

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS – October 22, 2025, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Attendance		Present	Absent
Jim Lindner, Chair	City of Gem Lake	X	
Rob Rafferty	City of Lino Lakes		X*
Sara Shah	City of North Oaks	X	
Ed Prudhon	White Bear Township	X	
Andrea West	City of White Bear Lake	X	
Katherine Doll Kanne	City of Vadnais Heights	X	
Phil Belfiori	Administrator	X	
Dawn Tanner	Program Development Coord.	X	
Brian Corcoran	Water Resources Mgr.	X	
Lauren Sampedro	Watershed Tech & Program Coord.		X*
Angela Hugunin	Communication & Outreach Coord.	X	

\*= with prior notice

\*\*= alternate

**Others in attendance:** Susan Miller (TEC)

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Lindner.

**II. Approval of Agenda** 🐦

The agenda for the October 22, 2025 Board meeting was presented for approval. Administrator Belfiori noted the proposed addition of a payment consideration to agenda item VI. A. 2, the Tamarack Lake Alum Project. No other changes.

A motion was made by Director West and seconded by Director Doll Kanne to approve the October Board meeting agenda as amended. Vote: all: aye. Motion passed.

**III. Approval of Minutes** 🐦

The minutes from the August 27, 2025 Board meeting were placed on the agenda for approval, as presented.

A motion was made by Director West and seconded by Director Doll Kanne to approve the August 27, 2025 minutes. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**IV. Visitors and Presentations**

**A. TEC Report to the Board for October & Finance Report**

TEC Member Susan Miller provided an overview of the October TEC Report to the Board. Commissioner Miller began by describing the work taking place near Wilkinson Lake, explaining that planning has begun for the second phase project. She highlighted the impact of the federal government's shutdown, as some of the funding for the Wilkinson project has come from EPA and is administered by the MPCA. Commissioner Miller explained that VLAWMO staff are working during the shutdown to design a project that will be adaptable as available funding allows.

Commissioner Miller highlighted the Tamarack Lake alum project, where alum binds to lake phosphorus in efforts to improve water clarity. She explained that the third application of alum has been completed, with the fourth and final treatment planned for spring. Commissioner Miller stated that these projects can be expensive, and the application processes are dependent on conditions such as weather. Future years will involve further monitoring. Commissioner Miller also noted that a recent fish survey conducted on Tamarack Lake presented promising initial findings, though further analysis is forthcoming.

Commissioner Miller pointed out two upcoming events, including the Autumn Water Social tomorrow evening at the Big Wood Brewery in Vadnais Heights, a partnership between VLAWMO and the City of Vadnais Heights. Commissioner Miller highlighted the WAV group's fall cleanup at Vadnais-Sucker Lake Park. Commissioner Miller asked the Directors to recruit any community members who may be interested in joining this cleanup effort.

Director Shah asked how "effort level" is defined for the TEC Report to the Board. Administrator Belfiori explained that staff update this table on a monthly basis depending on where their time and attention are focused. He noted that some elements are cyclical such as the rise and fall of effort with annual needs such as budgeting.

Director West asked whether promotional materials for the cleanup event could be shared with the Directors on social media or email. Hugunin replied that materials would be provided to the Directors after the meeting.

Director Prudhon asked whether the WAV or staff had reached out to local Boy Scouts groups for potential volunteers. Hugunin replied that these groups have not yet been contacted, but this possibility could be explored for future events.

#### **B. Public Visitors - Non-agenda items**

None.

#### **V. Consent Agenda**

Chair Lindner asked if any Board members wished to take items off the consent agenda for discussion.

Consent items on the agenda and included in the October Board packet were as follows:

- A. Consider Audit Services for 2026 and 2027
- B. Consider Health Insurance Benefit Renewal for 2026
- C. Consider HEI Phase 1 Engineering Scope for Phase 2, 319 Project
- D. Update on VLAWMO JPA

A motion was made by Director Prudhon and seconded by Director Shah to approve the consent agenda. Vote: all: aye. Motion passed.

Administrator Belfiori congratulated the Board on the approval of the new JPA.

#### **VI. Business**

##### **A. Projects and Studies/Plans**

## 1. Deep-Water Wetland Project Update

Tanner presented an update on the Wilkinson Deep-Water Wetland Project. She shared that phase 1 of the project is officially closed out. Tanner stated that it was nice to hear from community members about how they have enjoyed the restoration site and have visited the new educational sign. She gave an overview of the process for developing the sign and expressed gratitude to North Oaks Company (NOC) for the benches and viewing platform that they installed with the sign. These will offer passersby a place to rest and enjoy a view of the wetland and learn more about the project.

Tanner shared that a new trail network has been developed near the wetland restoration site. She described how the project sites are developing, including the restoration progression that involves removal of invasive species. Tanner noted that transplant work and vegetation enhancement in the wetland have been very effective. She also shared a photo illustrating the contrast between areas that received the upgraded seed mix versus those that did not. Tanner then outlined the work of the NOC on a 25-acre restoration project near the wetland restoration site. This will help reduce the maintenance required for VLAWMO's project area.

