



The Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
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Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
Technical Commission Minutes  
August 13, 2021

Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room  
800 County Road E East, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

Meeting also available via Zoom Teleconference:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82609413241?pwd=Qy9rcURGb2VPdjb4UkV3VDVyWHA2UT09>

Meeting passcode: 874971

Access by telephone: +1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 826 0941 3241 Passcode: 874971

**Commission Members Present:**

Jesse Farrell	Vice Chair, Vadnais Heights (VH)
Paul Duxbury	Board Liaison, White Bear Township (WBT)
Bob Larson	Treasurer, North Oaks (NO) [observing remote, non-voting, non-quorum]
Terry Huntrods	White Bear Lake (WBL) [attending remote, legally-noticed with voting and quorum]
Andy Nelson	Lino Lakes (LL)

**Commission Members Absent:** Gloria Tessier (GL)

**Others in attendance:** Phil Belfiori, Brian Corcoran, Nick Voss, Dawn Tanner, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO); Sara Shah (North Oaks City Council, NO TEC alternate); Ed Shapland (VLAWMO MN Water Steward)

- I. **Call to Order** Vice Chair Farrell called the meeting to order at 7:36 am. Roll call: Tessier: absent with prior notice; Farrell: present; Shah (NO alternate): present; Duxbury: present; Nelson: present; Huntrods: present via Zoom teleconference.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**  
The agenda for the August 13, 2021 Technical Commission Meeting was presented for approval. No additions. Agenda moved for approval.  
It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Nelson to approve the August 13, 2021 TEC agenda, as presented. Vote: Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye Farrell: aye. Huntrods: aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**  
The meeting minutes of the July 9, 2021 Technical Commission Meeting were presented for approval with no changes.  
It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Huntrods to approve the July 9, 2021 meeting minutes, as presented. Vote: Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye Farrell: aye. Huntrods: aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
  - A. **Financial Report for August & Authorization for Payment**  
Belfiori overviewed highlights of the August Finance Report and bills, noting we received the second half of our SSU fee revenue from Anoka & Ramsey County.  
  
It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Huntrods to approve the August Treasurer's Report and authorization of payments. Vote: Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye Farrell: aye. Huntrods: aye. Motion passed.
  - B. **VLAWMO August TEC Report to the Board**  
The August 2021 TEC Report to the Board was presented for review and approval, as presented.

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

**C. 2021 VLAWMO Minor CWMP Amendment & Ditch 14 Phase 2 Maintenance Project Plans Recommendation**

Staff is recommending the TEC review the proposed 2021 minor amendment and consider a formal motion for recommendation of approval and adoption to the VLAWMO Board at their August 25, 2021 meeting, after the public hearing closes. Attached in the TEC ePacket are the 2 draft minor amendment pages 42 & 43, along with received review authority comments and the BWSR determination letter.

The landowner information meeting for the proposed Ditch 14 “phase 2” maintenance project was held on July 28, 2021. The meeting was attended by 10 landowners with property on the ditch right of way as well as Council member Youker, Project Engineer Chris Otterness from Houston Engineering and VLAWMO Staff. Staff and the Project engineer provided a presentation on the project background and expectations for site conditions once the project is constructed. Based on landowner comments /requests received at the meeting, Brian or Tyler will be conducting site visit with individual landowner to discuss any questions or concerns related to the project.

The Draft Plans for the proposed Ditch 14 “phase 2” maintenance project are attached to this TEC staff memo. VLAWMO staff request a TEC recommendation to the Board to accept these plans for filing (pending any comments from the TEC and any revision to the plans by the project engineer before the VLAWMO Board meeting) and to recommend sending out the plans for solicitation of quotes after the August 25, 2021 VLAWMO Board meeting. It is anticipated that some modifications will be made the attached draft plans by Houston Engineering before the August 25 VLAWMO Board meeting including inclusion of an erosion control project plan (SWPPP) page and other minor plan modifications.

**Discussion:** Duxbury asked for clarification for measurement of sediment removal. Farrell asked Belfiori for a brief overview of project history. Belfiori gave this brief overview.

