

VLAWMO TECHNICAL COMMISSION MEETING
8:00 AM December 8th, 2021

Vadnais Heights City Hall, Council Chambers, 800 County Road E East, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

Action items: ✈

- I. **Call to Order – 8:00am –Chair Gloria Tessier**
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
- III. **Approval of Minutes (November 10th, 2021)**
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
 - A. Financial Report for December & authorization for Payment – Phil ✈
 - B. VLAWMO December TEC Report to the Board – Phil ✈
- V. **Programs**
 - A. Education & Outreach – Nick
 1. 2022 E&O Goals
- VI. **Projects**
 - A. RCD 14 Maintenance Project Update – Brian
 - B. Lambert update – Dawn
 - C. Pleasant Lake Carp update – Dawn
- VII. **Commissioner Reports**
- VIII. **NOHOA**
- IX. **Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division**
- X. **St. Paul Regional Water Services**
- XI. **Public Comment**
- XII. **Next Meetings:** TEC: January 12th, Regular Board Meeting: December 8th, 2021
- XIII. **Adjourn**

Spent Lime Research Presentation:

Greg Wilson, Barr Engineering

- Recording: November 17th, 2021
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZixfeeNhDE>
- December 8th, 2021 VLAWMO Board of Directors, 7pm



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
November 10, 2021
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room
800 County Road E East, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

Commission Members Present:

Gloria Tessier	Chair, Gem Lake (GL)
Jesse Farrell	Vice Chair, Vadnais Heights (VH)
Paul Duxbury	Board Liaison, White Bear Township (WBT)
Bob Larson	Treasurer, North Oaks (NO)
Terry Huntrods	White Bear Lake (WBL)
Andy Nelson	Lino Lakes (LL)

Commission Members Absent:

Others in attendance: Phil Belfiori, Brian Corcoran, Nick Voss, Dawn Tanner, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO staff); Patricia Orud (NOHOA); Justine Roe (SPRWS); Ed Shapland (VLAWMO MN Water Steward); Sara Shah (North Oaks)

- I. **Call to Order** Chair Tessier called the meeting to order at 8:01 am.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
The agenda for the November 10, 2021 Technical Commission Meeting was presented for approval. It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Huntrods to approve the November 10, 2021 TEC agenda, as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
The meeting minutes of the October 8, 2021 Technical Commission Meeting were presented for approval. Thompson proposed updating Wall with Farrell, as he was present. It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Nelson to approve the October 8, 2021 meeting minutes, as amended. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
 - A. **Financial Report for November & Authorization for Payment**
Belfiori overviewed highlights and line items of the November Finance Report and bills, with staff recommending approval and authorization of payments. Belfiori noted the Phase II Ditch 14 project expenditure.
It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Duxbury to approve the November Treasurer's Report and authorization of payments. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- V. **Programs**
 - A. **Education & Outreach**
 1. **2021 Watershed Awards**
Voss presented that 3 nominations for the Steward Award were submitted, along with 3 Partner Award nominations for 2021. Voss collected the Award voting ballots. The winner of the 2021 Steward award was Katherine Doll Kanne, and the winner of the 2021 Partner Award was Jesse Farrell.

Discussion: Farrell thanked everyone for this award and honor, and that it's a pleasure to be able to be part of this group and work on great projects together.

Nelson proposed that next year nominations wrap up and included in the TEC packet for consideration before voting at the TEC meeting. Voss noted this.

B. Cost Share Program

1. 2022 Draft Grant Policy Updates & Clarifications

Thompson overviewed proposed clarifications and language changes to the Landscape Level 1, Level 2, Soil Health, and Rain Barrel grant program policy documents and applications. They are small changes and nothing in the way of funding amounts or limits are being proposed, though input is appreciated. Staff is recommending the TEC recommend approval to the Board at their December meeting.

Discussion: Farrell noted he would be interested in proposing gradual annual Cost Share Program budget increases for the coming years.

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Farrell to recommend approval of Landscape Cost Share Policy & Guidance updates for LL1, LL2, SHG, and Rain Barrel grant programs to the Board of Directors. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VI. Projects

A. Wilkinson Lk. BMP/319 Grant Project Update

Tanner updated the TEC on status of the easement development process with partners and recent presentation to the NOHOA Board.

B. Biochar update

Tanner updated the SEH has been investigating and scoping the Whitaker Pond area for the biochar project, a meeting with White Bear Township has occurred since the packet was sent out, the Township is in support of a biochar project near Whitaker Pond.

C. MDA invasive species grant submitted

Tanner reported that a small grant proposal was submitted to MDA for continued buckthorn removal at the City Hall wooded wetland. Announcements are expected sometime in Dec.

D. Carp update

Tanner reported that there are 12 carp being tracked. With the warm weather, the carp are moving more and not strongly aggregated. When the water temp cools, carp move into deeper water, aggregate, and a harvest is ideal. Duxbury asked about the timing of the harvest, as far as an estimate. Tanner noted that before ice is ready to form on the lake, so possibly 3-4 weeks.

E. RCD 14 Maintenance project update

Corcoran updated on the progress of the Ditch 14 maintenance and dredging project. The Board approved the contract with Scandia Trucking for the maintenance project. Corcoran updated that the tree and brush clearing subcontractor has been out to clear debris for the project. Dredging is anticipated to start the week of November 15th.

F. Strategic Direction process update

Belfiori updated that the Board will hold a special meeting in January to discuss goals, objectives, and updates for the second half of the 2017-2026 VLAWMO Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. These discussions and direction will move and drive the CWMP amendment planned for later in 2022. Belfiori also updated that Greg Wilson from Barr Engineering will be at the December 8th Board meeting to give a short presentation on spent lime surface water treatment, as well as possible future treatment uses and projects.

VII. Commissioner Reports

Sara Shah updated that a wetland ordinance discussion has been postponed and is looking forward to VLAWMO input. Farrell updated that Ramsey County and Vadnais Heights are beginning to look at several projects for the Edgerton/Vadnais Blvd/Centerville Road intersection, including a trail, stormwater treatment, and redevelopment of the Garceau site. These combined projects are a good opportunity to treat stormwater runoff that is currently largely untreated.

VIII. NOHOA

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

Tanner updated that they have a new employee, Emily Deering.

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

The pilot plant is at about 30%

XI. Public Comment

XII. Next Meetings

TEC: December 8th, 2021; Board: December 8th, 2021

XIII. Adjourn

It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Huntrods to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 am. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.

