

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
August 12, 2016
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room**

Commission Members Present:

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

Commission Members Absent: Marty Asleson – Lino Lakes

Others in attendance: Kristine Jenson, Brian Corcoran, Tyler Thompson, Nick Voss (VLAWMO); Margaret Behrens (Ramsey Conservation District – RCD); Bob Larson, Diane Gorder (NOHOA); Justine Roe (SPRWS)

- I. **Call to Order** Chair Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:31am.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**

Graham asked to move WCA up to IV.A since there was a representative present to answer questions.

It was moved by Mann and seconded by Graham to approve the August 12, 2016 agenda as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Graham and Lindner seconded by to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2016 Meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
 - C. **WCA – Goodwill replacement plan**

A wetland replacement plan has been submitted. A summary of the information is as follows: The site is a 4.34 acre property with two delineated wetlands. One is type 3 (PEMF) shallow marsh and one is type 1 (PEM1A) seasonally flooded wetland. The site is located south of County Road 96, west of Interstate 35E and east of Centerville Road (across from Culver’s). The developer is proposing a Goodwill retail store. In order for development of the property, the northern end of the shallow marsh wetland will be impacted (filled). Impact will be 18,427 SF. This impact does not qualify for a De Minimis, or no-loss exemption. There are concerns that on-site mitigation success will be an issue after 5yrs and the developer will ultimately have to buy banking credits outside of watershed due to the quality of mitigation site. The current VLAWMO policy is to mitigate on site if possible. WCA sequencing was addressed and no viable sites within the watershed were available for wetland mitigation. VLAWMO also does not have any banking sites within the watershed with available credits for a developer purchase.

BWSR and the Army Corps prefer banking credits and have approved of the state wetland bank credit purchase at a 2:1 ratio. VLAWMO also wanted to see some onsite mitigation along with additional stormwater treatment. In the process of twelve different plans and many meetings VLAWMO, the developer/applicant and the City of White Bear Lake have agreed on a proposed plan. This includes the 2:1 purchase of banking credits, 14,406 SF of onsite mitigation, reduction of parking stalls, reduction of impervious area, addition of stormwater treatment pond, grass swale entering

storm pond, underground stormwater treatment that will also treat stormwater from property to north of site and tree trenches.

Staff recommends the TEC recommend approval to the Board of the replacement plan.

Discussion: Mann expressed her continued wishes to establish a wetland banking site within VLAWMO. Brian explained that the only viable site for a bank would be in Anoka County and we wouldn't be able to use it for Ramsey County wetland impacts. Brian stated that there is a policy being considered to allow for credits if a poor quality wetland is rehabilitated but that hasn't been approved yet so our options are limited. Mann asked how many parking spots they lost. Brian stated that they had 106 originally and it is now down to 93. The rep stated that they will be replacing 100 trees on site and they are preserving the portion of the site that already has a large area of trees. Grisim asked where the water outflows. Brian stated that it goes to 35E into a ditch system and then to Lambert Creek. Graham stated that he has talked with WBL and the Goodwill developers and that the plan as presented is the best possible option for the site.

It was moved by Mann and seconded by Lindner to recommend approval of the Goodwill replacement plan to the Board. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

A. Water Plan Updates

The 90 day comment period closes on August 19. At this point, there were only 2 minor corrections that were pointed out. If there are no major updates required, it is expected that the BWSR Board will approve the Water Plan at their September meeting. Gorder expressed that from a NOHOA standpoint, they are very pleased with the new plan.

B. Boundary Change Update

The comment period for the boundary change petition received no comments and is expected to be up for final approval at the August BWSR Board meeting.

C. Water Policy Update Highlights

The draft water policy has been received and will be going out to our cities for comment. Some highlights include a change in wetland buffer widths to be consistent with the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA), an increase in the rate control from 0.5 inch runoff to 1.1 inch runoff which includes development, redevelopment, and drainage alterations (including roads) creating new impervious areas greater than 10,000 square feet and more detailed policy on streambank and shoreline alterations including a shoreline & streambank erosion intensity calculator. Because we are not a permitting agency, we rely on cooperation with our municipalities to address these issues and to have consistency with our standards.

V. Projects

A. Project Updates

1. Kohler Streambank Restoration – new design

This project is one of the final projects identified in our strategic planning two years ago. It will restore close to 200 LF of streambank downstream of the Kohler flume along with re-stabilizing just upstream of the flume as well as the ditch drainage entering the creek next to the flume. Trees will be flagged and some removed on either side of stream bank. Native plantings will be installed and fixing of the bank undercutting done. VLAWMO is partnering with RCD on this project that is doing the design and is acting as the fiscal agent for the grant funding. Installation is scheduled for this fall. Assistance from City of Vadnais Heights is possible to extend project further downstream from current plans. Plans will be shown at meeting. RFP is out for project,

bids due back on August 17th 2016. An open house meeting will be held to allow those living in the area to learn more about the project and discuss their questions or concerns. Graham stated that the City of VH is interested in adding to the contract to extend the work further downstream and will discuss that option with whichever contractors wins the bid. We are asking the TEC to give staff the ability to review the bids when they come in and give a recommendation to the Board to move ahead.

