

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization**  
**Technical Commission Minutes**  
**October 14, 2016**  
**Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room**

**Commission Members Present:**

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

**Commission Members Absent:**

Marty Asleson	Lino Lakes (LL)
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**Others in attendance:** Stephanie McNamara, Kristine Jenson, Tyler Thompson, Nick Voss (VLAWMO); Margaret Behrens (Ramsey Conservation District – RCD); Lisa Fenander (Watershed Action Volunteers – WAV); Bob Larson, Diane Gorder (NO Natural Resources Commission, WAV members); Jeremy Erickson, Justine Roe (SPRWS)

- I. **Call to Order** Chair Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:30am.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**  
It was moved by Graham and seconded by Mann to approve the October 14, 2016 agenda as amended. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**  
It was moved by Lindner and seconded by Mann to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2016 Meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
  - A. **Water Plan Update**

BWSR approved the 10 Year Water Plan at their September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. The final step is having the Board of Directors adopt the Plan at their October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - B. **Water Policy Update**

Comment deadline ended September 30<sup>th</sup>. We received comments and developed a spreadsheet with all the comments and our responses. Many comments were minor typos or language updates to reflect current vernacular. This policy is meant to be consistent with current rules and standards. The policy will go to the Board at their October meeting for final approval and adoption.
- V. **Projects**
  - A. **Project Updates**
    1. **Kohler Streambank Restoration**

VLAWMO has been working with the contractor and RCD to trim costs on the project, doing majority of the work this winter should help reduce costs. City of Vadnais Heights will be helping with the project as well and will be working with the contractor to extend the tree removal and grubbing as far

downstream from project as possible. VLAWMO will be sending out letters to homeowners near project explaining the project timeline and what will be happening. VLAWMO will also host an open house meeting at city hall on the project for residents. This meeting will take place on October 27<sup>th</sup> before any work is done. Preliminary tree removal and grubbing will begin the end of October after resident meeting, main project work will take place this winter.

**2. Whitaker Treatment Wetlands**

White Bear Township Board has approved a contract between VLAWMO and the Township for use of Columbia Park. This contract will be discussed at the TEC meeting and staff is looking for recommendation to Board for VLAWMO approval. Staff is also looking for a recommendation to the Board for the services contract between VLAWMO and Burns & McDonnell for project design, construction and oversight. Site topographic survey along with geotechnical & hydrogeologic characterization will be completed this fall after contracts are approved. Construction of wetland system will begin fall of 2017. Monitoring will begin spring of 2018.

It was moved by Lindner and seconded by Mann to recommend approval of the license agreement between VLAWMO and WBT for the use of Columbia Park as well as for the contract with Burns & McDonnell for the Whitaker Wetlands Project. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Stephanie raised the issue that our liability coverage has been \$1 million over the last few years but have discovered that to be statutorily updated, we should have it at \$1.5 million. Stephanie requested the TEC recommend to the Board that we increase our liability coverage to meet current rules.

Graham & Grisim Motion passed. Recommend to the Board we increase our liability coverage to 1.5 million. Vote all aye. Motion passed

**VI. Programs**

**A. Education & Outreach**

**1. WAV**

Nick stated that he worked with the WAV to create a video about fall lawn care which will go up on Facebook and our YouTube channel. Filming will finish next week. Additionally, the supplies have been bought to do street stenciling and the WAV will be helping with that effort as well.

**2. Floating Island Installation**

Nick stated that a new floating island has been installed at a storm pond in Vadnais Heights. Midwest Floating Island approached VLAWMO and asked to install it and will monitor the effects. Tyler located the pond as well as a control pond so comparisons can be made to study the effects of these floating islands in a storm pond scenario.

**3. EOP Comments and Edits**

Nick thanked everyone for the comments and has made edits. The EOP will go to the Board for approval at the October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**B. GIS – Tour the updated GIS site**

Tyler gave the TEC a tour of the updated GIS website and demonstrated some of the new things available. Updates include: wetland layers, aerial photos, parcel information, subwatershed lines.

**C. Water Plan 2017 Implementation**

Staff reviewed the upcoming projects for 2017 and determined what the steps are for beginning to implement the plans.

**Birch Lake** – the Plan calls for education regarding chloride and salting applications. Nick will be heading that up. The Plan also calls for the development of a BMP (to install in 2018) at the lake, specifically mentioning 4<sup>th</sup> and Otter Lake Road. When staff met to discuss this, we thought it would be wise to look all around the lake to see if there are any better options for a project and are leaning towards looking to do something at one of the inlets to the lake that would include iron-enhanced sand as a way to reduce phosphorus loading to the lake. Kristine is meeting with the City of White Bear Lake this afternoon to walk around the lake and discuss where the best projects may be for the lake.

