



The Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
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Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
Technical Commission Minutes  
May 14, 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 (NOHOA); Barb Spears; Justine Roe (SPRWS)

- 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 May 14, 2021 Technical Commission Meeting was presented for approval. Agenda approved, as presented.  
It was moved by Larson and seconded by Duxbury to approve the May 14, 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 April 9, 2021 meeting minutes, as presented. Vote: Tessier: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
  - A. **Financial Report for May & Authorization for Payment**  
Belfiori overviewed highlights of the May Finance Report and bills. Belfiori and Larson had the opportunity to review and confer on the May bills and are recommending approval.  
  
It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Larson to approve the May Treasurer's Report and authorization of payments. Vote: Tessier: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.
  - B. **Budget Subcommittee Representative from TEC**  
The Board gave direction at their April meeting for an inclusion of a TEC Commissioner to join as a member of the 2022 VLAWMO Budget Subcommittee. If there is interest or ability of an interested Commissioner, staff is asking for a nomination and confirmation to the Subcommittee.  
  
It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Larson to nominate and confirm Commissioner Farrell to the 2022 VLAWMO Budget Subcommittee. If Farrell cannot accept, than Duxbury & Larson may fill in on the subcommittee. Vote: Huntrods: aye Tessier: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

**C. Update on Legal Counsel Services**

Belfiori updated that of the 3 proposals were received for Legal Counsel Services, the Board approved the staff recommendation at their April meeting to continue using Kennedy & Graven for Legal Counsel Services in 2021 & 2022.

**V. Programs**

**A. Education & Outreach**

**1. 2021 VLAWMO Annual Award**

Looking towards the end of year, Voss presented a list of potential 2021 Watershed Award nominees. Nominations will be requested in October, though Voss is requesting the TEC keeps this on their radar for proactivity. The website bookmark was shared for the Annual Watershed Awards and Guidance page.

**2. Spring Updates**

Voss provided an overview of spring outreach and volunteer activities that have already begun, or will beginning soon.

**B. Cost Share Program**

**1. Soil Health Grant: Devries SHG 2021-04**

Staff has received a SHG application for a downspout rain garden in White Bear Lake. The rain garden/native planting area would be roughly 450 square feet in size, taking 330 square feet of rooftop runoff. The applicant has hired GreenSpace LLC for project design, and installation, upon news of the grant application, and the total estimated project cost is \$6,065. The project is within the Targeted Volume Reduction Zone, and the applicant is requesting \$1,000 in Soil Health Grant program funding. Staff has reviewed the Soil Health Grant application, with no recommended revisions and is recommending TEC approval of SHG 2021-04 in the amount of \$1,000.00. It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Huntrods to approve Soil Health Grant 2021-04 and funding in the amount of \$1,000.00. Vote: Tessier: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

**2. Soil Health Grant Application: Coffman SHG 2021-05**

The Coffmans in North Oaks have been interested in a native planting project for several years, and have submitted a SHG application for 2021. The applicants have a proposal from Minnesota Native Landscapes for a restoration of the ditch that is right off the road. The proposed restoration area is 3,000 square feet, and would provide nominal soil infiltration improvement, but the main benefit would be improved soil stabilization and habitat creation. The total estimated project cost is \$2,335, and the Coffmans are requesting \$750 in Soil Health Grant funds. Staff has reviewed the Soil Health Grant application, with no recommended revisions and is recommending TEC approval of SHG 2021-05 in the amount of \$750.00. It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Larson to approve Soil Health Grant 2021-05 and funding in the amount of \$750.00. Vote: Tessier: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

**3. Soil Health Grant Application: Kanne SHG 2021-06**

Thompson presented that if Soil Health Grant applications 05 & 06 are granted approval and funding, that would leave \$160 in the SHG fund for 2021. Katherine Kanne has put together a SHG project proposal for a native restoration project on a part of her property that is atop a steep that drains to Lower Lambert Creek and Ditch 14. Increased infiltration will be nominal, but as the project above, the main benefit would be reduced

erosion and stormwater velocity reduction that would be contributing to an already fairly-eroded stream bank on her side of the Creek. The project is slated to be 150 square feet, and estimated to be \$260 in total project cost. The applicant is requesting \$160 in Soil Health Grant funding. Staff has reviewed the Soil Health Grant application, with no recommended revisions and is recommending TEC approval of SHG 2021-06 in the amount of \$160.00.

