

VLAWMO TECHNICAL COMMISSION MEETING
8:00 AM January 12th, 2022

Vadnais Heights City Hall, Council Chambers, 800 County Road E East, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

Action items: ✈

- I. **Call to Order – 8:00am –Chair Gloria Tessier**
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
- III. **Approval of Minutes (December 8th, 2021)**
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
 - A. Financial Report for January & authorization for Payment – Phil ✈
 - B. 2022 Technical Commission Officer Appointments – Phil ✈
 - C. 2022 TEC Meeting Dates ✈
 - D. 2022 Working Budget Overview- Phil
- V. **Programs**
 - A. Education & Outreach – Nick
 - 1. Upstream (2021) program review
 - 2. Supplementary Education: Trailcam Adventures, Curly-leaf Pondweed
- VI. **Projects**
 - A. North Oaks SWMP Review
 - B. Biochar Project Update – Dawn
 - C. Pleasant Lake Carp update – Dawn
- VII. **Commissioner Reports**
- VIII. **NOHOA**
- IX. **Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division**
- X. **St. Paul Regional Water Services**
- XI. **Public Comment**
- XII. **Next Meetings: TEC: February 9th, Board Strategic Direction Workshop: January 26th, 2022**
- XIII. **Adjourn**

Upcoming events:

World Wetlands Day: February 2nd



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

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
December 8, 2021
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Council Chambers
800 County Road E East, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

Commission Members Present:

Gloria Tessier	Chair, Gem Lake (GL)
Jesse Farrell	Vice Chair, Vadnais Heights (VH)
Paul Duxbury	Board Liaison, White Bear Township (WBT)
Bob Larson	Treasurer, North Oaks (NO)
Terry Huntrods	White Bear Lake (WBL)
Andy Nelson	Lino Lakes (LL)

Commission Members Absent:

Others in attendance: Phil Belfiori, Brian Corcoran, Nick Voss, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO staff); Sara Shah (North Oaks)

- I. **Call to Order** Chair Tessier called the meeting to order at 8:01 am.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
The agenda for the December 8, 2021 Technical Commission Meeting was presented for approval. It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Larson to approve the December 8, 2021 TEC agenda, as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
The meeting minutes of the November 10, 2021 Technical Commission Meeting were presented for approval. It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Larson to approve the November 10, 2021 meeting minutes, as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
 - A. **Financial Report for December & Authorization for Payment**
Belfiori overviewed highlights and line items of the December Finance Report and bills, with staff recommending approval and authorization of payments. Belfiori noted nothing out of the ordinary or large, just the payment of a Landscape Level 1 grant.
It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Huntrods to approve the December Treasurer's Report and authorization of payments. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
 - B. **VLAWMO December TEC Report to the Board**
Belfiori overviewed the December 2021 TEC Report to the Board was presented for review and approval.

Discussion: Farrell noted that the work that's been done on Lambert Creek and the ditch maintenance project would have elicited a standing ovation 2 years ago during high water issues, but due to lower water levels it may otherwise go unnoticed in future years. The work that VLAWMO has completed and achieved should be recognized and appreciated.

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Larson to approve the December 2021 VLAWMO TEC Report to the Board. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

V. Programs

A. Education & Outreach

1. 2022 E&O Goals

Voss presented an overview of 2021 achievements and goals review, moving through a slideshow. Upcoming efforts, goals, and direction were also presented upon. Voss mentioned a new program partnership with Tamarack Nature Center, continuing restoration efforts and monitoring. Volunteering efforts for restoring prior and maintaining current rain gardens and restorations are planned and prioritized for 2022.

Discussion: Duxbury congratulated Voss for good work in 2021. Gloria expressed how everything is highlighted and realizing everything that is accomplished when combined into a year-end report.

VI. Projects

A. RCD 14 Maintenance Project Update

Corcoran presented and overviewed the phase II maintenance project on Ramsey County Ditch 14, which is nearly complete. A total project length of 2,600 feet will be completed when wrapped up.

Discussion: Duxbury asked what the next potential section of the ditch would be anticipated for similar maintenance. Corcoran replied that access downstream of this site is very rough with steep and deep banks, so debris and tree removal will be targeted, in 2022 and going forward. Farrell asked about wildlife sighting and such. Corcoran noted that the Phase 1 project opened up the fish barrier from East Vadnais Lake, as well as deer interested in the work goings on.

