

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission (TEC) Minutes
December 14, 2022
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Council Chambers
800 County Road E East, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127**

Commission Members Present:

Nolan Wall	Chair, Vadnais Heights (VH) Alternate
Gloria Tessier	Vice Chair, Gem Lake (GL)
Andy Nelson	White Bear Township (WBT)
Terry Huntrods	White Bear Lake (WBL)

Absent: Patricia Orud North Oaks (NO) Alternate

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

I. Call to Order

Vice Chair Tessier called the meeting to order at 8:08 am.

II. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Nelson and seconded by Commissioner Huntrods to approve the December 14, 2022 TEC agenda Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes (November 11th, 2022)

It was moved by Commissioner Huntrods and seconded by Commissioner Nelson to approve the November 11th meeting minutes as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IV. Administration & Operations

A. 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 payment allotments from Ramsey and Anoka County, the Whitaker Pond biochar project, Wilkinson BMP project, and remaining carp management payments. Belfiori recommended approval of the financial report.

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

B. December TEC Report to the Board

Administrator Belfiori outlined the TEC report to BOD as outlined in the December packet. Highlights include a drone footage effort for aerial views of Lambert Creek and a 2023 quote for Pleasant Lake carp management.

It was moved by Commissioner Wall and seconded by Commissioner Huntrods to approve the December TEC Report to the Board. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

V. Programs

A. Awards and Outreach

1. Presentation of Watershed Awards

Voss presented the 2022 watershed award recipients as included in the TEC packet. He discussed the recipients' accomplishments and thanked TEC members for their participation in the award process.

2. Update on Education and Outreach 2022 results and 2023 plan

Voss presented a summary of the 2022 Education and Outreach results combined with an outlook for outreach goals in 2023. He highlighted some of the successful events and partnerships from 2022 and how VLAWMO works with communities to meet their education and outreach needs. Voss directed TEC members to the links and information in the packet for more detail.

Commissioner Nelson stated that the materials he receives from VLAWMO are some of the best he has seen. He highlighted that the Good Neighbor Guide in particular is a great "one stop shop" for residents. He thanked Nick for his work with the City of Lino Lakes.

B. Cost Share Program Updates

Sampedro presented the updated cost share policy and application forms.

Sampedro specified that a new policy adjustment is being presented today, which is a recommendation follow-up from the Board subcommittee. The subcommittee recommended the previously proposed \$20/hr in-kind labor hours to be swapped with an increase in the overall grant funds available per applicant for the Soil Health Grant Program. Sampedro stated that staff support the subcommittee's feedback and recommend the maximum Soil Health Grant award amounts increase to \$1,000 and \$1,250 for projects in priority areas. Sampedro recommended approval of the cost share program policy and materials changes.

Vice chair Tessier noted that the new documents appear clear and aid in understanding of the programs.

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

VI. Projects

A. Consider Contracts/quotes for 2023

Tanner presented the batch of upcoming contracts, which she noted are also being presented to the December Board meeting.

Commissioner Wall inquired about what is done with the harvested carp. Tanner provided that they are used as fertilizer on agricultural fields.

It was moved by Commissioner Wall and seconded by Commissioner Tessier to approve the 2023 contracts for work in 2023. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. Wilkinson BMP Project Update

Tanner presented the early preliminary design memo (included in the packet) from Houston Engineering on the Wilkinson BMP project. The wetland delineation has been completed and the notice of decision/boundary approval was received in November. . Meetings with partners are ongoing and permitting discussions are underway.

Tanner discussed an Excel tracking tool for use in major projects. The Excel tool includes a dashboard that summarizes the project to date. A snapshot of the dashboard will be presented regularly to TEC and Board.

C. Spent Lime Grant Submission Authorization

Tanner described the background of the spent lime treatment in Oak Knoll pond, starting from smaller pond trials prior to the Oak Knoll Pond. Staff requested authorization for Barr Engineering to submit a grant proposal for this project on behalf of VLAWMO.

Commissioner Nelson inquired about the results of the smaller ponds. Tanner provided that immediate results for water clarity were positive. Buffering capacity remains a focus in continued research, with investigation of how much needs to be applied over time.

It was moved by Commissioner Huntrods and seconded by Commissioner Wall to recommend approval of grant submission to the Board. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

D. MAWD Annual Meeting/Carp Project Presentation

Tanner summarized the carp presentation that was provided at the 2022 MAWD conference and mentioned that a presentation in North Oaks to the community is currently planned for winter.

E. Update on 2023-2025 BWSR WBIF Grant

Sampedro presented an update on the BWSR Watershed-based Implementation Funding grant program for implementation in 2023-2025. She summarized that a convene meeting was held in the summer and staff worked with partners to submit a budget request and draft workplan to BWSR to secure the \$75,000 in available grant funding.

Sampedro stated BWSR has approved the budget request and workplan and the only remaining steps are Board approval of the workplan and execution of the grant

agreement. If grant funds are executed they will support at least one project in the Landscape Level 2 grant program.

I. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Wall shared a construction project has begun on the southwest shore of West Vadnais Lake and construction will occur over the next 18 months.

II. NOHOA

None

III. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division

None

IV. St. Paul Regional Water Services

None

V. Public Comment

None

VI. Next Meetings:

Next TEC meeting January 11th. Next BOD meeting February 22nd.

XIII. Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner Wall and seconded by Commissioner Huntrods to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 am. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled by Nick Voss.