DRAFT

December 2021 VLAWMO Finance Report

December-21		Actual 12/1/21	Actual to Date	2021 Budget	2020 carry over/Grants	Remaining in Budget	2021 Available	Act vs. Budget
BUDGET #	INCOME							
5.11	Storm Water Utility	\$0	\$520,901	\$935,340	\$0	\$414,439	\$935,340	56%
5.12	Service Fees	\$0	\$1,050	\$200	\$0	(\$850)	\$200	525%
5.13	Interest + mitigation acct	\$12	\$166	\$3,000	\$0	\$2,834	\$3,000	6%
5.14	Misc. income - WCA admin & other	\$12,228	\$16,468	\$3,000	\$0	(\$13,468)	\$3,000	549%
5.15	Other Income Grants/ <u>loan</u>	\$0	\$655,490	\$894,679	\$0	\$239,189	\$894,679	73%
5.16	Transfer from reserves	\$0	\$0	\$192,840	\$14,000	\$206,840	\$206,840	0%
	TOTAL	\$12,240	\$1,194,074	\$2,029,059	\$14,000	\$848,985	\$2,043,059	59%
	EXPENSES							
3.1	Operations & Administration							
3.110	Office - rent, copies, post tel supplies	\$1,958	\$24,036	\$26,214	\$0	\$2,178	\$26,214	92%
3.120	Information Systems	\$1,204	\$17,374	\$22,365	\$4,000	\$8,991	\$26,365	66%
3.130	Insurance		\$6,476	\$7,000	\$0	\$524	\$7,000	93%
3.141	Consulting - Audit	\$0	\$7,245	\$7,728	\$0	\$483	\$7,728	94%
3.142	Consulting - Bookkeeping	\$0	\$0	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	0%
3.143	Consulting - Legal	\$836	\$2,612	\$4,000	\$0	\$1,388	\$4,000	65%
3.144	Consulting - Eng. & Tech.	\$2,404	\$16,960	\$30,000	\$0	\$13,040	\$30,000	57%
3.150	Storm Sewer Utility	\$1,785	\$12,102	\$13,000	\$0	\$898	\$13,000	93%
3.160	Training (staff/board)	\$138	\$4,563	\$8,750	\$0	\$4,187	\$8,750	52%
3.170	Misc. & mileage	\$112	\$2,839	\$6,300	\$0	\$3,461	\$6,300	45%
3.191	Administration - staff	\$27,792	\$356,391	\$370,307	\$0	\$13,916	\$370,307	96%
3.192	Employer Liability	\$8,686	\$107,274	\$102,376	\$10,000	\$5,102	\$112,376	95%
3.2	Monitoring and Studies							
3.210	Lake and Creek lab analysis	\$0	\$16,668	\$18,000	\$0	\$1,332	\$18,000	93%
3.220	Equipment	\$0	\$866	\$3,000	\$0	\$2,134	\$3,000	29%
3.230	Wetland assessment & management	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!
3.3	Education and Outreach							
3.310	Public Education	\$45	\$2,936	\$8,500	\$0	\$5,564	\$8,500	35%
3.320	Marketing	\$865	\$1,789	\$7,500	\$0	\$5,711	\$7,500	24%
3.330	Community Blue Ed Grant	\$0	\$2,119	\$10,000	(\$4,500)	\$3,381	\$5,500	39%
<i>Total Core functions: Ops, Monitoring, Education</i>		<i>\$45,826</i>	<i>\$582,250</i>	<i>\$646,540</i>	<i>\$9,500</i>	<i>\$73,790</i>	<i>\$656,040</i>	<i>89%</i>
	Capital Improvement Projects and Programs							
3.4	Subwatershed Activity							
3.410	Gem Lake	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
3.420	Lambert Creek	\$0	\$652,372	\$222,100	\$0	(\$430,272)	\$222,100	294%
3.421	Lambert Lake Loan	\$0	\$19,284					
3.425	Goose Lake	\$0	\$10,507	\$124,200	\$0	\$113,693	\$124,200	8%
3.430	Birch Lake	\$0	\$637	\$0	\$0	(\$637)	\$0	#DIV/0!
3.440	Gilf Black Tam Wilk Amelia	\$286	\$1,459	\$16,000	\$0	\$14,541	\$16,000	9%
3.450	Pleasant Charley Deep	\$0	\$10,182	\$22,500	\$0	\$12,318	\$22,500	45%
3.460	Sucker Vadnais	\$0	\$27,033	\$12,500	\$0	(\$14,533)	\$12,500	216%
3.48	Programs							
3.480	Soil Health Grant	\$0	\$910	\$4,500	\$0	\$3,590	\$4,500	20%
3.481	Landscape 1	\$7,500	\$23,460	\$16,000	\$0	(\$7,460)	\$16,000	147%
3.482	Landscape 2	\$0	\$10,250	\$28,000	\$0	\$17,750	\$28,000	37%
3.483	Project Research & feasibility	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!
3.485	Facilities Maintenance	\$497	\$34,571	\$46,540	\$0	\$11,969	\$46,540	74%
3.5	Regulatory							
3.510	Engineer Plan review	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!
	Total CIP & Program	\$8,282	\$790,665	\$492,340	\$0	(\$279,040)	\$492,340	161%
	Total of Core Operations & CIP	\$54,108	\$1,372,915	\$1,138,880	\$9,500	(\$205,250)	\$1,148,380	120%

Fund Balance	11/1/2021	12/1/2021
4M Account	\$570,160	\$395,445
4M Plus Savings	\$324,187	\$324,195
Total	\$894,347	\$719,640

Restricted funds		11/1/2021
Mitigation Savings		\$21,037
Term Series		\$0

December 2021 VLAWMO Finance Report

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Orga
Profit & Loss
November 13 through December 8, 2021

10:10 AM
12/01/2021
Cash Basis
Nov 13 - Dec 8, 21

Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Misc.	12,228.30
5.1 · Income	
5.13 · Interest	11.89
Total 5.1 · Income	11.89
Total Income	12,240.19
Gross Profit	12,240.19
Expense	
3.1 · Administrative/Operations	
3.110 · Office	
Copies	23.95
Phone/Internet/Machine Overhead	290.00
Postage	29.35
Rent	1,615.00
Total 3.110 · Office	1,958.30
3.120 · Information Systems	
IT Support	1,203.91
Total 3.120 · Information Systems	1,203.91
3.143 · Legal	
3.144 · Eng. & Tech.	2,403.89
3.150 · Storm Sewer Utility	
3.160 · Training (staff/board)	138.00
3.170 · Misc. & mileage	
3.191 · Employee Payroll	112.48
payroll	27,792.01
Total 3.191 · Employee Payroll	27,792.01
3.192 · Employer Liabilities	
Admin payroll processing	44.92
Administration FICA	2,013.97
Administration PERA	2,084.40
Insurance Benefit	4,542.55
Total 3.192 · Employer Liabilities	8,685.84
Total 3.1 · Administrative/Operations	44,915.83
3.3 · Education and Outreach	
3.310 · Public Education	45.00
3.320 · Marketing	864.64
Total 3.3 · Education and Outreach	909.64
3.4 · Capital Imp. Projects/Programs	
3.440 · Gilfillan Black Tamarack Wilkin	285.60
Total 3.4 · Capital Imp. Projects/Programs	285.60
3.48 · Programs	
3.481 · Landscape 1 - cost-share	7,500.00

December 2021 VLAWMO Finance Report

3.485 · Facilities & Maintenance	496.50
Total 3.48 · Programs	<u>7,996.50</u>
Total Expense	<u>54,107.57</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-41,867.38</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-41,867.38</u></u>

December 2021 VLAWMO Finance Report

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization Check Detail

10:05 AM

12/01/2021

November 13 through December 8, 2021

Type	Num	Date	Name	Item	Account	Paid Amount	Original Amount
Check	eft	11/17/2021	Reliance Standard		Checking - 1987		-202.29
				Insurance Benefit		-202.29	202.29
TOTAL						-202.29	202.29
Check	eft	11/17/2021	Reliance Standard		Checking - 1987		-90.00
				Insurance Benefit		-90.00	90.00
TOTAL						-90.00	90.00
Check	5253	12/08/2021	Dawn Tanner		Checking - 1987		-52.64
				3.170 · Misc. & mileage		-52.64	52.64
TOTAL						-52.64	52.64
Check	5254	12/08/2021	Tyler J Thompson		Checking - 1987		-12.66
				3.170 · Misc. & mileage		-12.66	12.66
TOTAL						-12.66	12.66
Check	5255	12/08/2021	Brian Corcoran		Checking - 1987		-36.54
				3.170 · Misc. & mileage		-36.54	36.54
TOTAL						-36.54	36.54
Check	5256	12/08/2021	Nicholas Voss		Checking - 1987		-49.64
				3.170 · Misc. & mileage		-10.64	10.64
				3.160 · Training (staff/board)		-39.00	39.00
TOTAL						-49.64	49.64
Check	5257	12/08/2021	City of Vadnais Heights		Checking - 1987		-1,958.30
				Rent		-1,615.00	1,615.00
				Phone/Internet/Machine Overhead		-290.00	290.00
				Postage		-29.35	29.35
				Copies		-23.95	23.95
TOTAL						-1,958.30	1,958.30
Check	5258	12/08/2021	City Of Roseville		Checking - 1987		-1,203.91
				IT Support		-1,203.91	1,203.91
TOTAL						-1,203.91	1,203.91
Check	5259	12/08/2021	Megan Sigmon-Olsen		Checking - 1987		-7,500.00

