



The Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
800 East County Road E, Vadnais Heights, 55127 651-204-6070  
Website: www.vlawmo.org; Email: office@vlawmo.org

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
Technical Commission Minutes  
October 11, 2019  
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room

**Commission Members Present:**

Gloria Tessier	Chair, Gem Lake (GL)
Jesse Farrell	Vice Chair, Vadnais Heights (VH)
Kate Winsor	Treasurer, North Oaks (NO, alternate)
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); Diane Gorder (NOHOA); Justine Roe (SPRWS); Justin Townsend (RSWCD); Katherine Kanne (VLAWMO Citizen Advisory Committee [CAC]).

I. **Call to Order** Chair Tessier called the meeting to order at 7:28 am.

II. **Approval of Agenda**

It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Duxbury to approve the October 11, 2019 agenda as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. **Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Huntrods to approve the September 13, 2019 meeting minutes, as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IV. **Administration & Operations**

A. **TEC Report & Financial Report for October & authorization for payment of checks.**

McNamara presented the October 2019 Financial Report for review and authorization of payments, as well as the October 2019 TEC to Board Report.

It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Duxbury to approve the October Treasurer's Report and the October 2019 TEC Report to the Board. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. **West Vadnais EAW Update**

The comment period for the EAW ended on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Comments were received by BWSR and the MN Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) and require responses for the Board to consider at their October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, and have also been noticed for public meeting to hear the EAW and comments. Notable comments are from the OSA stating the possibility of sensitive artifacts in the work area, and the Office recommends a Level 1 archaeology survey. Ramsey-Washington Metro WD has funding allocated for this project in 2020. McNamara noted that BWSR felt that the potential drawdown would not negatively affect the wetland in the area.

**Discussion:** Farrell mentioned that the outlet elevation is already underwater and how large of a difference will lowering the elevation another .8 ft make an effective difference.

C. **North Oaks Local Water Management Plan review**

Staff has reviewed and provided comments for the North Oaks Local Water Management Plan (NOLWMP), and they include several discrepancies that should be addressed. Staffs' list of comments were provided and discussed at the meeting. McNamara anticipates having comments on the Plan sent back to North Oaks engineer, Sambatech, for review and possible updates, and bringing this to the December Board meeting.

V. **Programs**

**A. Education & Outreach**

**1. End of year evaluation and surveys**

Surveys were handed out to the TEC for completion and return at the December meeting.

**2. Fall activities**

Voss outlined upcoming events: Macroinvertebrates Leafpack volunteer trainings, Oct 24<sup>th</sup>; WBL/ Goose Lake Adopt-a-Drain “Blitz”, Oct 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>; CAC/WAV meeting, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>; 2019 Watershed Celebration, Nov 14<sup>th</sup>. Voss also overviewed the Leafpack program and its use on the DIY website.

**B. Wetlands updates**

**1. RFP for Vadnais Sucker Park wetland assessment**

Staff received 4 proposals as a result of the Request for Proposal, ranging from \$16,000 to \$74,950 to complete tasks outlined in the Vadnais/Sucker wetland assessment. Phase I of the assessment would take place in the Sucker/Vadnais subwatershed and the RFP solicited bids that included analysis for all VLAWMO wetlands: level 2 delineation, MNRAM, GIS deliverables, wetland types, reference wetland locations, rare/endorsed wetland vegetation communities, and areas for potential restoration. Staff asked the TEC for a recommendation to the Board to enter into contract with the lowest responsible for Vadnais/Sucker Wetland Assessment Phase I; that bidder is S.E.H. at a cost of \$16,000.

**Discussion:** Huntrods asked whether it was asked if it was asked of HEI how dropping the FQA would affect their bid. Corcoran and McNamara explained that do this, VLAWMO would have to choose their bid and enter into contract before asking this.

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Huntrods to recommend to the Board for selection and entering into a contract with S.E.H. for the Vadnais/Sucker Wetland Assessment Phase I for the amount of \$16,000. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**2. Otter project equipment request**

Tanner reported the MN Zoo proposal is in and staff would like to purchase radio telemetry equipment. Staff would like to purchase radio telemetry equipment to begin preparation for the otter project, including testing the transmitter and receiver in different locations in the Watershed. Equipment cost total would be \$1815: receiver (\$695), implant transmitter (5 total, only 2 will be purchased until more are needed; \$960 total/\$384 for now), and antenna (\$160) Tanner requests a recommendation for the equipment purchase from the TEC to the Board for \$1,239.00 now, and the remaining \$576.00 when more transmitters are needed. Tanner explained that

**Discussion:** Duxbury asked how cost sharing works with the project partners. Tanner explained the U will do vet and surgery and the U students will be helping. News about the grant application will be heard of sometime in December.

It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Duxbury to recommend to the Board for purchasing of otter tracking equipment in the amount of \$1,239.00. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**3. Workdays & service-learning update and progress**

Tanner updated and showed photos of the buckthorn removal efforts at the Vadnais Heights City Hall and the City of White Bear Lake-owned 4<sup>th</sup> & Otter parcel. Rare species were found at City Hall and more are being watched for. 3 Service-learning students from the U of M are contributing 24 hours each in buckthorn removal, macroinvertebrate ID, remote cameras, and more.

