



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS – FEBRUARY 28, 2024 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Attendance		Present	Absent
Jim Lindner, Chair	City of Gem Lake	x	
John Shuman	City of North Oaks	x	
Rob Rafferty	City of Lino Lakes	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	
Brian Corcoran	Water Resources Mgr.	x	
Dawn Tanner	Program Development Coord.	x	
Nick Voss	Education & Outreach Coord.	x	
Lauren Sampedro	Watershed Tech & Program Coord.	x	

*= with prior notice

**= alternate

Others in attendance: Greg Wilson (Barr Engineering), Terry Huntrods (VLAWMO TEC/White Bear Lake), Jennifer Morris (Advantage Townhome Management)

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 February 28, 2024 Board meeting was presented for approval.

A motion was made by Director Shuman and seconded by Director Doll Kanne to approve the February Board meeting agenda. Vote: Shuman: aye, Doll Kanne: aye, Lindner: aye, Rafferty: aye. Motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes 

The minutes from the December 13, 2023 Board meeting were placed on the agenda for approval, as presented. No comments from the Directors.

A motion was made by Director Rafferty and seconded by Director Doll Kanne to approve the December 13th meeting minutes.

Vote: Shuman: aye, Doll Kanne: aye, Lindner: aye, Rafferty: aye. Motion passed.

IV. Visitors and Presentations

A. TEC Report and Financials for February

TEC Commissioner Huntrods summarized the TEC report to the Board from February. Oak Knoll Pond payment has occurred, and buckthorn removal to accompany the Wilkinson 319 grant has been accomplished. The Watershed Management Plan engagement campaign is active, and a smart irrigation project has been approved in the Landscape Grant program.

B. Public visitors – non agenda items

V. Consent Agenda 

Chair Lindner asked if any Board members wished to speak on any of the consent agenda items. No requests were made from directors.

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

- A. Consider Designation of Legal Publication – Press Publications and VLAWMO website
Consider 2023 Board Meeting Dates
- B. Consideration of contract extension /amendment on continuance of remaining loads for spent lime project and update on next steps, amendment on temp. easement & update on payment.
- C. Consider 2024 public drainage ditch inspection report
- D. Consider 2024 education and outreach plan
- E. Consider MOU for maintenance for northern Birch shoreline
- F. Consider Invasive yellow iris removal partnership project MOU with NOHOA
- G. Update on Rotary Park prioritization for restoration
- H. Update on carp solutions
- I. Update on Pleasant Lake article #3.
- J. Update memo on Wilkinson Deep water project
- K. Update on scheduling Oath of Office for Director West to April meeting

Discussion:

A motion was made by Director Shuman and seconded by Director Doll Kanne to approve the consent agenda.

Vote: Shuman: aye, Doll Kanne: aye, Lindner: aye, Rafferty: aye. Motion passed.

VI. Business

A. Administration and Projects

1. Consider election of Board, subcommittee Officers and appointment of TEC chair/ officers 

Chair Jim Lindner presented the appointment needs for the Board positions and the subcommittee. Board members discussed the roles.

Discussion:

Chair:

A motion was made by Director Shuman to nominate Chair Lindner as Board Chair. Vote: Shuman: aye, Rafferty: aye, Doll Kanne: aye, Lindner abstained. Motion passed.

Vice-Chair:

A motion was made by Director Rafferty to nominate Director Shuman as Vice Chair. Vote: Rafferty: aye, Doll Kanne: aye, Lindner: aye, Shuman: Abstained. Motion passed.

Treasurer:

A motion was made by Chair Lindner to nominate Director Doll Kanne as Treasurer. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Subcommittee:

A motion was made by Director Shuman to nominate Directors Shuman, Lindner, Doll Kanne for the Subcommittee. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

TEC Chair:

A motion was made by Director Shuman and seconded by Director Rafferty to confirm the TEC appointment for Gloria Tessier to serve as TEC Chair. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. Projects and Programming

1. Consider Landscape Level 2 2024-01 grant application: The Pines HOA Smart Irrigation

Sampedro presented the project which is the first Landscape Level 2 application of the year. Sampedro acknowledged a HOA representative being present.

This application proposes irrigation system updates through the installation of five smart irrigation controllers across a 100-acre neighborhood in North Oaks. The grant will require groundwater conservation reporting from the applicant for the next 5 years.

Discussion:

Director Rafferty inquired about how frequently projects get grant funded at 90%. Sampedro provided that this threshold of grant coverage is reserved for projects that are seen to be of high benefit and importance for the cost. Smart irrigation controllers have been identified in the grant policy as high importance for demonstration and new data collection on water usage and cost. This project supports VLAWMO's initiatives in irrigation and groundwater conservation. Director Rafferty also inquired about when the effort is expected to be complete, Sampedro provided that the controllers are expected to be installed by the end of Spring 2024. Director Rafferty commended that it's a great idea.

A motion was made by Director Rafferty and seconded by Director Shuman to approve the Landscape Level 2 grant application 2024-01 at 90% of eligible project expenses, not to exceed \$19,115.96 in accordance with VLAWMO staff's recommendation and established program guidelines.

Vote: Shuman: aye, Doll Kanne: aye, Lindner: aye, Rafferty: aye. Motion passed.

