



Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
January 10, 2020
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room

Commission Members Present:

Gloria Tessier	Chair, Gem Lake (GL)
Jesse Farrell	Vice Chair, Vadnais Heights (VH)
Paul Duxbury	White Bear Township (WBT)
Terry Huntrods	White Bear Lake (WBL)
Andy Nelson	Lino Lakes (LL)

Commission Members Absent: Bob Larson, Treasurer (NO)

Others in attendance: Stephanie McNamara, Brian Corcoran, Dawn Tanner, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO); Justine Roe and Jeremy Erickson (SPRWS); Brian Olsen (RCSWCD); Connie Tailon and Rick Johnston (WBL), Diane Gorder, Kate Winsor, and Patricia Orvid (NO); Melissa King (BWSR).

- I. **Call to Order** Chair Tessier called the meeting to order at 7:31 am.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda for the January 10, 2020 Technical Commission Meeting was presented for approval. Tanner asked that an addition be made for a Landscape Level 2 application action be made under: Projects VI. D.

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Farrell to approve the January 10, 2020 TEC agenda, as amended. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Duxbury to approve the December 13, 2019 meeting minutes, as presented. Vote: all aye; Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
 - A. **Election of TEC Officers**

McNamara announced that the roles for TEC officers must once again be renewed for 2020. Duxbury and Huntrods proposed keeping the TEC officer roles the same as in 2019, and nominating as such: Tessier as Chair, Farrell as Vice Chair, and Larson as Treasurer.

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Huntrods to reelect the Technical Commission officers in 2020 as: Tessier (Chair), Farrell (Vice Chair), and Larson (Treasurer). Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
 - B. **January 2020 Financial Report for authorization for payment of checks.**

McNamara presented the January 2020 Financial Report for review and authorization of payments.

It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Duxbury to approve the January Treasurer's Report. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
 - C. **WBL Shoreland Ordinance amendment consideration**

The City of White Bear Lake is noticing potential changes and updates to their shoreland ordinance for comments or suggestions, including from the VLAWMO TEC. Tailon spoke to the proposed changes within the ordinance, including changes in allowed shoreline barrier materials and construction, along with new setback limits.

V. **Programs**

A. **Education & Outreach**

1. Community Blue Application: Hometown Habitat in North Oaks

Staff received an application for a Community Blue project from the North Oaks Natural Environment Stewardship Team (NEST) requesting \$545.00 for a project in North Oaks for the screening of “Hometown Habitat”, a documentary about green infrastructure and sustainable design. The showing will be hosted at the North Oaks Country Club and would include refreshments and take-home native seed packets. Staff is recommending approval of this grant in the amount of \$545.00. TEC members were invited to complete a score chart to rate the application prior to the TEC meeting. Winsor mentioned that NOHOA, and the NO Golf Club are partnering and letting the space for free. The application is for the Natural Resources Commission.

It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Duxbury to approve the 2020 Hometown Habitat Community Blue application in the amount of \$545.00. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

2. Watershed Travels: North Carolina

Voss presented photos of his holiday vacation travels at Sierra Nevada Brewery in North Carolina and the different stormwater infrastructure that they’ve employed.

3. TEC photo

Voss asked that Technical Commission members gather for an updated group photo.

B. **Cost Share**

1. 2019 Cost Share Results

Thompson presented a summary and results of the 2019 Cost Share Program season. There were 7 rainbarrel grants for a total of 9 rainbarrels funded and installed. There were 10 Landscape Level 1 grants approved: 5 were completed and 5 will be completed in spring 2020. One Landscape Level 2 grant was funded and will begin in spring 2020 and completed in the summer. A recap of the new targeted and prioritized zone funding for infiltration & habitat grants was summarized.

C. **Lead monitoring results – Lambert Creek**

Staff collected sediment samples testing for lead on Lambert Creek in 11 locations to compare concentration to sediment lead samples taken on the Water Gremlin site. Staff explained what these results could mean and coordinating with the MPCA. Corcoran presented VLAWMO lead sediment testing and only one of the 11 sites had concern for benthic organisms, but no sediment samples along the creek were found to be a concern for human exposure. The TEC agreed that they would like a MPCA representative to give a talk on current results and operations, moving forward.

