeting for final approval, print, and submission to BWSR to fulfill annual reporting requirements.

**3. E/O calendar overview**

Voss outlined events, workshops and tours that are scheduled through the summer, including an MS4 summit event, which JPA member municipalities are encouraged to attend.

B. Cost Share

**1. Landscape Level 1: 2020-01 Cloisters Shoreline Restoration**

An application was received on behalf of the Cloisters HOA for a shoreline restoration, as part of a larger phased site restoration plan proposed by Natural Shore Technologies. The total for this “site B” is \$3,552 and the project application asks for the full \$2,000 in funding from VLAWMO. **Staff is recommending approval of application LL1 2020-01 for the funding amount of \$2,000 to the Cloisters.**

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Tessier for approval of application and funding in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the LL1 2020- 01 grant application. Vote: all aye, Huntrods abstained. Motion passed.

**2. Landscape Level 1: 2020-02 Hisdahl’s Reconstruction Raingarden**

An application was received from Keith Hisdahl to implement a raingarden that would infiltrate roof runoff from the new Hisdahl’s trophy redevelopment that is proposed in White Bear Lake. His site landscaper has an estimate of \$4,440.45 for installation, and the application is asking for \$2,000 in funding from LL1 funds. **Staff is recommending approval of application LL1 2020-02 for the funding amount of \$2,000.**

It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Farrell for approval of application and funding in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the LL1 2020-02 grant application. Vote: all aye, Tessier abstained. Motion passed.

**3. Landscape Level 2: 2020-02 Cty Rd F RG Retrofits**

Ramsey County and the City of White Bear Lake have submitted a joint Landscape Level 2 grant application asking for funding to retrofit 6 County Road F raingardens with Rain Guardian & Foxhole devices for proper storm water input, as well as total vegetation replacement. This project applies as a priority project for VLAWMO, as it helps reduce stormwater input into East Goose Lake. Both the County & the City have an Operations & Maintenance agreement to maintain these projects. The total project cost is \$72,269, and they are applying for \$15,000 in funding from LL2 funds. **Staff is recommending the TEC recommend approval of application LL2 2020-02 for the funding amount of \$15,000 to the VLAWMO Board of Directors.**

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Huntrods for recommendation of approval to the Board of Directors of application and funding in the amount of \$15,000.00 for the LL2 2020-02 grant application. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**4. Landscape Level 2: 2020-03 Peterson Native Restoration**

A Landscape Level 2 application was received for a .26 acre native restoration in North Oaks for funding in the amount of \$9,024. The private residence is on the shore of Sora Pond in North Oaks, and part of the restoration will take place on a steep hillside where buckthorn was cleared. Prairie Restorations has prepared a proposal for the restoration in the amount

of \$12,032. **Staff recognizes the priority of stabilization projects due to recent large-scale erosion issues in North Oaks, and is recommending a 50% match for the application, or \$4,000 in Landscape Level 2 funding for application LL2 2020-03.**

**Discussion:** TEC suggested possibly restructuring match amounts and stipulations for higher priority areas to dictate those matches. Staff will propose new LL2 structure for change in 2021.

It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Duxbury for recommendation of approval to the Board of Directors of application and funding in the amount of \$4,000.00 for the LL2 2020-03 grant application. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**C. SLMP – Pleasant Lake – tour of Fridley treatment**

Tanner gave a summary of the SPRWS tour of the Fridley intake facility on the Mississippi River. Staff from Carp Solutions attended the tour and inspected the river inlet screen and found it to have approximately 1.25” gaps that may allow carp fingerlings into the pipes. Tanner would like to tour the facility again in the spring with the lead engineer from Carp Solutions to explore the feasibility of an electric fish barrier on the intake.

**VII. Projects**

**A. Goose Lake**

**1. WBF BMP options for subshed**

Staff, along with partner input, has selected 3 project options for 60% design completion for BMPs in the Goose Lake subwatershed, including an iron-enhance sand filter, underground stormwater filtration and diverting County Rd F flows into an underground filtration and volume reduction BMP. One of these options will be selected for 100% designs and implementation, as part of the Watershed Based Funding grant. Staff recommended for further information and cost estimates for direction at the March meeting.

**2. East Goose Alum Grant update and recommendation for next steps**

The East Goose alum grant was approved for funding at the BWSR Board meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the VLAWMO Board will consider entering into the grant agreement at their Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. As part of management to ensure the best results of a possible alum treatment, several management steps are proposed and recommended by staff: engage Barr Engineering for oversight on treatment, schedule a bullhead harvest for summer 2020, schedule a town meeting with neighbors and residents, with the possibility of hiring a neutral facilitator, and establish permanent access on a City of White Bear Lake parcel to enable lake management. Staff is seeking a recommendation from the TEC to the Board to enter into the alum grant, and to discuss and consider recommending some or all of the management steps proposed by staff.

**Discussion:** Duxbury voiced concern about what the recourse would be with the possibility of the alum grant failing, how would reduction amounts be attained if the initial alum treatment didn’t work? McNamara outlined that the likelihood of alum not working is low, though management strategies and assurances must be undertaken to ensure continued success and meeting grant stipulations. Farrell addressed that there are a good amount of assurances that have and will be scrutinized by staff, oversight agencies, and the Board, and supports moving forward with the grant agreement and alum treatment.

**B. Lambert Lake – agreement with U or M, outreach**

Formal agreements and contracts are nearing completion for the Lambert Lake project, including an agreement with the UMN lab to design the biochar treatment component of the project. SEH has generated renditions of the LL meander and what it may look like. A project page on VLAWMO’s website is live and illustrating the project and what is proposed, along with an article on the project that has been submitted to the Vadnais & WBL Press.

**C. Carp project Pleasant Lake and West Vadnais Lake**

VLAWMO and RWMWD staff has met to begin coordinating carp management on West Vadnais Lake, working with Carp Solutions. More is slated to come this spring.

**D. Service-learning with UMN Students**

Staff is coordinating 6 service-learning students for the spring semester from the UMN, and met at the Vadnais Heights City Hall on January 31<sup>st</sup> for a tour of work sites, including the City Hall backyard and 4<sup>th</sup> & Otter restoration sites. Each student will contribute 24 hours over the course of the semester working on invasive removal, restoration, telemetry testing, scat sampling and other projects, as they arise.

**E. Birch Lake 4<sup>th</sup> & Otter: Bid results recommendation & restoration of WBL parcel**

After the second round of bidding has closed for construction of the Birch Lake iron-enhanced sand filter, and with a bid opening on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 10 bids were received, with bids tabulated and a recommendation technical memo selecting the lowest responsible bidder, provided by Barr Engineering. The lowest responsible bidder was Blackstone Contractors LLC, with a bid price of \$111,292.25 (\$1,338.45 over Engineer’s Estimate). Staff concurs with Barr’s findings, and recommends the TEC recommend to the VLAWMO Board enter into a construction contract with Blackstone Construction LLC for construction of the Birch Lake iron-enhance sand filter.

It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Larson for recommendation to the VLAWMO Board of Directors of entering into construction contract with Blackstone Contractors LLC for construction of the Birch Lake Iron-Enhance Sand Filter at their February 26, 2020 meeting. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**VIII. Commissioner Reports**

**IX. NOHOA**

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

Roe reported national water week is coming up and SPRWS is having an open house, which VLAWMO has participated in past years.

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

Townsend reported a new staff person has been hired to fill the open Technician position, and both grant applications, from the MDH & BWSR, have been approved for funding.

**XII. Public Comment**

Tailon announced the WBL spring newsletter goes out in April and to submit articles for publication.

**XIII. Next Meetings**

TEC: March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020; Board: February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**XIX. Adjourn**

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Huntrods to adjourn at 9:52 am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.