






BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AGENDA

7:00 PM February 22, 2017

Vadnais Heights City Hall – Council Chambers

- I. Call to Order, Vice Chair, Dan Jones with introductions
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Approval of Minutes from December 14, 2016
- IV. Technical Commission Report to the Board (informal)
 - A. Activity Summary
 - B. February Financial Report
- V. New Business
 - A. Election and Appointments 
 1. Election of Officers: Chair, Vice Chair, & Secretary-Treasurer
 2. Committee Assignments: Policy & Personnel; Finance
 3. Appointment of Technical Commission Chair – Mark Graham
 4. Setting of 2017 regular meeting dates: 4th Wed every other month beginning in February with the exception of December (2nd Wed)
 5. Designation of Legal Counsel and Legal Publication
 6. Selection of 2016 Audit firm
- VI. 2017 Work Plan
 - A. Project reports and action
 1. Goose-Wilkinson study update
 2. Birch Lake proposal 
 3. Lambert Creek
 - a) 2016 Lambert Creek Monitoring highlights – Brian
 - b) Bacteria source monitoring – 2017 work 
 4. Whitaker Treatment Wetlands
 5. 2017 Fish Survey Proposal 
 6. 2017 Bathymetry Proposal 
 - B. Education and Outreach
 1. TEC/Board Survey: 2017 tours & events
 2. Website resources & fielding of memo questions
 3. Legislative update: How will VLAWMO approach politics? (memo page 2)
- VII. Report from the Chair
- VIII. Administrator's Report
- IX. Director's Report
- X. Next regular meeting: April 26th
- XI. Public Comment
- XI. Adjourn



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 December 14, 2016

In Attendance		Absent
Marc Johannsen	Vadnais Heights	
Dan Jones	White Bear Lake	
Bob Kermes	White Bear Township - alternate	
Rob Rafferty	Lino Lakes	
Marty Long	North Oaks	
Jim Lindner	Gem Lake - alternate	
Stephanie McNamara	Administrator	
Kristine Jenson	Program Mgr.	
Brian Corcoran	Water Resources Mgr.	
Nick Voss	Education & Outreach Cord.	
Tyler Thompson	Water Resource Tech.	

Others in attendance: Margaret Behrens (Ramsey Conservation District), Bob Larson, Diane Gorder (North Oaks Natural Resources Commission), Mark Graham (City of Vadnais Heights Engineer & TEC member)

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Chair Johannsen. A quorum is present for the meeting.

II. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Rafferty and seconded by Jones to approve the agenda as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes from October 26, 2016

A motion was made by Jones and seconded by Long to approve the minutes from the October 26, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IV. Technical Commission Report to the Board

A. Activity Summary

TEC Report submitted to the Board

B. December Financial Report

Report submitted to the Board. Stephanie said VLAWMO's storm sewer funding was received so we are solvent for the next few months.

V. New Business

A. 2016 Fund Balance – Resolution 10-2016

At the end of each year, we determine which items in the budget need to be carried over to 2017.

Included with the resolution below is a list of all items and amounts that are being requested to carry over and the purpose for those funds.

RESOLUTION 10-2016

Of the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO)

A RESOLUTION FOR COMMITTING THE FUND BALANCE FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization, does hereby find as follows:

WHEREAS, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board’s Statement No. 54 defines committed fund balance as amounts that can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the Board,

WHEREAS, Board action is required before year end to formalize the commitment of fund balance to specified purposes,

WHEREAS, those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the VLAWMO removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action it employed to previously commit those amounts.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the VLAWMO, that the specific portions of fund balance in the identified funds are committed as follows:

Committed

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General	Information systems	Purchase of IT equipment & help	\$2,500
General	Insurance	Additional liability insurance per 10/16 Board	\$500
General	Legal assistance	Project contracting assistance	\$5,000
General	Engineering & Technical assistance	Restoration design assistance for property owners; Complete 2016 contract	\$10,000
General	Admin-Payroll	Assist with staffing adjustment;	\$10,000
General	Miscellaneous -	Staffing assistance - GIS etc.	\$4,000
General	Financial Incentives	2016 Cost-share projects	\$4,000
General	Education & Marketing	WAV project, workshop & other	\$3,000
General	Community Blue	Ongoing projects	12,000
General	Maintenance	Maintenance fund for watershed projects	\$18,000
General	Equipment	Expand sampling network	\$2,500
General	Monitoring & Analysis	Final costs	\$2,000
General	Lambert Creek restoration	Identified projects in Subwatershed- Kohler streambank	\$28,675
General	Water Quality projects	Sucker channel & others	\$80,000

General	Implementation on Impaired waters	Implementation activity – Goose Lk. & Lambert creek	\$75,000
	Total		\$257,175

The foregoing resolution was passed by the Board of Directors of the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization, Minnesota this 14th day of December, 2016.
The motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution was made by Director Lindner duly seconded by member Director Jones and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:
Directors: Jones, Long, Johannsen, Lindner, Rafferty, Kermes
and the following voted against the same: None
Whereupon the resolution was declared passed and adopted.

B. Consideration of health insurance – Resolution 11-2016

Background:

VLAWMO has offered employees a health insurance stipend for over 15 years. For the last 10 years the amount has remained at \$4,700/year. This taxed money that can be used to health insurance premiums or any other needs. Because the money is taxed the actual take home amount is less than \$4000. State law requires that VLAWMO pay at least 50% of the employee’s premium. The stipend no longer covers that requirement for some of the employees. As you know, a great deal has changed in the health insurance industry in the last 3 years. The changes this last fall have made the individual policies some of the employees have virtually unaffordable. With VLAWMO’s long history of providing a health benefit it was time to make that money work smarter and more effectively for the staff. A brief survey of what some of the other metro watersheds offer was done. Included were Ramsey Washington Metro WD, Nine Mile Creek WD, Riley Purgatory Creek WD, Brown’s Creek WD, Prior Lake Spring Lake WD and others. White Bear Lake and Vadnais Heights were also surveyed for their health benefit options. The insurance broker used by many of the surveyed watersheds was Bearance Risk Management Group. They were contacted to see what might be available for VLAWMO in 2017. An increase in the health stipend was considered as well as revisiting the idea of health insurance for VLAWMO.

Results:

Stipend increase. The cost of an average of 50% of all employee premiums as required by state law was the target. If the stipend were to increase to an after tax amount large enough to cover to total employee premiums, the stipend total would have to increase to about \$38,800, \$13,300 more than is currently spent. Because of variations in taxes, this is an estimate. The benefit has not kept up with increased health care costs over the last 10 years. This was not recommended at least in part because of the lack of tax advantage.

Health Insurance

Most of the other watersheds surveyed covered 100% of the employee’s premium on a high deductible, low premium policy, most also covered up to 50% of a family policy. As a companion piece to the high deductible policies all of the watersheds contributed to a Health Savings Account, anywhere from 25% to 100% of the HSA, with the average being close to 50%. Some offered dental insurance as well.

