



Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
November 9, 2018
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room

Commission Members Present:

Jim Grisim Chair, White Bear Lake (WBL)
Gloria Tessier Vice Chair, Gem Lake (GL)
Bob Larson Treasurer, North Oaks (NO)
Paul Duxbury White Bear Township (WBT)

Commission Members Absent: Marty Asleson (LL), Nolan Wall (VH)

Others in attendance: Stephanie McNamara, Brian Corcoran, Tyler Thompson, Nick Voss (VLAWMO); Jeremy Erickson (St. Paul Regional Water Service – SPRWS); Brian Olsen (Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division)

- I. **Call to Order** Chair Grisim called the meeting to order at 7:32 am.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Tessier to approve the November 9, 2018 agenda. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
Grisim noticed a duplication of the Community Blue motion for funding to be taken off, as well as an adjourn typo to be fixed. Thompson also recognized language for the Financial Report to be fixed
It was moved by Tessier and seconded by Grisim to approve the October 12, 2018 meeting minutes, with amended changes. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
McNamara reported we stand at 75% expended for budget for the year, we are wrapping up on program and project expenditures. Grisim asked about carry-over from 2018-2019. McNamara reported likely carry-over from info system, payroll, miscellaneous, monitoring, and potential grants being accepted and monitoring that would be an addition as part of that, as well for the Birch Lakes CIP budget. McNamara reported additional cost share money being carried over- a list of recommended carry-over can be sent out. Grisim proposed moving the December 2018 TEC meeting up a week. Duxbury said he wouldn't be able to make it for the 7th, and Corcoran mentioned there could be issues with the Financial Report, as some bills would not be ready yet. The Group decided to leave the December TEC meeting as-is.
- V. **Reports**
 - A. **Financial Report for November & authorization for payment of checks.**
Expenses for this month were presented for review.
It was moved by Larson and seconded by Grisim to approve the November Treasurer's report and payment of checks. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
 - A. **TEC Report to the Board**
McNamara reported while some things have slowed down, other projects are beginning to pick up preparing for furthering of CIP and other CIP potential grant beginning.
It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Larson to approve the December TEC Report to the Board. Vote: all aye, Motion passed.

VI. Programs

A. Education & Outreach

1. EOP Vision: 2019

Voss presented a planned update of the Education & Outreach Plan (EOP) which includes 6 desired results that are desired and based off of the 9 outlined goals. Both the 9 goals and the desired results are designed to be evaluated by measurable objectives. Voss illustrated how he evaluates how goals and priorities are met at year's end.

Discussion: Grisim mentioned he was impressed with the way he tracks progress and evaluates the program.

B. Sustainable Lake Management Plans

1. Charlie Lk. Deep Lake

Tanner made a final pass on the Charley Lake SLMP, and everything is completed on the Report, spare for the results of a stakeholder survey which was mailed out this week to residents around the Lake. The results of this survey will be analyzed as well as included in the Report. Larson mentioned there might be a way to advertise the survey via social media.

The Deep Lake SLMP is also getting closer to completion. We are awaiting the Report for 1 of the 3 studies that VLAWMO hired RSWCD to perform. The aquatic veg survey, as well as the bathymetry survey have been completed, the only one left is the shoreline vegetation survey.

Grisim asked about the cycle of lakes for SLMP and McNamara reported that 1 SLMP is normally completed each year, as laid out in the 2017-2026 Comprehensive Water Plan, as well as flexibility for rotating in lakes on an as-needed basis.

VII. Projects

A. 4th & Otter Project Update

1. MN Conservation Corps request

VLAWMO has a grant proposal in to the MCC for a crew to work 8, 10-hr days, which will be split in half; 4 days for grubbing and buckthorn removal for the site, and the other 4 for revegetation and stabilization of the site with native grasses after project completion. The dollar value of the grant is ~\$10,000. The submittal deadline is December 15th, and will be submitted accordingly.

B. Lambert Creek Technical recommendations; Board direction

1. Board direction

The BOD tabled the ditch dredging option, as well as dismissed the need for a public hearing to for the ACSIC realignment of Co. Ditch 14 and its branch ditches. The BOD would like to continue with annual assessment of condition and debris with consideration of future ICWC cleaning on an annual, as-needed basis, as well as development of a written policy on how the Watershed manages, repairs and maintains the system, moving forward. McNamara mentioned the JPA members of VLAWMO collaborate and direct communities to perform maintenance on its Ditches, including paying for the work and implementing and administering these works. She also mentioned the policy update as being a part of the upcoming Comprehensive

Water Management Plan update. McNamara also mentioned that a special assessment for funding could be possible.

Duxbury asked how drastic the grade of the Ditch is in that area and how difficult it would be for the ICWC crew would be able to do low-grade trenching. Corcoran responded he was not sure how effective this would be, but could be considered.

2. Lambert Lake

Staff visited the site with Julia Bohnen (Phragmites expert) and Curt Peterson (Peterson Excavating) to provide suggestions of maintenance and improvement of the Lambert Lake weir, as well as addressing the native Phragmites infestation in the basin. Estimates for different maintenance or improvement projects in the basin will soon be coming in to give an expected cost and process, and vegetation improvements will be considered.

C. Goose Lake Feasibility

1. Vegetation management in Goose Lake

The DNR is responsible for designing and carrying out LVMPs on state waters. It is a large process that involves a good amount of DNR costs and staff time, so upon VLAWMO's request, the DNR is awaiting news of the Alum grant, as well as the Barr Subwatershed Feasibility Report. In the meantime, VLAWMO & its partners can move forward for addressing and assessing vegetation without a full LVMP. A second Goose Stakeholder meeting is scheduled for January 16th from 4-5 pm. Tanner mentioned targeted CLP treatment in both basins, if done correctly, has a good chance of controlling the majority of the population.

D. Sucker Channel

Voss showed pictures of the installed signs at the Park, and the project is now complete.

VIII. WCA: Replacement/Mitigation policy

Staff is looking for comments and direction on a standardized policy for wetland replacement and mitigation for its administration of the WCA. One large issue we have in VLAWMO is there are no public banking sites left for purchase of credits for impacting wetlands within the Watershed. In the past, the Board has allowed 1:1 mitigation on site, with 2:1 BSA purchasing. Some metro watersheds will not allow wetland impact if BSA purchasing is not available within their watershed bounds. Corcoran discussed that we would like a written policy and series of steps that give exact procedure of how to continue with action, denial, or mitigation.

Discussion: Duxbury mentioned eliminating number 3, and possibly going on a case by case basis for flexibility. Corcoran explained there is a WCA sequencing process that must be gone through, but is not as stringent. Grisim mentioned it would be nice to have a flexible policy. Corcoran asked if buying credits outside of the watershed should be allowed. The Group decided to review the Draft Policy and make comments and changes based upon that document.

IX. Commissioner Reports

X. St. Paul Regional Water Service (SPRWS) Report

Nothing to report.

XI. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division (RSWCD) Report

Deep Lake shoreline veg survey is done and submitted to VLAWMO.

XII. Public Comment

XIII. Next Meetings

TEC: December 14; Board: December 12

XIV. Adjourn

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Tessier to adjourn at 9:08 am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.

DRAFT