

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
Technical Commission Minutes  
March 11, 2016  
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room**

**Commission Members Present:**

Jim Grisim	White Bear Lake (WBL)
Mark Graham	Vadnais Heights (VH)
Marty Asleson	Lino Lakes (LL)
Jim Lindner	Gem Lake (GL)
Bob Larson (alternate)	North Oaks (NO)

**Commission Members Absent:**

Paul Peterson	White Bear Township (WBT)
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**Others in attendance:** Stephanie McNamara, Kristine Jenson, Brian Corcoran, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO); Margaret Behrens (Ramsey Conservation District – RCD); Diane Gorder (NO Natural Resource Commission); Kimberly Murray (NO Homeowners Association); Julie Drennen (Audubon MN and Conservation MN)

- I. **Call to Order** Vice Chair Graham called the meeting to order at 7:30am.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**  
It was moved and seconded by Lindner & Graham to approve the March 11, 2016 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 February 12, 2016 Meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
  - A. **Water Plan**
    1. **Draft Water Plan & Education & Outreach (E & O) Plan**

The draft Water Plan and the draft Education & Outreach Plan are available on the VLAWMO website now. The Board approved the distribution of the draft Water Plan and it is now out for the 60 day formal review and comment period. The TEC are encouraged to read through the report and submit comments. Comments can be emailed to Kristine or sent via regular mail.
  - B. **Joint Powers Agreement /Ditch Authority**

Stephanie stated that the JPA is being updated currently in conjunction with the Water Plan update. The draft of the JPA has gone to our attorney. When the language is cleaned up, we will get it out to our communities for their approval. We hope to have that process completed at the end of June to be submitted to BWSR with our final Water Plan draft. Our attorney is also going to help us update our ditch authority. BWSR states that our current arrangement doesn't meet statutory requirements. Our attorney will help us through the process and we will come back when more information and options are known. We will have a Special Board meeting in March to keep the process moving.
  - C. **Boundary Change Petition**

Kristine has prepared a petition for the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) which will allow VLAWMO to obtain the "missing parcels" that were inadvertently missing from the original 2009 Boundary Change Petition. After

numerous conversations with Ramsey County and BWSR, it was determined that the petition process would have to be repeated in order to officially change the watershed designation from Rice Creek Watershed to VLAWMO. The draft of the petition is being reviewed by BWSR to make sure it contains all the necessary information. It will be sent to Rice Creek Watershed and the City of White Bear Lake to obtain letters of concurrence. Both entities have said they will produce that once they receive the information from us. Once the letters of concurrence are received, the VLAWMO Board will pass a resolution and it will go to BWSR for final approval. Then Ramsey County can make the changes in their database and we can receive the storm sewer utility (SSU) fees for those affected properties. Hopefully this can all be completed by the time we set the SSU rates for 2017.

**V. Projects**

**A. Project Updates**

**1. Whitaker Wetlands**

Brian provided an update. The work plan for this project has been submitted and the Legislature will look at it and determine final approval. Stephanie and Brian met with White Bear Township Park Board about utilizing some of their park property for the project. They were supportive and will send it to the Township Board next week for their consideration.

**VI. Programs**

**A. Grants**

**1. White Bear Preserve – Community Blue Grant**

Tyler reported that the Board passed the White Bear Preserve Community Blue Grant. Funding will be sent out to them in April. They plan to start on the project in May.

**B. Education**

**1. Education & Outreach Position posting**

The job posting for the Education & Outreach Coordinator position is now open. We will be accepting resumes until March 18 and hope to have someone hired by early April.

**2. Raingarden Workshops**

The workshop for Introduction to Raingardens will be held on Tuesday May 3 and the Raingarden Design and Installation workshop will be on Wednesday May 11. Both workshops are from 6-8:30pm and will be held in the training room at the fire station adjacent to City Hall. The TEC are encouraged to help spread the word about the workshops.

**C. Monitoring**

**1. Annual Report part 2: Gem, Goose, Tamarack & West Vadnais Lakes**

Brian reviewed the 2015 monitoring data for four of the lakes in the watershed.