Ken Carlson of Bearance provided VLAWMO 17 different policy options for our small group. Starting with our current health benefit budget for 2017 of \$23,500/yr. VLAWMO would have to choose one policy from the options. Several of the options provided could cover the state mandated requirement of 50% of the employee premium using pre-tax money. The Policy & personnel committee also discussed how this would meet the Board directive to provide a compensation package consistent with the market (other watersheds and agencies) so as to

retain qualified, experienced staff. A package was discussed that was consistent with a conservative average of the other watersheds and met the needs of the current staff. If approved by the Board of Directors, this health insurance will go into effect January 1, 2017.

Package Recommendation from Policy & Personnel:

Health Partners; Deductible \$4000, embedded HSA, 100% Employee; 25% family premium + \$1000/yr/employee toward a Health Savings Account (pre-tax).

Total 2017 premium (5 emp)	\$28,845
Health Savings account contrib. (5 emp)	\$5,000
Total VLAWMO expense	\$33,845

Funding the change

The difference: \$33,845 - \$23,500 = \$10,345. This extra expense as noted before is not currently budgeted next year. However, due to the salary savings (no Educ. & Outreach staff until May and some from the admin), this amount could be carried over from 2016. In future years this would need to be budgeted.

Recommended Resolution 11-2016

The Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization shall change its health benefit to offer health insurance for its employees. The first year, 2017, will be as recommended by the Policy & Personnel Committee. The first year of health insurance shall be funded be through carried over payroll funds from 2016.

RESOLUTION 11-2016

Of the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO)

A RESOLUTION FOR ESTABLISHING EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization, does hereby find as follows:

WHEREAS, health insurance benefits are offered by other comparable watershed organizations,

WHEREAS, the Administrator, along with the Policy and Personnel Committee has researched and considered multiple options to provide a competitive health benefit package,

WHEREAS, the Policy & Personnel Committee has recommends the package presented in this Resolution,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization shall change its health benefit to offer health insurance for its employees. The first year, 2017, will be as recommended by the Policy & Personnel Committee. The first year of health insurance shall be funded through carried over payroll funds from 2016.

Discussion: Rafferty stated that he thinks the Board needs more time to digest all the information. He feels this should have been brought up more than just tonight. He would not be in favor of any policy approval tonight.

Linder asked what the timing is for this. Stephanie said it is open enrollment time and some staff saw huge increases in health insurance premiums for their individual policies. If they don't have

Johannsen stated that the P & P committee met about this and it became an issue when it was released this fall that the premiums would go up substantially. Stephanie provided many options to consider. The P & P felt this option was very reasonable with little additional cost. Johannsen acknowledged Rafferty's hesitation but that this Board meeting was the first one after the P & P met. Johannsen states that he feels it should be approved.

Rafferty stated that he understands and appreciates the efforts regarding this but still feels like the decision is being made too quickly and that better options could have been pursued. And because of that he would need to vote against this policy tonight. He feels it is very

important to fully understand the options and making sure there is proper coverage for the employees.

Jones asked Rafferty if he would approve a continuation of the stipend. Rafferty stated he would. Jones said the stipend doesn't cover the actual costs. Jones said he respects what Rafferty is saying but that it is important to adjust things to cover the employees. Jones said the package presented here is a middle of the road option and that VLAWMO is limited in options due to its small size.

Rafferty said it is important to take care of the staff and have 100% coverage for them.

Johannsen said that in early 2017, a compensation package should be reviewed.

Government compensation is different than non-government compensation. We have to stay competitive or else staff will move to other agencies that can offer more.

The motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution was made by Director Lindner duly seconded by member Director Jones and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

Directors: Jones, Long, Kermes, Johannsen, Lindner, and the following voted against the same: Rafferty.

Whereupon the resolution was declared passed and adopted.

VI. **Subwatershed Activity**

A. Approval of consultant to complete Goose-Wilkinson feasibility report.

We received 4 proposals from consultants for the Wilkinson-Goose project feasibility RFP. Proposals came from Wenck, Barr (in partnership with Young Environmental Consulting Group), WSB, and HR Green.

As a review, the goal of this project is to have a feasibility report outlining the best projects for nutrient reduction in Wilkinson and Goose Lakes. The hope is that the consultant would pull together all the information we have already compiled and review all the existing studies and reports and provide recommended projects or programs with estimated effectiveness and costs. The product should allow VLAWMO to work with partners to implement effective best management practices.

If we were to use a metaphor to explain why the use of consultants is necessary, let's compare VLAWMO staff and consultants to medical doctors. VLAWMO staff are the General Practice doctors of the watershed. We've known the watershed (our patient) for a long time and have a solid base of information about what is going on here. Our patient has some specific areas of illness though and we need to bring in a specialist to help us better understand what is going on and how we can help the patient feel better. So if staff are the GPs, our consultants are the Cardiologists or Oncologists. We need the specialists who have a deeper base of knowledge in their respective areas and who are up to date on the latest treatment methods to give our patient the best chance at recovery.

Based on the proposals we received, all 4 consultants would be able to perform the work requested and all have experience working on projects in the metro area.

Technically, the lowest bid came from Wenck (\$17,568 + optional add-ons). However, we were most impressed with the methods and plan proposed by Barr-Young (budget not to exceed \$25,000) and feel the best value would be to hire them.

Barr-Young is a collaboration between Barr Engineering and Young Environmental Consulting Group. Staff recommends the hiring of Barr-Young for the following reasons:

- Barr-Young has already invested time into reviewing data and reports and have suggested other aspects for analysis that we hadn't thought of and that the other consultants didn't include in their proposals. Greg Wilson (Barr) and Della Young (Young ECG) had a meeting with VLAWMO staff to discuss this RFP in more detail and gather information to provide us with a proposal that addresses our issues and concerns.
- Barr states that the TMDL modeling (performed by Wenck) was too simplified to truly address potential issues with these lakes and provided examples of other things that should be considered such as the fluctuations that occur throughout a year in shallow lakes such as these. They feel that understanding primary drivers for the water quality impairments will allow for realistic expectations for each lake and how we can effectively take action at reducing pollutant loads.
- Barr-Young will conduct a charrette with their multiple experts (stormwater, aquatic plants, modeling, and fisheries) to analyze our existing data and reports and produce a list of potential projects.
- The proposal includes a meeting with staff, PCA and the DNR to go over the initial findings from their charrette. This meeting would allow for stakeholders to provide input on the potential project. Involvement from the State at this point in time would set us up for pursuing grant funding for projects. No other consultant proposed this.
- Barr-Young will also consider varying climatic conditions, activities that occur on the lake and how that could impact any projects, can the lakes ever meet water quality standards, should reclassification of the waterbody be considered, the impact of fish, birds, other wildlife, and aquatic vegetation on the lakes, among other things.
- Della Young has a long history with VLAWMO and can provide the necessary background information for the Barr staff. She is also a skilled facilitator who has enabled multi-partner projects for VLAWMO in the past.
- Greg Wilson, Project Manager from Barr is highly respected in the watershed world and has led projects and studies for internal phosphorus load control for several lakes and ponds.
- They have set their budget to not exceed \$25,000 which seems low considering all they are planning to do for us but this may be looked at as an opportunity for them to work with a new watershed and this is an investment that could grow. It looks like we would get a more comprehensive report from Barr than from any of the other consultants.
- Appear to be willing to make suggestions for projects outside of what has already been discussed and won't be confined to what has already been considered.

