



The Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
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Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
Technical Commission Minutes  
August 9, 2019  
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room

**Commission Members Present:**

Gloria Tessier	Chair, Gem Lake (GL)
Nolan Wall	Vadnais Heights (VH, alternate)
Bob Larson	Treasurer, North Oaks (NO)
Paul Duxbury	White Bear Township (WBT)
Terry Huntrods	White Bear Lake (WBL)

**Commission Members Absent:** Lino Lakes (vacant)

**Others in attendance:** Stephanie McNamara, Brian Corcoran, Dawn Tanner, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO); Zosh Tanner; Diane Gorder (NOHOA); Kate Winsor, & Susan Miller (North Oaks); Jeremy Erickson (SPRWS); Andrea Prichard (RSWCD).

I. **Call to Order** Chair Tessier called the meeting to order at 7:29 am.

II. **Approval of Agenda**

McNamara asked the agenda be amended to include payment for an insurance premium check under IV. A. Financial. Thompson ask that item V. D. Cost Share LL2 2019-01 be added to the agenda for review and potential approval.

It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Larson to approve the August 9, 2019 agenda as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. **Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Huntrods to approve the July 12, 2019 meeting minutes, as presented. Vote: all aye, Motion passed.

IV. **Administration & Operations**

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

McNamara asked for 2 additional checks to be approved for payment to our new insurer LMCIT, \$1,800 premiums and \$3,900 liability auto that need to be approved for payment before the September bills.

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Larson to approve the August Treasurer's report, payment of checks, and payment of the 2 additional checks for LMCIT insurance in the amounts of \$1,800 & \$3,900. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. **August TEC Report to the Board**

The August 2019 Technical Commission Report to the Board was presented and discussed for issuing to the Board at their August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Duxbury to approve the August TEC Report to the Board. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

C. **West Vadnais EAW Update**

Draft EAW comments from VLAWMO staff have been returned to RWMWD. Some questions remain on the wetland delineation and MNRAM wetland assessment, but these may be answered after completion. Once complete, the EAW requires a public meeting after a 30-day notice period. This will likely occur during our October Board meeting. RWMWD has funding allocated to this project in 2020.

**V. Programs**

**A. Education & Outreach**

**1. Community Blue Updates**

Clean Stormdrains evaluation: 22 volunteers recruited, 42 hrs total volunteer time, 77 households reached, 4 drains adopted, 20lbs of debris collected. Creative Landscaping: Master Water Stewards hosting a community raingarden tour on August 24<sup>th</sup>.

**2. Submerged vegetation and statewide plant trainings**

Tanner has been attending plant trainings statewide through the DNR. She explained how trainings contribute to our ability for invasive species control and native restoration.

**3. Dragonfly and macroinvertebrates collections**

Dawn and Zosh have been completing macroinvertebrate and dragonfly specimens for a reference teaching collection and pop-up macroinvertebrate event in Sucker Park. Zosh shared about her experience with VLAWMO this summer.

**4. Trainings**

Tanner reported she has been to several trainings this summer, most of them free, to become versed in plants and wetlands. These trainings have expanded and built experience for use in projects and programs for VLAWMO.

**B. Wetlands updates**

**1. Otter project request support**

Dawn has been working with partners to develop a small radio telemetry project that would help us use River otters as an indicator species to inform wetland conservation and restoration efforts. We documented otter use of wetland habitats and major waterbodies as part of the remote-camera monitoring efforts. We would like to expand that work to implant 1-5 otters with radio transmitters and monitor their movements for 14-24 months (depending upon battery life). Dawn requests support from the TEC to propose the project to the Board at their August meeting.

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Larson to recommend to the Otter project collaboration to the Board. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**2. Wetland Assessment RFP – Part 1, Vadnais Sucker Park**

Corcoran presented the outline of a proposed RFP for a wetland assessment for wetlands in the Vadnais-Sucker park area that will be comparative and identify wetland function, quality, and quantity.

**C. DIY Update**

Thompson presented the last of 4 sites with DIY monitoring equipment recording and streaming flow and discharge, available on the EnviroDIY website.

**D. Cost Share – LL2 2019-01 – VH BMPs**

Thompson presented a cost share application that came in the week of the TEC meeting for a Level 2 cost share grant in Vadnais Heights. The project would incorporate 1 large rain garden, depression, native planted berm, and native planting around a catch basin. This project is in the targeted Lambert Creek subwatershed and the property takes runoff from 9 properties and drains directly via storm sewer. The applicant is applying for cost share funding for 75% of the project total, in the amount of \$11,927.81. Staff is asking for a recommendation to the Board for funding

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Larson to recommend to the Board for approval and funding in the amount of \$11,927.81. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**VI. Projects**

**A. Lambert Creek – meeting with SEH**

McNamara and Tanner met earlier this week with SEH to discuss the Lambert Lake project, maintenance, sheet piling specifics and meander concept. An Engineer's Estimate of Cost has been produced for the sheet piling, as well as dredging.

**B. 319 Small Watershed Funding Interview with MPCA**

The July 23<sup>rd</sup> SWF interview with a panel from the MPCA was favorable and it seems VLAWMO will be a good contender among the 20 other watershed vying for a spot in the program. Staff should be contacted near the end of August if it has been determined that VLAWMO has been selected as a priority watershed. If selected, the VLAWMO will begin the program in 2021.

**C. Carp Project update**

The last round of carp electroshocking surveying was completed on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and revealed interesting population characteristics. Only 1 carp individual captured was in the normal size range captured in other systems, and the rest were large adult fish. If this is an accurate reflection of the population, carp removal could prove to be highly effective.

**VII. Commissioner Reports**

None.

**VIII. NOHOA**

Gorder announced Tanner will be doing a vegetation education event in North Oaks on September 12<sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

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

None.

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

Prichard reported all but one RSWCD surveys have been completed and submitted. The final remaining macrophyte survey on Birch Lake is scheduled for the beginning of September.

**XI. Public Comment**

None.

**XII. Next Meetings**

TEC: September 13<sup>th</sup>; Board: August 28<sup>th</sup>

**XIII. Adjourn**

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Huntrods to adjourn at 8:54 am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.