



Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
www.vlawmo.org; 651-204-6070

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
October 10, 2014
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room**

Attending:

Paul Peterson	White Bear Township (WBT), Chair
Brent Thompson	White Bear Lake (WBL) - alternate
Mark Graham	Vadnais Heights (VH)
Marty Asleson	Lino Lakes (LL)
Jim Lindner	Gem Lake (GL)
Chris Mann	North Oaks (NO)

Others in attendance: Kristine Jenson, Brian Corcoran, Vanessa Strong, (VLAWMO); Margaret Behrens (Ramsey Conservation District); Bob Larson (NO Natural Resources Commission Chair); Kimberly Murray (NOHOA); Justine Roe (St. Paul Regional Water Service)

- I. **Call to Order** Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:30am.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
An addition to the agenda is requested – VI. Programs, F. Cost Share Program
It was moved and seconded by Lindner & Mann to approve the October 10, 2014 agenda as amended. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
It was moved and seconded by Graham & Mann to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2014 Meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
 - A. **Recommended changes to the Service and Copy Fee Schedule**
VLAWMO has had a fee schedule, which is posted on its website for many years. Fees have been adjusted over time. The adoption of the new Data Practices policy and procedure this summer, has updated the charges for copying materials. The new fee schedule would make posted copying charges consistent with Exhibit 3 of the Data Practices Procedure. VLAWMO also charges a service fee for Wetland Conservation Act applications. The new charges for specific Determinations or other application processing would be more reflective of actual costs. The updated fee schedule was included with packets.
It was moved & seconded by Lindner & Mann to approve the recommended changes to the Service and Copy Fee Schedule. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
 - B. **Ramsey County GIS User Group JPA Extension**
Staff recommends approval of \$254.26 for the 2015 RCGISUG membership fee. Staff also recommends approval of the 2015-2017 JPA among members of the Ramsey County Geographic Information Systems Users Group. This is an agreement with Ramsey County for access to GIS Data. Components include the collection of aerial photography and maintenance of digital physical features derived from aerial photography along with the Ramsey County Attribute Database.
It was moved & seconded by Graham & Mann to approve spending \$254.26 for the 2015 RCGISUG membership fee and approval of the 2015-2017 JPA. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- V. **Projects**
 - A. **Project Updates**
 1. **Sucker Channel**

Kristine showed the latest design plans created by the RCD in partnership with Ramsey County Parks. She is working on drafting a cooperative agreement for the project for the partners (VLAWMO, RCD and SPRWS). The goal is to have plans finalized and bid documents ready for the December Board meeting in order to get approval to go out for bid in January. Installation wouldn't begin until Fall 2015.

2. Community Blue Projects

a) Heritage Estates

Kristine stated that Heritage Estates was installed the last week of September and looks great. The residents are very happy with it.

b) Contract Extensions for Lakeaires & Fox Meadow Park

The projects at Lakeaires Elementary and Fox Meadow Park have not been completed as of today. Both of them are in progress and both contractors have told Kristine that they would be completed by mid-October. The contracts that were signed for these projects stated that they would be completed by October 1st. Therefore a contract extension is needed. The extension will give them until October 24th to complete their projects. All paperwork needs to be submitted by December 1st. Kristine is asking the TEC for approval of these two Contract Amendments.

It was moved & seconded by Graham & Mann to approve the Contract Amendments for Lakeaires Elementary and Fox Meadow Park. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. Grant Requests – RCD – Koehler

Staff just informed the TEC that RCD has applied for a grant via the BWSR Clean Water Funds for the Lambert Creek restoration project south of Koehler Road.

VII. Programs

A. Monitoring

1. E coli sourcing/monitoring

There is a workshop planned for December 3rd, in conjunction with the December Board meeting where Steve Gruber from Burns & McDonnell will talk about the E.coli monitoring efforts.

2. Authorization to contract monitoring wells in Whitaker Drainage Area

Staff recommends approval of up to \$7200 to install 3 groundwater monitoring wells along Dillon Ditch in the Whitaker Pond drainage area. These will be used in conjunction with the current E.coli source monitoring project. The Whitaker drainage area is highly urbanized and these wells will be used to both monitor ground water levels and also allow staff to take ground water samples. Three subwatersheds flow into the 8ft Dillon Ditch pipe which discharges into Whitaker Pond. Locations for these wells were determined by field recon this spring during dry conditions with our consultant from Burns & McDonnell. Groundwater leakage into the Dillon Ditch pipe is most likely a transport mechanism for our E coli impairment but we also want to determine if the ground water is also contaminated by E coli. These wells will allow us to determine if the groundwater is a source of E coli and also allow us to monitor the ground water levels to use that information in helping to track down the E coli source. VLAWMO has received two bids, and currently waiting for a third. Bids received were from Braun Intertec for \$6610 and Stevens Drilling for \$6630.