Wenck is already familiar with VLAWMO – having worked with us on the TMDL and the Water Plan. Rebecca Carlson has worked extensively with VLAWMO and is greatly respected in the watershed world as both a project leader and an engineer. As noted earlier, Wenck's staff could do a worthy job on this assignment.

Reasons for not choosing Wenck, despite having the lowest bid:

- Wenck's bid is \$17,568 but their budget had optional add-ons that would bring the total to at least \$25,280 if pursued (which we would pursue for reasons stated in the next bullet point).
- Wenck's proposal called for a charrette (like Barr-Young). However the Wenck charrette would be with VLAWMO staff and was explained that it would be like the one done for the Water Plan which required 3 VLAWMO staff lasted an entire day coming up with projects and discussing reports. Wenck's proposal states only the Project Manager would be at this workshop but that we can have their experts take part at an extra cost (add-ons). Barr-Young's proposal states that

they will hold a charrette with all their experts at the table (not an add-on) and would require less time from VLAWMO staff.

- Based on their proposal, it seems like VLAWMO staff would have to invest more time as compared to Barr-Young and our hope was to have more involvement from the consultants rather than relying on staff to help develop a potential project list.
- Wenck's proposal didn't include looking at all the other factors included with Barr-Young. Their proposal does mention rough fish management. However, this has been done already on both Wilkinson and Goose Lakes and we haven't gotten the results we'd like. We hope to get project ideas that are outside of what has already been attempted.
- Wenck's proposal DOES include concept design sketches which is a definite positive however we feel it doesn't outweigh the Barr-Young proposal.

WSB would be a new consultant for VLAWMO. VLAWMO has not had any experience with working with them or the people who would be assigned to this project but based on their previous experience, they would be able to do this type of work.

Reasons for not choosing WSB:

- WSB's bid is \$24,802. We have never worked with WSB before and they would require more start up time to become knowledgeable about VLAWMO and our specific issues.
- They do not discuss analyzing our existing data with fresh eyes. They assume the information and modeling we have is enough to go on and haven't provided new ways to look at things like Barr-Young has. They do say they would look at information gaps or implementation limitations and provide recommendations on how to phase projects so as to capitalize on funding opportunities.
- Their proposal includes providing cut sheets with valuable information for potential projects and programs which is a positive but the proposal lacks in other ways that don't make up for this positive.

HR Green is another firm that VLAWMO hasn't worked with much. However, the Project Manager would be Shawn Tracy who has worked with VLAWMO multiple times and is familiar with the watershed and our specific issues. Shawn worked with the Anoka Conservation District and at HDR (under Della Young).

Reasons for not choosing HR Green:

- HR Green's bid is \$25,000 but they mention multiple times that either the budget or the project scope would need to be adjusted if their assumptions aren't valid. Some of those assumptions are indeed NOT valid and therefore staff is concerned that we would not receive a report that meets our needs unless we go over budget.
- HR Green's proposal entails using a special analysis tool to help identify potential projects based on more than only pollutant reduction. This sounds like a very interesting tool and we'd be interested in learning more about it but were not convinced that it could provide us with what we are looking for at this time.
- Based on the proposal, it appears that HR Green wouldn't come up with new project ideas. The projects would be based on what is already in our reports and would be analyzed to tell us which are the best ones to pursue.
- An assumption in the proposal states that the projects in our existing reports and studies are described in great detail (which is not the case). The proposal states that if this not the case, we'd have to have a more simplified report.

- They would provide a list of projects to consider and for the top 3 projects, they would provide more detailed information.

At the December 9, 2016 Technical Commission meeting, it was recommended that the Board approve the proposal from Barr-Young at a cost not to exceed \$25,000.

A motion was made by Lindner and seconded by Jones to approve the proposal submitted by Barr Engineering and Young Environmental Consulting Group for the Goose-Wilkinson feasibility report, at an amount not to exceed \$25,000. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Johanssen stated that he is really pleased to see that VLAWMO is going to start getting projects in the ground.

B. Direction on next steps for Birch Lake – 4th Street project analysis

The work plan for 2017 includes the development of a water quality project in the Birch Lake subwatershed. Birch Lake is currently one of VLAWMO's healthiest lakes, there is a very active homeowners group, the Birch Lake Improvement District (BLID) that implements and supports projects, and the City of White Bear Lake (WBL) is willing to partner on projects. VLAWMO staff met with WBL staff to walk around Birch Lake and discuss possible projects. We then held a meeting with WBL staff and a BLID representative to narrow down our focus and assign roles. VLAWMO agreed to pursue a water quality project in the northeast area of the lake, at the intersection of Otter Lake Road and 4th Street.

In order to develop a project, we need to bring in a consultant to analyze our best options for the site and complete preliminary designs. Since we are hiring a consultant to complete the feasibility report for Wilkinson and Goose Lakes, staff is asking for approval from the Board to ask that consultant to add on initial project planning for this spot on Birch Lake. The 2017 budget has \$3,500 assigned to this task and with the carryover funds, we can put another \$15,000 towards this which could give us a set of plans ready for installation. It would likely be more cost-effective to add this on to the duties of the consultant working on Wilkinson and Goose Lakes rather than to search for another consultant to complete this task.

If the Board approves this direction, staff will ask the consultant if they are willing to add it to their contract. If they are unable to do that, staff will pursue a consultant separately.

Recommendation: Board directs staff to request the Wilkinson-Goose consultant add on Birch Lake project planning work necessary for project implementation at 4th & Otter Lk Rd at a cost to VLAWMO not to exceed \$18,500 and to work with the City of White Bear Lake to secure additional funding for this task if necessary.

Linder/Jones - \$18,500

VII. Report from the Chair

Johanssen stated that he has enjoyed his time on the Board and feels that the work done here is very valuable and he wants to make sure the work here continues. Keep our water safe and accessible for the future is vital. Jones thanked Johanssen for all his work.

VIII. Administrator's Report – Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board Request

Stephanie stated that all the Board members will need to file again by the end of January and that we would need to know who the new members will be on the Board so that we can get them to file that information.

IX. Director's Reports

Long stated that North Oaks is working on a stewardship program to be proactive about shoreline restoration. They had a property owner who destroyed a restoration project and they want to make sure that doesn't occur again.

