



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

October 28, 2015

ATTENDING:

<i>Absent</i>	Gem Lake
Rob Rafferty	Lino Lakes
Marty Long	North Oaks
Marc Johannsen	Vadnais Heights
Dan Jones	White Bear Lake
Ed Prudhon	White Bear Township

Stephanie McNamara	VLAWMO Administrator
Brian Corcoran	VLAWMO Water Resources Manager
Vanessa Strong	VLAWMO Communications & Education Programs Manager
Tyler Thompson	VLAWMO Water Resources & GIS Technician

Others in attendance: *None*

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chair Johannsen. Quorum is here for the meeting.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Jones and seconded by Long to approve the agenda as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**III. Approval of Minutes from August 26, 2015**

A motion was made by Jones and seconded by Long to approve the minutes from the August 26, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting. Vote: all aye. Prudhon and Rafferty abstained. Motion passed.

**IV. Technical Commission (TEC) Report to the Board**

**A. Activity Summary**

Activities that have occurred since August's Board meeting included:

1. CIP – Three grants have been submitted for the following projects: Sucker Lake Channel, Cerenity Underground Cistern, and Whitaker Wetlands. The Deep Lake Channel stabilization is nearly complete with the help with of NOHOA, RCD, and the Conservation Corps of Minnesota.
2. Monitoring – the monitoring season is nearly complete. It has been a challenging year to get the “dry” weather e.coli samples.
3. Planning –Water plan work is moving forward. TAC, TEC, and public input is still being collected and used to create a first draft of 2 sections of the water plan. Information will be put up on the website.
4. Education – East Metro Lakes meeting on AIS and the Clean Water Summit were both well attended. Additional Public Works education has been requested by White Bear Township. The fall e-newsletter was published and the water plan page is being updated regularly.

**B. October Financial Report**

The Board reviewed the October Financial Report. Stephanie fairly low on capital spending. Will be seeing as carry over fund for next year in December.

**V. New Business**

**A. Project Updates**

**1. Deep Lake Channel**

Tyler gave a summary of the stabilization project at Deep Lake Channel. NOHOA volunteers have been watering the plants at the site. Volunteers will work with Kristine to harvest and plant willow and dogwood stakes the first week of November. The stakes will be harvested from the land surrounding storm ponds at the Rapp Farm development in North Oaks.

## **2. Whitaker Pond Update – maintenance & grant**

Ramsey County conducted maintenance activity on the upper portion of the Whitaker forebay. Roughly 80,000 cubic yards of sand and sediment (8 – 10 dump truck loads) were removed from this area. This is the first dredging of the forebay since installation in 2010. VLAWMO is charged with monitoring of the forebay and had advised the County of the need for maintenance.

The Board authorized applying for grant funding to address the bacteria and nutrient issues in the water flowing through the Whitaker pond and forebay earlier this year. After making the first round of cuts, Brian Corcoran with representatives from Burns & McDonnell presented a proposed project to the LCCMR Board in September. VLAWMO has just been advised that the grant application has passed the second round of cuts and is being recommended by the LCCMR to go to the Legislature this next spring for funding.

Brian gave a power point presentation about the project. The project, in very simple terms, would be treatment wetlands that use bacteria and pollutant reducing media in different quantities and a solar pump that would divert Whitaker pond water off line. This would be considered a research and “in the ground” project. The recommendation from the LCCMR Board identifies \$500,000. Our engineers have been able to scale back the project by reducing the size of the wetlands and the amount of water they would treat. Our original request had been for \$990,000. There is no local match requirement for the LCCMR grants but the local in-kind contributions are important.

The Board discussed how the reduced funding would affect the project. The reduced wetlands size would shift the focus to research on the efficacy the treatment cells. Staff reiterated that volume of water treated would small compared to the amount of water flowing through the system. Some costs in the project are fixed, such as design and engineering others are scalable, such as the size of the wetland cells. More or larger cells could be built later. The treatment system found most effective could be used in other locations and adapted to the site. Jones wondered if there is a better place for this system along the creek. The area just south of Whitaker Pond was discussed.