B. Lambert update

Belfiori noted the Lambert Lake project did not win Project of the Year, but was one of the finalists, and was nicely highlighted at the MAWD conference.

C. Pleasant Lake Carp update

Belfiori addressed that WSB performed a carp telemetry check after the December TEC packet was sent out, and a tentative date is still to be set for a carp harvest.

VII. Commissioner Reports

None.

VIII. NOHOA

Shah noted that there are 3 new members elected to the NOHOA Board.

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

Thompson reported that the Amelia lake survey is anticipated to be completed and sent to VLAWMO staff within the next week, as the RCSWCD works on completing 2021 survey reports.

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

None.

XI. Public Comment

None.

XII. Next Meetings

TEC: January 12th, 2022; Board: January 26th, 2022, Special Workshop

XIII. Adjourn

It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Larson to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 am. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.

VLAWMO January 2020 Finance Report

Jan-22		Actual 1/1/22	Actual to Date	2022 Budget	2021 carry over/Grants	Remaining in Budget	2022 Available	Act vs. Budget
BUDGET #	INCOME							
5.11	Storm Water Utility	\$421,621	\$421,621	\$1,019,521	\$0	\$597,900	\$1,019,521	41%
5.12	Service Fees	\$0	\$0	\$200	\$0	\$200	\$200	0%
5.13	Interest + mitigation acct	\$15	\$15	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,485	\$1,500	1%
5.14	Misc. income - WCA admin & other	\$126	\$126	\$3,000	\$0	\$2,874	\$3,000	4%
5.15	Other Income Grants/ <u>loan</u>	\$0	\$0	\$324,500	\$0	\$324,500	\$324,500	0%
5.16	Transfer from reserves	\$0	\$0	\$192,367	\$133,751	\$326,118	\$326,118	0%
	TOTAL	\$421,762	\$421,762	\$1,541,088	\$133,751	\$1,253,077	\$1,674,839	27%
EXPENSES								
3.1	Operations & Administration							
3.110	Office - rent, copies, post tel supplies	\$2,014	\$2,014	\$27,097	\$0	\$25,083	\$27,097	7%
3.120	Information Systems	\$2,869	\$2,869	\$25,865	\$0	\$22,996	\$25,865	11%
3.130	Insurance	\$0	\$0	\$7,210	\$0	\$7,210	\$7,210	0%
3.141	Consulting - Audit	\$0	\$0	\$8,191	\$0	\$8,191	\$8,191	0%
3.142	Consulting - Bookkeeping	\$0	\$0	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	0%
3.143	Consulting - Legal	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	0%
3.144	Consulting - Eng. & Tech.	\$3,469	\$3,469	\$30,000	\$14,000	\$40,531	\$44,000	8%
3.150	Storm Sewer Utility	\$0	\$0	\$14,000	\$0	\$14,000	\$14,000	0%
3.160	Training (staff/board)	\$10	\$10	\$12,500	\$0	\$12,490	\$12,500	0%
3.170	Misc. & mileage	\$128	\$128	\$6,300	\$0	\$6,172	\$6,300	2%
3.191	Administration - staff	\$27,792	\$27,792	\$391,400	\$0	\$363,608	\$391,400	7%
3.192	Employer Liability	\$8,686	\$8,686	\$114,425	\$0	\$105,739	\$114,425	8%
3.2	Monitoring and Studies							
3.210	Lake and Creek lab analysis	\$0	\$0	\$18,000	\$0	\$18,000	\$18,000	0%
3.220	Equipment	\$160	\$160	\$3,000	\$0	\$2,840	\$3,000	5%
3.230	Wetland assessment & management	\$0	\$0	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000	0%
3.240	Watershed Plan Amendment	\$0	\$0	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000	0%
3.3	Education and Outreach							
3.310	Public Education	\$0	\$0	\$6,000	\$0	\$6,000	\$6,000	0%
3.320	Marketing	\$2,000	\$200	\$17,500	\$0	\$17,300	\$17,500	1%
3.330	Community Blue Ed Grant	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	0%
Total Core functions: Ops, Monitoring, Education		\$47,128	\$45,328	\$719,988	\$14,000	\$688,660	\$733,988	6%