X. Next Regular Meeting – February 22, 2017

XI. Public Comment

XII. Adjourn

A motion was made by Kermes and seconded by Jones to adjourn at 7:52pm. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Jenson.

DRAFT

TEC Report to the Board
February 2017

Programs & Projects	Effort Level	Completion Date	Comments
	LOW		
	MED		
	HIGH		
Projects			
Priority Lakes		2017	Project study underway for Wilkinson & Goose Lakes. Report should be ready by April.
Sucker Lake Channel		2017	Waiting for Ramsey Parks to provide a draft Joint Powers Agreement regarding the project before moving forward.
Lambert Creek - Koehler		2017	Construction has started, tree and grubbing complete, bio logs and drop structure are in. project completion spring 2017
Birch Lake		2017	Barr Engineering will be providing an estimate to develop a project for 4th & Otter Lk Rd
Whitaker Wetlands		2017	Services contract finalized - surveys and soil borings to be completed winter 2017

Programs			
Outreach		ongoing	A VLAWMO youtube page is now available; three videos produced this year are running on local cable channel 16; the Facebook page is updated multiple times per week.
Education		ongoing	Salt cups are a hit with the communities.
Website		ongoing	Upgrades for 2016 include a new blog, updated information, new fonts.
WAV		ongoing	WAV is active. Focus over the winter will be how to best train volunteers.
Cost Share		ongoing	Have approved one grant and have several others interested.
GIS		ongoing	Many updates to our online service have been completed.
Monitoring		ongoing	2016 monitoring report completed on website, winter chloride monitoring has started
Admin & Operation			
SLMPs		2017	Charley Lake SLMP to be completed in 2017
WCA			Year end reporting done, reimbursement requests sent

TEC Report to the Board
February 2017

Finance & Budget

FINANCIAL SUMMARY as of February 2017			
4M Account (.125)	Reserve Savings (.01)	4M Plus (.18)	Total
\$113,501	\$58,554	\$139,623	\$311,678

CD's 4M Term Series			
	Amount	Maturity	Rate
Term series	NA		

Budget Summary	Actual Expense YTD	2017 Budget as amended	Remaining in Budget	% YTD
Operations	\$160,133	\$554,660	\$394,527	29%
CIP	\$77,246	\$746,575	\$669,329	10%



To: Board of Directors

From: Stephanie McNamara, Administrator

Date: February 17, 2017

Re: V.A. 1 – 4 Elections and Appointments

1. Election of officers. Some of you may recall a slight change in the VLAWMO Joint Powers Agreement last year that allows the Annual meeting activity to take place as late as the April meeting. Some of what is done at the Annual meeting might be termed 'housekeeping' work such as electing or re-electing officers, appointments to our two committees, appointing the Chair of the Technical Commission, and confirming our meeting dates. With two long-time members of the Board not continuing, Marc Johannsen and Bob Uzpen, VLAWMO's officer slate is down to one person. 2016 Slate: Chair: VACANT; Vice Chair: Dan Jones; Secretary Treasurer: VACANT. Please consider how you might best serve. Officers preside over the meeting (Chair, Vice Chair, Sec-Tres.) and become check signers through US Bank. Other duties: the Chair may speak for VLAWMO in public situations, and the Sec- Tres. is a member of the Finance committee. Because of the vacancies on the Board, a new election is advisable.
2. Committee Assignments. Policy & Personnel may meet 1-3 times per year. They make recommendations for Board action as far as new policies or policy updates. They also assist with human resources questions and direction as needed. Two Board members have served on each of these committees.
3. Technical Commission (TEC) Chair. VLAWMO process requires appointment of the TEC Chair by the Board. The TEC has recommended Mark Graham, commissioner from Vadnais Heights as it's Chair.
4. Setting of regular meeting dates (4th Wednesday starting Feb.). Please confirm the following or indicate any desired changes:

February 22

August 26

April 26

October 25

June 28

December 13



To: Board of Directors
From: Stephanie McNamara, Administrator
Date: February 17, 2017
Re: V.5. Designation of Legal Counsel and Legal Publication

Legal counsel

Every two years, as required, VLAWMO seeks proposals for professional services such as legal counsel. Invitations were sent to established firms and the request for proposal (RFP) was published in the League of Minnesota Cities electronic jobs board. In hiring, VLAWMO will follow the League of MN Cities guidance manual. VLAWMO does not have to take the least expensive for professional services. It can choose who best fits its needs.

Four proposals were received. *See 2017 Professional services spreadsheet, Legal tab.*

Kennedy & Graven – Troy Gilchrist, current counsel
Rinke Noonan- John Kolb
Eckberg Lammers – Andy Pratt
Holstad & Knaak, - Fritz Knaak

All proposals were evaluated based on requires set out in the RFP. VLAWMO has found that it needs an attorney only occasionally, they should have a solid foundation in BOTH municipal and water law and they should NOT represent any of our JPA municipalities. Because of the low volume of business we use in the consulting world, if the consultant represents both VLAWMO and one of its members, we have usually be left to seek other help if any conflict of interest comes up. Please see the attached spreadsheet. Experience was given a possible 5 of 10 points, continuity 2 pts., and cost 3 points. The two more expensive (hourly rate) firms , Kennedy & Graven and Rinke Noonan had substantially more experience than the other two. This can translate into both effectiveness and efficiency. The Board may recall the discussion with the State this last year on VLAWMO's ditch authority over Lambert Creek. The State had been advocating a long, fairly arduous reauthorization process. It was resolved in our favor with one phone call and one memo and minimal expense. There is also a value to keeping someone who knows us and we know them. Less time and money is spent on the getting to know you process. Of the two most qualified firms, Kennedy and Graven hourly rates were slightly less, they represent several other metro water organizations, and they are familiar with VLAWMO.

Recommendation: accept the proposal for the services of the firm of Kennedy & Graven, principal attorney, Troy Gilchrist for the next two years on an as-needed basis.

Legal Publication

Recommendation: that VLAWMO continue to use Press Publication for public notices to our jurisdiction and VLAWMO will advertise in League of MN Cities publication as appropriate.



800 County Road E E, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127
www.vlawmo.org; Office@vlawmo.org

To: Board of Directors
From: Stephanie McNamara, Administrator
Date: February 17, 2017
Re: Selection of 2016 – 2017 Audit Firm

Every two years, as required, VLAWMO seeks proposals for professional services such as audit and financial assistance. Invitations were sent to established firms and the request for proposal (RFP) was published in the League of Minnesota Cities electronic jobs board. In hiring, VLAWMO will follow the League of MN Cities guidance manual. VLAWMO does not have to take the least expensive for professional services. It can choose who best fits its needs.

Three responses were received.

