

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
July 8, 2016
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room**

Commission Members Present:

Paul Peterson	White Bear Township (WBT)
Jim Grisim	White Bear Lake (WBL)
Kevin Watson (alternate)	Vadnais Heights (VH)
Jim Lindner	Gem Lake (GL)
Chris Mann	North Oaks (NO)

Commission Members Absent: Marty Asleson – Lino Lakes

Others in attendance: Stephanie McNamara, Kristine Jenson, Brian Corcoran, Tyler Thompson, Nick Voss (VLAWMO); Margaret Behrens (Ramsey Conservation District – RCD); Kimberly Murray (NOHOA); Bob Larson (NO alternate); Justine Roe (SPRWS)

- I. **Call to Order** Chair Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:32am.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
It was moved by Lindner and seconded by Grisim to approve the July 8, 2016 agenda as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
It was moved by Mann and seconded by Grisim to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2016 Meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
 - A. **Water Plan Updates**

The Board approved the final draft of the VLAWMO Water Plan at the June 22 meeting. The draft is available on the VLAWMO website for review. It has been sent to our review agencies for final comments. BWSR will receive comments and will work with VLAWMO if there are any additional changes that need to be made. The hope is that the BWSR Board will approve the Plan at their September meeting and then our Board can adopt it at their October meeting. Although if there are issues with the timing, we have until December 31, 2016 to have the Plan formally adopted. Stephanie also mentioned that the boundary change petition is also out for public comment and we are hoping for BWSR approval at their August meeting.
 - B. **Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) Update**

White Bear Township voted to accept the JPA at their July 6, 2016 meeting which means that the JPA is now ratified by all six communities. This JPA will be in effect through December 31, 2026.
- V. **Projects**
 - A. **Project Updates**
 1. **Kohler Streambank Restoration – RFP for contractor**

This project is one of the final projects identified in our strategic planning two years ago. It will restore close to 200 LF of streambank downstream of the Kohler flume along with re-stabilizing just upstream of the flume as well as the ditch drainage entering the creek next to the flume. Trees will be flagged and some removed on either side of stream bank. Native plantings will be installed and fixing of the bank undercutting done. VLAWMO is partnering with RCD on this project that is doing the design and is acting as the fiscal

agent for the grant funding. Installation is scheduled for this fall. It is time to secure a contractor. This is a request for authorization to send a request for proposal (RFP) to at least 3 qualified contractors. We will bring you the results next month.

Lindner asked if further improvements will be needed further downstream. Brian stated that the areas with the worst erosion will be addressed with this project. Further downstream, the banks level out and there may not be any immediate need for restoration in those areas. There are other areas along the creek that will need restoration over the years as funding and opportunity arises.

It was moved by Lindner and seconded by Grisim to grant authorization to send an RFP to receive bid for the Kohler streambank restoration project. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

2. Heritage Estates Raingarden

The raingarden installed at Heritage Estates as part of the original Community Blue grant program is holding water and this is causing cattails to grow in the center of the garden. Heritage Estates is doing an excellent job on maintenance activities and we would like to help correct the water holding issue so that it functions properly. The contractor who installed the raingarden has given us an estimate of \$1000 to clean out the cattails, installed a drain tile that outlets on the downhill side of the raingarden and include a sand trench around the drain tile in order to facilitate infiltration and move excess water onto the grass. Staff recommends approval of this maintenance project and approval of a \$500 down payment with the July checks.

It was moved by Mann and seconded by Lindner to approve spending up to \$1000 towards the modification to the Heritage Estates raingarden. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VI. Programs

A. Grants

1. Landscape Level 1 Applications

There are 2 grants to consider this month: 2016-09 is for a property in Vadnais Heights. It is a newer home and they are doing extensive landscaping which includes 4 raingardens and a large prairie-savanna area and no mow grass. They are requesting a \$2000 grant. 2016-10 is for a property in White Bear Lake for a raingarden which would capture much of the runoff from the garage roof. They are asking for a \$375 grant. Both applicants attended the raingarden workshops from this spring and Kristine has been meeting with them to provide guidance on their projects. *Staff recommends approval of both grants.* If these two grants are approved, there is a little over \$2200 left in the LL1 grant budget.

It was moved by Mann and seconded by Grisim to approve grants 2016-09 for \$2000 and 2016-10 for \$375. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

2. Community Blue – Rice Lake Update

Tyler stated that signs for the Rice Lake project are being produced. Tyler created a map for them to put on the sign. Tyler plans to check on the progress the beetles are making on the purple loosestrife.

B. Education & Outreach

1. Partner Events

Nick stated that he was at the Vadnais Heights Farmers Market on July 6 and VLAWMO will be at the Taste of Vadnais on July 12, Marketfest on July 28,

and Heritage Days on August 20. VLAWMO has also partnered with Conservation Minnesota for a workshop titled “Water and Bees: what did Minnesota do for them?” which will be on July 19 at White Bear Boat Works. Nick and Kristine were at the RCD Raingarden Maintenance workshop, held on June 28. It had 63 people in attendance, including 2 landowners who received grants from VLAWMO for raingardens.

2. Education and Outreach Survey

Nick has produced a survey that is being distributed at our events to help identify Education and Outreach Program priorities. He had those in attendance at the TEC meeting fill it out.

VII. Reports

A. Financial Report for July 2016 & Authorization for Payment

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

VIII. Commissioner Reports

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

Justine stated that the SPRWS is working with the University of Minnesota on various projects.

X. Ramsey Conservation District (RCD) Report

There is no meeting in July. The next meeting is August 1. Their monthly forums are becoming quite successful. Thursday August 25 2-4pm forum will be about recycling and soil health. There will be a tour in September for that month’s forum. October 20 will be the annual State of the Waters report.

XI. Public Comment

XII. Next Meetings

TEC: August 12; Board: August 24

XIII. Adjourn

It was moved by Lindner and seconded by Grisim to adjourn at 8:12am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Jenson.