

From: [Timm, Amy \(MPCA\)](#)
To: [Phil Belfiori](#); [Nichols, Miranda \(MPCA\)](#)
Cc: ["Jim Hauth"](#); ["Jim Lindner"](#); ["Katherine Doll Kanne"](#)
Subject: RE: questions regarding the West Vadnais Lake TMDL
Date: Monday, May 20, 2024 5:06:58 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Greetings!

It was nice meeting with you all today and hearing more about the background related to West Vadnais and where you are at in your planning process for the impaired lakes. I'll provide a summary to the discussion here and answer the questions proposed.

1. TMDL is scheduled for our part of the State with MPCA in 2024. Is TMDL development required for West Vadnais Lake?
 - a. The 2024 impaired waters list no longer lists a "TMDL Completion Date".
 - i. The 2022 list did - it was a calculation of Impaired year + 10 years.
 - b. We have moved to a prioritization of the water bodies.
 - i. These are prioritized by who we have a commitment with to do a TMDL in the next 2 years.
 - ii. Since I have not been notified about moving forward with a TMDL within the next 2 years, these lakes are a lower priority.
 - c. The current Impaired Waters list can be found here: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air-water-land-climate/minnesotas-impaired-waters-list>
1. Is VLAWMO required to develop the TMDL for WVl?
 - a. We don't require the TMDL to be written, but we recommend you do one if it will move you towards your goals.
 - b. If we don't do a TMDL, we defer them. We understand that you are doing a lot of work in the lakes and are implementing projects.
 - c. Glad the 319 grants are working well and moving your initiatives forward!
2. What timeline is MPCA using for their process in 2024?
 - a. NA
3. How does process of "third party" per SS 114D.25 identification work?
 - a. We will need an interested party to move this work forward. We want to make sure that someone sees the value in the documents and will use it.
 - b. We typically work with the watershed organizations on this work.
 - c. This is a collaborative effort that will need input from involved parties.
4. Is there any MPCA financial contribution to TMDL development if a third party undertakes the development?
 - a. If it is decided to move forward with a TMDL, the MPCA has funding to put towards this work.
 - b. We would summarize the data we have, the models built, and determine what we need to put together a TMDL.
 - c. I would summarize all potential work, have a timeline that is helpful for you, and then take it to MPCA leadership to see what initiatives they would support and how much financial support to provide.
 - i. The MPCA now has 3 TMDL writers. We still consult work out though.
 - ii. The MPCA has 2 master contact consultants – TetraTech and LimnoTech
 - iii. The MPCA recognizes that in the metro area, you may have a consultant that is more familiar with your watershed and that would be part of the discussion.
6. What happens if no local "third party" volunteers to develop a TMDL for West Vadnais Lake? (i.e., Will MPCA write it if no third party is found?)
 - a. The MPCA will only move forward if there is a partner who finds this document useful and will contribute to the development.
7. What process does MPCA use for lakes with trans-watershed boundary issues like this? Are there other examples that MPCA could provide that have successfully navigated this

complexity?

- a. I don't know whether anyone is in this exact situation, but many boundary discussions are happening around the metro area. As you stated, these were made up to 40 years ago and a lot has changed.
 - b. Typically, impaired waters within the watershed organizations boundaries are led by that watershed organization even if the hydrologic boundaries may be different.
 - i. In your case, Ramsey-Washington would end up being involved since they are the primary contributing watershed and oversee the outlet.
 - ii. All the information from that watershed would need to be included in the TMDL.
 - iii. From an MPCA standpoint, whether Ramsey-Washington Metro or VLAWMO requested the TMDL, we would move forward with it. Both groups would be involved.
 1. We would still want both groups on the same page of moving forward with the document.
7. What responsibility do the communities that contribute storm water runoff to the lake have in ensuring a TMDL is written?
- a. The MS4s do not have a responsibility to do this. Typically, TMDL work is led by the watershed organization.
 - b. The MS4s are still involved and made aware of the TMDLs. There are permit implications, so they are notified at the onset of these projects.
8. Other items to consider:
- a. The MPCA is willing to assist with other planning documents that will move your initiatives forward.
 - b. Protection studies – like a TMDL but is for a waterbody that is meeting standards.
 - i. Perhaps you want to set a lower target to keep a waterbody from getting on the impaired waters list or are seeing some issues that you would like to focus on.
 - c. Source assessment – related to E Coli.
 - i. Dawn asked about Beaches on an unimpaired lake.
 1. We could summarize what type of information would be helpful and take to MPCA leadership to see what they would support.
 - c. Timeline: VLAWMO is having internal discussions about how they would like to proceed.
 - i. Keep us in the loop, however you decide.
 - ii. If you think there is work further out, let us know so that we can plan for that.

There is no specific timeline for this work, but it is a couple year process, so if you have a sense of timeline – let us know. You all are doing great work, and we appreciate the partnerships.

Thanks!
Amy

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Mission: Protect and improve the environment and human health

From: Phil Belfiori <phil.belfiori@vlawmo.org>

Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 1:12 PM

To: Nichols, Miranda (MPCA) <miranda.nichols@state.mn.us>; Timm, Amy (MPCA) <Amy.Timm@state.mn.us>

Cc: 'Jim Hauth' <Jim.Hauth@cityvadnaisheights.com>; 'Jim Lindner' <jim.lindner@gemlakemn.org>; 'Katherine Doll Kanne' <Katherine.DollKanne@cityvadnaisheights.com>

Subject: questions regarding the West Vadnais Lake TMDL

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Hi Miranda and Amy,

I hope you had a great weekend and thank you again for siting down virtually with us this afternoon to discuss some of our questions regarding the West Vadnais Lake TMDL.

In anticipation of our meeting today, VLAWMO and City staff developed the following list of questions. We wanted to send these to you before the meeting to allow for an opportunity to make the meeting as efficient as possible. We understand there will likely be follow-up questions and free flowing discussion and are understanding you may not have answers to all of these today. After our discussion today, we would ask for written responses to these questions (and perhaps a few additional questions after our meeting) in a timeframe acceptable to you.

Before these questions are discussed, VLAMWO staff will provide a short background /chronology and see if you have any questions on background before moving into these questions.

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8. What responsibility do the communities that contribute storm water runoff to the lake have in ensuring a TMDL is written?

Thank you again and looking forward to our discussion at 3:30 today.

Let me know if you wish to discuss before the meeting.

Take care



Phil Belfiori

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Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization

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-----Original Appointment-----

From: Nichols, Miranda (MPCA) <miranda.nichols@state.mn.us>

Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 11:35 AM

To: Phil Belfiori

Subject: Accepted: Discussion questions regarding the West Vadnais Lake TMDL

When: Monday, May 20, 2024 3:30 PM-4:30 PM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada).

Where: Zoom

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