Abdo Eick & Meyer

Clifton Larson Allen

Tautges Redpath - declined to submit proposal

All proposals were evaluated based on experience, continuity any extra potential services and cost. Both firms who sent proposals are excellent experienced municipal auditors. Both work with some of our member communities but this should not pose a problem as a conflict of interest. Abdo Eick & Meyer has more staff working with Joint Powers organizations and watershed organizations. They also offered the lower price over Clifton Larson Allen.

See 2017 professional services spreadsheet, Audit tab.

Recommendation: VLAWMO should accept the proposal for auditing services for the fiscal years 2016 and 2017 from Abdo Eick & Meyer.

Evaluation for Legal Proposals

	5	2	3						
	Experience	continuity	cost	Total	experience notes				
Kennedy & Graven Troy Gilchrist since 1992	5	2	2	9	\$199/\$110/\$104	90% of rev. from munic. Law 38 cities - none of ours - no conflict of interest/ spec. bond projects w/LL WBL GL & NO JPA's and WD: Lower Rum WD, Basset Creek WMC, Shingle Creek WD, MWMO, West Miss WMC, Middle St. Croix, Minnetonka Cons. Dist. Exp: SSU & govt. bond counsel			
Rinke Noonan John Kolb since 1996 Biol major - aquatic ecology project funding	5	1	2	8	\$205/\$151	exp. With state and federal agencies; water law attorneys know for drainage law in outstate Water agencies (30 yrs): Rice Creek, Lowr MN, Sauk R., N Fork Crow, Turtle Creek, Middle Fork Crow, Upper MN, Middle Snake Tamarac, Roseau R, Red Lake, Warroad, & LacQuiParle works with MAWD; 6 of 27 work water resources office in St. Cloud - virtual, electronic assistance			
Eckberg Lammers, P.C. Andrew Pratt since 2004 Nicholas Vivian	3	0	3	6	130/85/75	exp in municipal law: Bayport, Scandia, Montrose, 90% on municipal, NO conflict of interest banking and finance no special purpose districts Middle St. Croix MIDS just starting Or Retainer \$5500/\$6000/\$6500			
Holstad & Knaak, PLC Frederic Knaak 1982	3	0	3	6	150	close by; municipal law former WBLCD; interactions with RCWD, So. Wash WD & Valley Branch WD legislative exp with munc./environmental law			

Audit Proposals	notes	5	1	1	3		Other notes
	Experience (other agencies	extra services	continuity	Cost	Total	Proposal	
Abdo Eick & Meyer	exp: 200 govt operations;	5	1	1	3	10	\$6,600 2016 \$6,750 2017; financial planning for long term projects \$13,350 seminars; paperless audit more efficient
	Kevin Knopik 9 years 30 of 110 work only with govt- 27% Work with Watershed dist.; VH						
Clifton Larson Allen	exp: 200 govt operations (nat	4	1	0	2	7	\$8,650 \$8,850 principal available at no extra charge \$17,500 seminars
	Chris Knopik- engagement 1000 of 5000+ in MN; 600 nationally work in public sector 12% 9th largest in nation works with WBT & LL Michelle Hoffman 9 years all govt. No watersheds Port Authority						

Tautges Redpath

Declined to propose based on previous price point.



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February 2017

To: The Board of Directors
From: Kristine Jenson, Program Manager

Re: VI.A.1. Goose & Wilkinson Lake Study Update

Background:

When developing the updated 2017-2026 Watershed Management Plan (Plan), one of our top priorities was to address the phosphorus load in both basins of Goose Lake and in Wilkinson Lake. These waterbodies were chosen as the first priority because both are at the top of a chain and could be a contributing factor of pollution downstream. Both lakes are on the State Impaired Waters List and it is a goal of VLAWMO to better understand what is going on within the lakes and the subwatershed area so as to develop projects and programs that will make them healthier. VLAWMO contracted with Barr Engineering and Young Environmental Group (Barr-Young) to help develop a report that will guide us towards this goal.

Update:

A very successful meeting was held on January 10 at Vadnais Heights City Hall which brought together stakeholders from the State, local municipalities and counties, and private citizens who have an interest in these waterbodies. Barr-Young provided a short presentation of these lakes and our current understanding of their ecology. Then the participants were split into groups and given time to offer their thoughts and insights for specific issues and questions. Another meeting was held on February 6 with Barr-Young and representatives from the following State agencies: the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), the Pollution Control Agency (PCA), and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This meeting allowed for discussions at a higher level in regards to options for these lakes and funding mechanisms we may be able to utilize to implement projects and programs. Responses from both meetings were extremely positive and we were told that it would be very beneficial to meet more often to talk about watershed issues.

Barr-Young are now putting together their report and will submit it by the end of March. They will present their report and provide their guidance for the next steps at the April TEC and Board meetings.



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February 2017

To: The Board of Directors
From: Kristine Jenson, Program Manager

Re: VI.A.2. Birch Lake Proposal

Background:

Our 2017 work plan includes developing a project for a site near Birch Lake in White Bear Lake at 4th Street & Otter Lake Road. Approval was given to ask Barr Engineering to provide a proposal for analyzing this site and creating a concept design for a project.

Action requested:

A proposal was received earlier this month and includes conducting water quantity and quality modeling for the site and a feasibility analysis of improvement options. They will develop a P8 model to simulate current conditions and to evaluate which pollutant loadings can be reduced using various improvement options, based on a long-term simulation of climatic records. From this, they will produce a table comparing feasible water quality improvement options with long term cost-benefit analysis for two of the options. The conceptual designs will be done using GIS graphics. Total estimated cost for this is \$12,000 and funding is appropriated under budget item 3.430.

The City of White Bear Lake is supportive of this project and has verbally stated that they would like to help with funding. A formal, written commitment has been requested.

Staff recommends approval of this proposal.



February 2017

To: The Board of Directors

From: Brian Corcoran, Water Resource Manager

Re: VI.A.3.b Bacteria Source Monitoring – 2017 Work

A proposal has been received from Burns & McDonnell to continue to assist staff with an E.coli monitoring study in 2017. This will be the final monitoring of the project. The total for their proposal is up to \$32,216 and we have money in the budget for this. The number of samples and complexity of the 2017 program is a bit unknown due to outcome of initial wet weather sampling results. The TEC is being asked to make a recommendation to the Board. The continued goal of this project is to identify sources of indicator bacteria in the Lambert Creek Watershed which can be used to develop and implement BMPs to meet the requirements of the bacteria TMDL. We will be concentrating on the Whitaker and Goose sub-drainages.

Burns & McDonnell 2017 Proposal

Task #	Task Description	Cost
Task 1	Update Monitoring Plan	\$6,672
Task 2	Molecular Analyses	\$10,000
Task 3	Data Analysis and Report	\$11,584
Task 4	Report Presentation	\$3,960
	Total	\$32,216

Task 2- Molecular analyses are up to \$10,000. Depending on the culture results it is very possible we may not need all \$10,000 for the tests.