It was moved & seconded by Graham & Mann to approve up to \$7200 to install 3 ground water monitoring wells along Dillon Ditch in the Whitaker Pond drainage area. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. Bullhead Removal Update

Brian stated that the fishermen we contracted with are going to finish the bullhead removal in Spring 2015. They went out this fall and pulled about 600 pounds. They feel they will get more in Spring. After they do the removal in the spring, they will fulfill their contract.

C. Events

1. Soggy Yard Solutions & Chris Mann Article

Vanessa stated that the Soggy Yards class was on September 17. We didn't get as many folks as we hoped for but the folks who attended asked Kristine to come out for site visits so it shows they are interested in taking the next steps. Mann stated that the presentation by ReGen was very good and gave her good ideas.

2. Interview with Birch Lake Grant Recipient Carol Nelson

Vanessa stated that she conducted an interview with Carol Nelson who has received 2 cost share grants to do shoreline restoration on Birch Lake. The interview will be in our next e-newsletter. The story will give insight into the ups and downs of this type of project and being part of the Cost Share Program. Vanessa hopes to do more interviews like these in the future.

3. Children's Water Festival

Vanessa stated that she volunteered for a day at this festival as part of our partnership with Watershed Partners. There were 1000 4th graders at this event with experts from all over the state teaching kids about all sorts of water related topics. It was held at the State Fairgrounds.

D. Outreach

1. VLAWMO boulevard flag & temporary tattoos

Vanessa showed the new flag that was completed recently. Board Member Dan Jones designed it. She also showed temporary tattoos that were made and will be used next year at events. Kids seem to really like them and they are a cost effective give away item. The WAV helped with coming up with the temporary tattoo and boulevard flag ideas.

E. Wetland Conservation Act

Brian stated that there are 4 active sites currently in Vadnais Heights and in North Oaks. There is no action at this time. They are being determined for size and type of wetland right now.

F. Cost Share Program

Kristine met with a homeowner in North Oaks this week to check out a potential cost share project for 2015 and wanted to ask the TEC for their opinion on whether this sort of project would fit within Cost Share Program goals. The site is a townhome association near Charley Lake. There is a storm pond on site which eventually drains to Charley Lake. Many years ago, a prairie restoration project was done and it included a large buffer around the pond. It is about 2 acres in size. There was some maintenance done after it was installed but nothing has been done for quite a few years. It still looks relatively good but there is some invasive plants (reed canary grass) that have entered the area and are spreading. A proposal has been done by Prairie Restorations to do some management on the site to fight off the invasive plants and encourage the growth of the natives. This includes a burn next spring and spray treatment. The thought is that there is a good native seed base already existing

and those natives will come back and be robust again. Does this sort of project fall within the goals of the Cost Share Program?

Discussion included: Praise for them thinking proactively about protection of a project. Lindner asked about setting up another pot of funding or changing the guidance of the cost share program to include the management of older projects such as this. Discussion about whether the maintenance grant could be changed to allow for these types of projects (would need to increase the total reimbursement but keep it at a 50% match). TEC said that they should apply but won't promise that they get funded.

VIII. Reports

A. Financial Report for October 2014 & Authorization for Payment

It was moved & seconded by Lindner & Mann to approve the treasurer's report and October payment of checks. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. TEC Report to the Board

It was moved & seconded by Mann & Graham to approve the October TEC Report to the Board. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IX. Commissioner Reports

Asleson asked if people had seen the documentary done by a White Bear Lake group suing the DNR for the loss of water in White Bear Lake.

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

Justine said they are working on a project to see if they can capture more solids in the system.

XI. Ramsey Conservation District (RCD) Report

Behrens stated they held a State of the Waters meeting in September. 44 people showed up and was well received. Perry Jones came to give an update on his USGS study on the aquifer. Paul Bolstad was there as well to discuss the climate stations going up in the area. The DNR was there to discuss the northeast groundwater study being done. She stated that she will send out the link to the video of the meeting once it is ready.

XII. Public Comment

Murphy stated that Vanessa's article in the Shoreview paper was good. Vanessa stated she just elaborated on something Brian had started.

XIII. Next Meetings

TEC: November 14

Board: October 22

XIV. Adjourn

It was moved and seconded by Graham & Mann to adjourn at 8:20am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Jenson.