



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS – OCTOBER 25, 2023 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

| Attendance | | Present | Absent |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Jim Lindner, Chair | City of Gem Lake | x | |
| John Shuman | City of North Oaks | x | |
| Rob Rafferty | City of Lino Lakes | X | |
| Ed Prudhon | White Bear Township | x | |
| Dan Jones, Vice Chair | City of White Bear Lake | X | |
| Katherine Doll Kanne | City of Vadnais Heights | x | |
| | | | |
| Phil Belfiori | Administrator | x | |
| Brian Corcoran | Water Resources Mgr. | x | |
| Dawn Tanner | Program Development Coord. | x | |
| Nick Voss | Education & Outreach Coord. | | X |
| Lauren Sampedro | Watershed Tech & Program Coord. | x | |

*= with prior notice

Others in attendance:

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Lindner.

II. Approval of Agenda 

The agenda for the October 25, 2023 Board meeting was presented for approval.

A motion was made by Director Prudhon and seconded by Director Jones to approve the October Board meeting agenda. Vote: Shuman: aye, Doll Kanne: aye, Lindner: aye, Prudhon: aye, Rafferty: aye, Jones: aye. Motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes 

The minutes from the August 23, 2023 Board meeting were placed on the agenda for approval, as presented. No comments from the Directors.

A motion was made by Director Shuman and seconded by Director Doll Kanne to approve the August 23rd meeting minutes. Vote: Shuman: aye, Doll Kanne: aye, Lindner: aye, Prudhon: aye, Rafferty: abstain, Jones: aye. Motion passed.

IV. Visitors and Presentations

A. TEC Report to the Board and October Finance Report

Administrator Belfiori presented the October TEC report to the Board as included in the October Board packet. Highlights included ditch maintenance planned for November 17th with a Sentence to Serve crew to clear fallen trees, construction continuing on the Wilkinson bmp, and ongoing carp management including implanting active transmitters on carp. Website update is also underway and on the consent agenda. The working 2024 budget

and the Watershed Management Plan update process will be considered at the December 13th Board meeting.

Discussion: None

B. Public Visitors

None

V. Consent Agenda 

Chair Lindner asked if any Board members wished to speak on any of the consent agenda items, no requests were made from directors.

Consent items on the agenda and included in the October Board packet were as follows:

- A. Announcement of Annual Watershed Awards
- B. Consider Capital Assets Policy
- C. Consider Wilkinson Meander Feasibility Task Order
- D. Consider LL1 2023-06 Wiens Raingardens Phase 1
- E. Consider Rotary Park MOU for Partnership Funding with City of White Bear Lake
- F. Consider VLAWMO Audit Services
- G. Update on 2024 Health Care Benefits Renewal
- H. Update on Spent Lime Timing and City of WBL Project on Water Treatment Plant Closure
- I. Update on Decision by MDH on CLP Treatment on Pleasant Lake
- J. Website Update
- K. Lambert/Biochar 319 Official Notification of Grant Closeout
- L. Consider Buckthorn/Invasive Species Removal from North End of Wilkinson Project Area to Road to Support Optimal Project Function and Ongoing Maintenance Access

Discussion: None

A motion was made by Director Rafferty and seconded by Director Jones to approve the consent agenda. Vote: Shuman: aye, Doll Kanne: aye, Lindner: aye, Prudhon: aye, Rafferty: aye, Jones: aye. Motion passed.

VI. Business

A. Projects and Studies

1. Update on Project Construction and Consideration of Contractor Payment for Wilkinson Deep Water Wetland Project 

Tanner presented the first application for payment for the Wilkinson deep water wetland project. She discussed the project budget and explained that \$357,279 reflects an adjustment to the BMP construction category that is reduced to account for the additional engineering design funds that were needed and \$179,641 has been spent on construction to-date. A meeting to discuss a maintenance road for the project is planned for the following day, and the Board approved supporting ongoing maintenance access on the consent agenda. She added that if there are enough funds left in the budget, a plan to enhance the vegetation on-site will be brought forward next year.

Tanner summarized the construction progress and monitoring since construction began on September 6th. She shared pictures of the work and drone footage from the website. Houston Engineering staff have been working with Arnt Construction to complete final items, and Arnt Construction has been actively pumping the wetland area due to the heavy rain we've had.

Tanner recommended approval of the application for payment to Arnt Construction in the amount recommended by Houston Engineering of \$141,475.52.

Discussion:

Chair Lindner asked if the project is timely and commented that there was a lot of rain in September, but it seemed to go well. Tanner agreed and said construction would have been more difficult if there was rain earlier in the project. She said the project has gone smoothly and appreciates the project partners and Houston Engineering's oversight.

A motion was made by Director Jones and seconded by Director Shuman to approve and pay AFP #1 to Arnt Construction in the amount of \$141,475.52. Vote: Shuman: aye, Doll Kanne: aye, Lindner: aye, Prudhon: aye, Rafferty: abstain, Jones: aye. Motion passed.

2. Update Presentation on Ditch Study North of Amelia Lake-Partnership with City of Lino Lakes

Corcoran provided an update on the Amelia Lake ditch study in partnership with the City of Lino Lakes. He said WSB completed the study on behalf of the City and its purpose is to analyze existing drainage conditions and possible future drainage improvements to the ditch draining to the lake.

He stated the study is preliminary with several remaining steps before it can be finalized, including a discussion with the residents in the study area.

Corcoran provided a background of the ditch study area, which is a 255-acre drainage area with a private ditch. He described the area is currently agricultural with some residential areas, but will likely change in the future as development moves forward. He said this area has had issues with drainage and flooding in the past and the City is considering obtaining voluntary easements.

He highlighted the preliminary short-term and long-term concepts from the study, and added that the City may include a walking path and access trail along the ditch as part of a future long-term concept.

