



The Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
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Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
Technical Commission Minutes  
January 8, 2021

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:** none.

**Others in attendance:** Phil Belfiori, Brian Corcoran, Dawn Tanner, Nick Voss, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO); Tom Watson, Diane Gorder, Kara Ries (North Oaks), Ed Shapland (VLAWMO MWS); Justine Roe (SPRWS); Justin Townsend (RCSWCD); Connie Tailon (City of White Bear Lake)

- 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: present Nelson: present Tessier: present.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**  
The agenda for the January 8, 2021 Technical Commission Meeting was presented for approval. It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Huntrods to approve the January 8, 2021 TEC agenda, as presented. Vote: Tessier: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye Huntrods: aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**  
It was moved by Larson and seconded by Farrell to approve the December 11, 2020 meeting minutes, as presented. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
  - A. **Election of 2021 TEC Officers**  
Belfiori announced the 2020 officers and opened the group up for 2021 TEC nominations. Farrell nominated Tessier for Chair, Tessier nominated Farrell for 2021 Vice Chair, Duxbury nominated Larson as 2021 Treasurer. Larson noted that he would appreciate being more involved with the finances. Belfiori noted that he will schedule a meeting with the TEC Treasurer before the TEC meeting to review the financial report and review the bills included in the TEC packet. Farrell nominated Duxbury as VLAWMO Board Liaison.  
  
2021 TEC Chair nomination: It was moved by Farrell to nominate Tessier as 2021 TEC Chair. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.  
  
2021 TEC Vice Chair nomination: It was moved by Tessier to nominate Farrell as 2021 TEC Vice Chair. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.  
  
2021 TEC Treasurer nomination: It was moved by Duxbury to nominate Larson as 2021 TEC Treasurer. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

2021 TEC to Board Liaison nomination: It was moved by Farrell to nominate Duxbury as 2021 TEC Liaison to the Board. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

**B. Financial Report for January & Authorization for Payment**

Belfiori presented the January 2021 Financial Report for review and authorization of payments. He noted that most of the bills were administrative, but project costs for Lambert Lake will be ramping up soon. Staff is recommending approval of the January Finance Report and authorization for payment.

It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Larson to approve the January Treasurer’s Report and authorization of payments. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

**V. Programs**

**A. Education & Outreach**

**1. Community Blue update: Upstream/WB Center for the Arts**

Voss reviewed the 2020 Community Blue grants and updates, moving into 2021. The WBCA project has been postponed until 2021 with modification made to adapt to COVID-19 conditions. An updated budget and objectives will be submitted in spring 2021.

**2. Newsletter naming: options and voting**

Voss proposed naming the VLAWMO newsletter, and opened up polling during the TEC. 7 names were proposed for the newsletter, and the VLAWMO Chronicle was polled for the winning name. Voss will implement the new brand name on the newsletter.

**3. Educate the group: Raingarden studies summary**

Voss shared links and a summary of several studies on rain garden effectiveness and longevity, and provided interesting insight into similar projects that are employed within VLAWMO. The studies emphasized the importance of maintenance to keep BMPs functioning, as designed.

**B. Cost Share Program – 2020 Cost Share Program results and 2021 update**

Thompson gave a 2020 summary of the VLAWMO Cost Share Program. Farrell asked about expanding project funding to Gem Lake and Lino Lakes, and a way of reserving a percentage of annual funding for grants that may come in. Duxbury noted that the 2020 summary was helpful and asked if there was somewhere on the website to post this.

**VI. Projects**

**A. Lambert Lake update and invasive Phragmites ID’d**

Tanner updated on the LL project, including area landowner structure surveys, 2 of which took advantage of this. On site, a small boat and free-standing deer stand were moved out of the construction area. Construction has yet to begin, but is anticipated to begin soon.

**B. Great River Greening update**

Tanner noted that additional funds for ENRTF will be voted on by the legislature this year, so additional funding may be coming.

- C. Completed Vegetation Surveys for 2020 (linked)**  
The RCSWCD has completed and submitted reports for shoreline vegetation surveys on East Vadnais and Sucker Lakes. The reports can be found on VLAWMO's website.
- D. 319 update**  
VLAWMO staff continues to work with the MPCA on 319 grant materials for possible project funding within the Wilkinson, Tamarack and Birch subwatersheds.
- E. Pleasant Lake planning for 2021**  
Tanner touched on the various efforts for Pleasant Lake, including curly leaf PW removal in the west bay, along with planning for working with WSB for carp removal proposal for 2021.
- F. Otter Spotter project live and StoryMap share**  
Tanner has completed project reporting and has submitted it to the MnDNR and the MN Zoo, as a funding partner. The Otter project StoryMap is now complete and can be viewed online. Otter monitoring will be on-going at the Lambert Lake site.

**VII. Commissioner Reports:**

Farrell gave some insight into snowplowing difficulties and efforts with past storms, and connection with the use of chlorides and keeping a balance of safety and implementing best practices for our water resources. Voss noted that he's coordinating with RCWD & RWMWD smart salting MS4 communication and assistance.

**VIII. NOHOA**

Gorder asked Voss & Tanner if a picture post on the west bay that could document curly leaf pondweed treatment progress.

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

Townsend gave a few updates: no starry stonewort found in Deep Lake, but will continue to monitor. Ramsey County has been working on a water reuse analysis for the County. 10 priority sites will be identified and implementation will be pursued.

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

Roe noted that Steve Schneider, General Manager is retiring and the position is posted.

**XI. Public Comment**

Tom Watson introduced himself for the TEC, and offered his help in connecting VLAWMO staff to his contacts.

**XII. Next Meetings**

TEC: February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021; Board: February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**XII. Adjourn**

It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Larson to adjourn at 8:52 am. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.