December 2021 VLAWMO Finance Report

	3.481 · Landscape 1 - cost-share	-7,500.00	7,500.00
TOTAL		-7,500.00	7,500.00
	Check 5260 12/08/2021 Ehlers & Associates, Inc.		-1,785.00
	Checking - 1987		
	3.150 · Storm Sewer Utility	-1,785.00	1,785.00
TOTAL		-1,785.00	1,785.00
	Check 5261 12/08/2021 Houston Engineering, Inc		-496.50
	Checking - 1987		
	3.485 · Facilities & Maintenance	-496.50	496.50
TOTAL		-496.50	496.50
	Check 5262 12/08/2021 SEH		-2,403.89
	Checking - 1987		
	3.144 · Eng. & Tech.	-2,403.89	2,403.89
TOTAL		-2,403.89	2,403.89
	Check 5263 12/08/2021 Press Publications		-292.00
	Checking - 1987		
	3.320 · Marketing	-292.00	292.00
TOTAL		-292.00	292.00
	Check 5264 12/08/2021 Hisdahl's Trophies		-45.00
	Checking - 1987		
	3.310 · Public Education	-45.00	45.00
TOTAL		-45.00	45.00
	Check 5265 12/08/2021 City of White Bear Lake		-36,185.56
	Checking - 1987		
	payroll	-27,792.01	27,792.01
	Administration FICA	-2,013.97	2,013.97
	Administration PERA	-2,084.40	2,084.40
	Insurance Benefit	-4,250.26	4,250.26
	Admin payroll processing	-44.92	44.92
TOTAL		-36,185.56	36,185.56
	Check 5266 12/08/2021 Kennedy & Graven, Chartered		-1,122.00
	Checking - 1987		
	3.440 · Gilfillan Black Tamarack Wilkin	-285.60	285.60
	3.143 · Legal	-836.40	836.40
TOTAL		-1,122.00	1,122.00

December 2021 VLAWMO Finance Report

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Custom Transaction Detail Report
 October 1 through December 1, 2021

10:03 AM

12/01/2021

Accrual Basis

	Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Account	Clr	Split	Amount	Balance
Oct 1 - Dec 1, 21	Credit Card Charge	10/04/2021		Google*SVCAPPS_VLAWM		US Bank CC	√	WEB	36.00	36.00
	Credit Card Charge	10/11/2021		adobe *photography plan		US Bank CC	√	Software	9.99	45.99
	Credit Card Charge	10/18/2021		Minnesota Pollution Control Agency		US Bank CC	√	3.485 · Facilities & Maintenance	409.96	455.95
	Credit Card Charge	10/19/2021		Ace Hardware	earpluggs for workday	US Bank CC	√	3.220 · Equipment	16.99	472.94
	Transfer	10/20/2021			Funds Transfer	US Bank CC	√	Checking - 1987	-1,023.63	-550.69
	Credit Card Charge	10/26/2021		Adobe "Creative Cloud		US Bank CC	√	Software	32.20	-518.49
	Credit Card Charge	11/02/2021		Google*SVCAPPS_VLAWM		US Bank CC	√	WEB	36.00	-482.49
	Credit Card Charge	11/13/2021		4Imprint	thank you cards, table throw	US Bank CC		3.320 · Marketing	272.41	-210.08
	Credit Card Charge	11/13/2021		4Imprint	pens	US Bank CC		3.320 · Marketing	165.44	-44.64
	Credit Card Charge	11/18/2021		L.L. Bean	jacket for nick	US Bank CC		3.320 · Marketing	89.79	45.15
	Credit Card Charge	11/18/2021		MAWD	mawd dawn 2021	US Bank CC	√	3.160 · Training (staff/board)	99.00	144.15
	Credit Card Charge	11/22/2021		chipotle	gift cards	US Bank CC		3.320 · Marketing	45.00	189.15
Oct 1 - Dec 1, 21									189.15	189.15

TEC Report to the Board
December 2021

Programs & Projects	Effort Level	Completion Date	Comments
	LOW		
	MED		
	HIGH		
Projects			
319 Lambert Pond /Meander Project/Biochar	MED	2021/22	Construction of Meander and Sheet Pile completed. MAWD presentation recently completed at annual conference. Initiating work to on possible relocated Biochar project
East Goose Lk Adaptive Mgmt.	HIGH	2021-ongoing	Anticipated next step is discussion with VLAWMO Board on possible role in Aquatic Plant Management
Ditch 14 Maintenance project	HIGH	2021/22	Construction of "phase 2" RCD 14 maintenance project has been completed. Will check out in spring to make sure seeding is doing well and to see if there are any areas that may need some erosion attention.
MPCA 319 /Wilkinson Lake BMP	HIGH	2021-24	Continue to work on defining Barr Eng. scope of work for initial project technical assistance and easement determination.
21-23 BWSR WBF	MED	2023	The VH Bridgewood Park project construction has begun with completion in Spring '22. Will be working on annual grant reporting and possible workplan amendment.
Programs			
Outreach	LOW	Oct-Nov	Voting and Announcement of 2021 Watershed Awards at Nov. TEC meeting. Presentation of Awards at Dec. VLAWMO Board meeting. Planning new partnerships with Tamarack Nature Center for 2022. MS4 meetings and planning being conducted with each JPA
Education	LOW	Nov-Dec	Conducting 2021 end-of-year feedback survey, summarizing 2021 education and outreach results, and outlining 2022 education and outreach plan.
Website	LOW	Nov-Dec	New smart salting webpage under "residents", new neighborhood spotlights (2), and 2021 cost-share recap blog, Upstream Community Blue project recap blog, and announcement of 2021 watershed award winners.
WAV	LOW	Dec-Feb	Planning and project development for 2022: Good neighbor guide, NOHOA bioswale maintenance plan, raingarden renovations at St Mary's and Chippewa Middle School
Cost Share	MED	ongoing	2022 Cost Share Policy updates recommending approval. Continuing planning for 2022 CS Policy projects and implementation.
GIS	LOW	ongoing	West Vadnais SLMR, project maps & data, geodatabase updating for '21/'22
Monitoring	MED	ongoing	2021 monitoring end of season reporting underway
WCA	MED	ongoing	administering WCA as needed.

TEC Report to the Board
December 2021

Administration & Operation			
Audit		2021/22	Kickoff meeting with CLA (auditing consultant) regarding 2021 year end audit will be scheduled for December
Budget		21/22	Fund balance carry over "working" 2022 budget will be brought forward to the Board at the Dec. 8 meeting for consideration.
Personnel /HR		ongoing	staff continue to pursue professional development per their approved training plans.
SSU		ongoing	2022 SSU rate information submitted to Ramsey and Anoka Counties in Nov.
Strategic planning		early /mid 2022	Work is underway for preparation special VLAWMO Board workshop on January 26, 2022 to discuss strategic direction

FINANCIAL SUMMARY as of 12/1/2021			CD's	4M Term Series	
				Maturity	Rate
4M Account (1.10)	4M Plus (1.23)	Total		Term series	
\$395,445	\$324,195	\$719,640			

Budget Summary	Actual Expense YTD	2021 Budget amended	Remaining in Budget	% YTD
Operations	\$582,250	\$656,040	\$73,790	89%
CIP	\$790,665	\$492,340	(\$298,325)	161%
Total	\$1,372,915	\$1,148,380	(\$224,535)	120%

TEC Staff Memo – December 2021

IV. Administration & Operations

A. Financial Report for December & authorization for Payment

Please find the December 2021 Finance Report attached in the ePacket for review and approval.

B. VLAWMO December TEC Report to the Board

Please find the December 2021 TEC Report to the Board attached in the ePacket for review and approval.

V. Programs

A. Education and Outreach

1. 2021 Review, 2022 Goals

The summary of VLAWMO's 2021 education and outreach activities is now available online in list and chart format.

A summary of 2021 highlights includes:

- 3 Community Blue Programs
- 5 community events (MarketFest, Heritage Days, etc.)
- 5 Public raingardens maintained under Adopt-a-Raingarden
- 1 stakeholder event: East Goose ALM
- 250 volunteer hours reported, 21 volunteers
- 491 volunteer hours including fieldwork/ U of M community-engaged learners program
- 7 COVID-19 adapted workshops
- 80 workshop/webinar participants
- 1,965 lbs of reported debris removed from stormdrains through Adopt-a-Drain
- 68% growth in Adopt-a-Drain participation. 68 new adoptions in 2021. (114 total)

- 19,000 website visits in 2021
- 5 of 6 public raingardens maintained by volunteers under Adopt-a-Raingarden
- ~200 social media engagements/month, 29 new followers
- 1 workshop/webinar participant continued into cost-share program
- 6 workshop/event participants continued into education and outreach involvement
- 5 Watershed Action Volunteers serving in leadership positions in 2021
- 2 new Minnesota Water Stewards certified and sponsored by VLAWMO in partnership with Freshwater Society

Visit www.vlawmo.org/about/why-water-matters/ for 2021 review attachments and the full 2022 Education and Outreach Plan document.