## 2. Tamarack Lake Alum Project Update

Tanner provided an update on phase 3 of the alum application at Tamarack Lake. Staff from Lake Restorations administered the alum throughout the week of 10/13. Monitoring was conducted throughout this time, with Barr Engineering adapting the application rate as needed. Tanner noted that the water still appears murky. Monitoring data will provide more information about how the lake is responding to alum applied so far.

Tanner presented the pH levels before, during, and after alum application. Staff are looking for pH to return to its pre-application levels, and monitoring of pH will continue upon the recommendation of the project engineer. Other next steps include the renewal of a temporary access agreement for spring, a contract amendment with LRI to incorporate 2026 pricing, and the final alum application, phase 4, which is anticipated for spring of 2026.

Staff requested approval of the LRI payment request as submitted by LRI and reviewed and recommended by Barr Engineering in the amount of \$27,380.

### Discussion:

A motion was made by Director Shah and seconded by Director Doll Kanne to approve the LRI pay request as submitted by LRI and reviewed and recommended by Barr Engineering in the amount of \$27,380. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

## B. Financial/Administrative

### 1. Consider Resolution 08-2025 Regarding Approval of Storm Sewer Utility Certification List for 2026

Administrator Belfiori outlined the final step in the annual process to certify the list for the Storm Sewer Utility heading into the new year. He outlined the steps already taken thus far in 2025, including the setting of the budget with anticipated SSU income at the June Board

meeting. In August, the Board determined the rate needed to correspond with the funds required to implement their approved budget. The approved rate from the August Board meeting is \$74.28 per residential unit and \$107.64 /ac. for all other non-exempt land use classifications for a total estimated SSU income for 2026 of \$1,342,725.76. Since the August meeting, staff have worked with their SSU consultant and the counties to review property and charges. All parcels were included in meeting materials for the Directors' review and consideration.

Administrator Belfiori shared the summary for each county, as well as the summary by land use classification.

Staff recommended approval of Resolution 08-2025 which certifies the VLAWMO storm sewer utility charges to the county auditor to be assessed on real estate taxes payable in 2026.

**Discussion:**

Director Prudhon moved and Director West seconded to approve Resolution 08-2025 which certifies the VLAWMO Storm Sewer Utility charges to the county auditor to be assessed on real estate taxes payable in 2026. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**Resolution No. 08-2025  
of the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO)**

**A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING STORM SEWER UTILITY CHARGES TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO BE  
ASSESSED ON REAL ESTATE TAXES PAYABLE IN 2026.**

**Resolution 08-2025 was moved by Director Prudhon and seconded by Director West.**

WHEREAS, Minnesota Law 2008, Chapter 366, Article 6, Section 47 provides that the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO) may certify to the County Auditors the amounts of storm sewer utility charges to be collected on said premises the ensuing year; and

WHEREAS, the Storm Sewer Utility (SSU) Rule of the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization, provides that the watershed may certify to the County Auditors the amounts of unpaid utility charges to be collected as part of the tax levy/special assessments on said premises the ensuing year;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF THE VADNAIS LAKE AREA WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION, AS FOLLOWS:

1. Attachments 1 and 2 attached hereto and made a part thereof by reference is a list of parcels of real property lying within the VLAWMO limits of which have surface water runoff and on which there are service charges payable in 2026.

2. The Board hereby certifies said list and requests the Ramsey County Auditor and Anoka County Auditor to include in the real estate taxes/assessments due the amount set forth in Attachments 1 and 2 with taxes/assessments due and payable in 2026.
3. The VLAWMO Administrator is directed to tender a certified copy of this Resolution to the Ramsey and Anoka County Departments of Property Records and Revenue.

The question was on the adoption of the resolution and there were 5 yeas and 0 nays as follows:

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>
<i>Andrea West</i>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Ed Prudhon</i>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Rob Rafferty</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
<i>Sara Shah</i>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Katherine Doll</i>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Kanne</i>			
<i>Jim Lindner</i>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Adopted this 22nd day of October 2025.

BY THE VLAWMO BOARD

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

I, the undersigned, Administrator of the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization, hereby certify that I have carefully compared and attached the foregoing extract of minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of said watershed held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October 2025, with the original on file in my office.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Administrator

VADNAIS LAKE AREA WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

Administrator Belfiori thanked the Board for their leadership and staff for their work.

**VII. Discussion/Administration Communication – Discussion on Possible VLAWMO Subcommittee Meeting on November 10, 11, 17, 18, 2025**

Administrator Belfiori shared that the Board Subcommittee will meet on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Founders Room. Members can expect a packet the week prior.

**XI. Adjourn**

A motion was made by Director West and seconded by Director Prudhon to adjourn at 7:22 pm. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.