

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
February 13, 2015
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)
Bob Larson	North Oaks (NO)

Others in attendance: Stephanie McNamara, Kristine Jenson, Brian Corcoran, Vanessa Strong, (VLAWMO); Margaret Behrens (Ramsey Conservation District – RCD); Kimberly Murray, Diane Gorder (North Oaks Homeowners Association – NOHOA; Justine Roe (St. Paul Regional Water Service – SPRWS)

I. **Call to Order** Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:31am.

II. **Approval of Agenda**

It was moved and seconded by Lindner & Graham to approve the February 13, 2015 agenda as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. **Approval of Minutes**

It was moved and seconded by Lindner & Larson to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2015 Meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IV. **Administration & Operations**

A. **Annual Report**

Vanessa reported that staff is preparing the annual report and it will be ready by the end of April. Vanessa asked the TEC what contact information they would like published in the report. It was the consensus that their names and the Cities they represent will be listed but that the contact number will be the VLAWMO Office.

B. **Intern 2015**

Stephanie reported that the request for applications was posted and closed. We got 5 applicants. Those that applied all seem like they could do the job. Interviews and selection of the intern should be done by the end of the month. They would start most likely in May or when their school schedule allows them the time.

C. **Admin Report**

Stephanie reported that the summer intern position has been posted and we are accepting resumes. More information will be available at the meeting. VLAWMO received its last 2014 Storm sewer utility (SSU) payments from Ramsey (\$7,232.63) and Anoka County (\$813.53). 2015 SSU fees are going up by about \$0.16 /mo. for single family residential. First payment for 2015 will come in July. The audit of the 2014 financial records was quick and went well. The auditor will present it to the Board at their February 25th meeting. Staff is completing the RFP for the Water Plan and will go out shortly. We hope to have a consultant interviewed and chosen at the April Board meeting. Our goal is to have it written and to BWSR in October 2016. VLAWMO has new and returning Board members. Marty Long, who has served on the Board before as both a regular and alternate Board member will be representing North Oaks. Ed Prudhon will now be representing White Bear Township.

V. **Projects**

A. **Project Updates**

1. Lambert Creek – Kohler Road

Stephanie reported that RCD was awarded a BWSR grant to help with implementing the Lambert Creek project south of Kohler Road. RCD will have plans made in late March to early April and the plans are to do restoration work on 200 feet of the creek.

2. Deep Lake Channel

Kristine showed the design that has been created by RCD and reported that we received the grant from the Conservation Corps of MN (CCM) to help cover the costs of labor for the Deep Lake Channel project. We will have a CCM crew for 5 days. Kristine is now working through the permits process. We have gotten the go-ahead from the DNR because they determined that this project falls within the General Permit RCD receives. Kristine is working with the Army Corps of Engineers to determine if we need a permit from them and if so, how long that process may take. We intend on completing the project in 2015 but need to determine the exact timing. We will need to coordinate with NOHOA's landscaping crew to help prep the site and move the materials close to the site. The CCM crew needs to be scheduled and then Kristine needs to work with NOHOA later in the fall to harvest willow stakes and plant them.

3. Sucker Lake Channel

Kristine reported that a consensus has been reached among the partners. Ramsey Parks and SPRWS both indicated they could provide more funding for the project if we waited until 2016 to do the installation. VLAWMO felt this was a worthwhile reason to hold off until 2016. Based on what the partners have said, we will have enough funding to complete the entire project. Kristine is now working with the partners on a Joint Powers Agreement regarding the project.

4. Sub Watershed Assessment (SWA) for Charley/Pleasant

This is our last retrofit study or SWA for the watershed. The studies, as you will recall, identify the most cost-effective locations to put in best management practices (bmp) within a particular subwatershed area. RCD has done all the Subwatershed Assessments in VLAWMO. They have been instrumental in the TMDL study and in receiving grants. VLAWMO has an existing contract with RCD to provide technical service over a 2 year period. The BMPs are generally infiltration practices such as raingardens or engineered swales. **Recommendation:** authorization to ask Ramsey Conservation District to complete the Charley Lake/Pleasant Lake Subwatershed Assessment.

It was moved and seconded by Graham & Larson to give authorization to ask RCD to complete the Charley Lake/Pleasant Lake Subwatershed Assessment. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VI. Programs

A. Cost Share

There are 2 Cost Share applications this month. 2015-01 is a maintenance application from White Bear Montessori School to perform some spring maintenance on their Community Blue raingarden. WBMS has been an excellent partner with VLAWMO and has also received a Level 2 Cost Share grant plus parents from the school have been pursuing grants from our Cost Share program after learning about us via the two projects we have done with the school. Their request is for \$300 and staff recommends approval.

2015-02 is a request to restore about 2 acres of land surrounding a pond in North Oaks. The grant will help the Charley Lake Homeowners Association remove invasive species that have set up camp in the area and bring in more natives in their place. The work will be done by Prairie Restorations and the homeowners association is committed to the continued maintenance necessary for this project. The total project estimate is \$5750 and they are requesting a \$2000 grant. Staff recommends approval.

It was moved and seconded by Grisim & Graham approve Cost Share Grant 2015-01 for \$300 and 2015-02 for \$2000. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

There was discussion about how to spread the word about our grant programs to the other Cities. Vadnais Heights and North Oaks seems to get a lot of the grants. Vanessa and Kristine talked about all the various ways we have tried to reach out. Good discussion among the TEC about other ways we can try to reach out – different methods of spreading the message and possibly hosting workshops in different locations.

B. Education & Outreach

1. Reception for Neil Franey & William Mample – Feb 25th 6-7pm

The Board directed staff to honor Franey and Mample who both retired from public service. A reception will be held before the Board meeting later this month and all TEC members are encouraged to attend.

2. Workshop Dates

The dates have been set for VLAWMO's spring workshops. The raingarden workshops have usually be stretched out over 2 sessions. This year we will try to cover all information in one longer session. This workshop will be on May 6. The Maintenance workshop will be on May 13. A dragonfly workshop will be on May 23.

3. WAV Meeting Feb 19th

Vanessa stated the WAV will be meeting on February 19th and will be choosing the winners of the VLAWMO Photo contest.

C. Plan Reviews/WCA

Hearth Co. Senior Housing – Rice St & Vadnais Blvd. – Brian stated that we have received the preliminary plans for this development which will be along West Vadnais Lake where a small business area already exists. VLAWMO made a few comments regarding stormwater issues on the plans. There will be further plan reviews – it is early in the process right now.

VII. Reports

A. Financial Report for February 2015 & Authorization for Payment

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

B. TEC Report to the Board

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

VIII. Commissioner Reports

Graham stated he will not be at the March meeting. Graham asked when the next Personnel & Policy Committee meeting was. Stephanie stated it will be next Tuesday and much of it will be discussing the evolution of our Community Blue and Level 2 grant programs.

Linder stated that he brought the Audubon Society plant books for anyone to take.

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

nN report

X. Ramsey Conservation District (RCD) Report

No report.

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XI. Public Comment

XII. Next Meetings

TEC: March 13; Board: February 25

XIII. Adjourn

It was moved and seconded by Graham & Grisim to adjourn at 8:12am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Jenson.