

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission (TEC) Minutes
November 12, 2025
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Council Chambers
800 County Road E East, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127**

Commission Members Present:

Nick Ousky	Vadnais Heights (VH)
Gloria Tessier	Gem Lake (GL)
Susan Miller	North Oaks (NO)
Tom Hoffman	City of Lino Lakes (LL)
Jami Philip	White Bear Township (WBT)
Terry Huntrods	City of White Bear Lake (WBL)

Absent: None.

Others in attendance: Phil Belfiori, Brian Corcoran, Dawn Tanner, Lauren Sampedro, Angela Hugunin (VLAWMO staff); Jeremy Erickson (SPRWS); Ed Shapland (WAV).

I. Call to Order

Chair Ousky called the meeting to order at 8:15 am.

II. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Philip to approve the November 12, 2025 TEC agenda as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes (October 8, 2025)

It was moved by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Philip to approve the October 8, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IV. Administration & Operations

A. November Financial Report and Consider Authorization for Payment

Administrator Belfiori summarized the November financial statement as included in the TEC packet. He listed the main expenses of the month, which included expenses for engineering work for the feasibility of a potential phase two project through the 319 grant, Minnesota Watersheds annual lobbying dues, storm sewer utility work to review historic wetland parcels and associated charges, the loan payment for the Lambert sheet pile weir, the Rotary Park wetland restoration project, phase three of the Tamarack alum project, and maintenance work for ongoing projects.

Staff recommended approval of the financial report for November.

It was moved by Commissioner Huntrods and seconded by Commissioner Philip to approve the November financial report and authorize for payment. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

V. Programs

A. Highlights from October Outreach Activities

Hugunin provided an overview of outreach activities that occurred over the past month. She shared that staff co-hosted an Autumn Water Social with the City of Vadnais Heights at Big Wood Brewery. She said it was an open house-style event to connect with people who haven't interacted with VLAWMO or the City before. The additional goal of the event was to gain input on the City of Vadnais Heights' flooding map for its resiliency study. Hugunin shared there was a deeper level of engagement on the map at this event compared with previous outreach events.

Hugunin stated the Autumn Water Social also involved other partners including Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, Get the Lead Out MN, and the Vadnais Heights Green Team, which laid some foundations for future relationship building.

Commissioner Miller asked if the Social was held in the same location as one of the known flooding areas in the City. Hugunin confirmed.

Hugunin explained that the second WAV meeting of the year occurred last month, which focused on a reflection of the activities from 2025 and goal setting for 2026. One of the planning topics was a lake cleanup event that occurred on November 8th at the Vadnais-Sucker Lake Regional Park. Hugunin shared the cleanup event had the highest number of participants that VLAWMO has seen for a cleanup.

Commissioner Miller added that a County commissioner participated in the cleanup.

Hugunin also highlighted that a new program model for the Minnesota Water Stewards program was released for 2026 and information sessions regarding the program are coming up. She asked the TEC to share the program with anyone who may be interested and send them to her for more information.

VI. Projects

A. Tamarack Lake Aquatic Vegetation Survey Report Received

Tanner shared that the Tamarack Lake aquatic vegetation survey that was completed this summer is one metric that staff are using to determine how the alum treatment project is working. A pre-survey report was completed in 2022, and a follow up survey was completed in

July 2025. She stated that changes to aquatic vegetation have already been observed since the 2022 survey. She shared that additional species were found in the survey since 2022 and the Secchi disk readings have improved. The species count went from four to six different species, and the plants increased from being present at 29% (six of 21 points) in 2022 to 52% (11 of 21 points) in 2025. She highlighted some of the species that were found and stated that as the alum treatment work continues, staff will continue to work with RCSWCD to survey aquatic vegetation to observe how the lake system is responding.

Commissioner Miller asked what kind of Secchi disk reading VLAWMO would like to see in a shallow lake. Tanner answered that a one-meter average depth is the goal determined by MPCA for shallow lakes.

B. Wilkinson DWW Transplant Results to Date and Notification of Phase 1 Project Grant Closure Update

Tanner presented results of the transplant work that has occurred for the Wilkinson Lake deep-water wetland project. She said that the MN DNR requests that source lakes for permitting are sourced as close as possible to the target transplant waterbody and that they are required not to be infested with invasive species. Staff worked with MN DNR for approval of Gem Lake as the source lake. She described the transplant timeline including a trial run that was completed in the summer of 2024 where plug planting and a “cooler dump” planting methods were tested. Subsequent transplant efforts were completed in late summer 2024 and the summer of 2025.

Tanner shared that 13 aquatic vegetation species were transplanted from Gem Lake into Wilkinson Lake. A plant survey was completed this summer that detected eight of the 13 species that were transplanted. Actual species survival may be higher, but at least 62% of the species have been detected so far on survey following transplanting. She said that, in addition to this, three additional plant species were detected in the wetland that were not transplanted from the source lake. She stated there is overall a high diversity of plants so far, and the vegetation will continue to be monitored in 2026 in partnership with RCSWCD.

C. Scopes for Ongoing Projects and Maintenance in 2026

Tanner presented several scopes of work and contracts that are planned for 2026. She summarized the content of each contract.

The first proposed contract is for Ramsey County Soil and Water Conservation Division work on lake surveys for Deep Lake and Pleasant Lake to see how the vegetation has rebounded from work under the carp removal program. Tamarack and Wilkinson Lake will also be re-surveyed. The contract total ranges from \$7,000-9,485 depending on total field work hours.

The second proposed scope is from Natural Shore Technologies for the maintenance of several past VLAWMO partnership projects listed in the TEC packet.

The third scope is from Natural Shore Technologies for enhancing the Wilkinson Lake deep-water wetland work, focusing on the removal of invasive species adjacent to the deep-water wetland and with advance woody invasive species removal that will support construction of the potential phase 2 project. The contract total is \$5,000.

The last contracts are for Carp Solutions for continued carp removal work totaling \$9,930 and for Barr Engineering to analyze five years of completed sampling of phytoplankton on East Goose Lake totaling \$7,000.

She requested a recommendation to the Board for approval of the contracts provided in the packet.

It was moved by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Huntrods to recommend the contracts provided in the packet for services from RCSWCD, Natural Shore Technologies, Carp Solutions, and Barr Engineering to the Board for approval.

VII. Commissioner Reports

None.

VIII. NOHOA

None.

IX. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division (RCSWCD)

None.

X. St. Paul Regional Water Services

None.

XI. Public Comment

Ed Shapland complimented Angela Hugunin and staff on the lake cleanup event that occurred over the weekend both for their work on the cleanup and for publicizing the event. He stated it was a great turnout this year.

Chair Ousky asked if a new method was done to publicize the event. Hugunin responded that physical flyers were put up at local parks, which seem to have made a difference.

XII. Next Meetings

TEC meeting: December 10, 2025 at 8:15 am; Board meeting: December 10, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

XIII. Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Philip/Huntrods to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 am. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.