Gem Lake – TP stayed below Standard, Chl A is just above the Standard. The PCA has Gem Lake listed as a shallow lake however it could be considered a deep lake which has higher Standards and would make Gem Lake even further below Standard. Based on the data from the last few years, Gem Lake could go off the Impaired Waters List. The nutrient levels in the first half of the season are pristine and in mid-July, there is a spike in nutrients which is indicative of the Curlyleaf pondweed cycle. However we have found no Curlyleaf pondweed in the lake.

East Goose/West Goose – the TP is trending down however it is still well above Standard. Chl A is trending up and is well above Standard as well. East

Goose has higher nutrient levels. When we did the rough fish harvest in 2012-2013, 18,000 pounds of bullheads were removed and we saw a dip in TP levels but it went up again. Goose has a variety of gamefish and the rough fish harvest is meant to help balance the population. There are many snapping turtles in the lake as well. The cost of the fish harvest was \$10,000. Sediment surveys were done on Goose with Wenck to investigate internal loading issues and alum treatment protocols. Some more sediment studies will be done this year as well.

Tamarack – this lake is well above Standard. We haven't seen any positive effects from the floating island that was installed. We have collected samples since 2013 to compare the water quality from samples collected at the dock vs at the island. Midwest Floating Island states that the island may have been undersized and that it can take a few years to show any results. Tamarack is in the middle of a nature center and has very little runoff into it. The pollution source appears to be internal.

West Vadnais – there is no connection between West and East Vadnais Lakes. East is much deeper and has an aerator and is managed by SPRWS so it has good water quality. We began to regularly sample West Vadnais in 2013. The nutrient levels are above Standard. Our guess is internal loading with this lake as well.

Chloride levels are below Standard for all the lakes. Gem and Tamarack are lower than the others, most likely due to those lakes being further removed from roads.

**D. GIS**

**1. VLAWMO Annual Report**

Tyler is working on the VLAWMO annual report using the template that was created last year.

**E. WCA**

**1. Meadowlands Dr. Update**

Brian explained that the property owner of a strip mall repaired a retaining wall and when that was done, soil was pushed into the wetland behind it. The property owner will not remove the fill and it has now moved to enforcement action. The fill removal would cost around \$200 but the owner has not been responsive. White Bear Township has had difficulties in dealing with the owner as well.

Brian also reported that a company was installing thermos-heating tubes at a new home site in the Hillary Farm development and attempted to cross a storm pond with their backhoe. The backhoe broke through the ice and went into the pond. They were able to pull it out and any damage to the pond was minor and it doesn't appear to require any restoration.

**VII. Reports**

**A. Financial Report for March 2016 & Authorization for Payment**

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

**VIII. Commissioner Reports**

Graham stated that "Friends of WBL Restoration Organization" hired EOR to review the SEH augmentation report. EOR produced a 5 page report that states the augmentation could be done for about half the price instead. The City of WBL has stated that they will only consider supporting the augmentation if there is no financial effect to the City and no ecological effect.

Larson said North Oaks is concerned with Lyme disease and wanted to know if anyone has had any experience with permethrin. Based on the limited information, it seems to be a substance that should be handled with caution.

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

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

Margaret stated the next RCD Supervisor meeting is on Monday at 3pm and invites anyone to attend. RCD also has a new website. RCD is also looking to hire a GIS specialist as well as a seasonal staff.

**XI. Public Comment**

Drennen introduced herself as the East Metro Community Coordinator and working to connect the public with conservation efforts and policies. She wanted to reach out to the groups and agencies in the area and offer her assistance.

Gorder shared the binder for the NO Natural Environment Stewardship Team (NEST) and that they have a section with VLAWMO. Gorder also stated that the City had a report written by Steve McComas (Blue Water Science) regarding the weeds at the Pleasant Lake Beach and asked if VLAWMO could read through it and let them know if there are any actions they could take regarding it.

**XII. Next Meetings**

TEC: April 8; Board: Special Meeting – March 23; Regular Meeting – April 27

**XIV. Adjourn**

It was moved and seconded by Lindner & Larson to adjourn at 8:45am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Jenson.