**C. Cost Share**

**1. Landscape Level 1 2019-08, Karpenko – Native Restoration – Vadnais Heights**

Staff conducted a site visit earlier this summer with Ms. Karpenko and she's had Ecoscapes design and provide a bid for removal of woody invasive species and replacement with natives shrubs & Trees, as well as low grow fescue on the edge of her backyard that abuts a large wetland. **The total cost estimate is \$4,600.00 and the applicant is applying for \$2,000.00 in Level 1 funding; staff is recommending their application for approval by the TEC.**

It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Duxbury for approval of application and funding in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the LL1 2019-08 grant application. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**2. Landscape Level 1 2019-09, Childers – Native Restoration – North Oaks**

Staff has received an application from the Childers for a native restoration project on their property in North Oaks. They have already completed successful defoliation via a goat herd and their application includes approved native seeding and plugs restoration of 8,600 sq ft. The estimated project total is \$1,585.00 and the **applicants are requesting \$1,188.75 in funding. Staff is recommending their application for approval by the TEC.**

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Huntrods for approval of application and funding in the amount of \$1,188.75 for the LL1 2019-09 grant application. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**VI. Projects**

**A. Lambert Creek, USACE meeting update**

A meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers, S.E.H., and VLAWMO staff was held to discuss the Lambert Lake project and pre-permitting direction. It was deemed that dredged material may be used onsite, including use in filling abandoned channels, and that VLAWMO will be the acting WCA administrator, unless otherwise directed by other TEP agencies. S.E.H. will begin the design process, and progress on permitting will be made as project information progresses. The DNR has recommended beginning their permitting process once 60% plans have been delivered.

**B. Lead sinker sampling and WRC poster presentation**

The lead sinker poster is ready for the Water Resources Conference and was shown at the TEC meeting. Tanner went over the lead sinker sampling in Sucker Channel, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> sampling attempt will take place on October 22<sup>nd</sup> while the SPRWS is conducting annual zebra mussel removal.

**C. Carp Project update and Presentation Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 to be recorded (in NO)**

The 4<sup>th</sup> survey run is still upcoming, and Carp Solutions will be presenting on the survey in North Oaks on November 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. VLAWMO plans to record and post the meeting video.

**D. Goose Lake**

**1. East – WBL restrictions consideration**

McNamara & Tanner attended the White Bear Lake Council meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup>, where the boating restriction ordinance was raised for discussion by the Council members. McNamara & Tanner updated the TEC on the happenings from meeting and possibilities going forward.

**2. Goose fish survey, fish tissue analysis**

The fish survey was completed on East & West Goose Lakes the week of September 19<sup>th</sup>. The resulting report should be delivered within the next few months and will include management recommendations. Without the report yet to be delivered, it was readily apparent during the survey that the fish population has had a noticeable shift in makeup. A few select fish were also taken and frozen for possible toxin testing, as

recommended by the Board at their August meeting, though due to the populations' young age, staff recommends postponing these tests and putting a fish management plan in place. Staff recommends moving towards a lake management plan for mitigating rough fish.

**3. WB Boatworks**

Stakeholders met onsite at West Goose Lake on the south shore to discuss the possibility, interest and ideas for a restoration to halt increasing erosion of the shoreline that borders the WB Boatworks shoreline. It was agreed that the group will have the Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division design the project with cost estimates. Upon completion and delivery of these, the stakeholder group will meet again and discuss funding options. Eligibility through the VLAWMO Landscape Level 2 grant may be a possible avenue for funding.

**Discussion:** McNamara overviewed and discussed deliverables from Barr as part of the Goose Lake WBF possible project areas and recommendations.

**E. Blue-Green algae discussion and test strip consideration**

Tanner asked if the TEC was interested in the BG algae bloom test strips.

**Discussion:** Gordier asked if it would be worth testing or figuring out where the BGA issue is coming from and not being in the business in making scientific judgements (NOHOA). It may be worth posting signage if a bloom is seen, or if it looks like BGA. Duxbury too. Also having the information of what can be done to prevent HAB. The TEC discussed having a permanent sign on lakes that have exhibited these issues. And recommended motion for exploring educational signs and costs for this.

It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Winsor to explore costs and process for permanent educational signage regarding HAB on trouble lakes within the Watershed. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**F. Great River Greening/LCCMR update**

The suite of projects included in the GRG proposal was accepted by the Legislature, and will not be signed until summer 2020. In order to meet the request of the Legislature to reduce overall package costs, the total project area was reduced from 40 acres to 20 acres at a value of roughly \$60,000. GRG expects to work with VLAWMO over the coming years on further expansion of this area, as well.

**G. Yellow iris removal permit approved**

The DNR invasive removal permit for yellow iris was approved, though only lasts for several months. With removal planned for spring/summer 2020, the DNR has advised to withdraw the permit and to reapply in 2020.

**H. CPL grant proposal for 4<sup>th</sup> and Otter**

Tanner announced that following buckthorn removal, restoration of native understory is ideal. To accomplish this, staff has been working on a grant application through the DNR for a Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) grant for a total of \$8,636. If selected, the grant requires a 10% local match for funding. **Staff is seeking a recommendation to the Board from the TEC to submit an application for the CPL grant for a total of \$8,636 in funding.**

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Huntrods for recommendation to the Board for authorization of submittal of the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant for a total of \$8,636.00. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**VII. Commissioner Reports**

None.

**VIII. NOHOA**

Gorder gave an overview on the invasive species talk from Carol Gernes, and announced buckthorn removal next Friday & Saturday. The golf course has been removing buckthorn and bittersweet on the south shoreline of Pleasant Lake.

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

Roe announced the Highland Water tower October 12 & 13 from 9am-5pm

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

November 21<sup>st</sup> RC PW Building AIS meeting

**XI. Public Comment**

None.

**XII. Next Meetings**

TEC: November 8<sup>th</sup>; Board: October 23<sup>rd</sup>

**XIII. Adjourn**

It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Farrell to adjourn at 9:47 am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.