VI. Projects

A. RCD14 Maintenance Project Update

Staff will provide a short project update presentation at the Dec. 8, 2021 TEC meeting. RCD14 Maintenance project update: The Board approved signing into contract with Scandia Trucking & Excavating at the 10/27/2021 Board of Directors meeting. Staff meet with contractor on 11/2/2021 on site to do a final walkthrough before the maintenance project started. Tree and brush clearing began the afternoon of 11/2/2021. Dredging began 11/15/2021 and was completed 11/24/2021. Seeding and haying of spoil pile was done week of 11/29/2021. Access road to staging area was regraded. Additional stabilization and seeding may also continue into the spring /early summer of 2022 depending on weather and vegetation growth.

B. Lambert Update: The Lambert Project was 1 of 3 finalists for Project of the Year at the annual MAWD conference. Highlights of this project were included in the award presentation on Dec. 2, 2021. A presentation was given by VLAWMO staff and SEH at the annual meeting on Dec. 3, 2021. We were delighted to share this exciting project with the larger watershed community.

C. Pleasant Lake Carp Update: At the time of packet preparation, VLAWMO staff is waiting for a telemetry check to be completed by WSB on Pleasant Lake. Following that check on Nov. 30, 2021, WSB is expected to provide a tentative harvest date for an open-water harvest. An updated will provided with results of the telemetry check and tentative date at the TEC meeting.

Evaluation of 2021 goals and how they brought about the Education and Outreach Plan (EOP) Desired Outcomes

EOP Desired Outcomes

	1: Complete capital improvement campaigns	2: Confirm MS4 partners are using VLAWMO MS4 resources, striving to improve.	3: Maintain active, relevant outreach, participates with cost-share and volunteer programs.	4: Witness a citizenry that advocates for solutions that promote long-term stewardship...	5: Observe volunteers educating and being educated by their peers.	6: Observe citizens demonstrating watershed protection behaviors.
Capital Improvement Campaign: Goose Lake ALM	Complete		East Goose stakeholder survey—101 responses August 3rd stakeholder meeting—8 participants		White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission partnership	
Capital Improvement Campaign: Lambert Creek Pond, Meander, and Ditch education	Complete	Ditch maintenance partnership—City of Vadnais Heights	Website, newsletter, and social media documentation of pond and meander: video, photos, seasonal updates. Newspaper article.			
1. VLAWMO will support partner Cities and Townships in making progress in MS4's	MS4 checklist created with all municipal partners	Articles with 3 MS4 partners, infographics with 2, brochure use 2	All MS4 partners shared promo of VLAWMO workshops. WBL and VH City newsletter articles	MS4 integration (pet waste) in VH scavenger hunt. VH public works partnership on raingarden maintenance	2 volunteers generated MS4 demonstration photos (pet waste) for City use	Adopt-a-Drain partnerships: WBL, WBT
2: Community members utilize watershed knowledge to act on watershed issues with help from VLAWMO's tools and resources	1 private cost-share project adjacent to and benefiting Birch Lake sand-iron filter		Cost-share open house: 6 participants Workshop participants to complete cost-share grants ('20,'21): 7	Cost-share grants completed: 16	Adopt-a-Drain: 68 new adoptions in 2021, 1,965 lbs of debris removed from drainage ways	Lakeaires Elementary raingarden maintenance with Community Blue support
3: Community members are educated on VLAWMO water issues and projects	East Goose Lake stakeholder engagement report—June Carp and lake mgmt. news articles	VLAWMO education booths: North Oaks, WBL, WBT	VLAWMO workshops: 67 participants. Social media engagements: 300+ Website visits: 19,000		Volunteer-led rainbarrel bonanza event: 22 participants. 5 volunteers in leadership positions.	
4: Coordinate an active volunteer base that learns and leads	3 volunteers contributing to Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)	Volunteer-led VLAWMO education booths: VH Heritage Days, VH Ice Cream Social	6 VLAWMO workshop participants segued into volunteer activities	10 Field work days: 14 volunteers AFSA work day: 19 Tamarack Nature Center: 14. 2021 volunteer hours reported: 487	2 Minnesota Water Steward volunteers renovating East Oaks Bioswale in North Oaks. 2 MWS planned watershed tour. 3 volunteers macroinvertebrates monitoring	5 public raingardens maintained by adopt-a-raingarden volunteers Aquatic Invasive Species monitoring: 2 volunteers
5: Watershed communications are accountable and active in the community	Monthly email newsletters: 2,400 documented opened. End-of-year survey		11 newspaper articles 3 city newsletter articles			
6: Schools have established and maintained stormwater BMP's integrated with watershed education efforts			Jr. Watershed Explorer program distributed to 5 schools	Jr Watershed Explorer program workbook completions: 5		Christ the Servant Church + VH Elementary Principal maintained VH Elementary raingarden
7: An appreciation of natural resources...fosters ecological awareness, participation			Volunteers donated wildlife photos: Debbie Hartmann, "MW and WC"	Upstream partnership with WB Center for the Arts: 10 tea and story events	Phenology monitoring picture posts active: 5 locations	4 neighborhood spotlight articles developed from cost-share participants. Volunteer trash pick-up at WB Rec Center wetland
8. Key personnel (BOD, TEC, WAV) have continued to advance their knowledge of water and related natural resources	White Bear Lake City Council—2 "visitor" presentations for East Goose Lake	MS4 info presentation at VLAWMO TEC—August	1 key personnel nomination and voted winner for annual watershed partner award	TEC/BOD quorums met		

EOP Goals

2020/2021

Education & Outreach Update

Outline:

- 2021 Summary and survey results
- 2022: Upcoming efforts

View complete plan documents at:
www.vlawmo.org/about/why-water-matters



2021 Summary



- 3 Community Blue Programs
- 5 community events (MarketFest, Heritage Days, etc.)
- 5 Public raingardens maintained under Adopt-a-Raingarden
- 1 stakeholder event: East Goose ALM
- 250 volunteer hours reported, 21 volunteers
- 491 volunteer hours including fieldwork/ U of M community-engaged learners program
- 7 COVID-19 adapted workshops
- 80 workshop/webinar participants
- 1,965 lbs of debris removed from stormdrains under Adopt-a-Drain
- 7 cost-share installations from workshop participation in the past 2 years (2020: 99, 2021: 67)



See full 2021 Education/Outreach Report for more details:
www.vlawmo.org/about/why-water-matters

2021 Summary



Workshop to Cost-share Pipeline:

- Prospective cost-share site-visits come from workshops as far as 5 years ago
- Some cost-share grants schedule visits for 1-2 years before installations
- Direct workshop to cost-share numbers low
- Workshop participants also serve as word of mouth reference for cost-share pursuits
- Workshop participants also widen audience, increasingly going to volunteering (2020, 21)
- Installations can occur independently
- Workshops now recorded, posted online



See full 2021 Education/Outreach Report for more details:
www.vlawmo.org/about/why-water-matters

2021 Summary: Goal Review

Goals Summary:

- All goals accomplished: Email list growth and TEC/BOD supplementary “water matters” partial

Measurable objective highlights:

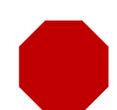
- 68% growth in Adopt-a-Drain participation. 68 new adoptions in 2021. (114 total)
- 19,000 website visits in 2021
- 5 of 6 public raingardens maintained by volunteers under Adopt-a-Raingarden
- ~200 social media engagements/month, 29 new followers
- 1 workshop/webinar participant continued into cost-share program
- 6 workshop/event participants continued into education and outreach involvement
- 5 Watershed Action Volunteers serving in leadership positions in 2021
- 2 new Minnesota Water Stewards

