



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 April 24, 2019

Attendance		Present	Absent
Jim Lindner, Chair	City of Gem Lake	X	
Dan Jones	City of White Bear Lake	X	
Rob Rafferty, Secretary-Treasurer	City of Lino Lakes	X	
Ed Prudhon	White Bear Township	X	
Marty Long, Vice Chair	City of North Oaks		X
Patricia Youker	City of Vadnais Heights	X	
Stephanie McNamara	Administrator	X	
Brian Corcoran	Water Resources Mgr.	X	
Dawn Tanner	Program Development Coord.	X	
Nick Voss	Education & Outreach Coord.	X	
Tyler Thompson	GIS Watershed Tech.	X	

Others in attendance: Paul Duxbury, VLAWMO TEC commissioner & representative

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Lindner.

II. Approval of Agenda

McNamara proposed adding the agenda item, West Vadnais flooding, as item F under VI. F. West Vadnais Flooding.

A motion was made by Rafferty and seconded by Jones to approve the meeting agenda as amended with item VI. F. West Vadnais Flooding. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes from February 20, 2019

A motion was made by Jones and seconded by Youker to approve the minutes from the February 20, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting. Vote: all aye, Long & Prudhon abstain. Motion passed.

IV. Visitors and Presentations

None present

V. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes for the February 20th, 2019 Board meeting are placed on the consent agenda for approval

B. Confirmation of Vice Chair election – Marty Long

Commissioner Marty Long of North Oaks was nominated at the February 20th, 2019 Board of Directors meeting to be the Vice Chairperson of the VLAWMO Board of Directors for 2019.

Discussion:

A motion was made by Rafferty and seconded by Jones to authorize the approval of the items on the consent agenda ([1] approval of the February 20, 2019 Board meeting minutes, as well as [2] the confirmation of election of Commissioner Marty Long as Vice Chairperson of the VLAWMO Board of Directors for 2019). Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VI. Business

A. 2018 VLAWMO Audit Presentation – Chris Knopik, Liz Towne – Clifton, Larson & Allen

Knopik & Towne presented the results and finding of the 2018 VLAWMO audit, conducted by Clifton, Larson, & Allen LLP. Staff is recommending authorization of the final draft of the 2018 VLAWMO Audit, as well as the signing of the required supplementary information (RSI) document.

Discussion: Prudhon asked is the credit card review should be done by the Board Treasurer or Board member. Knopik & Towne answered yes. When also asked it was confirmed the fund balance range is VLAWMO policy. Lindner asked what the reconciliation policy is for credit cards. Rafferty confirmed that this could include comparing the monthly credit card statement with receipts and activities.

A motion was made by Prudhon and seconded by Youker to authorize the finalization of the 2018 VLAWMO Audit by CLA, LLP, as well as the signing of the audit RSI. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. Water Plan Amendment – Dawn/Stephanie

Tanner and McNamara overviewed a summary of the changes and revisions of the 10 year VLAWMO Comprehensive Water Management Plan (Water Plan) that are included in the proposed 2019 Amendment. Typical changes are those in the plan and budget to reflect updated projects and programs. At their April 12th meeting, the VLAWMO Technical Commission recommended submittal of the Draft 2019 Water Plan Amendment to the Board. Staff is requesting the VLAWMO Board of Directors authorize the distribution on the draft 2019 Amendment to the Water Plan to partner agencies, as well as establish notice for a public hearing to review these changes.

Discussion: Lindner asked about the draft Water Plan budget and how it will affect VLAWMO's reserves. McNamara says it may, and may help us move towards VLAWMO's 35% reserve goal.

A motion was made by Rafferty and seconded by Jones to authorize the distribution of the Draft 2019 Amendment to the 2017-2026 VLAWMO Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, as well as establishment of notice for a public hearing to present these changes. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

C. Insurance and JPA change direction

McNamara reported the Watershed has been exploring switching insurance providers to the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) as a lower-cost alternative to VLAWMO's current Provider. In order to switch Providers, the LMC requires additional language regarding liability in VLAWMO's JPA, which would require VLAWMO's JPA members to consider and approve these changes in the JPA. Staff recommends the Board authorize distribution of the JPA with additional language regarding liability, with questions or comments submitted by the end of May 2019, and signed JPA amendments forwarded to VLAWMO for distribution to the whole Membership by July 15, 2019.

Discussion: Rafferty clarified that we would be switching to LMC. Youker asked what the annual savings would be by switching- McNamara replied \$1,000/yr.