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Duxbury to approve Soil Health Grant 2021-06 and funding in the amount of \$160.00. Vote: Tessier: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

#### **4. Landscape Level 1 Grant Application: Shearen Gem Lake SL Resto. 2021-01**

The Shearens have roughly 400 feet of shoreline on Gem Lake that is severely eroded and undercutting in spots, with significant soil loss and large trees beginning to fall into the Lake. A proposal from Natural Shore Technologies has been submitted to restore and stabilize 123 linear feet of the worst-eroded section of the lake shore. Restoration would include clearing, slight regrading, and restoration with native plants and shrubs. Prevention of more soil loss and reduced sedimentation have the potential for direct water quality improvement of Gem Lake. The Shearens would also agree to a 2-year maintenance proposal with NST for the establishments of the replanted shoreline. The total estimated cost of the project is \$8,942.57, and the applicants are requesting \$4,471.29 in Landscape Level 1 grant funding for their shoreline restoration. Staff has reviewed the NST proposal and Landscape Level 1 grant application, with no recommended revisions, and is recommending TEC approval of LL1 2021-01 in the amount of \$4,471.29.

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Huntrods to approve Landscape Level 1 Grant 2021-01 and funding in the amount of \$4,471.29. Vote: Tessier: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

## **VI. Projects**

### **A. Curly-leaf pondweed – Midwest Aquacare**

Tanner updated that the efforts for a 2021 curly leaf pondweed chemical treatment on Pleasant Lake has been reviewed by several oversight agencies. The MDH has recommended disapproval of the chemical treatment, for the main reason of the North Oaks Chain of lakes being the drinking water reservoir for the St. Paul Regional Water Services. Carp removal efforts will continue this spring and summer on the Chain.

### **B. VLAWMO Site Maintenance Update**

Tanner overviewed the progress that Natural Shore Technologies (NST) has made at the beginning of their first year of maintaining all of VLAWMO's major project maintenance sites. It's been a pleasure to work with Tracy from NST in the past, and the beginning of 2021 has been nothing but the same.

### **C. Lambert Lake Update**

Tanner updated that the planting revegetation has been completed, with staff looking forward to following its establishment this year and at the start of 2022. SEH is working with Sunram to complete final punchlist items. A drone flight will be scheduled in the coming weeks to show off the newly-revegetated meander.

### **D. 319 Update**

Tanner reported that staff has continued to work with North Oaks Company on advancing the MOU. VLAWMO's attorney reviewed and provided comments on a draft terms document and

used that to prepare the MOU. Additional revisions have been made and are being reviewed by both parties' attorneys. With the MOU in nearly final draft form, VLAWMO staff began working on a draft operations and maintenance agreement, using the MN Stormwater Manual for guidance as to dollar amounts, frequency of maintenance, and likely forms of maintenance that will be needed. That draft is in review with NOC. Preparation for the project is also continuing with MPCA and Barr Engineering.

**E. Update on CD 14 Ditch Maintenance**

Belfiori updated on 2 action items the Board approved at their April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, allowing staff to begin the process of a phase 2 maintenance project for Ditch 14. As part of the Board's direction, staff will also begin the process of a VLAWMO Ditch Maintenance & Management Policy. As part of this work, staff is also working on a minor plan amendment to its 2017-2026 Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, to include ditch maintenance as a prioritized plan goal. Staff will be providing updates throughout 2021 on these efforts.

**VII. Commissioner Reports:**

Tessier proposed the possibility of going back to in-person meeting. Tessier noted that she would prefer the June meeting continue to be virtual, though open to discussion from the Commissioners. Tessier proposed to the June TEC being virtual, and plan on being in-person in July.

All voted aye for a virtual meeting in June, and then planning on going back to in-person for the July meeting.

**VIII. NOHOA**

Orud updated on the Mary Hill Park event, along with invasive removals.

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

Tanner provided updates for Ramsey County, Cha is leaving the SWCD, so we are all wishing him well, and appreciate all his hard work. Amelia lake survey work will soon be underway.

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

Pilot plant is up and running, with a delivery of contact clarifier

**XI. Public Comment**

None.

**XII. Next Meetings**

TEC: June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021; Board: June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

**XII. Adjourn**

The Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 am.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.