

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
May 11, 2022
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Council Chambers
800 County Road E East, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127**

Commission Members Present:

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

Absent: None

Others in attendance: Phil Belfiori, Brian Corcoran, Dawn Tanner, Lauren Sampedro, Nick Voss (VLAWMO staff); Diane Gorder (NOHOA), Ed Shapland (Watershed Action Volunteers/CAC), Jeremy Erickson (SPRWS),

I. Call to Order

Vice Chair Gloria Tessier called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

II. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Duxbury and seconded by Commissioner Huntrods to approve the May 11th, 2022 TEC agenda as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes (March 9, 2022)

It was moved by Commissioner Huntrods and seconded by Commissioner Duxbury to approve the April 13th, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IV. Administration & Operations

A. Financial Report for Payment

Administrator Belfiori provided a summary of the financial report as included in the TEC packet. He noted the Lambert Lake Loan and Wilkinson BMP budget lines as notable budget items reflecting high priority projects.

It was motioned by Commissioner Duxbury and seconded by Commissioner Tessier to recommend approval of the May 2022 financial report for payment. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

V. Programs

A. Education & Outreach

1. WHEP Pilot Program with Tamarack Nature Center

Voss provided a summary of the proposed WHEP pilot program with Ramsey County and the Tamarack Nature Center. He noted that the program will ramp up with a volunteer celebration event in Mid October 2022. He said staff are excited that this program will build off of Dakota and Hennepin counties' WHEP programs that have been going on for approximately 20 years, and it will continue a partnership with the Tamarack Nature Center. He added that the program will be an opportunity to share what is learned about wetland monitoring. It will focus on Teal Pond in the Nature Center. Voss noted that staff will be evaluating the program at the end of the year. He noted that TNC and County have yet to sign and execute the agreement for program partnership and that he will be providing an updated on status at a later TEC meeting.

B. Cost-Share Program

1. LL1 Application 2022-03 – Coyne Raingarden

Sampedro outlined the LL1 application in the Pleasant/Charley/Deep lake subwatershed for a raingarden. The property is on the southeast Tip of Pleasant Lake and drains directly to the lake. The proposed project captures runoff from the immediate property, adjacent properties, and the street. The project is adjacent to a community hiking trail managed by the North Oaks Home Owner's Association (NOHOA) and would provide an education and outreach opportunity. She recommended approval of the application contingent on the addition of erosion and sediment control bmps being added to the project design and installed with the raingarden.

It was motioned by Commissioner Duxbury and seconded by Commissioner Huntrods to approve LL1 2022-03. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

2. Soil Health Grant: SHG-2022-06 Folsom

Voss provided a summary of the grant application for a native plant restoration. It is a 360 SF project area and the applicant is using the BWSR design template for pollinator gardens in shady areas. Farrell asked for context on the cardboard in the project area photo and Voss noted the applicant had started site preparation of smothering the turf, which would not be reimbursable with the grant. Voss added the project area is near a

septic mound and could be a good example for others interested in vegetating septic mound areas.

It was motioned by Commissioner Tessier and seconded by Commissioner Larson to approve SHG 2022-06. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

3. Soil Health Grant SHG 2022-07 Ripka

Voss provided a summary of the grant application for a native plant restoration, which is 417 SF in size. Voss noted that the applicant is contracting with Ecoscapes Sustainable Landscaping for the project and chose proposal three in the packet. He stated staff find the plant list and proposal are reliable and suitable for the site. Voss stated the project would provide a corridor for pollinators, especially since it is located near the City Hall site.

Voss provided a brief update that the Soil Health Grant Program's funds are almost fully spent for the year.

It was motioned by Commissioner Huntrods and seconded by Commissioner Tessier to approve SHG 2022-07. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VI. Projects

A. Wilkinson/319 Update

Tanner provided an update that the Wilkinson request for Proposals is out for engineering, which was submitted to four qualified firms. She said staff are looking forward to receiving the proposals and continuing work on the project design. Tanner added the deadline for proposals is May 24th and staff will provide an update at the June TEC and BOD meetings.

B. Carp update

Tanner updated the TEC that carp are behaving as staff hoped. She said the carp were in the northern bay by Charley Channel, possibly feeding on curlyleaf pondweed, and are leaving the main basin of Pleasant Lake, moving into Deep Lake, and hopefully moving to the barrier installation. Tanner described that there are two PVC barriers in place, installed by Carp Solutions. The downstream barrier has a doorway that can be closed to trap carp inside for removal. She added that PIT it tag monitoring from previous years suggests that peak movement will occur from May 12-21, and staff are hoping for a productive harvest.

Chair Farrell inquired about the strength of the electric shocking methods and its safety measures. Tanner responded the carp receive a jolt that stuns them for a short time before they swim away. She discussed there are safety releases in place to prevent shocking

people. Chair Farrell inquired about what other types of fish are discovered, and Tanner described Northern pike, muskie, and big mouth buffalo.

C. East Vadnais remnant restoration site prep

Tanner described the prairie remnant site and explained the significance of lead plant being discovered at the site.

Tanner provided an update that fabric is currently installed to reduce non-native species and new plantings will be added after site prep has been completed.

This restoration is expected to increase visibility of the collected restoration sites in the area to the public as the Vadnais Lake trail network gets established.

VII. Commissioner Reports

Chair Farrell noted a proposed watershed political boundary change request for West Vadnais Lake drainage area, which is under discussion between VLAWMO, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD), and the City of Vadnais Heights. He noted West Vadnais Lake is currently within VLAWMO's political boundary, but it is within RWMWD's hydrologic boundary. The proposal to switch West Vadnais drainage area from VLAWMO to RWMWD was stimulated by the RWMWD board. Both the City of Vadnais Heights' City Council and VLAWMO Board would need to approve the boundary change for it to be implemented. Belfiori noted that the vast majority of the runoff and pollutants in West Vadnais Lake are coming from a different watershed, and the outlet to the lake is also a different watershed.

Chair Farrell also noted that the City of Vadnais Heights has invested in a new LGEN regenerative street sweeper. He noted that it's an improvement in terms of efficiently protecting waterbodies by reducing street inputs of sediment and nutrients. He said spring is the best time to collect sediment and leaves from the street. Farrell thanked the Vadnais Heights City Council for this investment. Belfiori noted that street sweeping is an effective BMP that takes more nutrients per dollar out of the watershed system than any other stormwater BMP. Commissioner Duxbury asked which of the City's two street sweepers would be used on the streets and if they would only be used in the spring. Chair Farrell responded the City will ideally use both of the street sweepers and try to use them in the spring and fall.

VIII. NOHOA

Tanner provided an update on behalf of NOHOA that they have finished a shoreline restoration plan for Deep Lake, working with Natural Shore Technologies. The restoration plans outline priority areas around Deep Lake and provide an opportunity for VLAWMO staff to follow-up with specific projects in the future.

Diane Gorder of NOHOA reported an improvement in native plant establishment along trail areas.

IX. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division

None

X. St. Paul Regional Water Services

Jeremy Erickson of SPRWS provided an update that official groundbreaking of treatment plant upgrade is May 12th, 2022.

XI. Public Comment

None

XII. Next Meetings:

Next TEC meeting June 8th, Next BOD meeting June 22nd.

XIII. Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner Tessier and seconded by Chair Farrell to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 am. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled by Nick Voss.