Corcoran discussed the next steps, which include scheduling a discussion with residents in the study area and making plan revisions based on feedback from the residents.

Discussion:

Director Rafferty said the study will be great to get in front of the residents in the area and that the residents will see a good plan that addresses their needs. He added the residents are concerned about the new development projects to the north of the ditch.

Chair Lindner asked for the difference between a private and public drainage ditch. Corcoran responded private ditches were created by private landowners when the land was used for farming and are not part of the public conveyance system under our responsibility.

Director Prudhon asked about what a plunge pool is, which is shown on the future long-term concept. Corcoran responded it is a basin that will trap the sediment before it enters Amelia Lake.

Director Doll Kanne asked if the voluntary easements would be temporary for the project or permanent for the future. Corcoran responded the City would like to discuss that with the residents first and determine that based on the discussion outcome. Director Rafferty added the residents haven't received information yet, but will likely have some concerns. He said it is in their best interest to work with the City so the maintenance will not be their responsibility. He stated it is a nice project.

B. Administrative

1. Consider Approval of 2024 Storm Sewer Utility Certification Lists - Resolution 08-2023

Administrator Belfiori presented the final step of the SSU process for 2024 of storm sewer utility certification. He provided the background of the certification process, which started with setting the budget and approving resolution 07-2023 at the August Board meeting. This resolution identified the storm sewer utility charges on page 76 of the packet, which includes a total anticipated income from the SSU of \$1,152,436.85 and a standard unit charge for residential units of \$64.56/unit.

Administrator Belfiori stated the charges are ready to be certified. He noted the parcel lists were provided to the Board as a separate attachment to the packet and a two-page summary was provided on page 78. He stated resolution 08-2023 is on page 80 and he is happy to answer any questions for their consideration.

RESOLUTION 08-2023

A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING STORM SEWER UTILITY CHARGES TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO BE ASSESSED ON REAL ESTATE TAXES PAYABLE IN 2024.

WHEREAS, Minnesota Law 2008, Chapter 366, Article 6, Section 47 provides that the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization may certify to the County Auditors the amounts of storm sewer utility charges to be collected on said premises the ensuing year; and

WHEREAS, the Storm Sewer Utility (SSU) Rule of the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization, provides that the watershed may certify to the County Auditors the amounts of unpaid utility charges to be collected as part of the tax levy/special assessments on said premises the ensuing year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF THE VADNAIS LAKE AREA WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION, AS FOLLOWS:

1. Attachments 1 and 2 attached hereto and made a part thereof by reference is a list of parcels of real property lying within the VLAWMO limits of which have surface water runoff and on which there are service charges payable in 2024.

2. The Board hereby certifies said list and requests the Ramsey County Auditor and Anoka County Auditor to include in the real estate taxes/assessments due the amount set forth in Attachments 1 and 2 with taxes/assessments due and payable in 2024.

3. The VLAWMO Administrator is directed to tender a certified copy of this Resolution to the Ramsey and Anoka County Departments of Property Records and Revenue.

The question was on the adoption of the resolution and there were 6 yeas and 0 nays as follows:

| | <u>Yea</u> | <u>Nay</u> | <u>Absent</u> |
|-----------------------|------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Dan Jones</i> | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Ed Prudhon</i> | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Rob Rafferty</i> | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>John Shuman</i> | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Katherine Doll</i> | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Kanne</i> | | | |
| <i>Jim Lindner</i> | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

James Lindner, Chair

Date

VADNAIS LAKE AREA WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

I, the undersigned, Administrator of the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization, hereby certify that I have carefully compared and attached the foregoing extract of minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of said watershed held on the 25th day of October 2023, with the original thereof on file in my office.

WITNESSED BY the Watershed Administrator this 25th day of October 2023.

Phil Belfiori, Administrator

Discussion:

Director Rafferty asked if these rates are only coming from VLAWMO and stated that the Rice Creek Watershed District also charges in the City of Lino Lakes in addition to the City recently starting its own stormwater utility fee. He said that Lino Lakes residents are receiving a

double tax for stormwater. He asked if other communities have a separate charge for stormwater utilities. He added that he previously had questions about the charges for institutional properties and thinks the state is exempt from the charges.

Director Jones responded that it comes down to the MS4 permit requirements and where the funding to comply with the permit comes from. He said if cities don't have a separate stormwater fund, they will be behind on MS4 permit compliance. He said Boards and City Councils need to be looking into the future because costs are not getting cheaper and partnering with VLAWMO and the other watershed districts can help reduce the stormwater costs. Director Jones added that he is not sure if the state is exempt from the charges, but churches and schools do need to pay them.

Director Rafferty agreed that prices for services are increasing dramatically and asked Administrator Belfiori what the previous single residential unit stormwater utility charge was. Administrator Belfiori responded the Board approved increase as part of the 2024 budget process was 5% so the previous charge was around \$61.

A motion was made by Director Jones and seconded by Director Rafferty to approve Resolution 08-2023. Vote: Shuman: aye, Doll Kanne: aye, Lindner: aye, Prudhon: aye, Rafferty: aye, Jones: aye. Motion passed.

VII. Discussion/Administration Communication

1. Update on Watershed Awards Nomination Process

Administrator Belfiori provided a reminder that the watershed awards nominations are due on November 1st. He described the two awards and asked the Board to let staff know if they would like to nominate anyone. The voting will occur at the TEC meeting on November 8th.

VIII. Adjourn

A motion was made by Director Rafferty and seconded by Director Doll Kanne to adjourn at 7:38 pm. Vote: Shuman: aye, Doll Kanne: aye, Lindner: aye, Prudhon: aye, Rafferty: aye, Jones: aye. Motion passed.