It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Duxbury to recommend approval to the Board for the 2021 Minor CWMP Amendment Public Hearing and Approval; as well as recommendation to the Board for the acceptance of Project Plans, and to recommend issuing the plans for implementation quotes following the August 25, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting. Vote: Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye Farrell: aye. Huntrods: aye. Motion passed.

**V. Programs**

**A. Education & Outreach**

**1. August updates**

Voss presented the August E&O updates to the TEC, highlighting the East Oaks rain garden reconstruction and planting the week of the TEC meeting, and overviewing the basin’s new inlets. Voss also highlighted website updates, Market Fest, Lakeairies replanting, and unfortunately the 2021 cost share project tour is cancelled due to lack of RSVPs.

**B. Cost Share Program**

**1. LL2 2021-01 Morrison Curb Cut Rain Garden – White Bear Lake**

As previously updated, the 2021 City of White Bear Lake street reconstruction projects and City efforts have netted 1 applicable and willing homeowner to implement a curb cut rain garden and accept VLAWMO funding, in conjunction with the City street mill & overlay project. The RCSWCD has designed the project and has generated an opinion of project cost at \$9,370. The project had been combined with others to be put out for proposal bids to contractors in July, and bid selection of the lowest bidder for construction at \$6,808.50 was chosen. Via updated 2021 Landscape Level 2 policy, VLAWMO is able to pay up to 90% of project implementation costs. Staff is recommending TEC recommendation of funding for LL2 2021-01 for 90% of funding or up to \$6,127.65, based upon the approved project bid.

It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Duxbury to recommend approval to the Board for Landscape Level 2 Grant 2021-01 and funding of 90% of the project cost, up to \$6,127.65. Vote: Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye Farrell: aye. Huntrods: aye. Motion passed.

**2. LL2 2021-02 Bridgewood Park Curb Cut Rain Garden – Vadnais Heights**

The RCSWCD has designed the 785 square foot curb cut rain garden to include 2 Rain Guardian catch basins, along with an overflow swale and planting schedule of 360 native plants. The Opinion of Cost for the rain garden is estimated at \$29,956, and is being put out for bid this month, with selection taking place soon after. The City of Vadnais Heights has submitted a Landscape Level 2 application for the project and is requesting funding for the rain garden up to \$33,000 for a 10% contingency funding above the project's estimated cost. The City's in-kind cash grant match contribution is \$9,200 for the parking lot regrading and curb implementation costs to direct flow into the rain garden basin, but does not include added engineering costs that were necessary for the parking lot redesign. The final selected bid price will determine the actual VLAWMO grant value, but shall not exceed \$33,000.

VLAWMO staff recommends TEC recommendation of approval and funding to the VLAWMO Board of Landscape Level 2 grant application LL2 2021-02 up to \$33,000, which includes cost contingency. BWSR '21-'23 Watershed Based Implementation funding will be used for Landscape Level 2 funding of the grant and the final grant amount will be determined upon bid selection. If bid proposals come in significantly high, bids will be rejected and the project will be put back out for bid in the beginning of 2022, for spring 2022 construction.

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Huntrods to recommend approval to the Board for Landscape Level 2 Grant 2021-02 and funding up to \$33,000 of the project cost, pending received project bids. Vote: Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye Farrell: aye. Huntrods: aye. Motion passed.

**3. LL1 2021-03 Crowley Riparian Wetland Restoration & Native Buffer**

The Crowleys seeked proposal for restoring and stabilizing the riparian wetland and buffer along the channel, and have submitted a Landscape Level 1 grant application for this proposed restoration by Natural Shore Technologies. The proposal for restoration was quoted at \$5,789.84 and includes an area of roughly 1,500 square feet. 25 1-3 gallon native shrubs would be planted along the channel outlet banks for increased stabilization and erosion reduction, along with a 1,000 square foot native planting along

the bank and wetland buffer slope. In areas not planted with shrubs or plugs, additional native seed mix will be spread, overlaid with erosion control blanket. Maintenance would be continued for 5 years using Natural Shore Technologies.

The Crowleys are requesting 50% cost share funding of the project, amounting to \$2,894.92. Being that this proposal includes riparian wetland and buffer restoration, would further stabilize the 4th & Otter filter wetland site and actively reduce erosion and sedimentation downstream and tributary to Birch Lake, staff is recommending approval of Landscape Level 1 grant application 2021-03 and funding in the amount of \$2,894.92.

