



The Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
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Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
April 9, 2021

Zoom Teleconference Open Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83828772829?pwd=RzhmTEFRSGdkYnh6ZHd4cW9vNDc3Zz09>

Join by phone: +1-312-626-6799; meeting ID: 838 2877 2829; password: 234257

Commission Members Present:

Gloria Tessier	Chair, Gem Lake (GL)
Bob Larson	Treasurer, North Oaks (NO)
Paul Duxbury	White Bear Township (WBT)
Terry Huntrods	White Bear Lake (WBL)
Andy Nelson	Lino Lakes (LL)

Commission Members Absent: Jesse Farrell (VH)

Others in attendance: Phil Belfiori, Brian Corcoran, Dawn Tanner, Nick Voss, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO); Patricia Orud, Jon Cotner (NOHOA), Brian Olsen (RCSWCD); Sara Shah; Martin Harstad; Jeremy Erickson (SPRWS); Ed Shapland (MN Water Steward); Connie Tailon (City of WBL); Abby Burdick

- I. **Call to Order** Chair Tessier called the meeting to order at 7:30 am. A roll call was made for attending Commissioners of the electronic meeting: Farrell: absent; Larson: present; Duxbury: present; Huntrods: present; Nelson: present; Tessier: present.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
The agenda for the April 9, 2021 Technical Commission Meeting was presented for approval. Agenda approved, as presented.
It was moved by Larson and seconded by Huntrods to approve the April 9, 2021 TEC agenda, as presented. Vote: Tessier: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye Huntrods: aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
It was moved by Larson and seconded by Duxbury to approve the March 12, 2021 meeting minutes, as presented. Vote: Huntrods: aye Tessier: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
 - A. **Financial Report for April & Authorization for Payment**
Belfiori overviewed highlights of the April Finance Report and bills. Belfiori and Larson had the opportunity to review and confer on the April bills and are recommending approval. Belfiori noted the largest payment disbursement for the Lambert Lake meander project.
It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Larson to approve the April Treasurer's Report and authorization of payments. Vote: Huntrods: aye Tessier: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.
 - B. **April TEC Report to the Board**
The April TEC Report to the Board was presented for approval by the TEC.
It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Larson to approve the April 2021 TEC Report to the Board. Vote: Huntrods: aye Tessier: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

C. Update on Legal Counsel Services

Belfiori reported that 3 proposals were received for Legal Counsel Services, and staff has reviewed and ranked proposals for a recommendation to the Board. Staff will bring their recommendation to the Board at their April meeting, and will update at the May TEC meeting.

V. Programs

A. Education & Outreach

1. Community Blue: “Upstream”

Voss presented an update on the 2020 “Upstream” Community Blue grant, which was approved in 2020, but was postponed due to COVID-19, recognized at the April 2020 Board meeting. A new project scope has been drafted, with COVID provisions in place, and an updated and reduced grant total. Payment #1 was issued but retained until the updated grant was approved. This updated grant request of \$1,000 would serve as payment #2, and is reduced from \$2,159.80. Staff recommended approval of the updated CB-2021-1 application, as attached in the April TEC ePacket.

It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Larson to approve the updated grant Community Blue grant application CB-2021-1, and updated grant amounts. Vote: Huntrods: aye Tessier: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

2. 2020 Annual Report, WAV outlook

The Watershed Action Volunteers met on March 17th, and a video recording of the meeting is available. Highlights of the meeting include: MN Water Steward capstone projects, Jr. Watershed Explorer Program, summer watershed cost share tour, leaf pack monitoring, and picture post usage and upkeep. The 2020 Annual Report has been updated with 2020 Audit and financial numbers, will soon be submitted to BWSR, and is available on the VLAWMO website. Requests for hardcopies may also be made.

B. Cost Share Program

1. Soil Health Grant: Biese SHG 2021-03

Thompson presented the Soil Health Grant application 2021-03, entailing a 1,120 sq foot native planting in North Oaks that promotes stabilization and erosion protection, infiltration, and buffering upstream of Teal Pond. The proposal also includes native shrub and tree plantings targeting various locations around his property, including shoreline buffer plantings to stabilize the elevation drop to the shoreline. Staff has reviewed the Soil Health Grant application, with no recommended revisions and is recommending approval of SHG 2021-03 in the amount of \$750.00.

Discussion: none.

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Huntrods to approve Soil Health Grant 2021-03 for approval and funding in the amount of \$750.00. Vote: Tessier: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

2. 2021 RCSWCD Contract & LL2 Street Recon Update

Staff has been working to coordinate curb cut rain garden implementation into the cities of White Bear Lake and Vadnais Heights’ 2021 street reconstruction projects. Interest lists were open for residents until 3/31, and in April site feasibility work will begin, with the goal of having final project locations and curb cuts marked before construction begins in both cities. Staff is hoping to know how many basins are feasible for construction by May.