The Board was supportive of proceeding with the grant.

Long noted this is a great project and that this system could be used at storm ponds as an on-site solution for cities and counties to extend the life of the ponds. System could save money and reduce landfill cost with the reduction of PAH's and other pollutants that build up in the system and end up in the landfills.

The LCCMR Board is still fine tuning its recommendation to the Legislature and talking to applicants about any ‘strings’ attached to the grant offer. The Whitaker wetlands grant is among several offered reduced funding. The two other strings are having a project technical review by someone at the University of Minnesota and completing a work plan by December. Staff will be meeting with LCCMR staff next week to discuss further.

This grant still requires authorization during the upcoming Legislative session. Some of our local Legislators are on critical committees as well. The VLAWMO Board directed staff to compose a letter of support from the Board to key members of the Legislature to come from the Board. An information sheet on the project will be included. The information sheet and a list of elected and appointed officials that would be good to contact were available at the meeting.

**3. 35E Washout/Elicit Discharge to Lambert Creek (Ditch 14)**

Shafer Contracting Co., Inc. is the prime contractor on state highway project S.P. 6281-25 on T.H. 35E in the Vadnais Heights area. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2015, a significant amount of rain fell in the region measuring 3 ¼ inches over a span of 7 hours. A large quantity of water collected in the median of T.H. 35E where Shafer was currently working. Prior to the rain event, Shafer had constructed a series of berms to contain and direct water from the median. This would bring the water through a long stretch of grassy swale before reaching the County 14 ditch. Other necessary BMP's were in place prior to the rain event including rock checks behind the silt fence and properly protecting all pipe inlets.

On September 18th, Shafer's Josh Lease and Rob Dembroski performed an inspection to evaluate whether sediment was traveling to the surrounding area. It was observed that large branches and other natural debris had damaged the silt fence in the County 14 ditch. Lease and Dembroski encountered VLAWMO staff, Brian Corcoran and Tyler Thompson. Shafer requested downstream inspection in order to determine if sediment was being discharged. VLAWMO and Shafer staff inspected the Lambert Lake area reservoir for new deposition from the storm. Shafer explained to VLAWMO that all necessary BMP's were in place and the damaged silt fence would be repaired as soon as safely possible. Both parties verbally agreed there wasn't much more that could have been done to prepare for such a substantial rainfall. On Monday September 21<sup>st</sup>, Josh Lease reported the rain event to the MPCA and the amount of water that entered the 14 ditch was unknown. MPCA was notified of the damage to the silt fence and that no pollutants were present.

Shafer has since placed additional bio-roll and rock checks in the area should a similar event occur again.

A meeting will be held on 11/3/15 with all parties involved to address what else if anything can be done. Johanssen addressed that the MPCA should be involved in this discharge and wants to know what they have done with the case.

**B. Certification of the 2016 Storm Sewer Utility Fees – Resolution 05-2015**

This is the final step in our annual process to complete the Storm Sewer Utility for 2016. The Budget with its anticipated income from the SSU was set in June, which drove the rates for residential and non-residential properties which were approved in August. Staff has been working with our SSU consultant and the counties to review property divisions and other updates since then. The charges to each non-exempt parcel are now ready to be certified as we do each October.

Board member Jones mentioned the rates being set are almost equivalent to 2008 rates- they have dipped and now they have again risen.

**RESOLUTION 05-2015**

**Of the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO)**

**October 28 2015**

The Board of Directors of the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization met in a regular meeting at the Vadnais Heights City Hall on Wednesday, the 28th day of October, 2015 at 7:00 o'clock p.m.