2021 Summary: Goal Review



 **Completed/nearly complete**

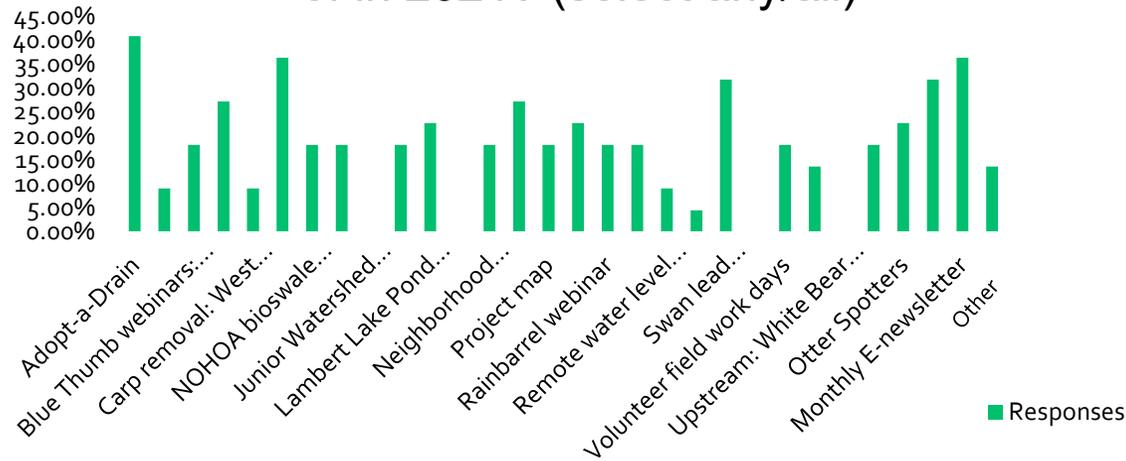
 **Partially completed**

 **Incomplete/
COVID-19 Prevention**

2021 Survey Results N=23



What VLAWMO initiatives were you aware of in 2021? (select any/all)

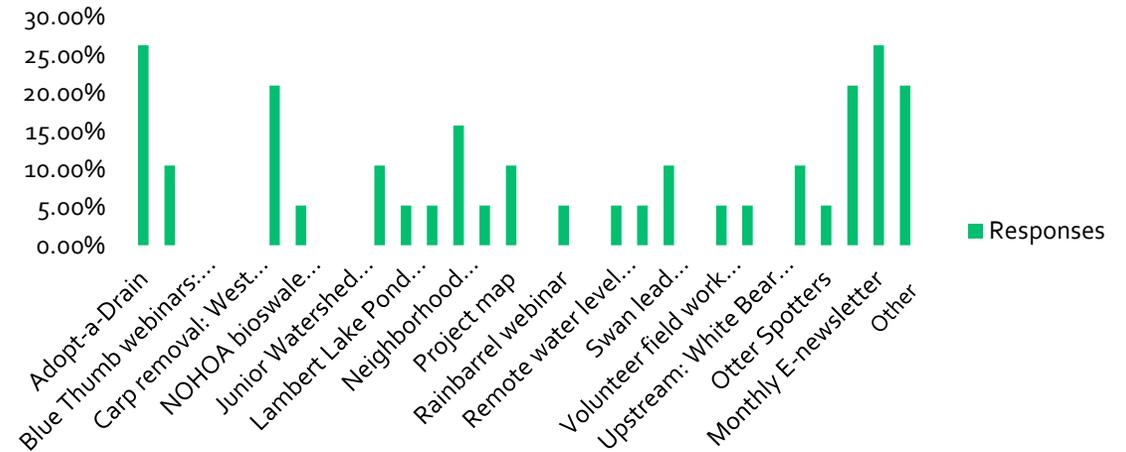


Top Results: Awareness

- Adopt-a-Drain
- Monthly E-newsletter
- VLAWMO booth at event
- Project construction
- Carp removal
- Cost-share program

“Other”: Birch Lake filter (2020), email newsletter in general, none

What VLAWMO initiatives did you *participate* in in 2021? (Same options as question #2, select any/all)



Top Results: Participation

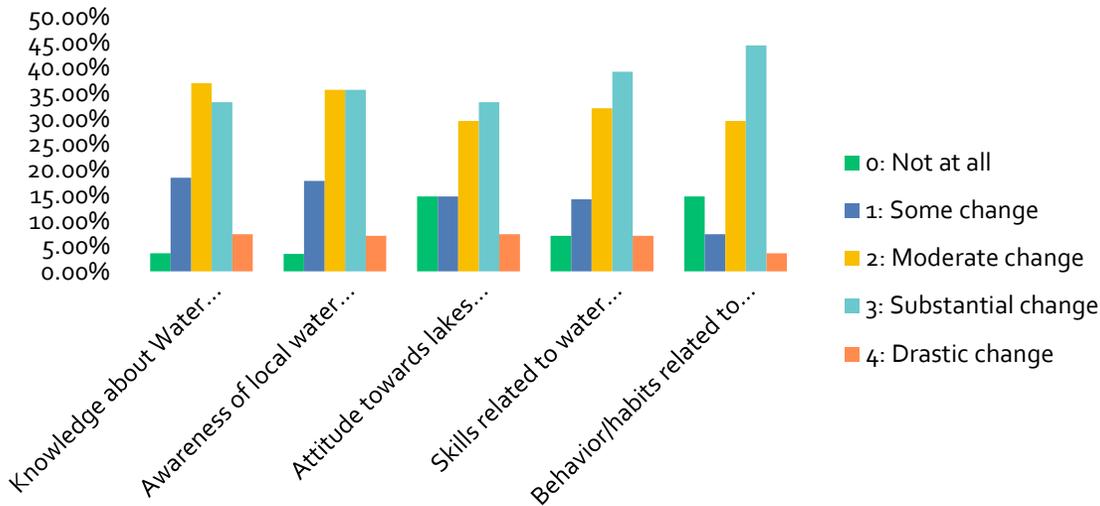
- Monthly newsletter
- Adopt-a-Drain
- Other: None, newsletter (repeat), Birch Lake filter
- VLAWMO booth at event

“Other”: Can’t participate due to health problems or “none”

2021 Survey Results N=23



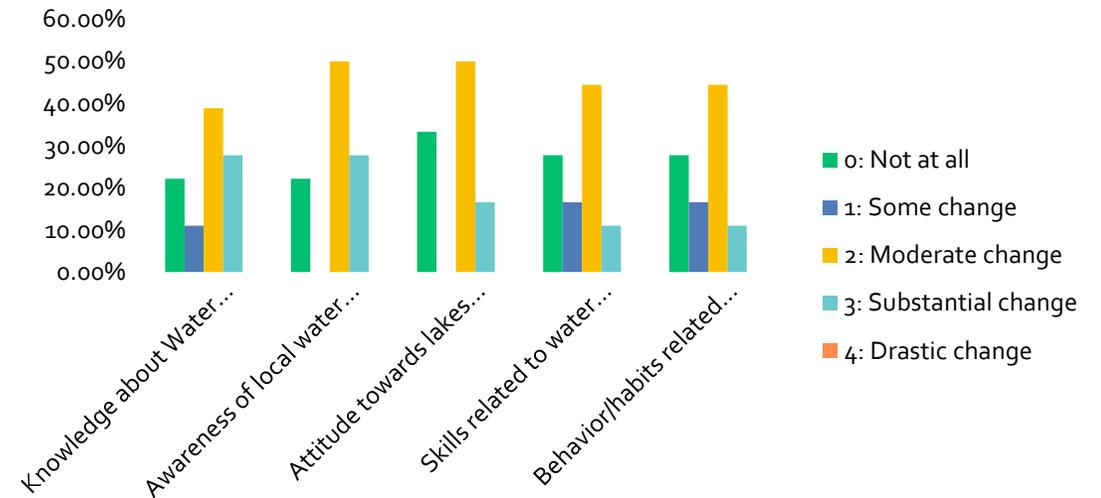
Did your selection(s) in question #2 change any of the following?



Tracking change 2020:

- Substantial change and moderate change dominate, lean towards skills and behaviors
- Drastic change reported
- No change leans towards lowest, hardest to change behaviors

Did your selection(s) in question #4 change any of the following?



