

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
March 13, 2015
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room**

Attending:

Paul Peterson	White Bear Township (WBT), Chair
Jim Grisim	White Bear Lake (WBL)
<i>Absent</i>	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, (North Oaks Homeowners Association – NOHOA; Justine Roe (St. Paul Regional Water Service – SPRWS)

I. **Call to Order** Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:32 am.

II. **Approval of Agenda**

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

III. **Approval of Minutes**

Larson noted that a sentence needed to be completed under item V.A.1. Kristine stated that it was just missing the word “creek”. She will make the correction.

It was moved and seconded by Larson & Grisim to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2015 Meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission as corrected. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IV. **Administration & Operations**

A. **Annual Report**

Vanessa showed the rough draft of the report to the Board last month and had mostly positive feedback. It needs to be finished by the end of April. Grisim asked if it could be emailed to TEC so they can give feedback as well. Vanessa said she will do that. It will be approved by the Board at their April 22 meeting.

B. **Intern 2015**

Stephanie reported Tyler Thompson has been hired as our intern for the year. He will start working the last week of April. He’s a graduate from St. Cloud State and worked for Rice Creek Watershed District last year.

C. **Admin Report**

Stephanie reviewed the discussion about water supply issues and how it may affect the resources in VLAWMO – particularly the chain of lakes within VLAWMO. The Board wanted the TEC to talk about the possible issues of increasing the water supply via the chain and if there is an assessment that should be done as well as helping to craft a possible position statement regarding the issue. Peterson asked to re-send them the Feasibility Report about the water supply and then they can comment at the April meeting.

Marty Long, Board member from North Oaks has brought up the idea of taking a tour of the SPRWS facilities in Roseville. Stephanie will talk with SPRWS and the Board about getting something planned. Margaret asked if it was possible to include the RCD Board as well. Stephanie said she will ask but has no idea how many could come and it would be best to have it on the night of a Board meeting.

V. **Projects**

- A. Project Updates**
 - 1. Lambert Creek – Kohler Road**

Brian stated that we have the BWSR grant to do restoration of the creek in this area. RCD is working on the plans right now and hope to install this fall.
 - 2. Deep Lake Channel**

Kristine stated that the Army Corps is reviewing the plans for the Deep Lake Channel and hopefully will give us the “ok” to proceed. The DNR permit is covered by the General Permit that Ramsey Conservation District has for projects like this. In talking with the Conservation Corps, they will have crew availability in September so that is when we will plan for the installation of this project. Kristine will work with NOHOA on the portions that they may be willing to do so that we can get the timing all worked out among the various participants.
 - 3. Sucker Lake Channel**

Kristine is talking with SPRWS on the development of a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) for the Sucker Lake Channel project so that the expectations are clear for all the partners on this project. Installation for this project will be in 2016.
- VI. Programs**
 - A. Grants**
 - 1. Landscape Level 2 changes**

The Board approved the proposed changes to the Landscape Level 2 grant which provides for a bit more flexibility in regards to how much can be applied for and increases the amount of the award. These changes will hopefully make the program more enticing for potential applicants. There is about \$19,000 available in the program for this year.
 - 2. Community Blue Revamp**

Vanessa stated that the Community Blue grant program changes were approved at the last Board meeting. The focus now will be more on community engagement and outreach efforts. Vanessa has met with a couple of interested parties (Heritage Estates and the White Bear Center for the Arts) so hopefully we will have a couple applications for those programs. There is about \$5000 available this year.
 - B. Education & Outreach**
 - 1. WAV Meeting**

Vanessa reported that the WAV met and chose the winning photos. There were 42 entries. Vanessa showed the winning photos and honorable mentions. The WAV also decided to have reusable bags as give-aways this year.
 - 2. Photos from Mample/Franey Reception**

Vanessa showed some photos from the reception for Neil Franey and Bill Mample last month.
 - C. Plan Reviews/WCA**

Brian stated that there were 2 WCA issues this month. Water Gremlin has built a 2nd building on their property and they want to make a path and a bridge over Lambert Creek. They are beginning the design plans and exploring the wetland rules and Army Corps permits for this project. Structural Wood in Vadnais Heights – Verizon would like to install a cell phone tower on their property. We have recommended that they do a wetland delineation before doing any work and it would be submitted this year.
- VII. Reports**
 - A. Financial Report for March 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.

VIII. Commissioner Reports

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

Steve Schneider presented his budget plan for the next 10 years which included expanding the plant and working on distribution issues.

X. Ramsey Conservation District (RCD) Report

The Board meets on Monday.

XI. Public Comment

Stephanie visited her daughter and grandchildren in Hawaii and showed a couple of pictures.

XII. Next Meetings

TEC: April 10; Board: April 22

XIII. Adjourn

It was moved and seconded by Lindner & Larson to adjourn at 8:03 am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Jenson.