

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
August 14, 2015
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room**

Attending:

Tom Riedesel - alternate	White Bear Township (WBT)
Jim Grisim	White Bear Lake (WBL)
Mark Graham	Vadnais Heights (VH)
Marty Asleson	Lino Lakes (LL)
Jim Lindner	Gem Lake (GL)
<i>Absent</i>	North Oaks (NO)

Others in attendance: Stephanie McNamara, Kristine Jenson, Brian Corcoran, Vanessa Strong, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO); Margaret Behrens (Ramsey Conservation District – RCD); Diane Gorder, Bob Larson (NO Natural Resources Committee); Justine Roe, Jabari Caldron (St. Paul Regional Water Service – SPRWS); Clark Wicklund (Kjolhaug)

I. Call to Order Vice Chair Graham called the meeting to order at 7:30am.

II. Approval of Agenda

There are two changes to the agenda requested. Item VI.D. – WCA has been moved up in the agenda so that the consultant doesn't have to sit through all the other items in our agenda. Item V.A.2. Goose Lake Shoreline will be tabled until a later time.

It was moved and seconded by Lindner & Graham to approve the August 14, 2015 agenda as amended. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes

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

D. Wetland Conservation Act – Alliant (Lande) replacement plan

Background: A 7.2 acre property with two delineated wetlands. One type 1 (PEM1A) seasonally flooded basin (0.11 acres) and one type 3 (PEM1Cd) shallow marsh wetland (1.22 acres). Site is located north of County Road 96, west of Interstate 35E and east of Centerville Road (across from Cub Foods). Developer is proposing a senior living housing unit on the northwest end of property with a parking lot and future retail space on the southern end of property.

In order for development of the southern end of property the existing 0.11 acre wetland will be impacted (filled). This impact does not qualify for a De minimis and no-loss exemption. There are concerns that on-site mitigation success will be an issue after 5yrs and developer will ultimately have to buy banking credits outside of watershed due to quality of mitigation site. Current VLAWMO policy is to mitigate on site. Sequencing was addressed and no viable sites within watershed were available for wetland mitigation. VLAWMO also does not have any banking sites within the watershed for developer to buy credits.

Developer has suggested doing mitigation on site (at a 1:1, 1.5:1, or possibly a 2:1) as well as buying banking credits outside of VLAWMO. With this proposal, the developer would not be responsible for the 5yr maintenance requirement on the mitigation site but will have fulfilled the WCA requirement for wetland impact with the purchase of banking credits at 2:1.

Staff would like discussion on the replacement plan options and a possible recommendation to the Board.

TEC asked Wicklund a few questions regarding the placement of the proposed buildings and how people would access the site. The project would take all the stormwater runoff and move it to a basin to the north. The soils on site are D class – meaning little ability to infiltrate. The basin right now has no evidence of overflowing therefore it likely wouldn't flow into Birch Lake. Grisim stated that if the basin is receiving more water, then it is possible it could overflow to the lake. Wicklund stated that models show that even in a 100 year storm event, it wouldn't overflow. The basin is pretty low and they feel it would be very little chance of it overflowing towards Birch Lake. Wicklund stated that they are in compliance with all City and Watershed rules. In order to meet WCA rules, they will be buying credits from a site in Washington County. Riedesel asked about how they are managing the underground parking and water issues. Wicklund stated there are underground chambers and then underdrains to the basin. Stephanie asked if the underground chambers will need to be cleaned out. Wicklund stated that they will be 48" chambers and will be subject to vacuuming which would be subject to an agreement with the City.

Riedesel asked if someone is interested for the retail spot. Wicklund said not at this time – it is a secondary part of the project. The senior housing is the primary building on the site right now. Riedesel asked if that retail area was looked at for mitigation. Wicklund stated that they did not look closely at that spot. Riedesel stated that he is supportive of this request but would like them to look at that retail area again before they build. Stephanie stated that the wetland area they will be putting in off the edge of the existing one will likely be full of reed canary grass since the existing wetland is already consumed by it. Stephanie said that the buffer around the existing wetland will need to be extended around the new wetland and the buffer should have native vegetation and not be mowed in order to provide some filtration before it reaches the wetland. Stephanie said that the City has done some maintenance over the years on the ditch. Wicklund said the City Planning Commission voted in favor 6-0 and at this point the only comment from the City Council has been to add some sidewalks so it is expected that it will pass through the Council when they make their decision. Brian stated we are looking to the TEC to make a recommendation to the Board who will decide on this later in the month.