Capital Improvement Projects and Programs								
3.4	Subwatershed Activity							
3.410	Gem Lake	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	
3.420	Lambert Creek	\$449	\$449	\$44,432	\$70,000	\$113,983	\$114,432	0%
3.421	Lambert Lake Loan	\$0	\$0	\$38,568	\$0	\$38,568	\$38,568	0%
3.425	Goose Lake	\$8,862	\$8,862	\$70,000	\$10,000	\$71,138	\$80,000	11%
3.430	Birch Lake	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	0%
3.440	Gilf Black Tam Wilk Amelia	\$2,277	\$2,277	\$93,500	\$12,000	\$103,223	\$105,500	2%
3.450	Pleasant Charley Deep	\$2,562	\$2,562	\$35,000	\$10,000	\$42,438	\$45,000	6%
3.460	Sucker Vadnais	\$0	\$0	\$41,500	\$0	\$41,500	\$41,500	0%
3.48	Programs							
3.480	Soil Health Grant	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	0%
3.481	Landscape 1	\$0	\$0	\$16,000	\$0	\$16,000	\$16,000	0%
3.482	Landscape 2	\$5,890	\$5,890	\$28,000	\$17,751	\$39,861	\$45,751	13%
3.483	Project Research & feasibility	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!
3.485	Facilities Maintenance	\$34,364	\$34,364	\$102,600	\$0	\$68,236	\$102,600	33%
3.5	Regulatory							
3.510	Engineer Plan review	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	0%
	<i>Total CIP & Program</i>	\$54,404	\$54,404	\$496,600	\$119,751	\$561,947	\$616,351	9%
	Total of Core Operations & CIP	\$101,531	\$99,732	\$1,216,588	\$133,751	\$1,250,607	\$1,350,339	7%

Fund Balance	12/1/2021	1/1/2022
4M Account	\$395,445	\$775,200
4M Plus Savings	\$324,195	\$324,203
Total	\$719,640	\$1,099,403

Restricted funds	1/1/2022
Mitigation Savings	\$21,037
Term Series	\$0

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Orga
Profit & Loss
 December 9, 2021 through January 12, 2022

8:03 AM

01/07/2022

Cash Basis

Dec 9, '21 - Jan 12, 22

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

Misc. 126.00

5.1 · Income

5.11 · Storm Water Utility 421,621.49

5.13 · Interest 14.97

Total 5.1 · Income 421,636.46

Total Income 421,762.46

Gross Profit 421,762.46

Expense

3.1 · Administrative/Operations

3.110 · Office

Copies 43.03

Phone/Internet/Machine Overhead 295.00

Postage 10.60

Rent 1,665.00

Total 3.110 · Office 2,013.63

3.120 · Information Systems

Hardware 1,665.00

IT Support 1,203.91

Total 3.120 · Information Systems 2,868.91

3.144 · Eng. & Tech. 3,469.02

3.160 · Training (staff/board) 10.22

3.170 · Misc. & mileage 127.81

3.191 · Employee Payroll

payroll 27,792.01

Total 3.191 · Employee Payroll 27,792.01

3.192 · Employer Liabilities

Admin payroll processing 44.92

Administration FICA 2,013.97

Administration PERA 2,084.40

Insurance Benefit 4,542.87

Total 3.192 · Employer Liabilities 8,686.16

Total 3.1 · Administrative/Operations 44,967.76

3.2 · Monitoring and Studies

3.220 · Equipment 159.95

Total 3.2 · Monitoring and Studies 159.95

3.3 · Education and Outreach

3.320 · Marketing 2,000.00

Total 3.3 · Education and Outreach 2,000.00

3.4 · Capital Imp. Projects/Programs

3.420 · Lambert Creek Restoration

LL VLAWMO cash match	448.80
Total 3.420 · Lambert Creek Restoration	448.80
3.425 · Goose Lake	
WB Funding - Goose subshed	1,536.15
3.425 · Goose Lake - Other	7,325.50
Total 3.425 · Goose Lake	8,861.65
3.440 · Gilfillan Black Tamarack Wilkin	2,276.70
3.450 · Pleasant Charley Deep	2,562.16
Total 3.4 · Capital Imp. Projects/Programs	14,149.31
3.48 · Programs	
3.482 · Landscape 2	5,890.00
3.485 · Facilities & Maintenance	34,363.75
Total 3.48 · Programs	40,253.75
Total Expense	101,530.77
Net Ordinary Income	320,231.69
Net Income	320,231.69

