

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
Technical Commission (TEC) Minutes  
November 9, 2022  
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Council Chambers  
800 County Road E East, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127**

**Commission Members Present:**

Jesse Farrell	Chair, Vadnais Heights (VH)
Gloria Tessier	Vice Chair, Gem Lake (GL)
Patricia Orud	North Oaks (NO) Alternate
Paul Duxbury	White Bear Township (WBT)
Terry Huntrods	White Bear Lake (WBL)

**Absent:** Andy Nelson (LL), Bob Larson (NO)- both with prior notice

**Others in attendance:** Phil Belfiori, Dawn Tanner, Brian Corcoran, Lauren Sampedro, Nick Voss (VLAWMO staff), Jeremy Erickson (SPRWS), Ed Shapland (CAC)

**I. Call to Order**

Vice Chair Tessier called the meeting to order at 8:05 am.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

It was moved by Commissioner Huntrods and seconded by Commissioner Duxbury to approve the November 9, 2022 TEC agenda Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**III. Approval of Minutes (October 14 , 2022)**

It was moved by Commissioner Duxbury and seconded by Commissioner Huntrods to approve the October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**IV. Administration & Operations**

**A. Recognition of Appreciation**

Chair Farrell presented an award and certificate of appreciation for Commissioner Duxbury for serving on the VLAWMO Technical Commission for over 5 years. Staff and TEC congratulated and thanked Paul for his time and dedication.

**B. Financial Report for Payment**

Administrator Belfiori summarized the financial report as included in the TEC packet. He highlighted some of the main expense items including the biochar project, design work for the Wilkinson project, Lambert Creek loan payment, and public drainage maintenance planning. Belfiori expressed that VLAWMO is on track in terms of budget for this time of year and recommended approval of the financial report.

It was moved by Commissioner Orud and seconded by Commissioner Huntrods to approve the October financial report for payment. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

## **V. Programs**

### **A. Cost Share Program Updates**

Sampedro presented a summary of proposed cost share program changes for 2023. Updates and changes are proposed for the Soil Health Grant Program, Landscape Level 1 Grant Program, and Landscape Level 2 Grant Program, with minor changes for the Rain Barrel Grant Program. Notable updates include requiring education components and native plants for Soil Health Grant Program projects, increasing the required maintenance period for Landscape Level 1 projects from 5 years to 10 years and adding a 25% funding level, and revising the eligible applicants and project types for the Landscape Level 2 Grant Program for increased flexibility to be responsive to partners. Smart irrigation controllers and smart irrigation controller pilot sites were added as eligible practices under Landscape Level 2. Staff are also proposing payments from all VLAWMO grant programs to occur only after project completion.

Other changes include language adjustments for readability and aesthetic improvements (color, photos, etc.) on the program materials.

Commissioner Orud expressed appreciation for the focus on native plants and requested staff's in-progress native plant guidance flier to be provided when it is completed.

It was moved by Commissioner Tessier and seconded by Commissioner Huntrods to approve the 2023 grant program policy changes to the Board Subcommittee and Board of Directors. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

### **B. Annual Watershed Awards:**

Voss introduced the watershed awards program's annual voting process for the TEC and provided voting forms to TEC members. Staff provided time to the TEC to review the received nominations and vote for each award category.

Sara Svir was elected as the winner of the Watershed Partner award.

Megan Sigmon-Olsen was elected as the winner of the Watershed Steward award.

Chair Farrell thanked all the nominees and explained how important their services are in the community.

It was moved by Commissioner Huntrods and seconded by Commissioner Orud to approve the watershed awards. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

## **VI. Projects**

A. Vadnais-Sucker Lake Regional Park restoration update

Sampedro provided an update of the Vadnais-Sucker Lake Regional Park restoration project. She discussed that staff have begun meeting with partners on construction and communication planning for the project this fall. She said VLAWMO has completed draft signage for the project and Great River Greening has completed a draft RFP. Staff will be meeting with partners and discussing received bids in the next few weeks.

B. Maintenance plan scope of work for 2023 and partner support

Tanner provided an update on the 2023 maintenance plan scope of work.

Notable items in the scope include Yellow Iris on Deep Lake being expanded to Pleasant Lake in an effort to support native plant communities and especially rare species found in shoreline areas. An MOU for partnership with NOHOA was completed in addition to the maintenance plan scope of work.

Commissioner Orud thanked Dawn Tanner for her education efforts, such as newspaper articles that accompanied the project.

Chair Farrell asked about how Yellow Iris compares to Purple Loosestrife. Tanner explained that Yellow Iris is a newer infestation, has a more restricted range, and does not have a biological control mechanism such as loosestrife beetles. Yellow Iris removal is also recognized as a grant priority for the DNR.

It was moved by Commissioner Duxbury and seconded by Commissioner Orud to approve the maintenance plan scope of work. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

C. Wilkinson BMP update

Tanner presented the current status of the Wilkinson BMP project. A memo from HEI with updated design alternatives is nearly completed and is expected at the Dec. TEC/ Board of Directors meetings.

D. Update on meander monitoring with NearMap

Tanner explained that the NearMap tool provides enhanced access and visibility for hard-to-access places in the watershed. Tanner presented a series of aerial photos from the Lambert Lake meander which were captured from NearMap.

E. Update on CPL grant closed, restoration maintenance for the year complete, and thank you for partner support.

Tanner explained that the CPL grant is now closed. This grant was focused on the 4<sup>th</sup> and Otter habitat enhancement. Tanner expressed gratitude for the City of White Bear Lake for assisting with the effort.

**I. Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Duxbury expressed a thank you to everyone on the TEC for the assistance and support in his time serving as White Bear Township commissioner.

**II. NOHOA**

NOHOA expressed appreciation for Dawn Tanner’s leadership in managing invasive species. The assistance has allowed NOHOA to continue the efforts and create additional plans for management in the spring of 2023.

**III. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division**

None

**IV. St. Paul Regional Water Services**

None

**V. Public Comment**

None

**VI. Next Meetings:**

Next TEC meeting December 14<sup>th</sup>. Next BOD meeting December 14<sup>th</sup>.

**XIII. Adjourn**

It was moved by Commissioner Huntrods and seconded by Vice Chair Tessier to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 am . Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled by Nick Voss.