

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

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October 4, 2007

ATTENDING:

Paul Emeott, Chair	Gem Lake
Donna Carlson	Lino Lakes
George Rux, Treasurer	North Oaks
Marc Johanssen	Vadnais Heights
, Vice Chair	White Bear Lake
Bill Mample	White Bear Township

Also Attending: Jeanne Vogt, Finance Director, Vadnais Heights; Kristine Lampert and Stephanie McNamara, VLAWMO.

Paul Emeott, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:35.

Storm Water Utility

New information from Ramsey County identified an additional step in the SWU process. VLAWMO will need to send the preliminary billing to residents this fall if any delinquent fees are to be certified to the Counties for collection on 2008 property tax statements. VLAWMO had previously understood that all the billings would be seen on the county tax statement. The county staff indicated that they understood there to be no requirement in statute for the County to send the first billing of the Storm Water Utility (SWU) fee. While VLAWMO could contract with the county(s) to do this billing, there was no impetus from the County to take on this administrative project. The County will, however, add delinquent fees to the tax statement for collection. Fewer than 10,000 parcels that will need to be billed in order for the Storm Water Utility to collect fees needed to support the 2008 budget.

The City of Vadnais Heights, which does quarterly utility billing for the city, has offered to assist in the preliminary billing. Jeanne Vogt, the city Finance Director, had previously been employed in the Ramsey County tax department for 10 years and had also offered to help with the electronic certified parcel list required by the counties. An estimate of expenses had been put together to do the first billing. It included: postage - \$4000; paper and envelopes - \$2500; printing an educational insert (black & white printing on colored paper) and mailing house expenses - \$1000; invoice production & receipt of checks - \$3000. The maximum total cost would be \$10,500. There was discussion of the billing process. Jeanne Vogt answered questions on the Vadnais Heights SWU process. Concerns were expressed over public education and understanding of the process and billing. A Motion was made by Johansenn, seconded

by Mample to authorize the expenditure of funds up to \$10,500 to send the first billing of the Storm Water Utility. Vote: all Aye. Motion passed.

After further discussion, the Board expressed its disappointment with the consultant on the SWU project. A motion was made by Rux, seconded by Johansenn to restructure the remainder of contract with Schilling Consulting to include final expenses, with the remaining funds to be used on Storm Water Utility expenses. The Board further authorized the agreements as necessary with the City of Vadnais Heights, the printer and other contractors as needed. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

The “Partnership: It’s Our Watershed” Registrations have been come in much lighter than hoped. At this point, the budget set up, will not be met. The Board discussed the budget and possible options including cancelling, postponing, and shortening the conference. They directed the conference to proceed, even if registration is limited. Those coming wanted the information. If the sessions could be taped, that should be done. Additional funds from the education budget should be used as needed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 AM.

Submitted by Stephanie McNamara, Administrator,
for the Secretary.