



The Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
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Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
Technical Commission Minutes  
October 9, 2020

Zoom Teleconference Open Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83828772829?pwd=RzhmTEFRSGdkYnh6ZHd4cW9vNDc3Zz09>

Join by phone: +1-312-626-6799; meeting ID: 838 2877 2829; password: 234257

**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)
Andy Nelson	Lino Lakes (LL)
Terry Huntrods	White Bear Lake (WBL)

**Commission Members Absent:**

**Others in attendance:** Phil Belfiori, Brian Corcoran, Dawn Tanner, Nick Voss, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO); Patricia Orud (NO), Ed Shapland (VLAWMO Water Steward), Justin Townsend, Justine Roe

- I. **Call to Order** Chair Tessier called the meeting to order at 7:30 am. A roll call was made for attending Commissioners of the electronic meeting: Farrell: present Larson: present Duxbury: present Huntrods: present Nelson: present Tessier: present.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**  
The agenda for the October 9, 2020 Technical Commission Meeting was presented for approval. No new additions.  
It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Huntrods to approve the October 9, 2020 TEC agenda, as amended. Vote: Tessier: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye Huntrods: aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**  
It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Larson to approve the September 11, 2020 meeting minutes, as presented. Vote: Tessier: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
  - A. **Financial Report for October & Authorization for Payment**  
Belfiori presented the October Financial Report for review and authorization of payments. Staff is recommending payment of the October bills.  
It was moved by Larson and seconded by Duxbury to approve the October Treasurer's Report and authorization of payments. Vote: Tessier: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.
  - B. **October TEC Report to the Board**  
Belfiori presented the October 2020 TEC Report to the Board was presented for review and approval.  
It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Farrell to approve the October TEC Report to the Board. Vote: Tessier: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.
- V. **Programs**
  - A. **Cost Share Program**
    1. **Overview of September 23<sup>rd</sup> Subcommittee Recommendation of Policy Changes**  
Belfiori and Thompson overviewed the proposed Cost Share Program policy update and changes that the September 23<sup>rd</sup> Subcommittee recommended for moving forward for adoption, known as "Option 1". The new policy would create a new Soil Health Grant, and restructure the Rain Barrel grant to pull a combined budget of

\$5,000 from the Community Blue Grant Program. Landscape Level 1 would be restructured to allow for larger water quality projects, with funding up to \$7,500 per grant. Landscape Level 2 would be restructured for the ability to reserve funds and work with municipal partners to implement larger-scale BMPs, focusing on reconstruction projects. Full details are available in the October 2020 TEC packet. Native restoration and pollinator planting projects would be focused to the new Soil Health Grant. Staff is recommending the TEC move recommendation to the Board for approval of draft Cost Share Grant Guidance documents and policy.

**Discussion:** Huntrods noted more flexibility in shoreline erosion and restoration, not excluding problem areas that may be out of the 100-yr flood elevation

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Huntrods to recommend approval to the VLAWMO Board of the updated VLAWMO Cost Share Policy and Guidance documents, as recommended, following “Option 1”, by the 9/23/20 Subcommittee and staff. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

**B. Education & Outreach**

**1. Annual Awards: Watershed Steward & Watershed Partner**

Voss noted that moving towards a 2-award system to emphasize commendation to both municipal or agency Watershed partners, as well as a separate award for citizen, volunteer, or community service individuals within the Watershed.

Nominations are due soon, and will be presented at the December Board meeting.

**2. Master Water Stewards 2021/Watershed Action Volunteers meeting**

Master Water Stewards has changed to Minnesota Water Stewards, and applications are being accepted until November 30<sup>th</sup> 2020 for 2021 Water Stewards entrants.

VLAWMO will make its selections moving into 2021.

Voss provided an update from the 10/8/20 end-of-year volunteer (WAV) meeting, and that the meeting minutes and a video summary will be available at [vlawmo.org/get-involved/volunteer](http://vlawmo.org/get-involved/volunteer).

**VI. Projects**

**A. Lambert Lake Update**

Bid opening on October 1<sup>st</sup>, went smoothly, 10 bids submitted, all below anticipated Engineer’s estimated budget. SEH is working on bid tabulation and recommending bid award for project construction, and will be going to the VLAWMO Board at their October meeting. Bidding numbers and info will be released

**B. Correction crews & volunteer/service-learning workdays**

Final clearing and work at 4<sup>th</sup> & Otter, as well as continued buckthorn removal behind City Hall. Further work is continuing on a Japanese Barberry infestation in North Oaks. A controlled burn is hoped to happen this fall and spring. A buckthorn workday will take place behind City Hall, as well as at the Vadnais Heights Commons on 10/9/20. Jumping worms have been detected in Minnesota and within VLAWMO.

**C. 319 grant process**

VLAWMO is working with PCA on focusing a project within the Birch-Tamarack-Wilkinson subwatershed area. SEH’s feasibility study will target and feed into project planning and possible implementation.

**D. Pleasant Lake boat launch and planning for carp harvest**

Tanner thanked the SPRWS for their boat launch construction and noted carp harvest and removal is planned as water temps get colder before freezing.

**E. Ditch 14 maintenance**

Corcoran overviewed 2 locations on lower Ditch 14 where VLAWMO is working on moving towards ditch maintenance and included dredging. Staff is working on DNR and USACE permitting for both sections. Phase 1 would be dredging Ditch 14 between Oak Crest down to the entrance of Ditch 14 to East Vadnais Lake. Phase 2 is dredging and maintenance further up on Koehler Bend up past Branch Ditch 5, Pennington Place, and as far up towards the Lambert Lake meander as possible.

**F. East Goose boat launch complete**

Corcoran updated that the East Goose Lake boat launch is now complete. Staff has been watering the stabilization seed and has staked the Flexamat in place.

**VII. Commissioner Reports:**

None.

**VII. NOHOA**

Orud noted that the RCSWCD report on Japanese knotweed and oriental bittersweet infestations within North Oaks will be ready and available soon.

**IX. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division (RCSWCD) Report**

Townsend noted further that the entirety of North Oaks has been surveyed by MCC staff, and is being mapped and the report is in process. Townsend reported that several invasive phragmites areas within VLAWMO will be treated. Tanner noted that SEH found several phragmites locations within VLAWMO's wetland delineation area of the Sucker & East Vadnais Lake subwatershed area, and shapefiles are being developed to map those areas.

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

Thompson updated for Roe that the SPRWS plant phase 1 upgrade and pilot project has received 3 proposals for construction. A sad update that an SPRWS employee passed away due to COVID-19 complications in September. He was a valued and loved by his coworkers, family, and friends, and will be missed dearly. The whole of VLAWMO has him and his family in their thoughts & hearts.

**XI. Public Comment**

None.

**XII. Next Meetings**

TEC: November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020; Board: October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**XII. Adjourn**

It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Larson to adjourn at 8:45 am. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.