

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
VADNAIS LAKE AREA WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION
VLAWMO

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April 4, 2007

ATTENDING:

Paul Emeott	Gem Lake
Donna Carlson	Lino Lakes
George Rux	North Oaks
Marc Johannsen	Vadnais Heights
Darryl LeMire	White Bear Lake
Bill Mample	White Bear Township

Also Attending: Joel Schiling, Schilling Consulting, Neil Franey, TC, WBL; Paul Peterson, TC, WBT; Donn Wiski, VH TC; Paul Gaston, alt. VH; Gretchen Artig-Swomley.

Paul Emeott, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:04.

Agenda A motion was made by Marc Johannsen, Darryl LeMire by Bill Mample to approve the agenda as printed. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Minutes. A motion was made by Bill Mample, seconded by LeMire to approve the minutes as printed. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report A motion was made by Mample, seconded by LeMire to accept the Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer, staff and the Technical Commission Finance officer have been working on a format which is still under review.

Revenue generation – Joel Schilling. Joel Reviewed Joel's memo in collaboration with Shannon Smith, S.E.H. & Jeanne Vogt, Finance Director on potential revenue and individual property owner expense for property tax versus SWU fee. It could be implemented for 2008 if we proceed fairly quickly. There were some questions. Carlson: is the SWU fee deductible? Joel would need an opinion. Marc Johannsen felt that it probably was not. Darryl LeMire asked about trying to secure levy authority through the legislature again. Joel reviewed the effort of working with legislators last year. It was felt to be too late for this year. Next year is bonding year, if passed, VLAWMO would be looking at 2009 before implementation. We have not resolved all of Sen. Marty's concerns and he is the senior legislator from the VLAMWO area. There is work to be done by the Technical Commission and the Board (what is exempt, what should be credited). It would need to be updated annually. Capital Improvement costs could be rolled into the SWU fee or could be paid through the special CIP watershed

district. Jeanne Vogt, Finance Director for Vadnais Heights and formerly of Ramsey County has indicated that an SWU is relatively easy to operate and maintain once it is set up. Marc Johannsen said VLAWMO should work with VH staff who have experience operating a SWU for several years. Assessing by subwatersheds for specific improvements. Paul Emeott asked how education should be done. Joel has itemized two brochures in the work plan. The first brochures would introduce the subject; the 2nd brochure would introduce the best management practice credits. Donna Carlson asked about credit for vacant land – will large lots pay more because of area? Joel responded that single family homes will pay the single family home rate regardless of size. Emeott asked if the Board was ready to proceed. Bill Mample would like to bring it to the Town Board. A special meeting of the Board of Directors was set for May 16th to act on the Storm Water Utility feasibility proposal.

New Business:

Update of the draft Water Plan

Della Young, Program manager from HDR Engineering and Stephanie McNamara highlighted significant changes in the updated draft Water Management Plan. These include stormwater standards and the inclusion of best management practice credits, wetland management of hydroperiod and buffers, accelerating the Sustainable Lake Management Plan schedule to start in 2007, new and updated maps and seed money in the capital improvements implementation budget. It was noted that an ambitious capital improvement work plan for 2007 along Lambert Creek was being funded through a Clean Water Partnership grant from the MN Pollution Control Agency. The Board was being requested to **authorize this draft Water Management Plan for distribution** to the reviewing agencies for the second review period (45-days). A Motion was made by Mample, seconded by Carlson approve the distribution of the Final draft Water Management Plan to the review list per MN Statutes Ch. 103B.231. Vote: all Aye.

Motion passed.

Staff apologized for bringing the request for a **Change Order** to the new board. This business should have been completed prior to the restructuring. The Board noted that change order requests should be brought to the Board prior to expenditure. A Motion was made by Mample, seconded by Rux to approve the Change Order from HDR and a contingency for a maximum of \$20,000 of additional expense over the original contract of \$59,706. Vote: all Aye. Motion passed.

Staff request one reallocation of funds within the current budget to accommodate a change in the draft Water Plan. The Plan anticipates one to two Sustainable Lake Management Plans (SLMP) to be developed each year. The change would be to initiate the first lake plan in 2007. Funding for consultant coordination and required research is anticipated to cost about \$15,000 per lake. VLAWMO budgeted half of that in its Water Plan with the other half to come from local partners. \$7500 could be used on the first SLMP by shifting \$3500 from Ramsey County Lab work, \$1000, from public education, and \$3000 from computer system development. A Motion was made by LeMire, seconded by Carlson to shift the budget funds as indicated by staff in the 2007 budget to fund a Sustainable Lake Management Plan up to \$7500. Vote: all Aye. Motion passed.

Joint Powers Agreement- The MN Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) has expressed concern over a possible inconsistency in JPA. BWSR does not approve the VLAWMO JPA, but it will be asked to approve of the draft Water Plan later this spring. BWSR staff has indicated that a JPA they find inconsistent with State Statute or unable to adequately fund the Implementation of the Water Plan *could* be grounds for Not approving the new Water Plan.

In the JPA, Section V indicates the VLAWMO Board of Directors will vote to approve the annual budgets. Section VIII (Financing VLAWMO) indicates the municipal board and councils will review and approve the VLAWMO budget. BWSR has advised VLAWMO that state statute requires that the watershed board must approve its budget and that no one member may have veto authority over the budget. BWSR utilizes the Attorney General's office as their legal counsel. We have asked for a meeting with our attorney, BWSR and the BWSR liaison counsel for the Attorney General Office. BWSR has responded and we are currently looking at scheduling something the week of April 16th or 23rd. Directors Report – Carlson reported the SWU will not be a problem with the Lino Lakes City Charter.

Policy Manual

Paul Emeott introduced the first draft the VLAWMO Policy Manual which has been in production over the last year. Paul Petersen worked hard on putting this draft together. The document should be considered a living document in that it will be changing and evolving as VLAWMO does. A Motion was made by Mample, seconded by LeMire to accept the Policy Manual as dated 12/06. Vote: all Aye. Motion passed.

A Motion was made by LeMire, seconded by Mample to authorize the Technical Commission to approve the payment of monthly bills within the approved budget with a report to the Board at its next meeting. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Kristine Lampert was introduced. Kristine is a 10-year veteran of the DNR, and has supervised wetland restoration projects and grant programs, is a wetland delineator and will generally be an excellent addition to our staff.

There was a Motion to adjourn made by LeMire, seconded by Mample. Vote all Aye. Motion passed.

The meeting Adjourned at 9:30 OM.

Submitted by Stephanie McNamara for the Secretary.