Task 4- Report Presentation is \$3,960, it will be up to the TEC and BOD whether or not they would like Steve to present the findings. Staff recommends having Steve present all finding of both dry and wet weather results at the completion of the wet weather studies.

Staff and TEC recommend approval by the Board of this proposal.



November 17, 2016

Mr. Brian Corcoran,
Water Resource Manager
Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
800 County Road E,
Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

Re: Proposal for the Lambert Creek Bacterial Source Identification Study – 2017

Dear Mr. Corcoran:

Burns & McDonnell Engineering, Inc. (Burns & McDonnell) is pleased to provide the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO) with this proposal for continuation of a bacterial source identification study of Lambert Creek (Project). The goal of the Project is to further develop an adaptive Monitoring Plan and study that will identify sources of indicator bacteria (*Escherichia coli*) in the Lambert Creek Watershed, which can be used to develop and implement best management practices (BMPs) to meet the requirements of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for bacteria for the Lambert Creek Watershed. The Project was initiated in 2014. This proposal covers proposed services that will be conducted in 2017.

SCOPE OF WORK

Task 1 – Update of Bacterial Source Identification Monitoring Plan

The Monitoring Plan for the Project was developed in 2014 and updated in 2015 to include dry weather studies of four of the five drainages within the Lambert Creek Watershed: the County Road F and Oakmede drainages in 2014 and the Whitaker and Goose drainages in 2015. In 2016, the Monitoring Plan was updated to include wet weather monitoring for the Oakmede and County Road F drainages. As a continuation of the adaptive approach of the study, the Monitoring Plan will be updated in 2017 to include wet weather assessments of the Whitaker and Goose drainages.

The Monitoring Plan is a critical tool for identifying sources of bacteria in the watershed, which will be used to identify the types and locations of bacterial-reduction BMPs necessary to meet the requirements of the TMDL. There are several objectives for the Plan that will be developed in this Task:

- Summarize the existing bacterial and flow data for Lambert Creek to identify known spatial and temporal patterns;

Mr. Brian Corcoran,
Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
November 17, 2016
Page 2

- Describe the methods that will be used to collect samples for culture and molecular analyses, including field and laboratory methods, quality assurance / quality control (QA/QC) parameters, and data analysis procedures;
- Describe the spatial and temporal elements (studies) needed to identify the areas in the watershed with the greatest bacterial loads and concentrations;
- Determine the culture and molecular techniques needed to identify host origin of bacteria in the watershed with a focus on those areas of greatest concentration and/or load.

To achieve these objectives, Burns & McDonnell will augment the existing Monitoring Plan with information specific to wet weather monitoring in the Whitaker and Goose drainages, which can be used as a blue print for conducting the necessary assessments to achieve the targets of the TMDL. In an adaptive approach, the Monitoring Plan serves as the basis for identifying the sources of bacteria in the target waterbody, but has built-in flexibility so that each step in the source identification process builds on the results of the previous step. This allows for a site-specific evaluation of potential sources, prioritization of BMPs targeted to identified sources, and the most efficient use of resources to reduce bacterial loads.

Burns & McDonnell will complete the following under this task:

1. Update the existing Monitoring Plan for identifying sources of indicator bacteria during wet weather in the Whitaker and Goose drainages within the Lambert Creek Watershed.

Task 1 - Deliverables and Cost: Draft and Final Plan. **Cost: \$6,672.00**

Assumptions:

Burns & McDonnell assumes the following for this task:

- VLAWMO will provide all necessary maps to complete the Monitoring Plan, including GIS layers depicting the pertinent features in the watershed necessary to identify sampling locations and land use practices (e.g., storm drain infrastructure, municipal boundaries, natural features, and land use).
- VLAWMO will provide the wet weather data for the Whitaker and Goose drainages for Burns & McDonnell to analyze and use in designing the wet weather monitoring program.

Task 2 – Molecular Analyses

VLAWMO staff will collect water samples for molecular analyses according to the protocols developed in the Monitoring Plan. VLAWMO will be responsible for shipping those samples to

Mr. Brian Corcoran,
Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
November 17, 2016
Page 3

Weston Solutions, Inc. in Carlsbad California (Weston), which is a sub-contractor laboratory to Burns & McDonnell for this contract. Sample analysis will be directed by Steve Gruber from Burns & McDonnell.

The molecular analyses consist of DNA probes that have been developed to specifically identify the host origin of the bacteria in a sample. Probes have been developed to identify several fecal hosts, including humans, dogs, birds, cows, and horses. The extent to which these probes are used will depend on the findings of the initial surveys, which will be used to identify locations in the watershed with the greatest bacterial loads and/or concentrations. It is anticipated that 45 to 60 analyses will be performed for bacterial host origin using molecular techniques.

Burns & McDonnell will complete the following under this task:

1. Provide molecular analyses of samples submitted by VLAWMO to determine bacterial host origin.

Task 2 – Deliverables and Cost: Results of molecular analyses on samples submitted to the analytical laboratory. **Cost: \$10,000.00.**

Assumptions:

Burns & McDonnell assumes the following for this task:

- The budget for the molecular samples will be used on an as needed basis at the discretion of VLAWMO staff.
- VLAWMO will conduct all field work (staff time), equipment, and associated costs for the Project;
- VLAWMO will be responsible for all bacterial analyses with culture techniques (*e.g.*, *E. coli* enumeration);
- VLAWMO will be responsible for all costs associated with materials necessary to collect samples for molecular analyses (gloves, containers, filters, etc.) as described in the Monitoring Plan and on-site training session;
- Burns & McDonnell will be responsible for analyzing all samples for molecular analyses (specific probes to be identified in the Plan).

Task 3 – Data Analysis and Report Preparation

In this task, Burns & McDonnell will analyze the results of the monitoring studies conducted in the Lambert Creek Watershed. The report will consist of the following sections:

- Introduction

Mr. Brian Corcoran,
Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
November 17, 2016
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- Materials and Methods
- Results
- Conclusions
- Recommendations

Data analysis will consist of the appropriate graphs, tables, and statistical assessments necessary to identify locations in the watershed where bacterial concentrations and loads are greatest as well as the host origin of bacteria in the receiving waters. Based on the findings of the assessment, Burns & McDonnell will provide recommendations on next steps to be taken to achieve the targets of the TMDL.

It is important to note that the report will summarize the findings of the study identified in the plan within the context of the adaptive, phased, and tiered approach. It will provide conclusions based on the findings of the study and outline next steps for additional studies and potential BMPs. The report will provide a framework for an implementation plan designed to reach the targets of the TMDL.

Burns & McDonnell will complete the following under this task:

1. Produce a Draft Bacterial Source Identification report, submitted to VLAWMO for review;
2. Produce a Final Bacterial Source Identification report, incorporating VLAWMO comments.

Task 3- Deliverables and Cost: Draft and Final Bacterial Source Identification report. ***Cost:*** \$11,584.00.

