

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
December 12, 2014
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room**

Attending:

Paul Peterson	White Bear Township (WBT), Chair
Jim Grisim	White Bear Lake (WBL)
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 - RCD); Bob Larson (NO Natural Resources Commission Chair); John Murphy, Bill McNee, Diane Gorder, Kimberly Murray (North Oaks Homeowners Association - NOHOA); Justine Roe, Alexis Rossow (St. Paul Regional Water Service – SPRWS)

- I. **Call to Order** Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:30am.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
It was moved and seconded by Mann & Grisim to approve the December 12, 2014 agenda. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
It was moved and seconded by Lindner & Mann to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2014 Meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
 - A. **Fund Balances for 2015**
Stephanie reported that the Board approved the Fund Balance as presented to the TEC. Lindner asked if projects identified in the Strategic Plan would be shifted around. Stephanie said that projects shift depending on whether grant funding comes along or partnerships form that push projects ahead.
- V. **Projects**
 - A. **Project Updates**
 1. **Sucker Lake Channel**
Kristine reported that we are close to a final design on the project. Kristine is also looking into a possible grant source from the DNR as part of their Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program. The application period is from 12/15/14-1/30/15 with award announcements on 4/1/15. If we pursue the application, we will ask for formal approval of this at the January TEC meeting.
 2. **Deep Lake Channel**
Kristine submitted an application to the Conservation Corps for this project. If awarded, we could get a crew for 5 days to perform some of the work for the project. Kristine will be contacting North Oaks to discuss the project further and ask about using their maintenance company for some of the work items on this project (clearing, grading, and laying rip rap).
- VI. **Programs**
 - A. **Monitoring – 2014 Report**
Brian stated the report will be completed by the end of the month.

B. Education & Outreach

1. 12/3 E.coli workshop with Brian Corcoran & Steve Gruber

There were about 15 attendees to the 12/3 workshop. People from MN Dept of Transportation, Ramsey County, and Met Council were on hand. Margaret arranged for SCC (community cable network) to record the 12/3 presentation and we will have copies available plus it will be shown on the local cable channels. Brian and Steve then presented at the MN Association of Watershed Districts Conference on 12/5. Brian got some good feedback from other watersheds. MNDOT even suggested that it could be a topic at the Water Resources Conference.

Community Blue

1. Summary of current program 2012-2014

Staff put together a summary of the seven projects that went in via the Community Blue program.

2. Possible program update for 2015 and beyond

Vanessa discussed that one thing we learned from doing CB is that some projects are more education based and some are more about reducing pollution. This is leading to staff discussing the future of the program and how we might continue. There is discussion about whether there could be a grant program that focuses more on education and fostering partnerships and then promoting the Landscape Level 2 to put in some larger projects. In January we will come back to discuss some options.

C. Annual Report

VLAWMO will be working with HDR to develop a new format for the Annual Report, including an Executive Summary which could easily be handed out to show what VLAWMO has worked on in the past year and make something that is more readable to the general public. Work on this will begin in January and we would like to have it complete by the February Board meeting.

VII. Reports

A. Financial Report for December 2014 & Authorization for Payment

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

IX. Commissioner Reports

-Lindner reported that via the Audubon Society they printed a native plant guide and give them away at their events. Lindner said he will bring some to VLAWMO to have as well.

-Graham reported that he went to a meeting regarding the settlement between the DNR and defendants about White Bear Lake. He said it is far from being over and there is still a lot that needs to be discussed and worked through in the agreement. He said he feels the DNR is doing a good job being on the Cities sides regarding the issue. *He also reiterated his concern that North Oaks has allowed pumping from the Mississippi River to Gilfillan Lake. This has established a precedent that may lead to similar plans for White Bear Lake, at the detriment of many surrounding communities.*

-Mann stated that Bob Larson will take her place on the TEC for the next 2-3 meetings while she goes to California for the winter.

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

Roe stated that Jim Bode has been promoted within SPRWS.

XI. Ramsey Conservation District (RCD) Report

Behrens stated that their next meeting is on Monday.

XII. Public Comment

Murphy wanted to thank VLAWMO and its partners for all they do and supporting the Deep Lake project. Murphy will no longer be on NOHOA. Murray stated that she and members of

NOHOA went to a workshop about invasive species at the University of MN and they learned a lot of interesting things. She also learned recently that the State has funds for invasive species management. Vanessa said that the State is still working on how that money will be utilized. Stephanie mentioned that Kristine posted a video of the SPRWS removing zebra mussel shells from the Sucker Lake channel which people may find interesting to see.

XIII. Next Meetings

TEC: January 9; Board: February 25

XIV. Adjourn

It was moved and seconded by Mann & Grisim to adjourn at 8:10am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Jenson.