

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization**  
**Technical Commission Minutes**  
**May 8, 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)
Chris Mann	North Oaks (NO)

Others in attendance: Stephanie McNamara, Kristine Jenson, Brian Corcoran, Vanessa Strong, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO); Margaret Behrens (Ramsey Conservation District – RCD); Kimberly Murray (North Oaks Homeowners Association – NOHOA); Bob Larson, Diane Gorder (NO Natural Resources Committee)

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

**II. Introduction of Intern, Tyler Thompson**

**III. Approval of Agenda**

It was moved and seconded Graham & Mann by to approve the May 8, 2015 agenda as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

It was moved and seconded by Graham & Grisim to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2015 Meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**V. Administration & Operations**

**A. Annual Report**

The annual report is complete and copies were available at the meeting. It has been sent out to all the necessary agencies and is on the website. Vanessa also showed an executive summary report which can be handed out at community events and give a review of the watershed.

**B. Administration**

**1. Water Plan update**

The Request for Proposal yielded 3 proposals, all within the \$30,000 - \$50,000 budget established by the Board. All three applicants were interviewed and Wenck Associates was hired. They will work with staff and our municipalities and agencies to gather data and reports that are relevant to the Water Plan update. The TEC, along with other stakeholders in VLAWMO, will be critical to identifying priority issues, reviewing goals, priorities and establishing the implementation plan and budget for the ten years, 2017 – 2027. There will be stakeholder meetings over the summer and fall. Watch for more information.

**2. 2016 Budget**

The 2016 budget has been reviewed by the Finance Committee and the TEC and is being recommended to the Board. The proposed budget was included with the TEC packets. Highlights:

- Program and operations budget is higher than last year, largely due to the Water Plan required update. The increase is \$84,255 or 13.8%. We have trimmed a number of items, but it's still an increase. However, with transfers from reserves the SSU increase is only \$19,255 or 4%.

- The estimated SSU should stay under \$30 for a single family residential (est. increase of about \$1.13/yr. or \$0.09/mo.)
- The biggest single increase is the fund the Water Plan update which could need up to \$40,000. We have \$10k currently saved to this effort. If we were hiring a consultant to do most of the work it would cost \$80,000 - \$100,000. I have discussed this with the staff and we feel we can significantly decrease that expense by doing large portions in house. Kris, Vanessa and myself will be working very hard with our consultants (yes, Brian too) to facilitate our stakeholder process, identify priority issues, & rewrite major portions of our current plan. We are using the consulting help in a targeted way. As a result, we are cutting the costs in half. However, the Board and TEC should be aware that some other projects may be delayed. There are only so many staff hours in the day.
- The two new grant programs are funded at a slightly more substantial level given early response this year. Community Blue education grants (\$20,000) and Landscape Level 2 (greater than \$10K) at \$30,000. This anticipates roughly 2 partners receiving grants in each program. These programs are highly visible, engage the community, leverage other funding & in-kind work, and put the money right back into the watershed community. We are seeing a lot of excitement growing over this type of program.
- The Sucker channel project will roll over funds from this year as well as receive funds from the two partners.
- It is anticipated we may roll over the Impaired waters funding (6.4.6) to fund a larger project, possibly on Goose Lake.

## VI. Projects

### A. Project Updates

#### 1. Deep Lake Channel

Kristine stated that she will coordinate a meeting with Kimberly Murray to meet at the Deep Lake Channel site with NOHOA's landscaping crew and Joe Lochner from RCD to discuss what we hope to have the landscaping crew do for site prep and start prepping to get the project done in September. The Conservation Corps has us on their schedule for early September to install the project.

#### 2. Whitaker Project – LCCMR grant request

Brian stated we were approached by our consultant Burns & McDonnell with a possible project that could be awarded a grant from LCCMR. The project would be located near Whitaker Pond which would help with bacteria treatment in Lambert Creek. Burns & McDonnell are putting the application together and it is due next week. If we are funded, it would be for 100% funding. Estimated costs would be about \$250,000. If we are awarded the grant, there will be a lot more information to share about the details of the project.