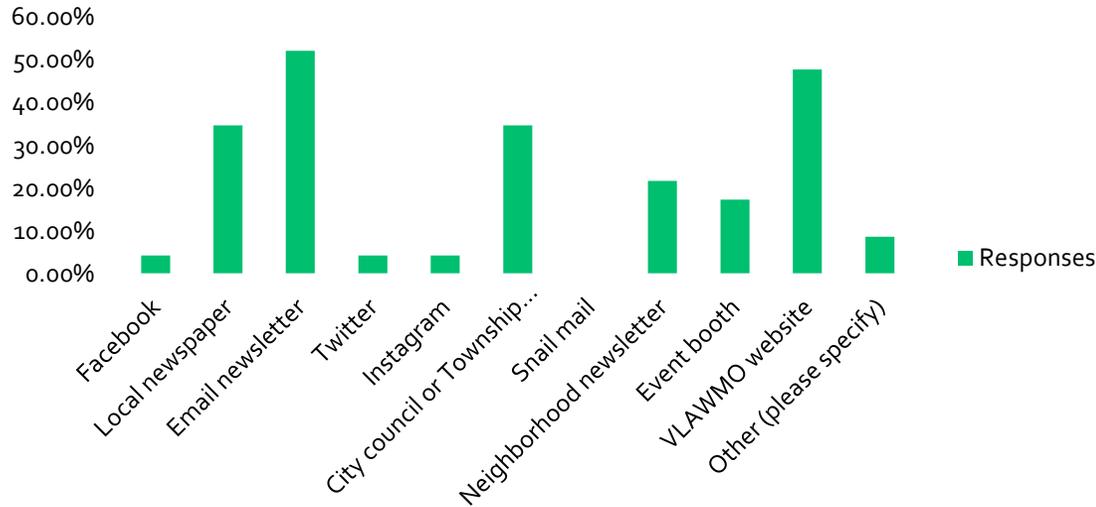
Tracking change 2021:

- Moderate change in awareness
- Moderate change in skills and water behaviors
- Most substantial change in awareness
- 2021 higher consistency: moderate or not at all
- Closer and more consistent audience

2021 Survey Results N=23



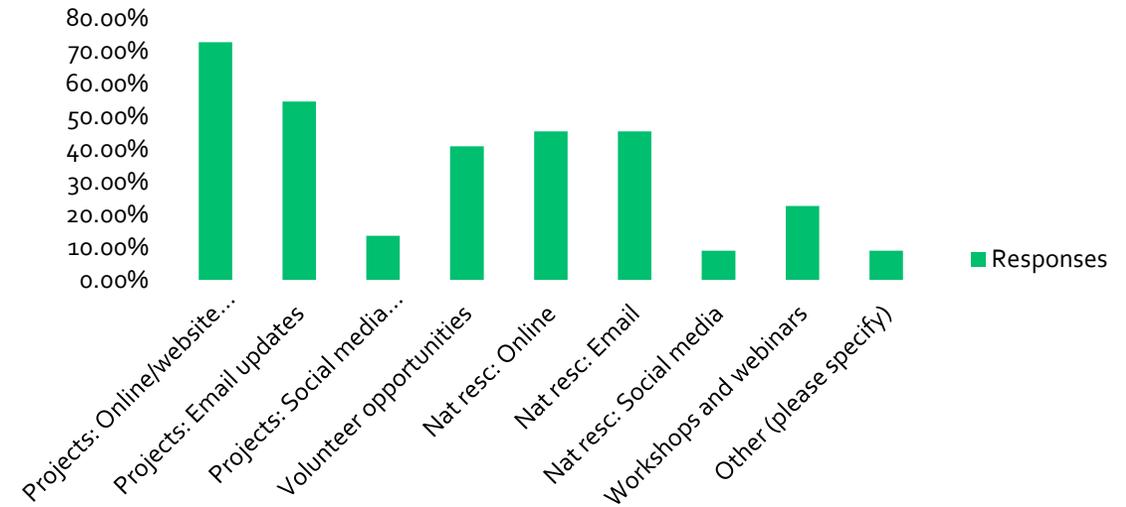
Where did you see VLAWMO in 2021?
(select any/all)



Top Results:

- Email newsletter
- VLAWMO website
- City Council or Township meeting
- “Other”: White Bear Township, none

What would be an effective way to keep you informed? (select any/all)



Top Results:

- Project focus: Online/website, email
- Natural resource focus: Online, email
- Volunteer opportunities
- Lake/natural resource specific information: online or hardcopy
- “Other”: Snail mail - Past years indicate snail mail preferred

2021 Summary: Goal Review



Additional takeaways:

- 2021 tour cancelled due to low registrations
- Low email list subscription growth, but best year for adopt-a-drain growth
- Social media declining for broad communication but still a space for followers
- Best year yet for volunteer participation and allocating volunteer specialties
- 2020 had a DIY cost-share tour, 2021 had an awareness-driven/storytelling “Upstream” project
- Survey likely reflects low participation in volunteers



Partnership Programs



ADOPT
A STORM
DRAIN



Adopt-a-Raingarden:
Schools, congregations, public



**Aquatic Invasive
Species (AIS)
Monitoring:**
Ramsey County



2022: Upcoming Efforts

Attachment 2



Capital Improvement Campaigns:

- East Goose Adaptive Lake Management – Aquatic vegetation focus
- Ditch history and maintenance
- Website update

MS4 Partnerships:

- Build off of 2021 developments: Flyers, mailers, infographics, and articles
- Increase presentations specialty info meetings, and partnerships with neighboring watersheds. Utilize maps for best management practices and TMDL resources.

Tamarack Nature Center Partnership:

- WHEP: Wetland Health Evaluation Program – pilot program

Watershed Action Volunteers (WAV):

- Leadership development, tours and networking, Community Blue us
- Inclusion of Bridgewood Park into Adopt-a-Raingarden

2022: Upcoming Efforts

Attachment 2



Outreach strategies:

- Strategic use of social media and ads to grow email newsletter audience. Use of City/Township outlets to grow email newsletter audience
- Target behavior change and skills: Seasonal actions for yard care/yard waste, native plants/pollinators, adopt-a-drain

Workshops and Projects:

- Renovating raingardens: St Mary's (Eagle Scout) and Chippewa (WAV)
- Good neighbor guide booklet (WAV)
- Mini workshops/info sessions
- Closer partnerships with city commissions



Goal Summary:

- 2 capital improvement campaigns, 8 goals, 24 measurable objectives.

Referenced to 10-year VLAWMO Comprehensive Plan

- Completion of objectives indicates progress towards desired results
- Strive for desired results over the course of 10-year VLAWMO Comprehensive Plan



2022 Goals

Prioritized strategy levels:

- High, intermediate, and low levels to structure staff time and workload

High priority strategies

High priority strategies that receive primary focus in content creation, planning, and implementation.

Goals: Capital Improvement Campaigns, Goal 1

Intermediate priority strategies

A segue between long and short term results, requiring intentional planning yet produces tangible results.

Goals: 2, 3, 4, 5

Low Strategies

Quickly accessible, short-term oriented, and self-perpetuating resources. Participation shifts to public participation and volunteers as the active agents.

Goals: 6, 7, 8,



Questions?

View complete plan documents at:
www.vlawmo.org/about/why-water-matters



2.1 Desired Results, Measurable Outcomes

How is the Education and Outreach Plan Measured?

The following goals and objectives function as the fulfillment of the VLAWMO Water Plan Priority Issue #3: Need for education and outreach. The desired results portray VLAWMO’s vision of what that education and outreach will ideally look like as long-term results. Some objectives are especially relevant to this or other priority issues, these are included in parenthesis after the objectives, phrased as “(PI #-#-#)”.

Desired Results: *“Through the EOP, VLAWMO desires to...”*

Listed according to priority.

1. To complete annual Capital Improvement Campaigns; specific education efforts related to VLAWMO projects including outreach, communication, and stakeholder engagement.
2. To confirm that MS4 partners are using VLAWMO MS4 resources and are striving to improve their MS4 permits and SWPPP reports according to the full scope of the current MS4 permit.
3. To maintain active, relevant outreach that fosters participation with VLAWMO’s cost-share and volunteer programs, in addition to member community partnerships.
4. Witness a citizenry that grapples with the complexity of water resources, culture, and climate change, and advocates for solutions that promote long-term stewardship of resources.
5. To observe resident volunteers educating and being educated by their peers, utilizing knowledge and skills related to stormwater, watersheds, and water quality.
6. To observe citizens demonstrating watershed protection behaviors.

2.1 High Priority Strategies

Capital Improvement Project Campaigns: 2022

East Goose Adaptive Lake Management

Goal: Compliment the Goose Lake Adaptive Management project with accurate documentation, stakeholder engagement, and relevant supplementary education.

