

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
October 9, 2015
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room

Attending:

Paul Peterson	White Bear Township (WBT)
Jim Grisim	White Bear Lake (WBL)
Mark Graham	Vadnais Heights (VH)
Marty Asleson	Lino Lakes (LL)
Jim Lindner	Gem Lake (GL)
Chris Mann	North Oaks (NO)

Others in attendance: Stephanie McNamara, Kristine Jenson, Brian Corcoran, Vanessa Strong, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO); Margaret Behrens (Ramsey Conservation District – RCD); Bob Larson (NO Natural Resources Committee); Justine Roe (SPRWS)

I. **Call to Order** Vice Chair Graham called the meeting to order at 7:30.

II. **Approval of Agenda**

It was moved and seconded by Mann & Lindner to approve the October 9, 2015 agenda as amended. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. **Approval of Minutes**

It was moved and seconded by Mann & Grisim to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2015 Meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IV. **Administration & Operations**

A. **VLAWMO IT Update**

The VLAWMO IT server has migrated to the Roseville virtual server. As with most changes, there have been a few glitches that are being ironed out. The IT wizards have been in & out of the offices for about a week. We are pretty much fully operational now.

B. **Water Plan**

1. **Discussion points for Goals and Strategies**

TEC received the draft language in their packets and were asked to review and provide comments. Comments from last month's meetings have been included in the draft they received for this month. A list of questions was sent out to the TEC and they have been asked to provide comments. At the meeting, the following issue was discussed:

Goal 1-1 (Delist ALL impaired waters by 2026). Note that this was changed to be consistent with the TMDL implementation plan. Is it okay to have a Goal that may not be achievable?

DISCUSSION:

Peterson – if we set the goal high then we end up working harder and will get closer. Grisim – we have to be realistic though. Mann – we can achieve what we achieve but there is a limit to what can be accomplished. Grisim – I don't think we can say "we only work on one". Peterson – we need to pick the ones that have the best chance of being delisted. Grisim – agreed but also need to do things on all the lakes as well to protect them. Mann – Goose will never get off the list due to the circumstances and issues. Jenson – the PCA knows that it is unlikely to get ALL the lakes off the list but we should still have it as our goal and show that we are making the effort.

Consensus among TEC to work on those that have the greatest likelihood of getting off the list but still put in efforts on the others while ALSO making sure that the lakes that are healthy stay healthy.

Stephanie shared the timeline that has been created to show everyone what steps are involved with putting the Water Plan together.

2. Draft Projects 2017-2026

TEC also received a draft of Subwatershed Targeted Activities for the next Water Plan. Kris hosted a marathon projects meeting with our consultant and field staff. They pulled implementation strategies from SLMP's, Retrofit/SWA studies, the TMDL and other feasibility studies. Projects and programs were organized by Subwatershed. You can certainly add comments after the TEC meeting but we would like to have a discussion at the meeting.

- a. Do you agree with the priority focus for each Subwatershed?
- b. Would you change or add any Programs or Projects?

DISCUSSION

*Lindner – in terms of Goose Lake, what are we restoring it to? 50 years ago, it was a wetland. Mann – Gilfillan was a wetland originally too. Stephanie – it is a good point. The TMDL says we need to restore it to the healthy nutrient levels. Peterson asked if the rough fish removal helped with Goose Lake data. Brian stated that it has helped but it is still way above State standards. Pleasant-Charley-Deep and the Vadnais Subwatersheds don't have much in the draft for plans or projects because we need the SPRWS to provide input. Mann – Charley Lake sediment build up is an issue that needs to be addressed. She wants us to work with the City and SPRWS to study the sediment loading. **We need to meet with someone at SPRWS to talk about their future plans and ideas of where we could collaborate on projects within these subsheds. Who do we talk to? Justine will give Kristine a list of SPRWS people to sit down with to talk about future projects.***

Peterson wants a goal set of a canopy cover of at least 25%. Mann asked if he feels we should do a study of the canopy cover throughout the watershed. Peterson said we should break it up by subwatershed. Mann said but what about counting things like prairie and oak savanna which is what this area used to be. Lindner said calculating pervious vs impervious surface. Stephanie said it could fit as a strategy within one of the goals and phrase the strategy as assessing the canopy and vegetative cover within the subshed. Peterson thought that sounded good.

Discussion about the buffer law. Stephanie said that there will be meetings about that this fall/winter. VLAWMO has buffer rules for its wetlands but as for the new State Buffer Law, we won't know until next summer if Lambert Creek will be listed. Asleson reviewed their rules for Lino Lakes.

Wetland monitoring – Stephanie talked about the idea of monitoring the wetland complexes and said that we will list them on the website and give out links and are asking the TEC to help prioritize.

Mann asked what our involvement level is regarding groundwater. Stephanie said we will be involved, especially from an E&O perspective and encouraging landscaping and projects that encourage infiltration. There are many other partners involved with this topic that we will work with.

V. Projects

A. Project Updates

1. Deep Lake Channel

The majority of work for the Deep Lake Channel project is complete. Kristine showed pictures at the TEC meeting of the project. 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.

VI. Programs

A. Grants

1. Whitaker Wetlands

Brian with representatives from Burns & McDonnell presented a proposed project to the LCCMR to be considered for a grant program. We made the first round of cuts for their grant program and they will be making more cuts after everyone made presentations. Brian ran through the presentation they made. The project, in very simple terms, would be treatment wetlands with a pump and would be made with bacteria reducing media. The grant is for \$990,000 and would be considered a research and “in the ground” project. Stephanie said that if any of the TEC would be willing to talk about the project with local legislators or LCCMR, we have a list of talking points.

B. Education

1. White Bear Township Public Works

Vanessa stated that WBT was audited by the PCA for erosion control procedures and were cited for areas they could improve. Vanessa is helping them with things they can do to comply.

C. Community Events

1. Past: The East Metro Lakes AIS workshop had great attendance. People from Birch Lake and North Oaks were there. The Clean Water Summit: Groundwater was held at the Arboretum last month as well. Vanessa reviewed some of the things discussed and stated it was a really good conference.

2. Upcoming: The storyboards we created for our Water Plan stakeholders meeting are now on tour in the watershed. They were up at Vadnais Heights City Hall in September and are now at White Bear Lake City Hall.

D. WCA/Plan-site review – 35E ditch & Lambert Creek

Brian stated the construction site on 35E had an erosion protection breakdown after a large rain event recently and sent a mess of sediments down to Lambert Creek. Brian and Tyler took some pictures and met with the construction company who reported the illicit discharge. We are working with MNDoT to determine how to remedy it. Brian said the company had the proper materials in place but the erosion control couldn't keep up with the heavy rain.

VII. Reports

A. Financial Report for October 2015 & Authorization for Payment

It was moved & seconded by Lindner & Graham to approve the treasurer's report and October payment of checks. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. TEC Report to the Board

It was moved & seconded by Lindner & Mann to approve the TEC Report to the Board. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VIII. Commissioner Reports

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

The Highland water tower will be open this weekend so if anyone wants to come see it, they can come to the open house.

X. Ramsey Conservation District (RCD) Report

Margaret Behrens stated that their meeting is on October 19 and invites everyone to attend. The State of the Waters meeting will be on October 21 and will be held at the RCD offices.

XI. Public Comment

XII. Next Meetings

TEC: November 13; Board: October 28

XIV. Adjourn

It was moved and seconded by Lindner & Mann to adjourn at 8:56am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Jenson.