Mann/Grisim - approve

2. Heritage Estates Raingarden

Ecoscapes completed their work on the Heritage Estates raingarden which has been successful at moving the excess water out of the garden so that it doesn't become a pond. The soils were not conducive to infiltrating the large amount of water that is sent to it so the sand trench and outlet were installed to move the excess water onto a grass hillside which allows it to spread and provide for some extra infiltration area. Pictures were shown of the updated work.

3. Whitaker Treatment Wetlands

a) Engineering recommendation

VLAWMO went out for bid for lead engineering services on the Whitaker wetland project. Three consulting firms received bid documents, Houston Engineering, WSB Inc. and Burns & McDonnell. VLAWMO received bids from Burns & McDonnell and WSB Inc. Burns & McDonnell budget includes preliminary and final design and permitting, construction management and construction of treatment cells, effectiveness monitoring, education & outreach and final report and dissemination. WSB Inc. budget includes does not include construction cost or monitoring costs. Neither of these budgets include the cost of Tim LaPara's work from the University of Minnesota who has estimated \$30,000 for the pathogen study on the treatment cells the LCCMR requires.

Staff recommends contracting with Burns & McDonnell for project engineering services and is asking the TEC to recommend approval of engineering services contract with Burns & McDonnell to the Board. Mann asked how experimental this sort of project is and what is the expected life span. Brian stated that the concept of the treatment wetlands is not a new thing and is used around the world. Ours will be different in that we are moving water uphill to the treatment areas. The life span for these wetlands is about 30 years. Brian stated that this isn't so much of a BMP treatment project but more of a research project. Peterson said that this project will allow for people to better understand how to address the different contaminants that we are dealing with. Brian stated that the costs to VLAWMO is minimal and that even though this isn't a project that will "fix" the creek but it will hopefully lead to knowledge of how to address the issues.

It was moved by Lindner and seconded by Mann to recommend the Board approve the Burns & McDonnell engineering services contract.

Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

b) Department of Natural Resources contract

The LCCMR grant will be an agreement between the State and VLAWMO. This is a reimbursement grant, meaning VLAWMO will pay the bills as they come in and be reimbursed by the state for those

bills. Contract for this grant is between VLAWMO and the DNR grant good through December 2021. The Board will give final ok.

4. Goose & Wilkinson Feasibility RFP Request

In the new Water Plan, a priority is to address the high nutrient levels in our watershed by first focusing on the Goose Lake basins and Wilkinson Lake. These waterbodies were picked because they both act as headwaters to other waterbodies. For instance, before we can address any potential issues in Deep Lake, we must first reduce the nutrients in Wilkinson Lake since it directly feeds Deep. In order to ascertain the best possible projects or programs for nutrient reduction, VLAWMO budgeted \$25,000 to hire a consultant to develop a feasibility report. The consultant would analyze the available data for both lakes, determine where gaps in data may exist, understand the unique characteristics of the lakes, and develop a list of programs or projects which provide the greatest nutrient reduction possibilities along with cost estimates for implementation. The \$25,000 is budgeted with 2017, however staff feels the time is right to begin the process in order to have valuable information prior to future grant application deadlines.

Staff is asking the TEC to recommend the Board approve an RFP to start the process of finding a consultant to help with this endeavor.

It was moved by Mann and seconded by Graham to recommend the Board approve the RFP to seek nutrient reduction project and program feasibility report for Goose Lake and Wilkinson Lake. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VI. Programs

A. Education & Outreach

1. Partner Events

Nick showed photos and updated the TEC regarding the most recent community events that VLAWMO participated in, including the Taste of Vadnais (7/12), WBL Marketfest (7/28), and the Water and Bees Workshop (7/19). Nick also shared some of the outreach efforts he has created – visuals about our landscape grant programs and our monitoring work.

2. EOP survey and WAV events

Nick has gotten 85 responses which is very good. Nick also held a couple of open houses for bringing the WAV back into action and is excited for what lies ahead for the group.

B. GIS – Grant Mapping Project

It was deemed useful to have a display of projects that have utilized grant money over the recent years. A map has been created to mark projects within the watershed (raingardens, creek and shoreline restoration, Capital Improvement Projects, etc.) that have sought and have been awarded outside funding. Graham and Mann said it would be good to have a map showing our landscape grant projects too. Tyler said the info will be on the web soon.

VII. Reports

A. Financial Report for August 2016 & Authorization for Payment

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

B. TEC Report to the Board

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

VIII. Commissioner Reports

Graham stated that the Mayor of VH, Marc Johannsen has announced he won't be running for Mayor and therefore VLAWMO will be getting a new Director in 2017. This means VLAWMO will be losing the Chair of our Board. Lindner said he would be asking Uzpen about taking on the Board position in his place due to his health and then a volunteer would be needed to represent Gem Lake on the TEC.

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

Justine stated that SPRWS is piloting a study about water treatment in a smaller area and working with the U of M on a bacteria monitoring program. They will have an open house on October 6 from 2-7pm and the following weekend, the Highland Water Tower will be open for tours.

X. Ramsey Conservation District (RCD) Report

Margaret stated that they will be hiring another staff member. They are planning their State of the Water event for the fall and they are doing a lot of social media networking to spread the word about their work and the work of the fellow agencies in the County.

XI. Public Comment

XII. Next Meetings

TEC: September 9; Board: August 24

XIII. Adjourn

It was moved by Grisim and seconded by Mann to adjourn at 8:40am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Jenson.