



The Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
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Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
March 8, 2019
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)
Jesse Farrell	Vadnais Heights (VH)
Marty Asleson	Lino Lakes (LL)

Commission Members Absent:

Others in attendance: Stephanie McNamara, Brian Corcoran, Dawn Tanner, Nick Voss, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO); Justine Roe (SPRWS); Diane Gorder (North Oaks)

- I. **Call to Order** Chair Grisim called the meeting to order at 7:30 am.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
It was moved by Larson and seconded by Tessier to approve the March 8, 2019 agenda, as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
It was moved by Larson and seconded by Farrell to approve the February 8, 2019 meeting minutes, as presented. Vote: all aye, Motion passed.
- IV. **Reports**
 - A. **Financial Report for March & authorization for payment of checks.**
Expenses for this month were presented for review.
It was moved by Tessier and seconded by Larson to approve the March Treasurer's report and payment of checks. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- V. **Programs**
 - A. **Education & Outreach**
 1. **Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) update**
Voss presented on the CAC meeting that took place March 6th to review 2018 operations, continuing projects, and reviewing and commenting on 2019 volunteer efforts. He mentioned that a CAC is a part of VLAWMO's legal structure and he will work to further integrate this into VLAWMO's structure to have these ideas and comments heard. Meeting notes are posted at vlawmo.org/get-involved/volunteer.
 2. **Spring event calendar**
The spring 2019 event calendar was presented, including 11 events and meetings. Voss mentioned the Pleasant-Charley-Deep stakeholder meeting that's coming up 3/13/19.
 3. **Vadnais-Sucker trailcam video**
The trailcam video for Vadnais-Sucker Park was shown and can be found on VLAWMO's YouTube channel and website.

4. Invite to visit photo exhibit at White Bear Library March-May

Tanner announced a collection of prints from the remote camera monitoring effort will be on display at the White Bear Library from March until May and invited the Commissioners to visit and view the collection.

B. 2018 Monitoring Report

Corcoran presented highlights of regular and special monitoring efforts conducted during 2018, as well as sampling conducted at the Whitaker Treatment Wetlands. There was discussion regarding chloride; McNamara mentioned there is some traction in the legislature for decreasing liability for private salt applicators and reducing application levels.

C. Partnerships – MOU – Cooperative Weed Management

Staff is seeking authorization to sign on to the Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area charter other area watersheds are already members, and partnership entails participation, cooperation and assistance in the CWMA.

It was moved by Grisim and seconded by Farrell to authorize signing into the memorandum of understanding with the Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area as a partner. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VI. Projects

A. 4th & Otter Project

1. Project update

Draft plans were presented by Thompson at the February TEC meeting, the Board has since authorized staff to go out for project bid when final plans and bid documents have been completed. Voss and Thompson met with property owners to present and discuss the Project and they were open and excited to see it happen.

Discussion: Farrell mentioned that it would be beneficial to have the retrofitted outlet structure to be lower than it currently sits. Thompson noted this and will check on this.

B. Lambert Creek

1. Lambert Lake Project update

Tanner announced the MPCA 319 grant application has been submitted and results will be announced in April. Tanner also explained that the grant structure is changing for 2020 and will focus on funding for 10 small watersheds for terms of 4 years. Staff will be ready to apply for this new grant structure next year.

2. Whitaker forebay maintenance dredging

Corcoran reported that the dredging of the Whitaker Pond forebay has been cancelled, along with other planned Ramsey County pond maintenance dredging due to the weather and snow depth. Dredging is being rescheduled for winter '20.

C. Goose Lake Feasibility

1. Oak Knoll Pond update

Barr Eng. has finalized their grant agreement with BWSR for implementation of the Spent Lime testing project on Oak Knoll Pond this year. Staff will be assisting in monitoring and project efforts.

VII. Discussion:

A. Water Gremlin

With the recent news of airborne TCE release by Water Gremlin, VLAWMO has been receiving a variety of questions and concerns from residents, mainly concerning private wells and contamination in the Lambert Creek subwatershed. A few VLAWMO staff attended the March 7th public meeting. Staff understands the PCA will be conducting soil and water testing in the area, and does not wish to

duplicate these efforts, though staff is bringing this up for discussion to the TEC to discuss the scope of VLAWMO's role and efforts, going forward.

Discussion:

McNamara explained that TCE is a VOC that volatilizes into the atmosphere, but the main concern for water quality are any spills that can get into groundwater and transference into drinking water sources. Corcoran reported that we do have sampling costs at \$55 per sample for soil and water, however, the MPCA will be working with Water Gremlin to conduct monitoring, so any additional VLAWMO monitoring will be conditional upon the scope of that monitoring. The MDH will be conducting a review of citizens living in the area with cancers to scope for atmospheric effects. McNamara said VLAWMO's role in this is limited with so much oversight agency involvement, though staff is ready to move forward with supplemental sampling that the TEC feels is necessary. Grism and the TEC voiced that VLAWMO monitoring is unnecessary unless a condition presents itself.

B. Retrofit Map

Tanner and Thompson presented a map that illustrates the collective BMPs that have been included in Retrofit Studies completed by the RCD and RSWCD since 2011. This is another tool that will be used to identify possible projects in targeted areas within VLAWMO, and will be incorporated into the 2019 Comprehensive Water Plan update.

C. DIY Monitoring Workshop

The workshop was held on Feb. 25 with LimnoTech. We had ~15 people in attendance including SPRWS, RCSWCD, and North Oaks. There were many ideas about ways to use DIY monitoring units. We'd like to help coordinate and pursue use of units if parties are interested. VLAWMO is also interested in using these units and training staff to work with them with the assistance of LimnoTech.

Discussion: Tanner mentioned that staff is getting information back from Limnotech for going forward with 4-5 sampling units, and is aiming for end of March, early April for an assembly workshop.

VIII. Commissioner Reports

Tanner announced the current swan deaths, and Asleson reported similar happenings are occurring by the Peltier Dam. Larson mentioned him and Gorder visited the U of M Lake Management Workshop and different methods of mitigating lake issues including high nutrients. Asleson announced he is moving into phased retirement very soon.

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

Roe mentioned the SPRWS will be replacing their fluoride tanks, and will be borrowing VLAWMO's automated sampler for monitoring fluoride flow.

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

Not present.

XI. Public Comment

None.

XII. Next Meetings

TEC: April 12; Board: April 24

XIII. Adjourn

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Tessier to adjourn at 9:12 am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.