

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission (TEC) Minutes
July 12, 2023
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Council Chambers
800 County Road E East, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127**

Commission Members Present:

Nick Ousky	Vadnais Heights (VH) (Alternate)
Gloria Tessier	Gem Lake (GL)
Jami Philip	White Bear Township (WBT)
Susan Miller	North Oaks (NO)
Terry Huntrods	White Bear Lake (WBL)

Absent: Andy Nelson (LL)

Others in attendance: Phil Belfiori, Brian Corcoran, Lauren Sampedro, Nick Voss, Dawn Tanner (VLAWMO staff), Jeremy Erickson (SPRWS)

I. Call to Order

Chair Tessier called the meeting to order at 7:59 am.

II. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Huntrods and seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve the July 12, 2023 TEC agenda Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes (June 14, 2023)

It was moved by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Ousky to approve the June 14 meeting minutes as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IV. Administration & Operations

A. Financial Report for July and Authorization for Payment

Administrator Belfiori outlined the July finance report, which included expenses related to special CIP projects like the spent lime and Wilkinson deep water wetland projects, and a soil health grant project reimbursement. He recommended payment of the July expenses.

It was moved by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Huntrods to approve the July financial report and authorize payment. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

V. Programs

A. 40th Anniversary Campaign Update

Voss provided coasters commemorating VLAWMO's 40th anniversary to the TEC and noted that the VLAWMO website includes a 40th anniversary campaign with a series of six events. He then summarized the upcoming August 24th celebration at Vadnais-Sucker Lake Regional Park-pavilion #1. He noted that Stephanie McNamara's retirement recognition will be scheduled for 3:30pm. He also summarized some of the other activities that are planned for the August 24th event, such as an aquatic macroinvertebrate activity, yard games, a State climatology speaker, sandwiches, and mini restoration tours in the park. He invited the TEC to attend.

B. SHG 2023-02 McCarthy Raingarden

Sampedro explained the grant application submitted from a landowner located in White Bear Lake. The project is located in the target priority zone for stormwater volume reduction and drains to Lambert Creek. The project is a downspout raingarden with a mixed sun and shade planting plan. Sampedro recommended approval of the application at 75% up to \$1,250.

It was moved by Commissioner Ousky and seconded by Commissioner Huntrods to approve SHG-2023-02 McCarthy Raingarden. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

C. LL1 2023-04 Hill Shoreline

Sampedro explained the grant application submitted from a landowner on the southeast side of Birch Lake on Birch Lake Blvd in White Bear Lake. The application motivation was influenced by an adjacent neighbor who completed a previous VLAWMO grant shoreline restoration. The project proposal includes native aquatic and terrestrial vegetation, a shoreline buffer of about 11ft in width (110 linear ft of shoreline), and an upland buffer of about 2,400 square feet. Existing sand and turf would be removed and replaced with a soil amendment and native species. Staff recommended approval at 50% up to \$5,000.

Commissioner Miller inquired about the cost share program, whether VLAWMO is at a budget that it would typically expect for this time of year. Sampedro affirmed that the current trend is expected due to the time it takes for homeowners to get applications together and the competitiveness in reserving contractors.

It was moved by Commissioner Huntrods and seconded by Commissioner Ousky to approve LL1 2023-04 Hill Shoreline. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VI. Projects

A. East Vadnais Lake Subwatershed Resiliency Study

Sampedro summarized the East Vadnais Lake Subwatershed resiliency study in partnership with Ramsey County, the City of Vadnais Heights, and Saint Paul Regional Water Services. The project is focused on flood reduction and water quality improvements

in the area outlined on the map expressed in the packet. The partners have signed a MOU to complete the study with shared funding contributions, which is expected to total about \$70,000. Study proposals are due by the end of July and will be scored in the first week of August. The full study is expected to be completed in 2024.

Commissioner Miller asked whether there are homeowners experiencing basement flooding in the project area, or if there's current street flooding issues. Sampedro confirmed that the intersection of Centerville Rd and Vadnais Blvd is a persistent spot for flooding.

B. Spent Lime project at Oak Knoll Pond

Tanner explained that the City of White Bear Lake City Council considered the spent lime quote and contract documents at their July 11, 2023 council meeting. She said staff expect to receive news from the City on if the project can move forward later this morning.

C. Wilkinson Deep-water Wetland Restoration Project Bid Process

Tanner announced that the bid is available to interested contractors. An in-person mandatory pre-bid meeting is occurring at the end of July.

D. Amelia Flowering Rush Project

Tanner explained that the MN DNR has requested continued monitoring for flowering rush at Amelia Lake. After a period of 5 years with no flowering rush the DNR will consider delisting it from Amelia Lake. VLAWMO is working with Ramsey County Soil and Water Conservation Division on the monitoring and both entities value the learning opportunity for this unique invasive species treatment task.

E. Polar Lakes Park Stormwater Reuse Feasibility Study

Corcoran introduced the stormwater reuse project that is occurring in partnership with White Bear Township. The VLAWMO BOD approved moving forward with the feasibility study at the June Board meeting. The Polar Lakes park area can use up to 6 million gallons of water per year, and the study is focused on the feasibility of using a nearby mitigation wetland to reduce potable water use. The feasibility study will determine the maximum drawdown of the wetland and the wetland recharge, analysis of existing irrigation and irrigation needs, water quality data, available water storage, and more. VLAWMO and White Bear Township are splitting the cost 50/50 for the feasibility study through a signed MOU. The completed study will be presented to the Township and VLAWMO Board to discuss findings and future direction.

Earlier in the spring of 2023 the TEC also approved smart irrigation controllers for this park, which are now installed.

Commissioner Miller provided support for using surface water runoff rather than groundwater drinking water to water the fields.

I. Commissioner Reports

None

II. NOHOA

Commissioner Miller inquired about the carp removal in Deep Lake, and asked if the carp removal may be already be impacting the water quality for the better.

Tanner noted that the clarity increase is likely due to vegetation taking up the nutrients in the lake, and the aquatic vegetation is healthier with greater ability to retain lake nutrients. She noted that the changes are likely due to two years of continued carp removal and the time that aquatic vegetation has had to recover in carp's absence.

III. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division

None

IV. St. Paul Regional Water Services

Jeremy Erickson reported that the Highland water tower open house is the weekend of July 14-15.

V. Public Comment

None

VI. Next Meetings:

Next TEC meeting August 9th. Next BOD meeting August 23rd.

XIII. Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Philip to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 am. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled by Nick Voss.