



The Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
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Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
November 10, 2021
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Council Chambers
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.