- Special focus on aquatic plant management.
- Facilitate communications around an East Goose Adaptive Lake Management (ALM) plan as available depending on the planning process and local partnerships.
- Facilitate staff planning for presentations: Set agendas, schedule meetings and consultations, ensure meeting outcomes are delivered, follow-up as needed.
- Coordinate a minimum of two introductory stakeholder meetings: PowerPoints, agendas, communications, follow-up for outcomes.

Desired result: #1 **Priority issue:** #1, 5, 6 **Target audience:** Public: At large, workshops, events, businesses, homeowners/lake association

Ditch Maintenance Communication and Floodplain Education

Goal: Compliment ditch maintenance activities with documentation and relevant education on ditch history, wetlands, and stream and floodplain function.

- Provide updates with photos, videos, and links on VLAWMO website project page: vlawmo.org/projects
- Maintain ditch management communications informed by local policies, studies, and ditch and drainage education.
- Complete a complimentary outreach series utilizing construction footage, drone footage, storymaps, and background information on ponds, ditches in context of ecosystem health, and creek meanders. Utilize newspaper, website, and social media (using #LambertCreekVH).
- Distribute hardcopy mailings (letters, postcards) containing updates on upcoming projects and public input opportunities.
- Facilitate questions and address concerns between staff, the public, and City officials. Coordinate communications informed by feedback.

Desired outcome: #1 **Priority issue in focus:** #1, 5 **Target audience:** Public: At large, homeowners assc.

2.1 High Priority Strategies

Professional Support: MS4 permit support

Goals

1. VLAWMO will support partner Cities and Townships in making progress in their MS4's.
 - A. VLAWMO will pursue items and partnership agreements formed from a 2021 needs assessment with each MS4 community to benefit each community's 2020 general MS4 permit:
<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-strm4-49a.pdf>
 - Emphasis on Minimum Control Measures 1, 2, 3, and 6.
 - B. Each MS4 in VLAWMO will utilize VLAWMO for assistance under **Minimum Control Measure #1 (Education and Outreach)**:
 - Partner Cities and Townships retain compliance based on part 16 in the 2020 MS4 General Permit: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-strm4-94a.pdf>
 - VLAWMO creates and pulls from existing resources to provide theme-specific and municipality-specific content to support MCM #1.
 - C. Each MS4 in VLAWMO will utilize VLAWMO for assistance under **Minimum Control Measure #2 (Public Participation/Involvement)**:
 - Partner Cities and Townships retain compliance based on part 17 in the 2020 MS4 General Permit: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-strm4-94a.pdf>
 - Becoming a member of Adopt-a-Drain and working with VLAWMO in program promotion and implementation.
 - Promote or host storm drain clean-up events and/or trash pick-up events.
 - Collaborate with VLAWMO in hosting and promoting an annual raingarden, native plant, groundcover, shoreline restoration, or BlueThumb-sponsored workshop.
 - Partnerships with White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) and Vadnais Heights Planning Commission: Adopt-a-Drain/East Goose subwatershed, Bridgewood raingarden
 - D. Each MS4 in VLAWMO will utilize VLAWMO for assistance under **Minimum Control Measure #3 Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)**:
 - Partner Cities and Townships retain compliance based on part 18 in the 2020 MS4 General Permit: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-strm4-94a.pdf>
 - E. Each MS4 in VLAWMO will utilize VLAWMO for assistance under **Minimum Control Measure #6 Good Housekeeping**
 - Partner Cities and Townships retain compliance based on part 21 in the 2020 MS4 General Permit: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-strm4-94a.pdf>
 - F. VLAWMO will provide community-specific maps highlighting relevant best management practices and TMDL-related efforts to accompany partner Cities and Township's SWPPP reports.
 - G. VLAWMO will produce an MS4 report containing the year's programming and outreach summary to City and Township councils in December, 2022.

Desired Result #4

Primary priority issue in focus: #3

Target audience(s): MS4 partners

2.2 Intermediate Priority Strategies

Informal Education and Interpretation

Goals

2. Community members utilize watershed knowledge to act on watershed issues with help from VLAWMO's tools and resources.
 - A. VLAWMO will offer and collaborate on at least three native plant, raingarden, and/or yard-care workshops annually.
 - B. VLAWMO will create and distribute cost-share promotional material to all VLAWMO municipalities and host a cost-share open-house annually.
 - C. VLAWMO will continually promote and evaluate the use of watershed stewardship activities through social media, website content, email blasts, and surveys (PI 3-3-1). To guide and organize VLAWMO's messaging, watershed stewardship messages include:
 - Water-friendly yard care strategies (keeping lawn at 3" height, keeping grass clippings on the lawn, etc.) A full list of strategies is found at vlawmo.org/residents/water-stewardship/
 - Adopting a stormdrain (Adopt-a-Drain.org)
 - Adopting a raingarden (vlawmo.org/get-involved)
 - Properly disposing yard waste and hazardous waste
 - Planting a raingarden, bioswale, native plant buffer, or installing other stormwater retention features
 - Redirecting downspouts away from pavement
 - Practicing salt and de-icer best practices

Desired outcome: #1, 2, 5 **Priority issue in focus:** #1, 2, 3 **Target audience:** Public: at large, workshops

2.2 Intermediate Priority Strategies

Informal Education and Interpretation

3. Community members are educated on VLAWMO issues and projects.

- A. VLAWMO will attend and present relevant water information and project updates at annual community events as opportunities arise. Examples include MarketFest in White Bear Lake and Heritage Days in Vadnais Heights (PI 3-2-2).
- B. VLAWMO will utilize community partnerships to promote VLAWMO events and capital improvement projects (PI 3-2-1). VLAWMO will also produce specific, separate communications plans corresponding with specific partnerships, capital improvement projects, and MPCA 319 projects being conducted within the defined year of this edition of the Education and Outreach Plan. VLAWMO will host kick-off info sessions and planning meetings on new projects happening in the watershed. **See Capital Improvement Project Campaigns.**
- C. VLAWMO will utilize the VLAWMO.org blog, VLAWMO YouTube channel, E-newsletter, and social media a minimum of once each week to promote awareness and build community rapport. Topics will include lake and stream monitoring, fieldwork updates, VLAWMO publications, local ecology, tips on water-friendly behaviors such as yard care practices, and current news relating to water resources and lake SLMP's (PI 3-2-2).

Desired outcome: #2, 6 **Priority issue in focus:** #1, 3 **Target audience:** Public: at large, associations, citizen groups, stakeholders

4. Coordinate an active volunteer base that learns and leads.

- A. VLAWMO will creatively recruit volunteers through relationship building and nurture its existing volunteer base. Volunteer programs include participation in the Minnesota Water Stewards program and facilitating VLAWMO-designed volunteer positions (PI 3-3-1).
- B. VLAWMO plans out annual projects for the Watershed Action Volunteers (WAV) and Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) with volunteer input (PI 3-3-1). Possible activities for 2022 include:
Wetland Health Evaluation Program pilot demonstration with Tamarack Nature Center, Neighborhood BMP demonstration tour, Leaf Pack Macroinvertebrate monitoring, Shoreline restoration open house, native plant swap, raingarden maintenance, “adopt-a-raingarden” maintenance on public raingardens and bio-swales, community stormdrain clean-ups, adopt-a-drain promotion.
- C. Trained volunteers will help monitor the status of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in the watershed. VLAWMO will partner with the Ramsey County Soil and Water Conservation Division to host volunteer trainings (PI 5-2-2).
- D. VLAWMO will maintain a relationship with the University of Minnesota service learning, and will host students for outdoor fieldwork such as buckthorn removal and camera trap

Desired outcome: #3 **Priority issue in focus:** #1, 3 **Target audience:** Volunteers

2.2 Intermediate Priority Strategies

Informal Education and Interpretation

5. Watershed communications are accountable and active in the community.
- A. Notes and minutes from VLAWMO meetings will be posted on the website for stakeholders and the public. (PI 3-2-1, 3-2-3).
 - B. Each municipality will be reached annually through newsletters, email blasts, or website updates with relevant MS4, watershed stewardship, cost-share, or Capital Improvement Campaign content.
 - C. Due to its remote location, small area, and being in Anoka County, the Lino Lakes portion of the VLAWMO watershed will receive one hardcopy mailing annually.
 - D. VLAWMO will produce and submit at least 10 newspaper articles annually.
 - E. VLAWMO will participate in local groups such as VHDEC Partners for Good to maintain connections with local businesses and nonprofits.
 - F. VLAWMO continues memberships with Metro Watershed Partners and Blue Thumb to provide education content and peer-to-peer consultation with other watershed organizations in order to enhance programs and services to the VLAWMO public.