2. Update on the East Vadnais Resiliency Study and consider MOU with City of Vadnais Heights

Sampedro reviewed the resiliency study's last Board discussion from the August 2023 Board meeting. At this meeting SRF was approved to complete the resiliency study. Modeling of the targeted subwatershed area is continuing this spring and expected to be completed by April or May 2024. There are nine potential BMP locations identified within the study at this time. SRF created a draft decision matrix for staff and Study partners to use to discuss and

evaluate the various potential considerations and benefits of the BMPs from flood control to water quality. The top three were selected to be brought to a conceptual BMP design level.

Sampedro explained that during the Study development a new MPCA Stormwater Resilience Grant was released that would be a good fit for implementation of projects from the Study. Applications are due April 11th and the City of Vadnais Heights has expressed initial interest in applying. Sampedro highlighted that BMPs 2, 4, and 5 would be the focus of the application, as shown on the slide, if the City of Vadnais Heights pursues the grant opportunity.

VLAWMO staff recommend the Board of Directors approve a draft MOU with the City of Vadnais Heights to support a potential MPCA Implementation for Stormwater Resilience Grant application if the City decides to pursue the application.

Discussion:

Chair Lindner inquired about when staff would know about grant submission results. Sampedro replied that staff would know by June.

Director Doll Kanne commented that the City of Vadnais Heights City Council has discussed the collaboration with VLAWMO, noting that the Council is interested in alleviating flooding in this area as flood events have shown to be increasing and residents in the area have been impacted by the flooding.

It was moved by Director Rafferty and seconded by Director Shuman to approve the MOU between VLAWMO and the City of Vadnais Heights with non-material changes.

Vote: Shuman: aye, Doll Kanne: aye, Lindner: aye, Rafferty: aye. Motion passed.

3. Update on WMP process including discussion on upcoming Board survey and April 24th Workshop

Voss presented engagement that is underway for the next 10-year Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (WMP). The required 60-day comment period that the Board authorized at the regular meeting in December closed on February 13. Feedback received is being compiled by VLAWMO and HEI staff.

Voss discussed a WMP survey was created for the public that opened on Feb. 5 and is being advertised and promoted actively including in-person kiosks at local libraries and Tamarack Nature Center. The Board and TEC members are encouraged to advocate residents to participate in the WMP process by filling out this survey, either in-person or online, by March 13. The TEC/CAC/Partner survey also opened on Feb. 5 and closed on Feb. 26.

Tanner summarized the TEC, CAC, and partner survey, noting that these results will be used to build the Board survey. Both will be incorporated into the April 24th Initial Plan Meeting (6:00-7:00 pm), which will be presided upon by the Board and facilitated by VLAWMO staff and HEI. VLAWMO has received RSVPs for the Initial Planning Meeting from BWSR, the Minnesota Department of Health, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the City of White Bear Lake. The meeting is also open to the public.

Discussion:

Chair Lindner inquired about having a quorum at the Initial Planning Meeting. Administrator Belfiori responded that there is no quorum requirement or action items being taken at this meeting. However, it's important to have attendance due to the implications the meeting will have for VLAWMO's work and financing from 2027-2036.

Director Rafferty inquired about the new Board appointee from the City of White Bear Lake. Tanner confirmed that White Bear Lake has appointed a representative; she wasn't able to attend the Board meeting because of a scheduling conflict with the City Council.

4. Consider 2024 Tamarack Lake alum project design

Tanner presented the project summary with Greg Wilson of Barr Engineering. Meetings for temporary access for the project are underway, and a temporary access agreement is in review with Ramsey County Parks. The cost estimate increased due to the latest market data and the need for a longer hose at Tamarack Lake to achieve the alum application. The recommendation from Barr Engineering is to complete a full dose while monitoring lake pH levels. The anticipated cost range is still below the \$200,000 in the 2024 approved budget. The Tamarack Lake application will inform and guide the efforts that will be explored later for Wilkinson Lake.

Discussion:

Director Rafferty asked about the background of applying full doses vs half doses of alum, and if in the past full doses were the norm. Wilson explained that originally full doses were routine for alum treatments, but past observations indicated that splitting the treatment into multiple doses makes the process more efficient, and makes the treatment last longer. In the case of Tamarack Lake, Wilson explained that a full, single dose is sought because it's a smaller lake with difficult access conditions.

Director Rafferty also asked about the impacts that half doses have on the budget. Wilson explained that generally two half doses cost more, but he expects two half doses to be more appropriate for Wilkinson Lake because of its larger size, shallow conditions, and larger chemical dose required.

A motion was made by Director Rafferty and seconded by Director Doll Kanne to approve VLAWMO staff and the project engineer to continue preparing Request For Quote documents for an alum treatment in Tamarack Lake.

Vote: Shuman: aye. Doll Kanne: aye. Lindner: aye. Rafferty: aye. Motion passed.

VII. Discussion

Administrator Belfiori discussed scheduling the April subcommittee meeting dates and inquired about the dates presented. Consensus indicated Wednesday April 3rd.

VIII. Administration communication

1. Scheduling early April Board subcommittee meeting.

XI. Adjourn

A motion was made by Director Rafferty and seconded by Director Doll Kanne to adjourn at 7:41 pm. Vote: Shuman: aye, Doll Kanne: aye, Lindner: aye, Rafferty: aye. Motion passed.