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Check Detail

8:05 AM

01/07/2022

December 9, 2021 through January 12, 2022

Type	Num	Date	Name	Item	Account	Paid Amount	Original Amount
Check	eft	12/27/2021	Reliance Standard		Checking - 1987		-202.29
				Insurance Benefit		-202.29	202.29
TOTAL						-202.29	202.29
Check	eft	12/27/2021	Reliance Standard		Checking - 1987		-90.00
				Insurance Benefit		-90.00	90.00
TOTAL						-90.00	90.00
Check	5267	01/12/2022	Brian Corcoran		Checking - 1987		-49.30
				3.170 · Misc. & mileage		-49.30	49.30
TOTAL						-49.30	49.30
Check	5268	01/12/2022	Tyler J Thompson		Checking - 1987		-20.83
				3.170 · Misc. & mileage		-20.83	20.83
TOTAL						-20.83	20.83
Check	5269	01/12/2022	Dawn Tanner		Checking - 1987		-57.68
				3.170 · Misc. & mileage		-57.68	57.68
TOTAL						-57.68	57.68
Check	5270	01/12/2022	City of Vadnais Heights		Checking - 1987		-2,013.63
				Rent		-1,665.00	1,665.00
				Phone/Internet/Machine Overhead		-295.00	295.00
				Postage		-10.60	10.60
				Copies		-43.03	43.03
TOTAL						-2,013.63	2,013.63
Check	5271	01/12/2022	Scandia Trucking & Excavating LLC		Checking - 1987		-33,414.00
				3.485 · Facilities & Maintenance		-33,414.00	33,414.00
TOTAL						-33,414.00	33,414.00
Check	5272	01/12/2022	wsb		Checking - 1987		-2,054.50
				3.450 · Pleasant Charley Deep		-2,054.50	2,054.50
TOTAL						-2,054.50	2,054.50
Check	5273	01/12/2022	SHI International Corp		Checking - 1987		-1,665.00
				Hardware		-1,665.00	1,665.00
TOTAL						-1,665.00	1,665.00

	Check 5274	01/12/2022 City Of Roseville	Checking - 1987	-1,203.91
			IT Support	-1,203.91 1,203.91
TOTAL				-1,203.91 1,203.91
	Check 5275	01/12/2022 Houston Engineering, Inc	Checking - 1987	-3,172.75
			3.485 · Facilities & Maintenance	-949.75 949.75
			3.144 · Eng. & Tech.	-2,223.00 2,223.00
TOTAL				-3,172.75 3,172.75
	Check 5276	01/12/2022 Ramsey County - Plato	Checking - 1987	-5,890.00
			3.482 · Landscape 2	-5,890.00 5,890.00
TOTAL				-5,890.00 5,890.00
	Check 5277	01/12/2022 SEH	Checking - 1987	-1,246.02
			3.144 · Eng. & Tech.	-1,246.02 1,246.02
TOTAL				-1,246.02 1,246.02
	Check 5278	01/12/2022 Kennedy & Graven, Chartered	Checking - 1987	-2,725.50
			3.440 · Gilfillan Black Tamarack Wilkin	-2,276.70 2,276.70
			LL VLAWMO cash match	-448.80 448.80
TOTAL				-2,725.50 2,725.50
	Check 5279	01/12/2022 Barr Engineering Co	Checking - 1987	-7,325.50
			3.425 · Goose Lake	-7,325.50 7,325.50
TOTAL				-7,325.50 7,325.50
	Check 5280	01/12/2022 Ramsey County - Plato	Checking - 1987	-1,536.15
			WB Funding - Goose subshed	-1,536.15 1,536.15
TOTAL				-1,536.15 1,536.15
	Check 5281	01/12/2022 Metro WaterShed Partners	Checking - 1987	-2,000.00
			3.320 · Marketing	-2,000.00 2,000.00
TOTAL				-2,000.00 2,000.00
	Check 5282	01/12/2022 City of White Bear Lake	Checking - 1987	-36,185.88
			payroll	-27,792.01 27,792.01
			Administration FICA	-2,013.97 2,013.97
			Administration PERA	-2,084.40 2,084.40
			Insurance Benefit	-4,250.58 4,250.58
			Admin payroll processing	-44.92 44.92
TOTAL				-36,185.88 36,185.88
	Check 5283	01/12/2022 wsb	Checking - 1987	-430.50