D. **SLMP – Pleasant Lake – sediment assessment and modeling**

Staff has consulted with a team at Barr Engineering for a proposal to undertake a sediment study on Pleasant Lake, using some preliminary information and data gather by the U of M capstone project a few years ago. The proposal includes sediment cores, internal loading cores, bathymetry of the east & west bays of Pleasant, and sediment transport modeling. Staff is seeking recommendation from the TEC to seek funding support from partners for tasks 1-3 in 2020, while wait to engage task 4 until funding is identified. Duxbury asked for clarification between the sediment cores and internal loading cores

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Farrell to recommend staff seek funding support from partners for tasks 1-3 from Barr Engineering proposal. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VI. Projects

A. 1. WBF Goose Lake project identification

Barr Engineering has completed a list of potential projects to choose from for 60% designs in the Goose subwatershed, where one of these projects would be chosen for 100% design and implementation. Staff has selected 3 projects from this list for 60% design: an iron-enhanced sand filter, underground stormwater filtration, and a suite of BMPs along County Rd F to tie in with the raingarden rehabilitation Ramsey County & the City of White Bear Lake will be undertaking in 2020. Staff will be bringing these to the TEC for recommendation when more information is received from Barr.

2. Watershed Based Implementation Funding – Phase 2 update

Planning for the second phase of Watershed-Based Funding has begun and VLAWMO staff will be attending the first meeting, which will identify the process and priorities. Subsequent meeting will convene to identify what types of projects will be funded. Staff will keep the TEC updated and VLAWMO will need to be ready with potential projects that are identified in the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, along with supporting data and studies. King outlined the process, going forward in the Metro where all municipalities and WMO & WDs are being involved in the process to identify how to distribute funding. Eligible projects must already be identified in a state-approved water management plan.

B. Data comparison Pleasant vs. East Vadnais data and article

Stakeholders in North Oaks have fielded question regarding the water quality of Pleasant Lake and have the perception that water quality is declining on the Lake. The SPRWS provided their water quality monitoring data that Tanner extrapolated for graphing and interpretation. Tanner wrote an article for the February 2020 edition of North Oaks News that will feature this data.

C. Early plans for wetland restoration with RCSWCD and Tamarack Nature Center

Tanner has been working with Justin Townsend at the Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division on the restoration of Teal Pond at the Tamarack Nature Center in White Bear Township. An application has been submitted for Landscape Level 2 grant funding that includes revegetation with custom native seed mixes, as well as plugs and pots for larger plants. An educational sign, to be designed by VLAWMO staff, is also included in the cost of this project. The RCSWCD is applying for the LL2 2020-01 Landscape Level 2 grant in the amount of \$5,890. The project would begin in the fall of 2020 and be completed in the spring/early summer of 2021.

It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Duxbury to recommend to the VLAWMO Board for approval of the LL2 2020-01 grant application for funding in the amount of \$5,890. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

D. Service-learning appreciation and desire to continue from UMN

The 2019 U of M service learning students that took part in various projects and programs with VLAWMO during last season presented their results of their service learning experience. U of M staff has expressed that they are interested in pursuing service learning opportunities for future students.

E. Birch Lake 4th & Otter

1. Re-bid update

Thompson reported that the 4th & Otter IESF project was reposted for construction bid on Monday January 6th by Barr on the week of the TEC meeting. Calls have been fielded regarding interest in bidding on the project and staff is optimistic bids will come in closer to the Engineer's estimate for this second round.

2. Conservation Partners Legacy grant funded

Staff received news that the grant application for habitat restoration on the City of WBL parcel on 4th & Otter has been approved and awarded in the amount of \$8,636. The cost includes native seed for revegetation. A 10% local match will be contributed to the grant.

VII. Commissioner Reports

Duxbury mentioned he won't be at the February meeting. Farrell mentioned there are public complaints about nuisance flooding in Vadnais Heights, specifically around the branch ditches.

VIII. NOHOA

Gorder thanked VLAWMO for their work around the City and proposing staff collaborate with NOHOA to work on upcoming educational material.

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

SPRWS is giving tours to interested construction firms for prospective bidding of upgrading SPRWS's water treatment plan.

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

Olsen announced RSWCD is submitting a large application for the Lawns to Legumes grant to BWSR for project implementation.

XI. Public Comment

None.

XII. Next Meetings

TEC: February 14th, 2020; Board: February 26th, 2020

XIII. Adjourn

It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Huntrods to adjourn at 9:29 am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.