



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

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
February 12, 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); Gary Eagles (North Oaks Company), Justin Townsend (RCSWCD), Ed Shapland, Sara, Jeremy Erickson, Katy Thompson, Patricia Orud, Connie Tailon.

- 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 February 12, 2021 Technical Commission Meeting was presented for approval. Tanner requested an action item on item VI. E. for TEC recommendation to the Board.
It was moved by Larson and seconded by Duxbury to approve the February 12, 2021 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 Huntrods and seconded by Tessier to approve the January 8, 2021 meeting minutes, as presented. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
 - A. **Financial Report for February & Authorization for Payment**
Belfiori overviewed highlights of the February Finance Report and bills. Belfiori reviewed these with Treasurer Larson before the meeting.

It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Larson to approve the February Treasurer's Report and authorization of payments. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.
 - B. **February TEC Report to the Board**
Belfiori presented the February 2021 TEC Report to the Board, specifically the Lambert Lake project, continued ditch maintenance, and VLAWMO programs.

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Huntrods to approve the February 2021 TEC Report to the Board. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

C. Update Engineering Services Proposal

Belfiori discussed that the 2021 Request For Proposal (RFP) for VLAWMO engineering services was issued in January, soliciting bids for engineering services for 2021 & 2022, pursuant to MN Statute 103B.227. An official notice was posted on the MN League of Cities website, within the VH & WBL Press Publications January 6 & 13th editions, on the VLAWMO website, and on the VLAWMO office door. Six proposals were received, and staff reviewed and audited each for content requested in the RFP. Staff brought their recommendations to the February 10th Policy & Personnel Committee, and a recommendation for Engineer selection will be brought to the VLAWMO Board at their Feb. 24th meeting. Belfiori also mentioned that a RFP for legal counsel services has been posted for 2021 & 2022, as well.

D. WCA – Island Field Replacement Plan

Corcoran presented the Island Field Replacement Plan in North Oaks. The plan has been reviewed and approved by the TEP. Staff is recommending the TEC recommend approval to the VLAWMO Board.

Discussion: Tessier asked what the current land use is, as far as the site. Eagles answered about the current site being an old deer farm and is now a hay crop.

It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Farrell to recommend approval of the Island Field Replacement Plan to the Board. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

V. Programs

A. Education & Outreach

1. 2020 graphs preview

Voss previewed several graphs illustrating the 2020 lake sampling data that will accompany the 2020 water monitoring report. These graphs will be interchangeable with the 2020 annual report.

Upcoming spring 2020 events:

- Cost Share open house: Feb 23rd
- WAV planning meeting: March 17th
- AIS detectors training: March 30th

2. 2020 Annual Report update

The 2020 Annual Report is underway, with staff reviews complete. The draft Report will be brought to the February Board meeting, pending input of the 2020 audit for final financial information. An additional 2020 water monitoring report will accompany the full Report.

B. Cost Share Program

1. 2020 Landscape Level 1 Grant Extensions

Thompson overviewed that there are 5 2020 LL1 grants that have yet to be completed, with 2 of them nearing their grant expiration dates for project completion. The other 3 were approved near the end of 2020 and are anticipated to be completed before their construction deadlines. This is a fairly normal occurrence with projects being delayed for multiple reasons. **Staff is requesting the TEC extend the project completion and closeout deadlines for grants LL1 2020-02 & LL1 2020-04 to September 30th, 2021.**

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Huntrods to grant extension deadlines for grants LL1 2020-02 & 2020-04 to September 30th, 2021. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

2. Soil Health Grant: Smith SHG 2021-1

Staff has received its first Cost Share grant application for 2021 for a Soil Health Grant (attached in ePacket). The applicants received a prior Landscape Level 1 grant in 2019, which is closed and is in good standing. The Smiths' property is located within the Targeted Habitat Priority Zone (THPZ) and their application proposes turning their back lawn from turf into a bee/pollinator lawn, with sand & rock soil amendments, native seed mix from Mother Earth Gardens, and planting of 5 native Winterberry shrubs. The applicants will be performing the work themselves and have included rental costs for a sod cutter and skid steer from White Bear Rental. Their total estimated project is \$1,120, and they are requesting \$840 in Soil Health Grant funds (requests up to \$1,000 are allowable for Targeted Priority Zones. **Staff has reviewed and revised the Soil Health Grant application with the applicant, with clarifications, and is recommending approval of SHG 2021-1 in the amount of \$840.**

