



The Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
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Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
November 13, 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)

Commission Members Absent: Terry Huntrods (WBL)

Others in attendance: Phil Belfiori, Brian Corcoran, Dawn Tanner, Nick Voss, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO); Kara Ries (NO); Justine Roe (SPRWS); Cha Thao (RSWCD); Ed Shapland; Diane Gorder; Connie Tailon (City of WBL)

- I. **Call to Order** Chair Tessier called the meeting to order at 7:31 am. A roll call was made for attending Commissioners of the electronic meeting: Farrell: present Larson: present Duxbury: present Huntrods: absent Nelson: present Tessier: present.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
The agenda for the November 13, 2020 Technical Commission Meeting was presented and amendment proposed to include item IV. C. Metro INET JPA Consideration and Recommendation under Administration & Operations. Chair Tessier and the Commissioners agreed to the addition. It was moved by Larson and seconded by Duxbury to approve the November 13, 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 Duxbury and seconded by Farrell to approve the October 9, 2020 meeting minutes, as presented. Vote: Tessier: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
 - A. **Financial Report for November & Authorization for Payment**
Belfiori presented the November Financial Report for review and authorization of payments. The budget is tracking where we should be for November. Staff is recommending payment of the November bills.
It was moved by Larson and seconded by Duxbury to approve the November Treasurer's Report and authorization of payments. Vote: Tessier: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Farrell ; aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.
 - B. **November TEC Report to the Board**
Belfiori presented the November 2020 TEC Report to the Board was presented for review and approval.
It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Larson to approve the November TEC Report to the Board. Vote: Tessier: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Farrell: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.
 - C. **Metro INET JPA Consideration and Recommendation**
Belfiori presented that a request came in on 11/12/20 from VLAWMO's IT provider, Metro I-NET, to join into the Organization as a Joint Powers member. Staff knew the request would be coming in, but was unaware when. Given the unique timing of the December VLAWMO Board meeting (on December 9) staff is bringing this for TEC recommendation at this TEC meeting

which then will allow for VLAWMO Board consider at their December meeting (final meeting of 2020).

Discussion: Tessier mentioned that the City of Gem Lake uses Metro I-NET and couldn't be more pleased by their service and budget.

It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Larson to recommend to the Board the joining and signing into the JPA of the Metro I-NET IT network. Vote: Tessier: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Farrell: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

V. Programs

A. Cost Share Program

1. TEC Update after the October 28, 2020 Board Meeting

Thompson updated that at their October 28th meeting, the Board approved the Cost Share Program Policy update, as recommended for approval by the TEC at their October 9th meeting. Staff has been reaching out to member municipalities to scope for 2021 Landscape Level 2 projects, and the updated Program will be ready to go live on January 1st, 2021. There are several interested landowners with site visits conducted the last half of 2020 that would have applicable Landscape Level 1 projects.

B. Education & Outreach

1. Annual Awards: Nominations & Voting

Voss overviewed the 2020 Annual Award nominations, including Ceci Shapland, one of VLAWMO's MN Water Stewards. Voss continued to overview 2 more nominations for the Watershed Partner Award for 2020. Ramsey County Public Works and the City of White Bear Lake were nominated. Voss enabled the Zoom polling for awards. Ceci Shapland was voted to win the Watershed Steward Award, and Connie Tailon was awarded the Watershed Partner Award for 2020.

2. End of Year Surveys

Voss noted that TEC members are invited to participate in 2 end-of-year surveys and for the recognition of TEC, Board, and volunteers for their time and energy in 2020.

VI. Projects

A. Lambert Lake Update

Tanner updated the project is going well, was approved at the October Board meeting, along with additional funding for project engineering assistance and oversight for the project. The UMN project for a biochar filter is behind, but is moving along and planned for implementation in 2021. VLAWMO staff is coordinating.

B. Volunteer/community-engaged-learning workdays

With the nice weather we've had, buckthorn removal has continued at the 4th & Otter site to allow for more hours for the community-engaged learning students.

C. Pleasant Lake carp harvest

Harvest is unlikely for 2020 and will likely take place in 2021, though staff was able to scope potential locations and planning for the to-be-determined harvest.

D. Leadership Tomorrow

Tanner was invited to give a presentation about VLAWMO projects and partnerships at the November Leadership Tomorrow session, where White Bear Lake City Manager Ellen Hiniker also presented.

E. Phragmites Update

Tanner reported that a potential invasive site identified in the 2020 Sucker-Vadnais wetland survey has been confirmed to be native phragmites. It was noted that there are several invasive sites within VLAWMO boundaries.

F. Possible partnership with DNR on East Goose Fish Stocking

Staff has been coordinating with the DNR for potential predator fish stocking in East Goose Lake in spring 2021.

G. VLAWMO Unified Project Maintenance Contract, Natural Shore Technologies

Tanner summarized a maintenance proposal for hiring of Natural Shore Technologies for vegetation management of completed VLAWMO project sites, as they are mandated to be maintained per original grant agreements. This is a unified contract that includes maintenance for 5 sites, totaling \$8,200 for 2021. The City of White Bear Lake will continue to support a maintenance monetary contribution of \$1,000 for the Birch Lake shoreline, and 50% or \$750 for vegetation maintenance of the 4th & Otter IESF site. Staff is recommending the TEC recommend Board approval of the maintenance agreement and contract with Natural Shore Technologies.

Discussion: Gorder noted that North Oaks has had good experience with Natural Shore, and that they provide a great value and responsiveness.

It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Larson to recommend approval to the VLAWMO Board of the VLAWMO Unified Project Maintenance Contract with Natural Shore Technologies for \$8,200 in 2021. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

VII. Commissioner Reports:

None.

VIII. NOHOA

Gorder voiced her excitement for Ceci Shapland, as well as her congratulations to her. She also noted her appreciation for VLAWMO staff and the work that they do.

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

Thao noted that the outlying surveys for Sucker and East Vadnais Lakes are slated to be delivered by the end of the month, and that the RCSWCD is working with for 2021 lake survey proposal on Lake Amelia.

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

Roe noted that the SPRWS has been able to take advantage of CARES funding for staff needs.

XI. Public Comment

Tailon thanked the TEC for her 2020 award win. The draft White Bear Lake Surface Water Management Plan will be released soon for a 60 day comment period.

XII. Next Meetings

TEC: December 11th, 2020; Board: December 9th, 2020

XII. Adjourn

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Farrell to adjourn at 8:23 am. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.