It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Farrell to approve Landscape Level 1 Grant 2021-03 and funding in the amount of \$2,894.92. Vote: Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye Farrell: aye. Huntrods: aye. Motion passed.

## VI. WCA

### A. Bluebird Development WCA Replacement Plan related WCA Recommendation

Harstad Hills, Inc. is proposing the Bluebird Grove residential development project within an approximately 9-acre site in Vadnais Heights. The proposed Bluebird Grove project will be a 21 lot, single-family development with associated streets, utilities, and stormwater areas. The site currently consists of multiple parcels (partial parcels), two of which contained vacant, large-lot single family homes. The remainder of the site is woodland, meadow, or wetland.

The Bluebird Grove project will involve 13,414 sf (0.3079-ac) of permanent impact to one isolated wetland. Additionally, 6,706 sf (0.1539-ac) of temporary excavation impact to the same isolated wetland in order to incorporate the wetland into a detention basin is proposed as a non-WCA regulated impact (No Loss). Permanent wetland impacts will be replaced via the purchase of wetland bank credits at a ratio of 2:1 within the same major watershed and Bank Service Area (BSA) as the proposed project.

**Discussion:** Duxbury asked how current drainage will be impacted by the WCA decision and development. Corcoran responded that this is a Branch ditch system and that if the proposed development as identified in the application is approved, will likely be served from a drainage and stormwater management standpoint.

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Huntrods to recommend approval to the Board of a No-Loss request on excavation of a portion of a Type 1 wetland; sequencing for filling a portion of a Type 1 wetland for road access to buildable upland and creating a storm pond in a portion of a Type 1 wetland; Replacement plan for 0.3079 acre of impact to a type 1 wetland replaced with banking credits at 2:1. Vote: Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye Farrell: aye. Huntrods: aye. Motion passed.

## VII. Projects

### A. 319 Update

Tanner made updates on project coordination and partnerships with the Wilkinson project. The project workplan, Budget, MOU & O&M Agreements: Wilkinson 319 prep has continued since last month. Specifically, updates and related documents are included in the packet. These include: 1) an update to the North Oaks City Council and NOHOA regarding project progress, 2) a final but not yet signed MOU/Maintenance agreement from NOC/NOF, and 3) a draft workplan and budget. VLAWMO staff request support from the TEC to bring these

documents to the VLAWMO Board as part of the August regular meeting. VLAWMO staff also request a recommendation for the Board to authorize the workplan/budget for continued approval with MPCA/EPA. VLAWMO staff request a TEC recommendation to the Board to submit the MPCA workplan and budget to MPCA/EPA for review.

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Nelson to recommend approval to the Board to submit the MPCA workplan and budget to the MPCA & EPA for review. Vote: Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye Farrell: aye. Huntrods: aye. Motion passed.

**B. Great River Greening Vadnais-Sucker Park Update**

Tanner updated the landowner agreement is going forward with Ramsey County Parks, the St. Paul Regional Water Service, and VLAWMO. The SPRWS is taking it to their upcoming Board of Water Commissioners meeting.

**C. East Goose Lake Update – 8/3 Community Meeting**

Belfiori gave a brief overview of the August 3<sup>rd</sup> East Goose Lake Community Meeting.

**D. Amelia Lake Invasive Species Update**

Tanner updated that staff went out with the Ramsey Conservation Division for the survey of flowering rush stands within Amelia Lake. Upon survey, they did not find flowering rush, no delineation was necessary, and it is quite possible that flowering rush has died off in the Lake.

**E. Lambert Lake Meander Drone Footage and MAWD Update**

Tanner & Voss presented and the Lambert Lake meander and sheetpile projects.

**VIII. Commissioner Reports:**

**1. Consideration of Alternate TEC Meeting Times or Days**

Duxbury noted that it's good the Commissioners think about this and we can plan on discussing at the September, and staff input would be appreciated, too.

**IX. NOHOA**

None.

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

None.

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

None.

**XII. Public Comment**

None.

**XIII. Next Meetings**

TEC: September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021; Board: August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**XIV. Adjourn**

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Nelson to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 am. Vote: Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye Farrell: aye. Huntrods: aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.