Desired outcome: #1

Priority issue: #1, 5, 6

Target audience: Public: At large

2.3 Low Priority Strategies

Formal Education: Schools

6. Schools have established and maintained stormwater BMP's integrated with watershed education efforts.
- A. VLAWMO will provide at least one BMP maintenance event annually within the WMO, either during school hours or during after hours care. (PI 3-2-2)
 - B. Visit or provide supportive water resource content to each school at least once/year for water-focused lesson and activity. Repeatable and accessible education activities are listed at vlawmo.org/students (PI 3-3-2).

Desired Result: #2, 5

Priority issue in focus: #3

Target audience: Schools, Public: families

2.3 Low Priority Strategies

Informal Education and Interpretation

7. An appreciation of natural resources is established in the community, fostering ecological awareness, participation, and a sense of place.
 - A. Continued use of remote cameras to photograph local wildlife and use photos for educational messaging, capital improvement project support, schools, newspapers, blogs, and presentations as time allows.
 - B. VLAWMO staff will develop story maps focused on wetland wildlife, frog and toad populations, and VLAWMO projects.
 - C. VLAWMO will produce Neighborhood Spotlight articles (successful cost-share raingardens, stewardship practices, and other best management practices) and Faces of Wetlands articles (featuring ecological knowledge on wetland wildlife while relating it to human activities).
 - D. VLAWMO will organize citizen science initiatives for community members to participate in. These include but aren't limited to LeafPack macroinvertebrate monitoring, pollinator monitoring, or picture posts (phenology). Resulting data will be interpreted in terms of watershed health (PI 3-3-1).

Desired outcome: #1, 2, 3 Priority issue in focus: #1, 5, 6 Target audience: Public: at large, events

Professional Support: BOD, TEC, WAV

8. Key personnel (BOD, TEC, CAC) have continued to advance their knowledge of water and related natural resources.
 - A. VLAWMO will provide one enrichment opportunity annually in the form of a supplementary presentation titled "Water Matters". Presentations will invite guest speakers on watershed related topics from the greater Twin Cities metro. Each presentation will be recorded and posted on the VLAWMO website, and the public invited.
 - B. VLAWMO staff will forward relevant news, events, and research to TEC and BOD members for supplementary learning when available.

Desired Result #4 Primary priority issue: #3 Target audience(s): Key personnel

2.4 Desired Results, Measurable Outcomes

Measurable Outcomes: *Measured program participation that indicates incremental accomplishment of goals. Objectives attributed to each goal are evaluated through this pool of outcomes.*

1. Adopt-a-Drain: Observe a minimum of 50 new drain adoptions, exceed 20 reported volunteer hours, maintain 20 active annual volunteers and achieve 50 lbs of debris collected and reported by adopt-a-drain volunteers.
2. Grow email subscriptions and social media following by 75 people annually.
3. Achieve 10,000 website visits annually.
4. 50 new social media followers annually.
5. 500 VLAWMO received and opened email newsletters annually.
6. 20 end-of-year annual survey results or Facebook engagements reporting independent watershed stewardship (goal 2c).
7. Successfully published articles in various newspapers, newsletters, and custom mailings. A minimum of four times annually.
8. Reach 4 classrooms (90-100 students) annually through school programs or use of VLAWMO web resources.
9. A reported increase in Tblisi education categories: Knowledge, awareness, attitude, skills, and behavior. Increases in each category as a result of VLAWMO workshop or tour survey, or annual end-of-year survey.
10. Monthly phenology posts made at each picture post, at least one new participant engaging in program annually.
11. A minimum of 50 watershed residents attending VLAWMO workshops, open houses, tours, and Blue Thumb workshops annually.
12. A minimum of 5 VLAWMO event participants from the past two years will participate in a VLAWMO cost-share or soil health grant.
13. A minimum of 5 VLAWMO cost-share participants from the past two years will also participate in education and outreach through a spotlight article or volunteering with VLAWMO.
14. A minimum of 2 Lawns to Legumes applications in the VLAWMO watershed annually.
15. At least 5 public raingardens are adopted and annually maintained by volunteers under Adopt-a-Raingarden.
2022 goals: St. Mary's and Chippewa Middle School
16. Achieve over 500 reported volunteer hours through volunteer opportunities such as leading a short-term service projects, citizen science, specific or custom volunteer roles, or utilizing a VLAWMO education display.
17. A minimum of five volunteers will act as educators to their local citizen peers annually.
18. A minimum of three volunteer efforts completed annually, at least 25 participants across all activities.
19. One or more trained AIS volunteers will report and monitor at least once on each lake in VLAWMO annually.
20. At least two schools each year will schedule and complete raingarden maintenance with or without VLAWMO assistance.
21. A minimum of one engagement annually with a resident in Lino Lakes portion of watershed.
22. TEC and BOD quorum met at each meeting.
24. If cost-share best management practices are successfully installed as a result of education and outreach efforts (workshops, events, etc.), VLAWMO will report these as supplementary measurable outcomes.

Barriers: *What challenges will be faced when pursuing the goals?*

1. Many watershed features in VLAWMO (lakes, wetlands) are difficult to access and are also generally out of sight to the public. This creates difficulty in building personal interaction and appreciation with local natural resources. Finding ways to foster local, place-based appreciation of water resources (lakes, wetlands, etc.) is an important strategy for inspiring behavior change and watershed stewardship (water friendly yard care, etc.).
2. Maintaining a variety of activities that appeal to a wide range of communities on a limited budget. With a wide range of age groups, political affiliations, and professions in the watershed, VLAWMO is unable to focus on one particular group.
3. Competing for attention and focus from the public. To get educational messages across in newspapers, social media, or email, they must compete with many more news stories, email distributions, advertisements, and social functions. This inundation of information has the potential to turn community members off to watershed education and messages.
4. A trend of disassociation to place and water resources. Having many causes, priorities, and interests active in the watershed allows for many different focuses. A particular niche may or may not require attention to the local environment or water resources to function. This creates space for an assumption that water resources are irrelevant to some, and the responsibility of others. As a watershed organization, VLAWMO focuses on the interconnectivity of water resources, recognizing that everyone who lives or works in the watershed impacts water resources. A challenge VLAWMO faces is to assist in making this interconnectivity visible, relevant, and accessible to all interests and priorities.
5. Perceived complexity, intimidation, or conflict concerning water management. The notion of not being an expert may inhibit some from pursuing actions or policies that strive to improve water quality. Education focused on new behaviors regarding land use and watershed connectivity may also reveal differences in attitudes, norms, and priorities. Gridlock, conflict, or disengagement may occur when these differences require cultural, political, or social reflection within the discussion. Such reflection demands a degree of voluntary personal interest and a receptiveness to difference, which can vary. Potential reflective topics include land use and water use, climate change, private property ethics, or yard care routines.

2021 Annual Watershed Awards

December 8th, 2021

View full stories at:

www.vlawmo.org/get-involved/awards



Watershed Steward Award



Katherine Doll Kanne

Minnesota Water Steward

Accomplishments:

- Rainbarrel Bonanza: 2020,2021
- Leaf Pack Macroinvertebrate monitoring: 2019
- Civic Engagement/VLAWMO Citizen Advisory: 2019-2021

“...Katherine takes initiative and leads by example, and does so out of a contagious, positive, and welcoming sense of enthusiasm.”



Watershed Partner Award



Jesse Farrell

City of Vadnais Heights

Accomplishments:

- Lambert Lake Pond and Meander: 2019-2021
- Lambert Creek ditch maintenance efforts: 2017-2021
- MS4 permit, public stormwater efforts: 2019-2021

“... VLAWMO was able to accelerate and expand its goals on Lambert Creek thanks to Jesse’s supportive partnership and consideration of both short and long-term goals.”