It was moved and seconded by Lindner & Graham to recommend approval of the replacement plan to the Board. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IV. Administration & Operations

A. Consideration of VLAWMO IT Network Update

The VLAWMO network server operating system is old and no longer supported (Windows 2003). The server log is showing episodes of shutting down. Some research on options to move ahead has been done. Three providers were contacted, with two quotes received. We have about \$4200 left in the IT hardware budget for 2015. There is roughly another \$1500 in the IT support & licensing budget.

All Covered has provided as-needed IT service and was asked for a quote. The total from All Covered was \$11,812. This covers the new hardware, software and labor to install. The advantage here is that it would be a one-time cost. The disadvantage is that this is more than double what is in the budget for this upgrade. Also, pay as you go support can be expensive. Telephone tech support runs about \$75-\$90/hr. Onsite support about is \$150/hr. Down time to complete the transfer may be more substantial.

The other quote was from Metro INET (Roseville) who provides IT support for Vadnais Heights, many of our other communities, 3 other watersheds (36 partners in all). The advantages include a quick, relatively seamless upgrade as we already office in a City hall that receives their service. VLAWMO currently pays for internet service through the network. It also provides ongoing IT support. It is also within budget. The disadvantage, rather like buying a good health insurance policy is that it's expensive. Annual cost in 2015 is \$5,570, which we may be able to prorate for the end of the year. The costs for next year would be \$9643. They are raising their fees due to having to add employees to their staff.

Recommendation: Authorization to spend up to \$4000 and connect with the Roseville system. VLAWMO staff will reassess the options next year and share the results with the TEC.

It was moved and seconded by Graham & Lindner to authorize up to \$4000 to connect with the Roseville IT system. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. Water Plan

Come to join the conversation at The Stakeholder Open House, Thursday, August 20th at the Vadnais Heights City Hall. From 2-4 PM we are hoping most our agency and staff people will come and the Technical Advisory committee will be held. Or you can come in the evening, anytime 5:30-8:30. We'd like to have TEC members on hand in the evening to help chat with anyone who may come. We will have storyboards to talk about VLAWMO's mission, history and programs and projects. Graham stated he will be at the afternoon portion of the open house.

V. Projects

A. Project Updates

1. Deep Lake Channel

Kristine has ordered the supplies for the project and met with NOHOA's landscaping service to discuss the clearing of trees and shrubs necessary before work can begin. After going to the site with RCD earlier this summer, it was determined that not as much rock would be needed as previously thought. This is a good thing because rock is a very hard thing to maneuver with just a CCM crew. With that said, there is still 22 tons of fieldstone ordered and 7 tons of river rock so CCM plenty of rock to move around. Kristine showed the finalized designs for the project.

2. Goose Lake shoreline

Tabled to a later date.

VI. Programs

A. Monitoring – mid-summer highlights

Tyler gave a presentation on the monitoring information to date as well as the work he has done this summer. Tyler has been spending much of his time on monitoring and GIS work as well as working at community and education events. GIS maps he has done include a wetland impact and decision areas map, digitizing historic hydraulic structures, and some conventional maps for VLAWMO needs. For monitoring, he has been doing e.coli and lake and stream sampling. With the e.coli monitoring, the results are still not showing any "smoking gun" in terms of where the e.coli comes from. Sampling at Goose Lake for e.coli has indicated that one point at the northern end of West Goose continues to have hits for e.coli. They will be doing DNA analysis on samples soon to see if they can determine what the sources are. Tyler showed a graph of the summer chloride sampling they have done on Birch Lake this year. The average total phosphorus and chlorophyll A levels are continuing to trend down which is very good. Gilfillan shows that there was

a drop in nutrients after they augmented the water in 2011. Based on this year's sampling, it appears that the nutrients are creeping up and may go over State standards again.

At Tamarack, sampling shows so far that the floating island is not making a difference. The island was installed in 2013 and there has been no change so far. The company that sold us this island says it can take 5 years to see a positive effect. The plants on the island are full and lush but we are not seeing the water quality benefit. Stephanie praised Brian and Tyler for this sampling because we are the only ones in Minnesota who are collecting data like this and it is difficult to access the site. Graham said that it was still worth a shot to put it in and the data we are collecting is a value. The floating island is one the few projects we could do at Tamarack to try to address the impairment of the lake.

Tyler also showed some pictures of the outreach events he has taken part in. Graham stated that the depth maps Tyler created would be a good thing to put on our website.

B. Grants

We had 2 projects that were canceled so there is now \$3450 left in the cost share budget for 2015. We will be holding a Raingarden Workshop on August 19 so it's possible that people may submit grant applications this fall.