The following members were present:

*Marc Johanssen, City of Vadnais Heights*

*Dan Jones, City of White Bear Lake*

*Ed Prudhon, Town of White Bear*

*Rob Rafferty, City of Lino Lakes*

Marty Long, City of North Oaks

The following members were absent: Bob Uzpen, City of Gem Lake

Director Jones introduced the following resolution and Director Rafferty moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION 05-2015  
A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING STORM SEWER UTILITY CHARGES TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO BE  
ASSESSED ON REAL ESTATE TAXES PAYABLE IN  
2016.**

WHEREAS, Minnesota Law 2008, Chapter 366, Article 6, Section 47 provides that the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization may certify to the County Auditors the amounts of storm sewer utility charges to be collected on said premises the ensuing year; and

WHEREAS, the Storm Sewer Utility (SSU) Rule of the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization, provides that the watershed may certify to the County Auditors the amounts of unpaid utility charges to be collected as part of the tax levy/special assessments on said premises the ensuing year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF THE VADNAIS LAKE AREA WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION, AS FOLLOWS:

1. Attachments 1 and 2 attached hereto and made a part thereof by reference is a list of parcels of real property lying within the VLAWMO limits of which have surface water runoff and on which there are service charges payable in 2016
2. The Board hereby certifies said list and requests the Ramsey County Auditor and Anoka County Auditor to include in the real estate taxes/assessments due the amount set forth in Attachments 1 and 2 with taxes/assessments due and payable in 2016.
3. The VLAWMO Administrator is directed to tender a certified copy of this Resolution to the Ramsey and Anoka County Departments of Property Records and Revenue.

The motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Director Jones and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Long, Johannsen, Rafferty, and Prudhon

and the following voted against the same: *None*

Whereupon the resolution was declared passed and adopted.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marc Johannsen, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

VADNAIS LAKE AREA WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

I, the undersigned, Administrator of the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization, hereby certify that I have carefully compared and attached the foregoing extract of minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of said watershed held on the 28rd day of October 2015, with the original thereof on file in my office.

WITNESSED BY the Watershed Administrator this 28<sup>th</sup> day of October 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephanie McNamara, Administrator

**C. Office Lease Amendment**

VLAWMO is just wrapping up the first year of a 3-year office space and service agreement with the City of Vadnais Heights. We have our new staffer, Tyler Thompson is working on special GIS projects as well as providing web support and other general assistance. He has been sharing the main office with me and is a very courteous office partner. However, the wrap-up of the monitoring & field season means more time working indoors. He needed space to do his work as does your administrator.

The attached amended lease provides one additional cubicle and the telephone and IT hookups for a cost of \$255/mo. There is sufficient funding in the budget to cover this cost. The City of Vadnais Heights has approved the amendment to the lease. Please let me know if you have any questions.

**Recommendation: the VLAWMO Board grants approval of amended lease agreement.**

It was moved by Director Jones and seconded by Director Long to approve the amended office lease agreement. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**VI. Old Business**

**A. Water Plan Update**

1. Timeline for update

You will see this timeline runs from last April when you kicked off the process at your Board meeting and hired Wenck Associates to help with the process and runs through December 2016. The black bar within each colored task bar indicate how much of that task is done. We are right on target with getting the Plan done. Input and comments from the public and from our review agencies and authorities is still coming in and being incorporated into the draft Plan. Much of the first draft of the Water Management Plan (WMP) should be done by the end of the year. Your February meeting is the target finalizing that draft WMP and requesting your authorization to release it for an official 60 review period for our agency comments. We are hoping we are collecting most of their comments now as the draft is coming together.

2. Concept approval for Goals, Strategies, and Subwatershed Projects

Concept approval is just that, we are looking at three parts of the WMP and would like to know if it is going in the right direction. Then the writing of each section happens. We have draft language for two of the sections: Issues, Goals, & Management Strategies and the Subwatershed Targeted Activities. This is an effort to check in with direction and some basic content before we get too far down the road.

