

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization**  
**Technical Commission Minutes**  
**July 11, 2014**  
**Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room**

**Attending:**

Paul Peterson	White Bear Township (WBT), Chair
Absent	White Bear Lake (WBL)
Mark Graham	Vadnais Heights (VH)
Marty Asleson	Lino Lakes (LL)
Jim Lindner	Gem Lake (GL)
Chris Mann	North Oaks (NO)

Others in attendance: Stephanie McNamara, Kristine Jenson, Brian Corcoran, Josh Lekson (VLAWMO); Margaret Behrens (Ramsey Conservation District); Bob Larson (NO Natural Resources Commission Chair); John Murphy (NOHOA); Justine Roe (St. Paul Regional Water Service)

- I. **Call to Order** Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:30am.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**  
An addition to the agenda is requested – V. Projects, C. Sucker Lake Channel Design It was moved and seconded by Lindner & Graham to approve the July 11, 2014 as amended agenda. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**  
It was moved and seconded by Lindner & Mann to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2014 Meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
  - A. **Met Council Plan**  
Stephanie stated that Met Council is updating their water resources policies which they have shared with her at a meeting. Some of the policies are basic. If Met Council is going to play a role in issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries such as the management of the river by closing locks and dams to control invasive species, they could do study groups on the effects of this action as well as do research on a regional basis. Another issue could be determining what to do with the debris that is pulled out of sediment ponds and/or street sweepers. These policies are still early in the discussion phase.
- V. **Projects**
  - A. **Strategic Work Plan (SWP) – next steps**  
The SWP was approved by the Board as recommended by TEC. Bacteria source monitoring will be covered later on the agenda, but is priority 1 on the SWP. The next defined project is restoration of the Sucker Lake channel. Kris has started work on contacting the partners for this project, SPRWS and Ramsey County Parks.
  - B. **Goose Lake Sediment Assessment**  
VLAWMO did a previous sediment core phosphorus release assessment on the west basin of Goose Lake in conjunction with the TMDL in 2010. The cores were analyzed by Bill James at the Army Corps of Engineers ERDC lab. Cores were analyzed for anoxic phosphorus release and sediment chemistry including phosphorus fractionation. Results came back suggesting some internal phosphorus loading in the west basin but was not out of the ordinary for similar lakes. As we know both the east and west basins are impaired for nutrients and both basins are very different in

regards to the nutrient concentrations, with the west basin being much lower in nutrient levels compared to the east basin. The recently completed TMDL suggests much of the nutrient impairment in Goose Lake is due to internal loading. Due to the history of the east basin and the White Bear Lake waste water treatment plant at one time discharging into the east basin, staff would like to do the same phosphorus release assessment on the east basin to determine if it is in fact the source of internal loading for the lake. This information is crucial in moving forward with projects to address the nutrient impairment on Goose Lake especially if alum treatments or dredging are an option. **Staff recommendation: approval of East Goose Lake Sediment Core Phosphorus Release Assessment not to exceed \$3,800.00.** It was moved & seconded by Graham & Lindner to approve up to \$3800 towards the East Goose Lake sediment core phosphorus release assessment. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**C. Sucker Lake Channel Design**

Kristine has been working with the partners (Ramsey County Parks and SPRWS) on the Sucker Lake Channel restoration project. The next step is to create a plan for what will be done at the site. Due to timing and the possibility of receiving some grants plus financial help from Parks, we will plan to put in the project next year. Ramsey Conservation District staff feel they are capable of developing the construction plans needed to put the project out for bid. They estimate it to cost \$7160. We are looking for approval from the TEC of up to \$ to pay for these documents to be prepared.

There was discussion about making sure there is signage at the site and that it should reflect multiple languages since the site is used by many cultures for shoreline fishing.

It was moved & seconded by Graham & Mann to hire RCD to do the design work for Sucker Lake Channel, not to exceed \$7500. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**VII. Programs**

**A. Monitoring**

**1. E coli sourcing/monitoring**

Brian stated they will start sampling at Oakmede and County Road F. Sampling at Whitaker would start next spring. Goose Lake and Kohler would be done after that. The SPRWS will hopefully be able to help out with the culture sampling and Ramsey County Labs will do the molecular testing. A lab in California will do the DNA testing.

**B. Cost Share Program**

There is one Landscape Level 1 cost share application to consider this month. 2014-10 is for a property in North Oaks. A couple of years ago, the homeowners put in a large native prairie project on their property. The project was installed by Prairie Restorations and they come each year to do maintenance. The homeowners would like to put in almost 0.5 acres more of restoration on their property. This project not only reduces soil erosion but also is a haven for birds, butterflies, dragonflies, and bees.

**Staff recommends approval of the grant as presented.**

It was moved and seconded by Lindner & Graham to approve Grant 2014-10 as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**C. Events**

**1. Dragonfly survey/workshop at TNC – June 28** – over 60 people participated in this all day event. Majority of them families, toddlers to grandparents. Lots of positive feedback.

2. **Minnesota Erosion Control Association (MECA) stormwater – Aug 19 – 8:30am-4pm VH Commons.** For municipal staff and private contractors.
3. **Soggy Yard Solutions – Sept17 – 7-9pm NOHOA**  
Lakeshore/Wetland/Lake Ecology/ Garden class for homeowners.
4. **Marketfest** VLAWMO will be at Marketfest the last Thursday in July.

**D. Outreach**

A VLAWMO banner and new door sign have been completed.

**E. TMDL Implementation Plan (IP)**

The IP went out for one last round of Public comment after fine tuning it with the MPCA, July 2 – July 9<sup>th</sup>. As of this writing, two responses have been received from Stakeholders. Staff will have a summary for you at the TEC meeting. Any final changes will be made with the IP then going back to MPCA for final approval.

**VIII. Reports**

**A. Financial Report for July 2014 & Authorization for Payment**

It was moved and seconded by Lindner & Mann to approve the July Financial Report and approve payment of checks. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**IX. Commissioner Reports**

Graham went to a meeting at RCD and learned that SPRWS will be testing 10 wells and there is a concern about the public response. The testing has nothing to do with White Bear Lake. Justine of SPRWS stated that they want to make sure they have enough capacity in the wells during a “worst case scenario”. For two weeks they will use water from the wells rather than pulling from the reservoir.

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

Steve Gleason (the Business Division Manager) may be assuming the duties of Dave Schuler’s position.

**XI. Ramsey Conservation District (RCD) Report**

Behrens stated that they are going to have a tour with the Ramsey County Board to show them projects they are working on. They will participate in the Keller Golf course re-opening.

**XII. Public Comment**

**XIII. Next Meetings**

TEC: August 8 (Lindner will not be here for that meeting)

Board: August 27

**XIV. Adjourn**

It was moved and seconded by Mann & Graham to adjourn at 8:15am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Jenson.