Staff is requesting approval to enter into contract with the Ramsey County SWCD for assistance with feasibility, design, and putting the final projects out to bid for

construction, as well as construction oversight. Project expenses will be billed as they are accrued, and the total contract amount is not to exceed \$4,999 in 2021. A draft Agreement has been included in the ePacket, but Tyler is planning to send the final Agreement prior to the TEC meeting once set with RCSWCD. Staff is requesting TEC approval to enter into the 2021 Professional Services Agreement with Ramsey County (RCSWCD), with a total not to exceed \$4,999 in 2021.

Discussion: none.

It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Duxbury to approve the 2021 Professional Services Agreement between Ramsey County and VLAWMO, with a not-to-exceed amount of \$4,999. Vote: Tessier: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

VI. Projects

A. Bluebird Development Variance Request

Bluebird Grove Development in the City of Vadnais Heights is requesting a wetland buffer variance, as flexibility within a Planned Unit Development (PUD) application, to connect Williams Street to Tessier Trail. Edge of proposed road connection will be 19.8ft from the delineated wetland edge at the closest point.

The wetland on site is a Manage 2 wetland. Buffer setback for a Manage 2 wetland is 30ft with minimum of 24ft. A delineation was approved on 9/16/2020 identifying the wetland boundary. To mitigate buffer encroachment the developer is proposing a 5ft snow shelf next to east side road edge with 3:1 slope to proposed retaining wall, the proposed retaining wall will be 6ft from closest wetland edge (retaining wall is approximately 60ft long). Developer is also proposing to increase the wetland buffer on the east side of wetland to 40ft. Please see packet documents showing the detail of proposed variance request.

Staff is recommending input to the City of Vadnais Heights on the wetland buffer variance request for connection of Williams Street to Tessier Trail as proposed on the Plowe Engineering sheets C1.01 and Buffer Variance Cross Section Exhibit, both dated 2-18-2021. Staff is also recommending input on the wetland buffer to be restored and replanted with a native buffer seed mix up to 30ft on west side and 40ft on east side.

Discussion: Huntrods noted his concern about retaining wall stability, and that it will likely take proper engineering for long term stability. Tanner asked about the opportunity for wetland basin improvement and a maintenance agreement for restoration and buffer establishment. Tessier asked trail and road clarification. Corcoran noted that he will include comments from VLAWMO to include recommending restoration vegetation maintenance, wetland buffer signage, retaining wall engineering, and a native seeding mix for restoration and stabilization that is salt tolerant, due to proximity to the proposed road. Corcoran also noted that VLAWMO's role is to provide input to local governments regarding a proposed variance/waiver and not to approve or deny those requests.

B. Lambert Lake Update

Tanner reported that vegetation restoration will begin during April along the meander, along with SEH coordination with the contractor. Support and planning for the biochar filter will also resume in the coming months.

C. 319 Update, Request recommendation to Board to authorize submission

Tanner updated that staff will be preparing a first round proposal to submit to the MPCA when the Request For Proposals (RFP) is formally issued (expected in late spring/early summer). Once the RFP is announced, we will have 60 days to submit our proposal.

The proposed project will be a combination of stormwater pond, possible meander elements, and wetland restoration to improve water quality in Wilkinson Lake. The project total proposal will be for \$540,757, of which 60% will be grant funds (\$324,454) and 40% will be

match funds (\$216,303). Construction of the project will likely occur in 2023/2024. Staff requests a recommendation from the TEC to the Board to authorize submitting a project proposal to the MPCA for the 319 program to improve water quality in Wilkinson Lake for a total project amount of \$540,757, partnering with North Oaks Company, the major landowner where project(s) will take place. Detail will be provided to the Board as they are available. Submission of the proposal may be required prior to the June Board meeting.

It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Larson to recommend approval to the Board to authorize submitting project proposal to the MPCA for 319 grant funding project cost of \$540,757. Vote: Huntrods: aye Tessier: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

D. Update on Goose ALM

Belfiori updated that over 100 surveys were received, and staff has been processing and cataloging them. Staff continues to update the East Goose ALM web hub with program background and technical info.

VII. Commissioner Reports:

Tessier recommended continuing with virtual meeting format for the May TEC meeting.

VIII. NOHOA

Nothing to report.

IX. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division (RCSWCD) Report

Olsen noted assistance with street reconstruction projects, lead sinker E&O events and programs, and working with SPRWS.

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

Nothing to report.

XI. Public Comment

None.

XII. Next Meetings

TEC: May 14th, 2021; Board: April 28th, 2021

XII. Adjourn

It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Larson to adjourn at 8:45 am. Vote: Huntrods: aye Tessier: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.