TOTAL

3.450 · Pleasant Charley Deep

-430.50

430.50

-430.50

430.50

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization

10:56 AM

Custom Transaction Detail Report

01/06/2022

November 1, 2021 through January 1, 2022

Accrual Basis

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Account	Clr	Split	Amount	Balance
Nov 1, '21 - Jan 1, 22									
Credit Card Charge	11/02/2021		Google*SVCAPPS_VLAWM		US Bank CC	√	WEB 3.160 · Training	36.00	36.00
Credit Card Charge	11/09/2021		MAWD	mawd phil 2021	US Bank CC	√	(staff/board)	99.00	135.00
Credit Card Charge	11/09/2021		adobe *photography plan		US Bank CC	√	Software	9.99	144.99
Credit Card Charge	11/13/2021		4Imprint	thank you cards, table throw	US Bank CC	√	3.320 · Marketing	272.41	417.40
Credit Card Charge	11/13/2021		4Imprint	pens	US Bank CC	√	3.320 · Marketing	165.44	582.84
Credit Card Charge	11/18/2021		L.L. Bean	jacket for phil	US Bank CC		3.320 · Marketing 3.160 · Training	89.79	672.63
Credit Card Charge	11/18/2021		MAWD	mawd dawn 2021	US Bank CC	√	(staff/board)	99.00	771.63
Credit Card Charge	11/22/2021		chipotle	gift cards	US Bank CC	√	3.320 · Marketing	45.00	816.63
Transfer	11/22/2021			Funds Transfer	US Bank CC	√	Checking - 1987	-604.14	212.49
Credit Card Charge	11/25/2021		Adobe "Creative Cloud		US Bank CC	√	Software	32.20	244.69
Credit Card Charge	12/03/2021		Google*SVCAPPS_VLAWM		US Bank CC	√	WEB 3.450 · Pleasant Charley	36.00	280.69
Credit Card Charge	12/15/2021		joe's sporting goods	ice auger renewal pest 2022	US Bank CC		Deep 3.160 · Training	77.16	357.85
Credit Card Charge	12/27/2021		mn Department of Agriculture	license	US Bank CC		(staff/board)	10.22	368.07
Credit Card Charge	12/29/2021		joe's sporting goods	boots for dawn	US Bank CC		3.220 · Equipment	159.95	528.02
								528.02	528.02

Nov 1, '21 - Jan 1, 22

TEC Staff Memo – January 12, 2022

IV. Administration & Operations

A. Financial Report for December & authorization for Payment

Please find the January 2022 Finance Report attached in the ePacket for review and approval.

B. Election of 2022 TEC Officers Election of Officers

With January comes the need to elect or confirm a slate of officers for the Technical Commission. Per usual, the Board will officially appoint the TEC Chair but they look to the TEC to recommend who they want as Chair for the year. Currently:

Gloria Tessier, Chair

Jesse Farrell, Vice Chair

Bob Larson, Financial officer

Paul Duxbury, Liaison to the Board

C. 2022 TEC Meeting Dates and Location

Requested confirmation from the TEC of 2022 meeting dates and location so this information can be shared with the Board of Directors and be included in the VLAWMO calendar.

D. 2022 Working Budget Overview

At their December 8, 2021 meeting the VLAWMO Board approved the fund balance carry over “working budget” for 2022. As approved, the final “working” budgeted expenditures for 2022 will be \$1,674,839.

To pay these expenditures the projected income within the approved working budget for 2022 is made up of: 1) \$1,350,339 VLAWMO generated income (from SSU -\$1,024,221, and from fund balance carry over \$326,118) and 2) \$324,500 for other outside funding revenue sources (mostly MPCA 319 grant income /partnership for proposed Wilkinson Lk. and BWSR grant income for watershed based cost share). These outside funding revenue grant amounts are anticipated to be revised based on project board action and project timing constraints and or other variables.

Summary of some of the key 2022 approved Budget project highlights include:

1. Proposed Biochar project- see update later in agenda
2. Lambert Pond Project Loan debt service
3. 2022 Strategic planning work and proposed VLAWMO Watershed Plan amendment process
4. Proposed E. Goose Lake Adaptive Lake Management Program
5. Proposed MPCA grant 319 Wilkinson Lake project
6. Pleasant Lake (Carp Management) program
7. Level 2 cost-share partnership projects and other cost share activities/programs

V. Programs

A. Education and Outreach

1. Upstream Program Review: *Reference page 15 in TEC packet*

A summary of the 2021 Community Blue program “Upstream” in partnership with the White Bear Center of the Arts is included in the TEC packet. Staff will display the report during the meeting and offer a space for questions.

