



The Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
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Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
February 8, 2019
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room

Commission Members Present:

Gloria Tessier	Vice Chair, Gem Lake (GL)
Bob Larson	Treasurer, North Oaks (NO)
Tom Riedesel	White Bear Township (WBT, alternate)
Jesse Farrell	Vadnais Heights (VH)
Nathan Christensen	White Bear Lake (WBL, alternate)

Commission Members Absent: Marty Asleson (LL), Jim Grisim (WBL, Chair), Paul Duxbury (WBT)

Others in attendance: Stephanie McNamara, Brian Corcoran, Dawn Tanner, Nick Voss, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO); Tina Carstens (RWMWD); Erin Anderson-Wenz (Barr Eng.); Melissa King (BWSR); Andrea Prichard (Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division); Jeremy Erickson (SPRWS); Diane Gorder (North Oaks)

I. **Call to Order** Vice Chair Tessier called the meeting to order at 7:33 am.

II. **Approval of Agenda**

McNamara asked that an addition could be made to the agenda to include the release of escrow funds as item VIII. WCA B. Weston Woods Escrow Release.

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Riedesel to approve the February 8, 2019 agenda, as amended to include item Weston Woods Escrow Release under VIII, WCA B. Weston Woods Escrow Release. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. **Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Tessier to approve the January 11, 2019 meeting minutes, with amended changes. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IV. **Administration & Operations**

A. **W. Vadnais – Grass Lake; Tina Carstens (RWMWD), Erin Anderson-Wenz (Barr Eng.)**

Guests presented and reviewed the proposed plan to mitigate flooding issues for Grass Lake in RWMWD, and presenting the possibility of reducing West Vadnais Lake's OHW by .8 feet to 881.0 to maximize storage upstream for the subwatershed. Possible wetland impacts were discussed, as well as the possibility of completing an EAW and carp management.

Discussion: RWMWD mentioned they would be open to cost-sharing for a wetland delineation and running MNRAM on the northern wetlands of West Vadnais that could stand to be impacted if the OHW is lowered.

V. **Reports**

A. **Financial Report for February & authorization for payment of checks.**

Expenses for this month were presented for review.

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Tessier to approve the February Treasurer's report and payment of checks. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. **TEC Report to the Board**

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Tessier to approve the February TEC Report to the Board for the February 20th meeting. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VI. Programs

A. Education & Outreach

1. Local Events, Community Blue, Volunteer Coordination

Voss discussed past and upcoming community events, Community Blue project updates.

2. New Partnerships update

Tanner gave an update regarding remote cameras that were set up around the conservation easement in North Oaks, with the help of Diane Gorder. New partner opportunities and connections with the UMN ([1.] Undergraduate Research Ops and [2.] service-learning to Ethics in Natural Resources class), student involvement with the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee (AIPAC), and the remote camera exhibit at the White Bear Lake Library, were also announced.

B. Sustainable Lake Management Plans – Pleasant Lake

Tanner reported that the Pleasant Lake SLMP has been posted, the Stakeholder meeting for Pleasant-Charley-Deep Lakes and North Oaks residents is scheduled for march 12 at 6 pm. The draft agenda is posted on the VLAWMO website, NOHOA & City of NO have sent notice on their listservs, and an article has been posted in North Oaks News.

C. Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan 2019 Amendment

Tanner presented the Draft 2019 Amendment to the VLAWMO Comp. Plan for review and comment. Timeline was also discussed for bringing the Draft amendment to the Board for review and consideration.

D. GIS – Survey Equipment, Data and GIS Site Update

Thompson brought in the new GNSS survey equipment for demonstration and illustrated the wetland delineation and tree surveys that were captured with the surveyor. The VLAWMO GIS website update data was also previewed and explained.

VII. Projects

A. 4th & Otter Project

1. Design plans update

Thompson shared that the first draft of the 4th & Otter IESF plans were previewed on January 16th, the latest updated plans reflect the wetland delineation line and tree data, though Barr is still working to finish cross-sections & details, stormwater discharge level, and control weir height. The most recent project plans will be distributed to the Project partners as soon as they are received.

B. Lambert Creek

1. Lambert Lake Project Scoping

Tanner announced the application for MPCA 319 grant funds for a meander project that would include walnut-char treatment. The grant application is due February 26th and could be used in concert with LCCMR grant funding. Staff will be working with Joe Magner for project design of the meander and walnut-char treatment. Tanner also arranged a drone flight and survey of Lambert Lake in hopes of identifying groundwater upwelling to determine the path of the meander. Cost estimates were also delivered and presented, as well as 3 options to move ahead for Lambert Lake maintenance and improvement. Staff recommended option 3, and asked for recommendation to move ahead with the corresponding 319 grant application for funding.

It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Larson to recommend option 3 for Lambert Lake maintenance and improvement, as well as to move forward with submitting an application for 319 grant funding for the Project. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

2. Whitaker forebay maintenance dredging

Maintenance on the Whitaker Forebay in the form of sediment dredging will take place sometime this winter, and has already been postponed several times due to temperature warm-ups. Dredging will bring the forebay back to its original design depth for proper sediment settling and fallout, and the maintenance will be performed by Ramsey County Public Works.

C. Goose Lake Feasibility

1. WBF Goose subwatershed study update

Thompson reported there are a few areas where system as-builts are needed to begin H&H modeling in White Bear Lake and in White Bear TWP. The City of WBL is working to locate the as-builts, and Thompson is working with the Township to see if as-builts can be located for their portion to complete the necessary dataset for H&H modeling.

2. Stakeholder Meeting and Vegetation Management Plan Update

Tanner gave a report of the January 16th Goose Lake Stakeholder meeting, which was well-attended with roughly 40 people present.

D. Restoration Projects

Tanner outlined the different grant programs and applications she has been working on or submitted. It will soon be known if the MCC grant for 4th & Otter clearing, grubbing, stabilization and planting of the IESF site will be awarded. An application is being submitted for the Great River Greening grant program, which would fund restoration efforts in the Sucker-Vadnais parks for areas identified by the DNR as being original native plant communities. The Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) grant program is accepting applications for expedited conservation projects, which is due March 18th.

VIII. WCA:

A. Polar Chevrolet Reconstruction

Staff has been working with the City of White Bear Lake and the developer on the reconstruction of Polar Chevrolet. The new property owner is planning to rebuild the entire site (new building and lot). Many stormwater BMP's will be part of this plan along with a reduced impervious footprint on site.

B. Weston Woods Escrow Release

In 2002 as part of a residential development called Weston Woods in White Bear Township, escrow funds were held for the project for wetland mitigation as part of the project in the amount of \$8,600. The developer, Mark of Excellence Homes, has submitted a request for release of those funds.

Discussion: Different options were discussed in terms of escrow release, further assessment before releasing the funds, and working with the Township in providing maintenance information. It was decided that before VLAWMO would return the remaining escrow funds, a portion of the \$8,600 will be used to complete a final report on the wetland mitigation area. VLAWMO will also make itself available to White Bear Township staff for future assistance with maintenance information.

It was moved by Riedesel and seconded by Farrell to use a portion of the escrow funds to fund a final report assessing the mitigation areas of the Weston Woods development. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IX. Commissioner Reports

None reported.

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

None reported.

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

Prichard noted the RSWCD AIS forum will take place March 18th, and gave an update and overview on the planned lake surveys taking place in VLAWMO summer 2019.

XII. Public Comment

None.

XIII. Next Meetings

TEC: March 8; Board: February 20

XIV. Adjourn

It was moved by Tessier and seconded by Farrell to adjourn at 9:26 am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.