**Goose Lake** - we are going to approach Steve McComas about doing a Curlyleaf survey since that is a source of internal phosphorus loading and a fish survey to see how our fish harvest has effected the fish population in the lake and if another harvest would be beneficial.

**Lambert Creek** – Brian will be heading up the Whitaker Wetlands project. Nick will be working on educational components for e.coli education and pet waste management.

**Wilkinson Lake** – we will do a lake depth and vegetation survey and possibly examine the fish population if we deem it necessary. We could work with RCD and Steve McComas on these items.

**Charley Lake** – Charley is due for a Sustainable Lake Management Plan. As part of putting together an SLMP, we will have a lake depth and vegetation survey completed, through RCD. As a staff, we feel it is not useful to do a fish survey on the lakes that are part of the SPRWS chain because the fish move freely and so any survey will not provide useful data.

**Goose & Wilkinson Lakes** – we will be sending out an RFP to hire a consultant to help devise the best nutrient reduction projects for these two lakes. The hope is that we will have projects that could provide a meaningful reduction in nutrients for these two waterbodies since they are at the top of chains for our other waterbodies and therefore reducing the nutrient levels in those lakes would benefit those downstream. For 2017, we would come up with a list of those possible projects and determine the next best steps with the hopes of implementation in 2018, pending funding.

Our approved budget should be able to cover all the activities we have planned. In order to implement projects in 2018, grants and partners will likely have to be leveraged so proper planning is necessary.

**D. Pennington Section of Lambert Creek**

As discussed at the September TEC meeting Creek/Ditch 14 has been flooding residents' backyards recently near Pennington Place in Vadnais Heights. The section in question is just up-stream from Edgerton St. in Vadnais Heights. This section of ditch is wetland and historically it was a lake. Fill was most likely brought in to

construct the housing development. Houses are not flooding, but backyards along the creek are. Residents believe that this section of ditch is silting up and the downed trees in the ditch and culvert/storm water drains are aiding the problem. The Board directed staff to follow up on this concern and report back at the October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Board meeting. Staff has looked into this concern more. VLAWMO staff is prepared to recommend to the Board that a wetland delineation should be the next proper step if the Board would like to move forward with this researching this flooding issue. The delineation would both address jurisdiction of wetland along with knowing the exact boundary of the wetland into residents' yards. This information is crucial to moving forward on what can be done, if anything, to remedy the flooding issue in this area of the creek. Once this step is done VLAWMO and the concerned residents will have a better idea on what the next steps could be. A feasibility study on this section of creek could then be done to determine possible options and costs to keep the yards dry. Some possibilities a feasibility study may address might be dredging this section of the creek, building a berm, including drain tile behind the berm, raising residents back yards, meandering creek/ditch through wetland, or it may show that there is no feasible option.

Graham asked who would pay for the delineation. Stephanie stated that she estimates it would cost \$4000-\$5000. Graham stated that they homeowners should pay that cost. Mann said that if we paid for it, it would set a precedent and people could demand VLAWMO pay for delineations for their properties. Graham stated that we should write them a letter listing 3 wetland delineators they can hire to do the study and once the wetland boundaries are established, they can be directed on what they can or can't do to still comply with WCA. The homeowners should be made aware that

Lindner/Mann TEC recommends that the Board suggest the homeowners pay to have a delineation completed at the homeowners' expense.

**E. Landscape Level 1 & 2 Summary**

A total of \$37,224.98 was awarded in 2017 for 32 grants. 2 grants are still open so \$4,000 will be carried over to 2017.