Key takeaways to be presented at 1/12 TEC include:

- Most participants self-rated their awareness on water issues and topics as “above average” after attending Upstream. In-depth programs with more personal creative settings is a valuable venue for nurturing community leaders.
- Stormwater runoff and wetland conservation were the highest motivations participants took from Upstream. This is notable to staff because “stormwater runoff” was selected more than “water pollution” – VLAWMO staff regularly includes this as a survey option to help gauge public perception on water quality issues. “Water pollution” is often rated higher than “stormwater runoff” in public surveys, so this tells us Upstream helped to usher in a higher level of nuance in water issues.
- Most participants expressed an interest to follow VLAWMO’s work and talk about the watershed to their friends, family, and neighbors. This was also rated higher than adopting watershed behaviors. This is good for getting strong leaders into our audience to continue to their water interests and potentially represent a watershed perspective in informal and casual settings, but still puts the goal of inspiring action onto future communications.
- Upstream generated considerable cost-share interest (37%)
- White Bear Center for the Arts, as a major community partner, is now more familiar with VLAWMO’s role, work, and presence in the community. WBCA staff were also learning about the watershed and VLAWMO as they facilitated the program. WBCA staff have expressed an improvement in their own comfort and familiarity with water topics, and express an interest to integrate this into their work in the future.

2. Supplementary Education:

TEC members and VLAWMO affiliates are invited to view the following videos for insight into this month’s social media focus (trailcam adventures) and lake management (curly-leaf pondweed). Staff does not intend to present the linked videos below at the 1/12 TEC meeting, they are included in this memo for TEC member viewing at their convenience.

Lambert Lake Pond Trailcam Adventures:

A final installment of the Lambert Pond remote camera wildlife series is now posted online on the VLAWMO Youtube Channel: <https://youtu.be/jsaZRSx6MAM>

Curly-leaf Pondweed: Capital Region Watershed District

Learn about Como Lake and Capital Region Watershed's program for treating invasive curly-leaf pondweed. This video relates to VLAWMO activities in that several VLAWMO Lakes contain CLP. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2FIKqRlcl>

VI. Projects

A. North Oaks SWMP Review

Staff provided comments to the City of North Oaks on their draft SWMP dated September 2021. Many comments were related to consistency with VLAWMO's 2017 Water Plan and October 2016 Water Management Policy.

B. Biochar Update

SEH has been working with VLAWMO staff to evaluate site conditions and advance design for the biochar filter that is the last BMP in the current 319 funded grant. The Lambert site was infeasible. A site at Whitaker Pond has been under review for the past few months. As the site evaluation has progressed positively, MPCA was consulted in December, 2021, regarding the possible planned location change. MPCA supports the change and is determining if a change order is needed to the workplan. SEH requested additional survey to allow for completion of their report of site feasibility. Survey work is underway at this time. An amendment for SEH to complete engineering design and construction oversight is anticipated in February upon SEH conclusion of site feasibility.

C. Pleasant Lake Carp Update

VLAWMO staff have completed multiple telemetry checks and continue coordinating with WSB. The commercial fisher conducted site investigation and located the carp aggregation on Dec. 30, 2021. He mentioned that the telemetry tags were important because the carp are in shallow water with vegetation. He would not have been able to detect them with side sonar otherwise. Early discussions are currently underway for a possible over ice harvest pending site conditions, and ice conditions are being monitored by VLAWMO staff in addition to continued telemetry.

Community Blue Program Evaluation

Upstream: Collecting and Connecting Stories about our Water

CB-2021-01
December 14, 2021

Program Summary

Applicant: White Bear Center for the Arts (WBCA)

Grant funding provided: \$6,407

2020: \$5,407 2021: \$1,000 - *Project postponed and re-adapted due to COVID-19*

Grant funding used by WBCA: \$6,217.12

Program goal: Integrate water stewardship awareness and principles with WBCA 2021 campus expansion by hosting artist Anna Metcalfe and the “Upstream” program in the VLAWMO watershed.