#### 3. Black Lake macrophyte spring reassessment

Brian stated that RCD did another lake depth survey on Black Lake because the one last year was hindered by the dense aquatic plant growth in the lake. We are waiting on their findings. Kristine is also going to get a cost estimate to have their staff do a more intensive plant survey to chart the amount of wild rice in the lake plus get a better picture of the vegetation that stands in a thick mass surrounding the lake. We'd like some baseline information that will help us monitor things such as purple loosestrife that has been seen around the water's edge.

**VII. Programs**

**A. Monitoring**

Brian stated that the monitoring season has begun. One round of e.coli sampling was done already. Groundwater samples were read and there was no e. coli found in those. Kristine collected lake level information from a few of our lakes and they are all slightly down from last year.

**B. Grants**

**1. Landscape 1**

There are three applications this month.

Application 2015-04 is for a property in Vadnais Heights. The owner is part of Heritage Estates which received a Community Blue grant last year. We have awarded a grant to another owner within that Townhome Association. This application is for a raingarden project. It has been designed and will be installed by EcoScapes who did the Community Blue project. The grant request is for \$2000. Staff recommends approval.

Application 2015-05 is for a raingarden in North Oaks. The site runs off into a wetland area and then to Charley Lake. I met with the homeowner last year. She is working with a Blue Thumb designer/installer, Jenn Morrow. The grant request is for \$1297.50. Staff recommends approval.

Application 2015-06 is for a raingarden that will be part of a much larger native planting project on Dale Bacon's property on the north side of Birch Lake. Dale is an avid gardener and is working with a respected designer, Diane Hilscher. The grant request is for \$2000. Staff recommends approval.

It was moved and seconded by Mann & Graham to approve Cost Share Grant 2015-04 for \$2000, 2015-05 for \$1297.50, and 2015-06 for \$2000. Vote. All Aye. Motion passed.

**2. Landscape 2**

We have received an application from Cerenity Senior Care in White Bear Lake (L2-2015-01). They would like to undertake a large project which would capture the runoff from the roofs of their buildings and store it in both an underground cistern and possibly 2 or more above ground cisterns. It is estimated that in a 1" rain event, over 2600 gallons of water runs off their roofs. They would use the water in the cisterns to irrigate their lawns. The site is located in the Lambert Creek Subwatershed. Water from here goes into storm sewers that empty to Whitaker Pond.

Cerenity does a lot of community involvement and outreach and are very excited about providing education about this project. They have over 200 volunteers and work with 110 youth and youth groups as part of their facility. They have eager groups and organizations (programs via primary and secondary schools, Century College and WBL Rotary) who are ready to partner on water conservation education programs.

They want to help do their part to conserve water use so they aren't taking more water from the aquifer than necessary and helping to capture stormwater and reuse it rather than it all going directly into the storm drains. The total estimated cost is \$336,900 and if funding is secured, they would like to get the project installed before winter of this year. They have applied for funding from Met Council for \$255,000 of the cost for this project have gotten enthusiastic feedback from them. Kristine may have information about whether they have received the grant before the TEC meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>. They are also talking to the City of White Bear Lake in regards to helping pay for some of this project. They understand that they have to put in some of

their own money to do their match for these various grants. They have applied for \$15,000 from our Landscape 2 grant funds. Staff recommends approval for this grant.

It was moved & seconded by Mann & Grisim to approve Landscape Level 2 grant #L2-2015-01 for \$15,000. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**3. Community Blue**

Vanessa has been meeting with 2 potential applicants about the program and is hoping to receive requests from them soon.

**C. Education & Outreach Events**

**1. Past: Tour of SPRWS Water Treatment Plant, WBL Water Resource Expo, ICSystems Earth Day, Shallow Lakes Forum, Raingarden workshop**

Vanessa showed pictures from the events that have occurred in the past month.

**2. Upcoming: Raingarden Maintenance – May 13, Dragonfly Monitoring – May 30, North Oaks Community Fair – May 30**

**D. Plan Reviews/WCA – nothing to report this month.**

**VIII. Reports**

**A. Financial Report for May 2015 & Authorization for Payment**

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

**IX. Commissioner Reports**

Graham stated that Ramsey County has gotten a grant to pave parts of a bike trail at Sucker Lake Park. They received a grant from the State to fund this.

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

**XI. Ramsey Conservation District (RCD) Report**

**XII. Public Comment**

**XIII. Next Meetings**

TEC: June 12; Board: June 24

**XIV. Adjourn**

It was moved by Graham & Mann to adjourn at 8:19am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Jenson.