Rainbarrel Grants

21 awarded for total of \$1001.74

1 in North Oaks; 2 in Vadnais Heights; 18 in White Bear Lake

Maintenance Grants

1 awarded for a total of \$462.50 in Gem Lake

Landscape Level 1 Grants

9 awarded for total of \$15,760.74 – 2 will be carried over to 2017

3 in North Oaks; 3 in Vadnais Heights; 3 in White Bear Lake

Landscape Level 2 Grants

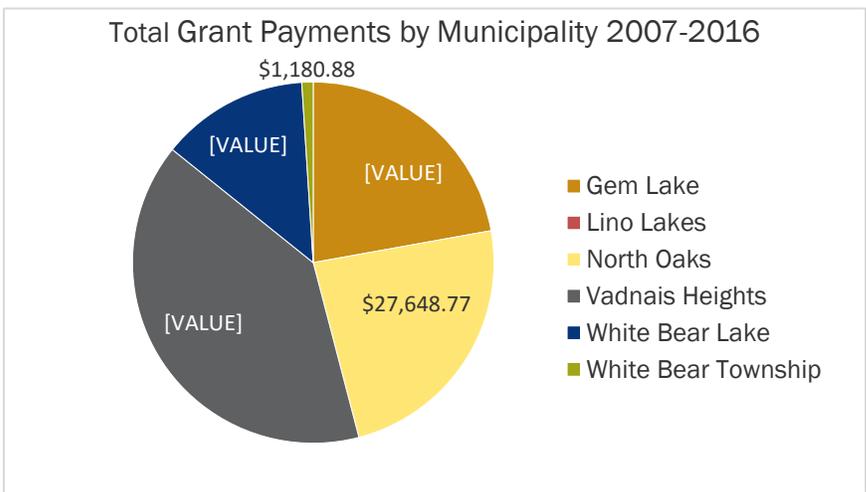
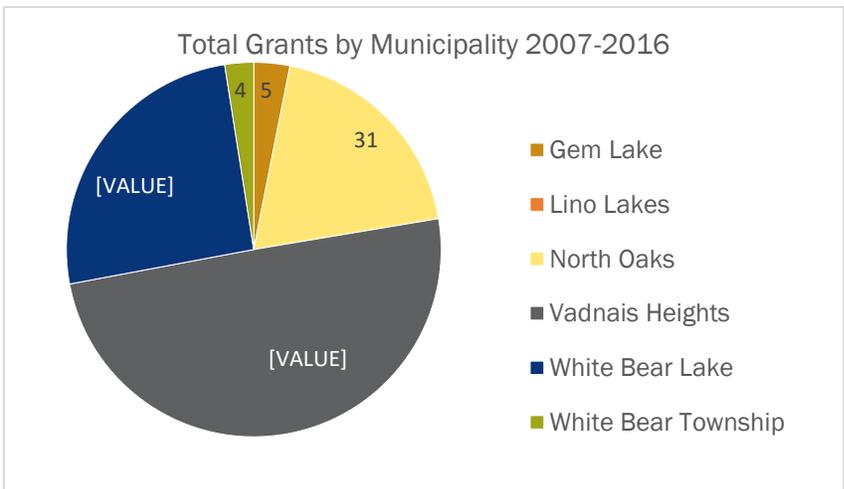
1 awarded for total of \$20,000.00 in Gem Lake

Pictures of some of the projects were shared at the meeting.

Kristine is working on compiling pollutant reduction numbers for all the projects and has been reviewing the cost share program since it began in 2007. Some findings include:

- 80 Rainbarrel grants have been awarded for a total of \$4800 in funding.

- 77 BMP grants have been awarded for a total of \$110,000 in funding. The funding has helped transform over 213,000 square feet (or just over 20 acres) into raingardens, native vegetation, and/or naturalized shoreline. This includes 1645 lineal feet of shoreline naturalization.



**VII. Reports**

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

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

**B. TEC Report to the Board**

It was moved by Mann and seconded by Grisim to approve the TEC Report to the Board. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**VIII. Commissioner Reports**

Graham stated that he was at a City Engineers meeting yesterday and that the engineer from the City of Roseville stated that BWSR they may not be supporting the wetland banking program as it currently exists. The issues with the wetland banking program are that there are very few wetland banks locally and that it is very expensive to obtain wetland bank

credits. Asleson stated he is wary of believing this will happen. Graham stated that VLAWMO should check with BWSR regarding this.

Graham reminded the TEC that Mayor Johannsen, who is the Chair of the VLAWMO Board, is not running for reelection and therefore there will be a new member to the VLAWMO Board and a new Chair will need to be named.

Finally, Graham stated that the City recently went through an MS4 audit and that it went well. They will be audited again in approximately 5 years.

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

They had an open house and 235 people came to tour the treatment plant. The Highland Water Tower was open as well and about 2000 people came to tour and ask questions about drinking water.

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

Margaret invited everyone to the State of the Waters meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the RCD offices. Information is on the RCD website.

**XI. Public Comment**

**XII. Next Meetings**

TEC: November 18<sup>th</sup>; Board: October 26<sup>th</sup>

**XIII. Adjourn**

It was moved by Lindner and seconded by Mann to adjourn at 8:42am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Jenson.