Program overview and timeline:

1. Assemble stakeholders (“water leaders”) and plan series of tea conversations for summer, *2021 March, 2021*
2. Public kick-off tea ceremony. Press release, registration open, program description. *May, 2021*
 Description: Participants attend a curated tea and water story ceremony hosted by Anna Metcalfe. Participants reflect on water stories as they relate to the local watershed, guided by Anna’s leadership, and receive a hand-made ceramic mug (made by Anna) with someone else’s water story printed on the side. Stories shared at ceremony become the next batch of mugs for the next tea ceremony.
3. Upstream tea program hosted through WBCA summer, *2021 catalog. June-September, 2021*
 10Integrated with VLAWMO watershed awareness, materials, and opportunities to get involved with VLAWMO’s work.
4. Culmination event: Guest speakers, water-themed art gallery exhibition, VLAWMO summary presentation. Hosted in concert with WBCA grand re-opening, in-person and live-streamed online. *Oct 11-15, 2021*
 Guest speakers: Sharon Day (Nibi Walks), Anna Metcalfe (Historical perspective on water, ceramics, and culture)

Program Review

Number of participants	658
Number of in-kind volunteers	14
Number of public reached	7,532
Leader time spent (hours)	92
VLAWMO grant funds spent	\$6,407
In-kind hours cash value (\$25/hr)	\$2,950
Program monetary value (grant funds + in-kind)	\$9,167.12
Web and social media engagements	Virtual attendees/ live stream: 343 Website visits (WBCA Upstream page): 367 Social media engagements: 26

Participant Survey Review

Survey responses: 9

Supplementary document: Upstream survey results

How familiar do you feel with local water issues and topics after the Upstream tea ceremony?

50% “above average” 30% “average” 11% “expert”

VLAWMO staff takeaway: Upstream provided a more focused and intentional atmosphere not only for learning, but for peer-to-peer exchange in a venue set apart from everyday life (school, work, etc.). Responses generally reflect an increase in confidence to self-associate with above average. While small, the expert rating also represents a higher percentage of expert association than the general public.

Which of these is most important to you?

40% tie” Stormwater runoff, wetland conservation

30% tie: “Water quantity”, “water pollution”, “wildlife habitat”

VLAWMO staff takeaway: Survey responses coming in higher for “stormwater runoff” than “water pollution” reflects a deeper understanding of VLAWMO’s message than the general public. In general public surveys, this same question being asked consistently has higher responses for “water pollution” than it does for “stormwater runoff.” Within the question is an assessment on whether the survey respondent understands that stormwater runoff is a major water pollutant. The focused and intentional atmosphere that Upstream provided allows for this specific and nuanced awareness to be integrated and understood.

What has Upstream motivated you to do regarding local water?

55%: Follow VLAWMO on social media, Facebook, or e-newsletter

44% tie: Improve lawncare practices, learn more and be engaged with City/Township

33%: Adopt-a-drain

VLAWMO staff takeaway: Action following Upstream participation appears to follow the awareness and conversational nature of the program. Increased participation in information flows and civic engagement were main themes, with a notable presence of motivation for physical action in lawncare and adopt-a-drain, which are two of the most accessible watershed support activities to the general public.

Association to VLAWMO cost-share program:

62%: No association/not a past cost-share recipient

37%: Interested in learning more

VLAWMO staff takeaway: The WBCA audience appears to be largely separate from VLAWMO’s cost-share program. While most folks participating didn’t express interest in following up with VLAWMO cost-share efforts, a few still did. This follows the trend witnessed in survey results from VLAWMO workshop surveys, that most folks attend to learn, and only about 1/4 – 1/5 follow into cost-share participation for rainardens, shoreline restorations, or native plantings.

How do you see yourself continuing the experience and stories from Upstream?

44%: Informally through friends and neighbors

22% tie: Getting involved with a local parks or environmental commission, or helping to start one, through another organization or nonprofit that works with water or the environment.

VLAWMO staff takeaway: The program’s connection to and focus on personal story and experience appears to impact the sphere of personal community involvement. VLAWMO as an organization is ultimately one venue among many, and participants carry pre-existing social and environmental nonprofit networks and participation to the event. The direct VLAWMO participation was rated as 0% in survey responses.