Task 4 – Report Presentation

In this task, Steve Gruber will present the results of the study to date at the end of the 2017 monitoring season. This task will be performed on an as needed basis at the discretion of VLAWMO staff.

Burns & McDonnell shall complete the following under this task:

1. Produce a PowerPoint presentation depicting the findings to date of the study,
2. Present the presentation at the VLAWMO facilities to the appropriate VLAWMO staff.

Task 4- Deliverables and Cost: PowerPoint presentation of report findings to date. ***Cost:*** \$3,960.00.



Mr. Brian Corcoran,
Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
November 17, 2016
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COST SUMMARY

The costs estimated for services (including expenses) on the Project are summarized below. Burns & McDonnell will perform these tasks on a time and materials basis, with a fee Not-to-Exceed \$32,216.00.

Task Number	Task Description	Cost
Task 1	Update of Bacterial Source Identification Monitoring Plan	\$6,672
Task 2	Molecular Analyses	\$10,000
Task 3	Data Analysis and Report Preparation	\$11,584
Task 4	Report Presentation	\$3,960
TOTAL:		\$32,216

Burns & McDonnell will perform the above-described services in accordance with Burns & McDonnell's standard Terms and Conditions (attached). We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with you. If you should have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (858) 320-2946 or sjgruber@burnsmcd.com.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Gruber, MS
Project Manager
Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc.

Enclosure Attachment
cc: Matt Wartian



800 County Road E E, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127
www.vlawmo.org; Office@vlawmo.org

February 2017

To: The Board of Directors

From: Brian Corcoran, Water Resource Manager

Re: VI.A.4 Whitaker Treatment Wetlands Update

The services contract between VLAWMO and Burns & McDonnell has been finalized and signed. A notice to proceed was issued. Utility locates and site survey were conducted week of January 30, 2017. Soil borings are set to be done middle of February. Engineer will finalize design early and VLAWMO will go out for bid on construction by early spring for construction to begin late fall 2017.



February 2017

To: The Board of Directors
From: Kristine Jenson, Program Manager

Re: VI.A.5. 2017 Fish Survey Proposal

Background:

East and West Goose Lakes are on the State Impaired Waters List for high nutrient levels (phosphorus) and it is a top priority for VLAWMO to reduce this pollutant and try to make the water basins healthier. Large amounts of phosphorus leads to the algae blooms that can limit the use of the lake, harm the ecology of the lake, and be a health hazard to humans, pets, and wildlife.

One possible source of phosphorus can come from bottom-feeding fish such as carp and bullheads who stir up lake sediment which releases phosphorus in the water column. East and West Goose had a fish survey done in July 2012 with findings indicating that there was a variety of fish in the lakes, including some game fish, but also a large population of bullheads. A fish removal project was conducted in 2013 and 2014 to see if it would have a positive impact on water quality. At this point, monitoring results have not shown reportable improvement. We would like to conduct another survey as indicated in our work plan and anticipated when the first survey was done to compare the populations to the previous survey and will provide information as to the size distribution of the fish species which provides insight to the ages of the fish, their spawning success, and winterkill probabilities. The survey would be done in July.

We would also like to conduct a fish survey on Wilkinson Lake as part of our efforts to determine best possible projects to address the phosphorus in that water body. Efforts have been made in the past to reduce/prevent carp from getting into Wilkinson. A drawdown of the lake was done many years ago to kill off existing fish and a fish barrier was installed at the outlet of Wilkinson. Staff witness dozens of carp on the downstream side of the fish barrier every year and we think they may be in the lake again but would like evidence of this. Identifying the fish community and determining if there are non-natives present will assist in our future efforts. The survey for this lake would be done in late summer to provide the best chances for capturing young carp which would indicate they are spawning in Wilkinson.

Action requested on the Fish survey proposal and a funding shift to pay for it:

Blue Water Science was contacted and asked to provide a cost estimate to complete the survey and produce a report of the findings. We have worked with Blue Water Science numerous times and they are respected within the watershed world. Their estimate for the fish survey on the Goose Lake basins is \$3600 and for Wilkinson, it is \$2900.

Funding sources. Funding is available for Goose Lake in budget line 3.325. However, estimates for the Wilkinson fish survey and the vegetation survey from last spring budget line 3.340 were a little low. Staff is requesting funds be shifted from adjacent subwatershed line items to cover the fish and vegetation surveys in Wilkinson, budget line 3.340. Proposals in the in the following line items have



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come in a little lower than expected leaving available funds. VLAWMO should still be under budget in total for these four subwatershed study efforts this year.

Funding shift recommendation: \$3,500 from 3.330 (Birch Lake subwatershed) and \$2000 from 3.350 (Pleasant-Charley-Deep subwatershed) would be shifted to 3.340 (Wilkinson Subwatershed).

Staff recommends approval of this fish survey proposal from Blue Water Science for Goose and Wilkinson Lakes.



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February 2017

To: The Board of Directors
From: Kristine Jenson, Program Manager

Re: VI.A.6. 2017 Bathymetry Survey Proposal

Background:

VLAWMO completes Sustainable Lake Management Plans (SLMPs) each year in an effort to summarize the ecology of a waterbody, given the information we have available. Table 2, page 37 In the Water Plan provides the schedule for SLMP development. In 2017, the SLMP for Charley Lake is to be completed and we would like to request approval to conduct some surveys to help us with the SLMP development. This month's request is approval to conduct a bathymetry (lake depth) survey. We have worked with Ramsey Conservation District (RCD) over the last few years to complete these surveys because they have equipment that provides us with detailed lake level data as well as an assessment of biomass on the lake bottom and the hardness of the lake bottom.

In addition to Charley Lake, we would like to conduct a bathymetry survey on Wilkinson Lake as part of our efforts to determine best possible projects to address the management of that lake.

Action requested:

RCD has provided a proposal to VLAWMO with the costs for the Charley Lake survey estimated at \$1520 and for Wilkinson at \$1940.

A funding shift outlined in VI.A.5 Fish survey outlines the funding shift to assist in paying Wilkinson Lake work. Approval of that will fund studies here as well

Staff recommends approval of this proposal.

VLAWMO Board/TEC:

2017 Tours & Events



1. What has been your favorite past VLAWMO Board/TEC activity? Why?

2. What are you looking forward to in your work with VLAWMO for 2017?

3. Which of the following activities interest you?

- Tour the Saint Paul Regional Water Service Treatment Plant
- Tour key VLAWMO sites by bus
- Press releases that accompany a project's completion
- Banquet dinners
- Special events such as workshops during the hour before a Board meeting (6-7pm)

Other: _____

*Thank you for
serving in this vital
role to support our
watershed!*

Education & Outreach Memo

February 22, 2017



New Outreach Brochures

Street Renovations: To capitalize on street renovation projects, VLAWMO has taken to planning outreach to encourage curb-cut raingardens. When a City is undergoing a street renovation, VLAWMO now has the tools ready to conduct mail outreach to educate residents on raingarden opportunities. VLAWMO pre-selects households that will receive the outreach, based on soil, topography, and drainage.