Kristine has completed her annual maintenance checks for past cost share projects and had virtually all of them pass with flying colors. One requires some serious weeding but after talking with the homeowners, they have arranged to have a contractor come out to do this work.

Kristine has asked specific previous cost share recipients do send in their thoughts about our workshops, the cost share program and why protecting water resources is important to them. She has met with the homeowners to take pictures of them with their gardens and plans to use it all to put together marketing pieces that can be on our website and posted on Facebook and used in other ways to promote our trainings and programs. The response has been great and people love the idea of being able to help spread the word about VLAWMO and show off the projects they have worked hard on.

1. Landscape 1

Due to the cancellation of 2 grants in the past month, we have funding left for the cost share program.

There is 1 grant to consider this month. **2015-13** is for a property in White Bear Lake. The property owner is putting in a gutter and directing to a raingarden in her front yard and is requesting a \$1000 grant. She hopes to have the project completed this fall. She has come to the raingarden workshop. Staff recommends approval.

It was moved and seconded by Lindner & Grisim to approve cost share grant 2015-13 for the amount of \$1000. Vote. All Aye. Motion passed.

2. Cerenity approval recommendation

Cerenity Senior Care applied and was awarded a Level 2 cost share grant earlier this year but they had to pull out of the program because the much larger grant they applied for via Met Council was not awarded and therefore they couldn't complete their cistern rainwater harvesting and reuse project. Kristine has met with the representative from Cerenity and is currently exploring whether a BWSR Clean Water Fund grant could be a good fit. There are several pieces that need to fall into place in order have a strong application. We would like the TEC to give formal approval for Kristine to pursue the grant if those pieces come together.

Recommendation: The TEC gives their support and approval in having staff apply for a Clean Water Fund grant for the Cerenity Senior Care Stormwater Capture and Reuse project.

It was moved and seconded by Grisim & Lindner to support and approve staff in applying for a Clean Water Fund grant for the Cerenity Senior Care Stormwater Capture and Reuse project. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

C. Education & Outreach Events

1. HDR Contract amendment to update website for Water Plan

VLAWMO needs to amend our website contract with HDR. The \$3,500 amendment is necessary to add monthly maintenance service for the next year, as well as create new components for the 10 year water plan update. The three amendments are described below:

Monthly Website Maintenance

HDR will provide one hour of website maintenance per month from August 15, 2015 through August 15, 2016. Maintenance hours not used during a month will be available for use in subsequent months. A total of 12 hours of maintenance are allotted under this contract.

Temporary Redesign of Homepage Banner

HDR will provide a redesign of the home page banner area. The redesign will be live from August 5, 2015 through approximately October 31, 2016. HDR will purchase and convert the Sabella font for this redesign

10-Year Water Plan Website Integration

In order to best promote the Plan effort online, HDR will create a promotional area on the VLAWMO home page and up to two sub-page areas to promote a) the opportunity for input during the development of the Plan, and b) access to the planning process information, activities, and documents.

It was moved and seconded by Graham & Grisim to approve the HDR Website Contract amendment for the amount of \$3,500. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

2. Past: Dragonfly camp at Tamarack on July 29th; Marketfest on July 30th. Vanessa showed pictures from the events. At Martketfest, we used the water wheel game as a way to gather feedback from the public about water resource issues and things that are relevant to our Water Plan.

3. Upcoming: Raingarden workshop – August 19th

VII. Reports

A. TEC Report to the Board

It was moved and seconded Lindner & Grisim to approve the TEC Report to the Board for August. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

A. Financial Report for August 2015 & Authorization for Payment

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

VIII. Commissioner Reports

Graham stated that there a new residential development proposed in Vadnais Heights. The development is up against Lambert Creek but there is a 25 foot buffer. Almost all the stormwater is going to a storm pond rather than to the creek.

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

Justine stated that she took Brian, Tyler and their intern Jabari on a tour last week.

X. Ramsey Conservation District (RCD) Report

Margaret Behrens left before she could give a report but asked Stephanie to report that the RCD gave a tour last week of projects and our Oakmede project was on the tour. They also showed all the restoration work they did at Keller Golf Course and Brian said if you can go

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check it out sometime, it is amazing what they were able to accomplish on the course. They are going to host a State of the Waters in October.

XI. Public Comment

XII. Next Meetings

TEC: September 11; Board: August 26

XIV. Adjourn

It was moved and seconded by Lindner & Graham to adjourn at 9:13am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Jenson.