How would you summarize your experience with Upstream? Open-ended responses:

<i>I am so much more aware of watersheds and water use.</i>
<i>My Upstream experience of hearing "water stories" from others brought a deeper shared connection. We know more about each other through sharing our stories.</i>
<i>What a wonderful way to connect, to open to and hear others' stories, know that while we all have different experiences, the hearts are all much the same.</i>
<i>Wonderful to interact with other people and to hear the stories. I'm always inspired by individuals involved with water improvement/protection and to just "be" in a peaceful place.</i>
<i>It was a very well planned and executed program. A beautiful setting and was wonderfully orchestrated!</i>
<i>Great presentation, excellent engagement.</i>
<i>I feel it is very possible to make a big impact as an individual family!</i>

Applicant Reporting

Completed by Alex Legeros, WBCA Development Director

Environmental Education Review:

- Awareness:

Gallery Director Danielle Cezanne, who was present at each tea ceremony with Anna, observed a great amount of sharing of knowledge about local water resources among participants, which exceeded expectations. Nick Voss's participation in these ceremonies, providing information and opportunities about the watershed through VLAWMO, also greatly supported spreading awareness about these resources.
- Attitudes

These programs each inspired participants to look at deeper and more personal connections to water, particularly local water bodies. The tea ceremonies as well as the public presentations made intentional connections to a broader context surrounding a human relationship to water, while also providing a conduit for knowledge provided by Nick Voss and VLAWMO about the status and needs of the water bodies upon which the participants rely.
- Knowledge

Nick Voss was able to provide pamphlets, booklets, demonstrations, samples, photos, maps, and stories about VLAWMO through the kickoff, tea ceremonies, Nibi walk presentation, and culmination event.
- Skills

In addition to the raingarden clean up, the activities also brought people in touch with resources about invasive species, private property improvements, and ways of maintaining the watershed through VLAWMO.

- Behavior

Every participant was asked to consider both the many ways presented to help the watershed as well as to understand through stories of their peers and neighbors. The unique opportunity to connect directly to VLAWMO was irreplaceable!

What was surprising or inspiring that came from the program?

As an art center committed to growing alongside the region, it is a place of confluence where often participants, leaders, and artists alike are sharing unique expertise. Even so, Upstream surprised both leaders and artists. Anna Metcalfe said she had never experienced a community that was so active, in-touch, and aware of issues surrounding water. The impact on WBCA has already shaped a greater consciousness and intentionality around water relationships: Mayumi Amada and Rebecca Krinke, artists who also participated in the ceremonies, incorporate these themes into their WBCA exhibitions. Teaching artist Aimee Van Ostrand brought back the themes into her tai chi classes, which often intentionally take place by a river or water bodies. There were many beautiful personal stories shared as well through the ceremonies, enhanced by a newfound appreciation for small group gatherings: for many, participating in Upstream was the first such activity people choose to do in-person since the start of the pandemic.

VLAWMO staff takeaway: Summary

The Upstream program results lean towards supporting a general cultural and societal shift towards a greater awareness and sense of connection and responsibility to water resources. VLAWMO gained a valuable and influential partnership with the WBCA, and through it, a more intangible impact on the organization as a whole regarding how its staff and programs include water and also associate with local water specifically.

Through the program VLAWMO grew its audience base for social media and e-newsletter following with individuals that are above-average in local water awareness and knowledge, and these are valuable connections for future participation with VLAWMO programs and word-of-mouth community growth. In this way the educational and awareness-driven investment in Upstream is inherently a long-term return on investment, however shows promise to be a substantial, in-depth, and relationship-driven return provided the relationships are nurtured and fostered with ongoing opportunities for participation, learning, and when possible - as the tea ceremonies provided - self-expression with a sense of creativity.

The low return on direct VLAWMO program growth and cost-share participation may be improved in the future by including a more formalized training and preparation period for the project partners such as Anna Metcalfe and WBCA staff. In Spring of 2021 watershed knowledge was shared by VLAWMO staff within planning sessions and during the public kick-off tea ceremony, but was not a structured list or formal set-apart teaching time. VLAWMO staff attended 2 of the 10 tea ceremonies in-person, and the rest included VLAWMO brochures and information present in addition to the watershed knowledge retained by tea ceremony facilitators. In the future, staff recommends building a space for the formal VLAWMO watershed presentation at both the start and the end of the program. In the program as it happened, this formal presentation and learning opportunity occurred at the closing celebration. This more proactive style

In sum, VLAWMO benefits with increased partnership and substantial measurements for the public participating and being reached in some way that signifies awareness of the program's existence (VLAWMO exposure in press and WBCA network). The partner connection and institutional



collaboration caters to increased connections and better accessibility for future collaborations and watershed integration into local public programs. VLAWMO also generally benefits through the ongoing exposure to the watershed and greater region, and positions itself for the future as a proactive and strategic partner that is able to integrate a watershed focus with different fields, disciplines, and areas of focus in a mutually beneficial way.