Stormdrain Stenciling: To accompany the stormdrain stenciling program, a brochure for home owners will introduce VLAWMO, the topic of stormwater, and the opportunities VLAWMO has to offer. Participants will deliver the brochures to houses and mailboxes near the drains that are stenciled, and VLAWMO will keep close record of stenciled drains. Project is targeted to school groups, after school groups, scouts, and church groups. *Goals: 1 (MS4), 7 (community knowledge)*



“Water Science” Video Series

A new video on chloride monitoring, lakes, and salt use is posted on our website, YouTube channel, and social media.

The water science theme will be used For upcoming videos on lake and stream Monitoring, automated sampling during Storm events, and the Whitaker treatment Wetlands project.

Videos serve as an outreach opportunity, and Double as public and school education.

Visit the YouTube channel through the website.

Goals: 7 (community knowledge), 9 (volunteers)



Board & TEC Survey: 2017 tours & events

The attached survey will be collected during the board meeting. Please provide your insight for what direction(s) VLAWMO should take for 2017 TEC/Board involvement. We're excited to continue our team effort and hope to provide growth opportunities that are relevant, interesting, and useful. *Goal: 3 (Key personnel advancing knowledge of water and related natural resources)*

A hardcopy is included in the meeting packet, while the online version of the survey can be found here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PF3DD78>

Legislative Update

As a Watershed Management Organization, Minnesota legislation has the potential to affect our work in a variety of ways. VLAWMO staff would like to engage a conversation on what stance and role we should take in terms of legislation education and advocacy.

For example, a current bill presented in the MN House of Representatives is: **H.F. 698** "Legacy amendment replaced with funding for deficient roads and bridges and for clean water, conforming changes made, and constitutional amendment proposed."

The legacy amendment has been a significant asset in VLAWMO's work, helping fund many projects. Examples include Stockdale/Co. Rf F flood remediation, the White Bear Montessori raingardens, the Vadnais Elementary and Lions raingardens, the shoreline restoration with the Birch Lake Improvement District, and multiple Lambert Creek stabilizations.

Should these or other bills be passed in the Legislature, VLAWMO staff find it valuable to have a community consensus as to how to engage these matters. We hope for political differences within VLAWMO to be harnessed as examples of a local governmental organization working together and pointing to a brighter political future.

School Programs

Draft curriculums have been developed and posted to the VLAWMO website under 'schools'. On January 27th, Nick attended an all-day White Bear Lake educator training. VLAWMO education opportunities were presented, exemplified, and critiqued. The training focused on extended day opportunities at schools.

VLAWMO is partnering with H2O for Life, MinnAqua, and the MPCA to plan education initiatives. Resources posted at www.vlawmo.org/students

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

The following are draft lesson plans developed with assistance through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, local organizations, and local educators. For more information, comments, or for assistance in planning an activity at your school, contact VLAWMO at (651) 204-6070.

<h3>RAINGARDEN CARDS</h3> <p>Raingarden cards are designed to either enhance the accessibility of an existing raingarden or model the process of planting a raingarden. The cards may serve as a tool for a large group activity focused on planting, or an individual field journal exercise.</p> <p>Raingarden Cards - Lesson Plan</p> <p>Raingarden Cards - Part 1</p> <p>Raingarden Cards - Part 2</p> <p>Field Journal Tips</p>	<h3>STORMWATER RUNOFF CALCULATIONS</h3> <p>How much runoff is generated on your schoolyard during a rain event? How do the experts calculate this runoff? Here, students think like landscape designers and engineers to estimate runoff and pollutant loads on their schoolyard. For these activities, VLAWMO will partner with your school to generate the custom maps and pinpoint key information (soil type, land use data, etc.) for the lesson to be a success. Contact VLAWMO to plan this activity at your school.</p> <p>Stormwater Runoff Calculation - Lesson</p> <p>Stormwater Runoff Calculation - Worksheet</p>	<h3>WATERSHEDS THROUGH MUSIC</h3> <p>The Watersheds through music activity is a creative approach to how the many parts of the watershed interact. Using percussive music instruments and basic rhythms, students engage in a creative soundscape that challenges listening skills and adaptability. With each instrument representing a piece of the watershed (lakes, streams, parking lots, buildings, etc.), students make their own unique "watershed" by striving to create something that sounds cohesive. But sometimes it doesn't sound cohesive - taking both the harmony and dissonance from the activity, the experience is extrapolated to real life. How can the parts of the watershed work more harmoniously?</p>
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Opportunities for Spring are in planning stages. We are currently networking with teachers at Birch Lake, school district 624 staff, and continuing our relationship with the Academy for Sciences and Agriculture (AFSA).

VLAWMO purchased new nets for macroinvertebrate monitoring at Sucker Channel. This initiative was planned alongside SPRWS to ensure understanding and accommodation of the water service's protocols.

A new waterdrop costume was also purchased to increase public interaction during events.

Nets and costume were purchased with roll-over funds from 2016 Education/Outreach budget. With a gap in E/O staff and a focus on planning, 2016 had extra budget.

Goals: 4 (place-based education), 8 (ecological awareness and community reflection)



Website Improvements

Residents, schools, projects, news/blog, and home pages have been updated and restructured for improved presentation and practicality. Please learn the layout of the website and what's available, as we hope for it to be a tool that Board and TEC members can use to refer to in projects and discussions in the various communities.

PROJECTS

To protect and improve our community's water resources, VLAWMO works on two types of projects: in-ground installation projects and surveys/monitoring.

In-Ground Installations

Waterbody | [Show all installation projects](#)

White Bear Montessori Raingarden
A rundown of the White Bear Montessori 2016 raingarden project.

Whitaker Wetlands Bacteria Treatment System

Deep Lake Channel Restoration
This project will restore approximately 125 feet of shoreline in the Deep

Surveys

Waterbody | [Show all survey projects](#)

East & West Goose Lakes Aquatic Plant Surveys

Goose Lake Rough Fish Removal

Lambert Creek E. coli Sources

Winter Maintenance

The Watershed Action Volunteers (WAV) are currently producing and gathering footage for a home winter maintenance video. The video also features an interview and on-the-job footage with WBL Public Works in a salt truck.

Goals: 7 (knowledge to action), 9 (volunteers)



2017 Public Events

April 12th– VLAWMO Raingarden Workshop

April 30th—NE Metro Community Business Expo

June 3rd—WBL Water Expo (formerly the WBL water conservation event)

June 3rd– North Oaks Community Fair

July 17th– Taste of Vadnais

July 27th—MarketFest in WBL

August TBA—Heritage Days

More events TBA

VLAWMO on GTN16

Monday—8:30 am

Wednesday—3:30 pm

Friday—12:30 pm

Sunday—9 am