1. **The Framework: Table of Contents**

2. **Priority Issues, Goals & Strategies.** Questions for consideration:

a. **Goal 1-1 Delist all impaired waters:** Our goal is to delist the 9 waterbodies that are impaired (although more may be added to the list). In Strategy 1-1-1, we would target 3 of those resources at first. Is this what you want? Our current thought is that Gem & Pleasant may come off with recently installed BMP's. Possible next priorities might include Goose Lake, Wilkinson, and Gilfillan. Goose because of visibility and it may need multiple efforts over time- it needs a lot of help. Wilkinson, because of its upstream status of two other impaired waters – start at the top and work downstream. Gilfillan may come off the impaired list on its own or it may need a little help.

There was discussion as to whether or not to include language that states that all water bodies will be removed off of the impaired list by the end of the water plan. Directors agreed that the plan should be realistic in its measurable targets, allowing for successful completion or even exceeding Plan objectives.

Director Jones mentioned he thought the plan was well put together and organized.

b. **Goal 1-2 Wetlands:** VLAWMO would continue to uphold its wetlands standards and WCA enforcement. But it would add monitoring of targeted wetland complexes in the watershed. This might include field work to assess the wetland health and identify opportunities to restore some of the wetlands. It could also include restoring for wetland banking purposes. Is this language something we want in the WMP?

Stephanie brought about the idea of assessing the health of wetland complexes with periodic monitoring. Assessment could include the potential for restoration and potential wetland banking. Chairman Johansen agreed that this is a good plan.

c. **Goal 1-4 Public Drainage Systems:** There is the possibility that VLAWMO may need to become an MS4 in order to continue to manage Lambert Creek. The current Water Plan VLAWMO said it would manage the creek as a stormwater conveyance system. At the time, being an MS4 was considered more permitting paperwork without more benefit.

Stephanie fielded the idea of becoming an MS4 this time around and the opportunity of more funding. Board recommended bringing to the policy committee.

d. **Goal 2-1 Groundwater:** VLAWMO standards for infiltration would increase from infiltrating the first 0.5" to the first 1.1". This is consistent with MIDS (Minimum Impact Design Standard) and generally considered to mimic native hydrology. Cost-share incentives could be used for practices achieving infiltration rates above that standard. Is this acceptable?

Board agreed.

e. **Goals 2-2 and 2-3** discuss encouraging groundwater conservation and education. VLAWMO would support & enhance work of other agencies. The Board was asked to review & forward comments.

f. **Goals 3-1 through 3-5 discuss focus and strategies for education and communication.** We retain what we already have going but have added a more strategic communications plan. We may work with other partners. Those plans are included later in the WMP. The Board was asked to review & forward comments.

g. **Goals 4, 5, & 6 address VLAWMO capacity to accomplish its Priorities, AIS and flooding.** These are general in nature at this point. No Board comments.

### 3. **Subwatershed Targeted Activities is the third section drafted.**

a. Each Subwatershed has a Priority issue, a basic Management Strategy and what VLAWMO would be doing as far as Monitoring, other Program and Projects. These activities were pulled from existing reports (TMDL, SLMP's, Retrofit studies, etc.) and staff input. Please review and let us know what's missing or what you may have questions or comments on. Staff are meeting with the Water Utility in early November and may have some projects or programs to add to the list.

The board also commented that rewriting the water plan between the 10-year interval of an approved plan is unreasonable. Stephanie mentioned that VLAWMO's annual reporting accomplishes similar evaluation goals.

**VII. Report from the Chair - None**

**VIII. Administrator's Report** – Stephanie reported we have had our first data request through the Freedom of Information Act. Data practices policy procedures will be followed.

**IX. Director's Report – None**

**X. Public Comment - None**

**XI. Next Meeting – December 9, 2015**

**XII. Adjourn**

A motion was made by Director Long and seconded by Director Jones by to adjourn at 8:34 pm. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson