

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
July 10, 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); Diane Gorder (NO Natural Resources Committee); Justine Roe (St. Paul Regional Water Service – SPRWS)

I. Call to Order Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:30am.

II. Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded by Mann & Grisim to approve the July 10, 2015 agenda as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes

It was moved and seconded by Graham & Lindner to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2015 Meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IV. Administration & Operations

A. Water Plan Workshop

Joint Board/TEC workshop was held June 24 with all communities represented, 5 of 6 Commissioners & Board Directors were in attendance. A full report is still coming from the consultant but second edition redraft of the “VLAWMO Issues” might look like this:
VLAWMO Issues

1. Threatened and Impaired natural and surface water resources
2. Threatened or Impaired Groundwater
3. Need for education and involvement from citizens and stakeholders
Vanessa discussed the strategies and measureable outcomes she has been working on for this issue.
4. Need for adequate data, as well as analytic, financial and administrative capacity to accomplish goals and strategies
There was discussion about what could be added for expanded monitoring. Graham thinks it would be something worth investing in proper equipment to be able to capture the inflow water data for our lakes and streams. Grisim agreed that it would be a worthy cost. Stephanie said to keep in mind that if we wanted to do that on Birch Lake (as an example), it wouldn't be just one piece of expensive equipment, it would be 4 pieces so that we could get the data from all the inflows into the lake. Some of the watersheds have invested in this equipment and have staff devoted just to this work. Graham said it could be a good thing to have as a measurable goal. Brian stated each monitoring station would be at least \$10,000 and they require maintenance. It could be done by an outside source but that is an extra cost but then they take care of the equipment on our behalf. Grisim asked if a place like the U of M would have equipment that could be loaned. Stephanie wasn't sure if that was available.

5. Invasive and exotic species infestation
6. Localized flooding

Stephanie reviewed the Priority Issues listed above and mentioned that we need to have measurable goals in our plan. Vanessa stated that we are expected to list our goals and yearly outcomes in our annual reports to show our effectiveness at reaching the goals. Stephanie went through the draft measurable goals and asked for input from the TEC. Mann asked who sees the water plan. Stephanie said that staff uses it and BWSR uses it. Copies go to other stakeholder agencies. Anyone can see the plan since it will be posted on the website. Lindner stated that it is similar to city comp plan guides direction and funding. Stephanie stated that a stakeholder meeting will be on August 20 which would be set up similar to our TMDL stakeholder meeting from a couple years ago where we will have a couple open house sessions.

B. Blue Thumb Membership Renewal and Fees

VLAWMO has been a part of the Blue Thumb partnership for many years. Blue Thumb has recently been going through a transition in regards to which organization is operating the program. VLAWMO was waiting to sign the partnership contract and pay the annual dues of \$1000 until an agreement was reached regarding the change in operators. The agreement has been finalized and VLAWMO is now comfortable with signing the contract. Staff requests approval to sign the partnership contract and pay the annual dues.

It was moved and seconded by Graham & Mann to approve the signing of the Blue Thumb partnership agreement and pay the 2015 annual dues of \$1000. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

V. Projects

A. Project Updates

1. Deep Lake Channel

Kristine will be going out to the channel with Joe from RCD next week to mark all the trees and plant material that needs to be removed for the restoration work. Kristine will begin ordering the necessary supplies for the project within the next week to ensure materials will be ready.

VI. Programs

A. Grants

1. Landscape 1

There are 2 grants to consider this month. **2015-11** is for a property in Vadnais Heights for 2 raingardens. The homeowner has done a lot of research on raingardens and has given a detailed plan and is prepared to start work as soon as he gets approval on the grant. The request is for \$2000 and staff recommends approval.

2015-12 is for a property in North Oaks that is doing a multi-phase native woodland restoration. They will be removing invasive plants and installing a large amount of native sumac and 5 trees plus mulch. Urban Ecosystems has devised the plan for this project. They plan to have the Phase 1 complete by the end of the fall 2015. They are requesting \$2000 but as of right now there is only \$1450.91 left in the cost share program. Due to the fact that some projects come in less than planned and therefore some money may become available, we would like to set up their award to guarantee them the \$1450.91 but state that we will provide reimbursement up to \$2000, if more funding becomes available.

Recommendation: Approve Cost Share Grant 2015-11 for \$2000 and Grant 2015-12 for \$1450.91 with the ability to receive up to \$2000 if funding becomes available before December 31, 2015.

It was moved and seconded by Mann & Lindner to approve Cost Share Grant 2015-11 for \$2000 and 2015-12 for \$1450.91 with the ability to receive up to \$2000 if more funding becomes available before the project is complete or December 31, 2015, whichever comes first. Vote. All Aye. Motion passed.

2. Community Blue

Vanessa reported that the Board approved the TEC's recommendation from last month to approve the 2 Community Blue grants.

B. Education & Outreach Events

1. Past: Dragonfly survey on June 27 – there were about 70 participants; Tamarack Camp – Vanessa taught grade school kids how to take a survey.

2. Upcoming: Dragonflies at Tamarack– July 25th (adults), July 29th (kids only), WBL Marketfest – July 30th, Raingarden workshop – August 19th

VII. Reports

A. Financial Report for July 2015 & Authorization for Payment

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

VIII. Commissioner Reports

Graham reported that he had a meeting with Stephanie, Kristine, and Rebecca (Wenck consultant) to talk about the City's needs and future ideas for our water plan and it was a really good meeting. Stephanie said she had similar meetings with North Oaks, White Bear Township, and White Bear Lake and got a lot of good information to help with our water plan development.

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

They will be having an open house at the Highland Water Tower this month so everyone is invited. Graham asked who replaced Dave Schuler because he doesn't know who else to go to. Justine said Schuler and Blackstone were VLAWMO champions but unfortunately that died with them. Their Board meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month and are open. Dave Wagner is the new Engineering Manager and Jim Groutman is a Division Manager. Groutman would likely be the first person to talk to. Graham said that we need to stay relevant with the organization and foster our relationship with them.

X. Ramsey Conservation District (RCD) Report

Their monthly meeting will be on Monday.

XI. Public Comment

XII. Next Meetings

TEC: August 14; Board: August 26

XIV. Adjourn

It was moved and seconded by Mann & Graham to adjourn at 8:23am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Jenson.