A motion was made by Rafferty and seconded by Youker to authorize the distribution of the amended JPA to include liability language to VLAWMO Joint Power Agreement Members, with question & comments returned by the end of May 2019, and signed JPA amendments forwarded to VLAWMO for distribution of the whole Membership by July 15, 2019. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

D. Lambert Creek

1. Lambert Lake 319 grant funded, loan, & General Obligation Note

VLAWMO's application for 319 grant funding for the Lambert Lake Project was approved. Tanner summarized the financial breakdown that allows VLAWMO to complete maintenance and the improvement Project on Lambert Lake. There is a General Obligation Note that needs to be signed confirming that VLAWMO is able to

receive grant funding and the loan, though does not obligate VLAWMO to accept funding by signing the GON.

Discussion: Rafferty asked for confirmation that the fiberglass weir is failing as compared to the steel. This was confirmed by staff. It was asked if there are measurable goals for reductions and improvements as part of this funding. This was confirmed that having measurables of effectiveness are part of grant reporting.

A motion was made by Jones and seconded by Youker to authorize entering into the 319 grant, and signing the General Obligation Note submitting the proposal and designating the program manager as representing VLAWMO. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

2. SEH update on Lambert Lake

Corcoran reported SEH is moving forward with securing quotes for soil borings on the berm where the failing fiberglass sheetpiling needs replacement. Once borings are completed, the length of the replacement sheetpile can be determined, and Engineer's cost estimate will be provided.

3. DIY monitoring units

Tanner presented VLAWMO is planning to go forward with funding and building 4 automated DIY flow monitoring units with LimnoTech. These units will be used to monitor rates on 4 locations on Lower Lambert Creek to estimate pollutant reductions. The cost of the workshop to build the units and the hardware itself is \$10,825. Tanner recommends approval from the Board to enter into the contract with Limnotech in the amount of \$10,825.

A motion was made by Prudhon and seconded by Jones approving the LimnoTech workshop monitoring equipment cost of \$10,825. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

E. Pleasant/Charley/Deep

1. Contract with Carp Solution

Tanner outlined that one of the identified issues in the SLMP resident survey for the North Oaks Chain is Common carp control. Tanner consulted with Carp Solutions for a bid for a 2-year carp survey that will be the basis of a carp removal plan. Staff is recommending the approval of the Carp Solutions quote in the amount of \$15,341 for the 2-year carp population survey in the North Oaks Chain of Lakes.

Discussion: Prudhon asked if bow fishing of carp has been considered. Rafferty asked how solid the population estimates are. Tanner explained the science behind it and how the estimates are extrapolated.

A motion was made by Rafferty and seconded by Jones to approve the 2-year carp population survey for the amount of \$15,341. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

2. Lake association development

Tanner has been working with the Pleasant-Deep-Charley group in North Oaks for the possibility of establishing a joint Lake Association for a collective power of implementing large-scale projects and studies in the subwatershed.

Discussion: The Board expressed that cost sharing with the carp study, if the Lake Association materializes, is very important.

F. West Vadrnais Flooding

McNamara presented that RWMWD is looking to go ahead with work to lower the water level in West Vadrnais Lake to increase water bounce and storage. McNamara asked if the Board would like VLAWMO staff to informally review this request from RWMWD, or if the Board would like to support a formal public and EAW review of this plan.

Discussion: The Board’s consensus and direction was that a formal process should be followed for identifying any effects that may result from the lowering of the surface elevation of West Vadnais Lake from its current OHW elevation, including an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW).

VII. Operations and Administration

A. TEC Report and Financial – April

The April VLAWMO Technical Commission Report to the Board was presented by TEC Commissioner Paul Duxbury and the December financial report was discussed by McNamara.

B. Draft 2020 Budget – first consideration

McNamara presented the first iteration of the 2020 Draft Budget that includes 2 new line items: *Consultant – Engineering & Technical* and *Wetland assessment & management*. No action was requested from the Board at this time, but their discussion and direction was solicited.

Discussion: Lindner asked the commissioners to review the 2020 Draft Budget and to forward on any questions or thoughts to McNamara.

C. Education

1. Annual report, water matters, and spring events

Voss updated that the 2018 annual report, summary, water monitoring summary and new cost share brochure are now available. Voss also ran down the spring 2019 event calendar, as well as proposed the August or October VLAWMO Board meetings as times to have Brook Asleson, MPCA Chloride Specialist, as a guest speaker for a Water Matters presentation.

Discussion: Voss asked the Board if they would be open to 2 dates for Water Matters.

