

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission (TEC) Minutes
January 10, 2024
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Council Chambers
800 County Road E East, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127**

Commission Members Present:

Gloria Tessier	Gem Lake (GL)
Nick Ousky	Vadnais Heights (VH)
Jami Philip	White Bear Township (WBT)
Terry Huntrods	White Bear Lake (WBL)
Susan Miller	City of North Oaks (NO)
Andy Nelson	City of Lino Lakes (LL)

Absent: None

Others in attendance: Phil Belfiori, Brian Corcoran, Lauren Sampedro, Dawn Tanner (VLAWMO staff), Jeremy Erickson (SPRWS), Jim Hauth (City of Vadnais Heights), Erin Spry (City of Vadnais Heights)

I. Call to Order

Chair Tessier called the meeting to order at 8:01 am.

II. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Philip to approve the January 10, 2024 TEC agenda. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes (December 13, 2023)

It was moved by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Philip to approve the December 13th meeting minutes as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IV. Administration & Operations

A. Financial Report for January and Authorization for Payment

Administrator Belfiori outlined the January financial report as included in the packet.

He highlighted expenses for the upcoming watershed management plan, Wilkinson and Tamarack Lake feasibility studies, and the resiliency study for East Vadnais Lake subwatershed.

Income included the stormwater utility revenue, interest, and grant revenue.

It was moved by Commissioner Huntrods and seconded by Chair Tessier to approve the January Financial Report for payment. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

B. 2024 Technical Commission Officer Appointments

Administrator Belfiori outlined the Technical Commission roles. Commissioners discussed role allocation and responsibilities for 2024.

Chair: Gloria Tessier

Vice Chair: Nick Ousky

Treasurer: Andy Nelson

Liason to Board: Terry Huntrods

It was moved by Commissioner Philip and seconded by Commissioner Miller to confirm the TEC officer slate for 2024. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

C. Confirmation of 2024 TEC Meeting Dates

Administrator Belfiori asked the TEC to confirm if the 2024 meetings should follow the same schedule and location as 2023.

It was moved by Chair Tessier and seconded by Commissioner Miller to confirm the 2024 TEC meeting dates. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

D. 2024 Working Budget Overview

Administrator Belfiori outlined the working budget from the December 2023 Board meeting. The 2024 budget includes predominately 2023 carry-over, grant revenue, and stormwater utility fees. Key 2024 approved projects on the budget include Polar Lakes Park reuse study, Wilkinson and Tamarack Alum feasibility study, and development of the 2027-2036 VLAWMO watershed management plan, among others listed in the Board packet.

Commissioner Miller inquired about whether the budget has any potential shortfalls. Administrator Belfiori confirmed that per Board policy, the one and five year budgets are managed and accounted for according to the project scope in a fund balance. He stated VLAWMO has an adequate fund balance that aligns with the Board's vision.

V. Programs

A. MS4 Resources for January 2024

Voss summarized new MS4 resources for providing assistance to the member communities who are identified as an MS4 by the State. He presented an example of an

illicit discharge education resource that can be customized for member communities. He stated illicit discharge detection requires various staff to be educated on how to identify an illicit discharge. Identification is easier when more staff are involved.

Commissioner Miller asked if the TEC members should take these materials to their communities or if VLAWMO will be dispersing the information. Voss stated that VLAWMO staff have already provided this information to City/Township staff. He asked the TEC to become more informed so that if any questions or conversations occur they can better participate. Commissioners Nelson and Philip both thanked Voss for this presentation and for his assistance with MS4 resources.

Voss also presented smart salting tools that are available to City/Township staff that includes fourteen content pieces both new and from 2023.

VI. Projects

A. Summary of Rotary Park Wetland Restoration Report for Work Beginning in 2025

Tanner presented an update on the Rotary Wetland Restoration Report. The effort started with buffer restoration and removal of invasive species. Work on the wetland areas will continue to be supported by this plan. Insights that guide this restoration come from the Deep Lake restoration effort that began with a similar prioritization study that included the completion of a first phase of restoration during 2023 with NOHOA and VLAWMO. Natural Shores Technologies provided the Rotary report with preliminary budget and timeline recommendations. The report has been provided to the City of WBL, which is a partner with VLAWMO on this planning.

B. Summary of 2023 Carp Solutions Report

Tanner summarized the carp project to-date, beginning in 2019, and illustrated how the current report compiles history of the project. Tanner briefly summarized actions underway for 2024. The report indicates that the total biomass removal is below 100 kg/ha, which is the goal to reach for water quality improvements. Removal efforts will continue in 2024. In the next couple of years, Tanner expects that the program will transition to a monitoring phase.

Commissioner Miller inquired about whether five carp tagged with active transmitters is enough and if the carp are still predominately older. Tanner confirmed that the tags last for two years. No young have been documented in removals, consistent with prior recommendations and observations.

VII. Commissioner Reports

None.

VIII. NOHOA

Commissioner Miller notified all that in 2024 NOHOA will be updating its shoreline policies in the spring of 2024.

IX. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division

None.

X. St. Paul Regional Water Services

None.

XI. Public Comment

None.

XII. Next Meetings:

Next TEC meeting February 14th. Next BOD meeting February 28th.

XIII. Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner Huntrods and seconded by Commissioner Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 am. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled by Nick Voss.