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Larson to approve Soil Health Grant 2021-1 for approval and funding in the amount of \$840. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

VI. Projects

A. Lambert Lake Update

Tanner updated that while construction is on pause this week due to the extreme cold, though it will begin again as soon as they are able. The construction completion deadline is March 1st, so a few weeks left to go. Tanner updated regarding the UMN biochar project. The project has been delayed for several reasons, though draft plans and specs have been provided. To finish the plans for construction, SEH is recommended to complete the designs. Staff has been working with the MPCA for updating plans going forward with the current grant project.

B. Phragmites check and update

Tanner updated that a site off of Cty Rd F has been confirmed to be invasive, though the other sites were confirmed to be native species. The landowner has signed a cooperative agreement and has been super helpful for allowing access for treatment and taking care of the invasive patch, going into 2021.

C. 319 update

Staff has received approval from the MPCA on VLAWMO's Nine Key Element (NKE) plan document that allows application for funding during our priority small watershed round coming up, spring 2021. Approval is underway with the EPA. Barr Engineering is working with North Oaks Company to develop a batch of projects and a phasing plan for the first two rounds of the grant program. The MPCA has updated their website to give information on 319 small watershed grants. **Staff requests support from the TEC to bring the NKE forward to the Board as part of the regular Feb. meeting and to continue to consider a suite of projects for the first-round, 319 priority small-watershed proposal at the April regular Board meeting.**

It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Larson to recommend approval of the 319 NKE to the VLAWMO Board at their February 24th meeting. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

D. Community-Engaged Learning Spring Semester

Tanner updated that there are 7 students so far that have signed on for Community-Engaged learning in 2021. The group will focus on the City Hall and Vadnais-Sucker Park area, working throughout the season. Staff appreciates the time and efforts put in by the students.

E. Pleasant Lake planning for 2021

Tanner updated that WSB has submitted a proposal to provide assistance to VLAWMO during 2021 and for carp removal facilitation in the fall, with project and itemized detail. The proposal, and staff recommends allocating \$20,572 for carp removal with WSB help. This recommendation is contingent upon the amount of partner funding contribution. VLAWMO has \$3,884.60 in remaining funds from Carp Solution work in 2020, along with SPRWS-allocated funds. Staff also seeks support and recommendation of the Board for these works.

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Huntrods to recommend approval to the VLAWMO Board for allocating \$20,572 for a contract with WSB for carp work, along with \$3,510-\$5,000 for working with NOHOA for curly-leaf pondweed treatment in the west bay of Pleasant Lake. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

F. Swan Update at Sucker Channel

Tanner updated on the swan lead poisoning situation within the watershed, as deaths are still being reported as in 2020. The Minnesota House & Senate have bills in the state congress for phasing out lead sinkers and tackle to reduce wildlife lead poisoning.

G. Update on East Goose Adaptive Lake Management (ALM) Engagement process

Belfiori updated on progress of the East Goose ALM engagement, along with staff review and processing of submitted feedback forms from landowners on the Lake. A community engagement survey has also been released, and information collected from this will be included in an engagement report. A website is being developed to host resources and information for the ALM program.

H. 2021-2023 BWSR Watershed Base Implementation Fund Grant (WBIF)

Thompson updated that the WBIF BWSR grant process is moving along, with VLAWMO's funding request being approved by BWSR, and staff has completed and submitted the grant Work Plan for review and approval by BWSR. Staff anticipates bringing the Work Plan to the February Board meeting for approval. The Grant Agreement will need to be approved and executed by April 30th.

VII. Commissioner Reports:

None.

VIII. NOHOA

Orud updated that NOHOA now has a contract with PWF consulting for completing a master plan for environmental resources for NOHOA and North Oaks.

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

Townsend updated on various County projects within the Watershed, and upcoming 2021 projects.

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

Erickson updated that the SPRWS continues to move forward with the plant update, which will eventually be a pilot plant water treatment plant.

XI. Public Comment

None.

XII. Next Meetings

TEC: March 12th, 2021; Board: February 24th, 2021

XII. Adjourn

It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Huntrods to adjourn at 8:48 am. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.