D. Project updates

1. Goose Lake

a) Oak Knoll pond study & WBF

Thompson updated the Board on the status of the Oak Knoll Pond spent lime treatment on OKP as a partner to Barr Engineering. Staff is awaiting a monitoring plan and further instruction to begin. Thompson is still gathering survey data for Barr Engineering for use in the Goose Subwatershed H&H study and Report.

b) Alum treatment preparation

Tanner updated that she has been working with oversight agencies and has developed a Draft sample ordinance for boating restrictions on East & West Goose Lakes for the adoption by the City of White Bear Lake. The Draft has been reviewed by Barr Engineering and VLAWMO plans to meet with the Ski Otters to review and discuss the sample ordinance. Staff will present a recommendation for a final draft of the ordinance to the Board at their June meeting.

2. Birch Lake – 4th & Otter

Thompson updated that the Draft Plans for the IESF have been reviewed and commented on by Project Partners and these comments are being worked into final plans by Barr. A meeting of the Partners, along with Barr Engineering will take place on May 1st to discuss the updated plans moving towards finalization and on to preparation for sending out for bid.

3. Great River Greening proposal accepted

Tanner announced VLAWMO’s proposal for restoration of 45 acres in Vadnais-Sucker Lakes Regional Park has been accepted and will be included in the portfolio of projects that will be presented to the LCCMR for consideration. It is expected that the final amount of area for restoration will decrease, but the details will be announced by the end of summer 2019.

E. WCA – Sucker Trail

Corcoran presented to the Board a culvert blow-out on a paved recreation path in Vadnais-Sucker Park. Ramsey County Parks will be replacing the culvert and reconstructing the path, and a no-loss WCA application and TEP review of proceedings will take place. No action from the Board is necessary.

F. Wetland health assessment

1. Frog and toad call surveys

Tanner has been conducting frog/toad calling surveys in 14 sites in the Watershed to study core wetland complex areas. Surveys will be completed by mid-July.

2. Consultant Delineation & Assessment

Corcoran explained that VLAWMO's current Water Plan calls for an updated assessment of 2001 survey that covers 25% of VLAWMO's wetlands. The purpose of this assessment is to determine if the function of those wetlands has increased, decreased or have remained the same. Staff is recommending moving forward with an RFP for a professional wetland assessment for all wetlands in each of the 7 subwatersheds, including a level-2 delineation for each basin, MNRAM classification, GIS deliverables, and subwatershed summaries with restoration possibilities. This work will allow staff to prioritize degrading wetland complexes in the watershed to aid in future project planning efforts.

A motion was made by Prudhon and seconded by Youker to authorize staff to submit an RFP for a consultant to conduct a multi-year Watershed assessment of VLAWMO's wetlands. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

G. Cooperative Weed Management Agreement MOU and update

Tanner gave an update on VLAWMO's partnership with the CWMA MOU, as well as Oriental Bittersweet infestations in North Oaks.

VIII. Discussion

A. Water Gremlin questions

McNamara reported that VLAWMO has been contacted by a variety of concerned citizens that have requested the Watershed be an unbiased third party to test groundwater and soil for TCE contamination. Staff is soliciting direction from the Board for staff to conduct its own TCE sampling in the area around Water Gremlin, and if the Watershed should have any other role in this situation.

Discussion: Lindner mentioned he was not favorable for VLAWMO testing, as the testing would unlikely yield different results. Prudhon echoed this sentiment, and the funding is not prudent to conduct testing. The VLAWMO Board hears this concern and would like staff to continue to monitor testing processes and results, but will take the role as a stakeholder and overwatch agency in this process.

B. Trumpeter swans at Sucker Channel

With the deaths of Trumpeter Swans at Sucker Channel linked to lead poisoning, Tanner has created a support handout document to complement a document the MPCA has available. The VLAWMO TEC has supported the release of the VLAWMO-generated document, and is requesting the Board allow for the release and marketing of this same handout. Along with this, staff is also requesting authorizing to post 2 informational signs on the matter in Vadnais-Sucker Park, as well as consider VLAWMO takes an official position on the continued use of lead fishing sinkers and shot.

Discussion: Lindner questioned how far we would go with dredging. Jones and Lindner stated they supported the informational signs. No formal motion was made, though the Board authorized the

placement of informational lead signs at Vadnais-Sucker Lakes Regional Park, adoption of the VLAWMO lead handout, and did not adopt an official position against lead sinkers or shot.

IX. Administration Communication

None.

X. Adjourn

A motion was made by Prudhon and seconded by Jones to adjourn at 9:25 pm. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.