

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
VADNAIS LAKE AREA WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION
800 East County Road E, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127; 651.204-6070; office@vlawmo.org

May 14, 2008

ATTENDING:

Hutch Schilling	Gem Lake
George Rux, alternate	North Oaks
absent	Lino Lakes
Marc Johannsen	Vadnais Heights
Dan Jones	White Bear Lake
Bill Mample	White Bear Township
Stephanie McNamara	VLAWMO
Kristine Lampert	VLAWMO

Also Attending: Paul Peterson, John Youngstrom, Neil Franey, Technical Commission Members

Pre-Meeting Workshop Presentations/Discussion

- I.** “Serving on a Watershed Board of Directors” - Jim Haertel and Melissa Lewis from MN Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR)
- II.** Q & A on new disclosure law - Gary Goldsmith, Executive Director, MN Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board

Business Meeting

- I.** Call to Order was made at 7:22pm by Chair Marc Johannsen.
- II.** Agenda
 - A motion was made by Mample & seconded by Schilling to approve the agenda as printed. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- III.** Consent Agenda
 - A.** Approval of minutes from February 13, 2008 meeting.
 - B.** Approval of storm sewer fee parcel merger and fee allocation.
 - C.** Quarterly Financial Report
 - A motion was made by Jones & seconded by Mample to approve the consent agenda. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- IV.** Treasurer Report
 - A.** 2009 Budget Approval
 - A motion was made by Jones & seconded by Schilling to receive 2009 budget, distribute to communities for City Council review, and meet again for approval in June. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
 - B.** Audit Report – Stephanie reviewed the report.
- V.** Old Business

A. Storm Sewer Utility – legislative effort & Best Management Practice (BMP) credit system

Stephanie explained the basics of the language now in the Omnibus Bill – it is not asking for taxing authority; it is adding VLAWMO to the list of other agencies that have the Counties collect their fees. Board discussion regarding the billing process last year with a recommendation to hire a temp worker or use an outside business to process bills if VLAWMO has to do the billing again.

BMP Credit Policy – Stephanie presented the draft credit policy. Johannsen stated that he is not sure if this can be implemented this year. TEC should review and come back with recommendations. Mample thinks that 50% credit could have a big impact. All businesses made after 1970 have their own retention ponds and could say they should have the credit. Johannsen said that VLAWMO has been working to increase its budget for Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) projects and if we implement credits we can emaciate our budget. If we have budget problems, we would have to increase our rates to meet our budget. Is this a viable program to implement? Staff and Technical Commission to research further.

VI. New Business

A. Watershed Boundary Adjustments Direction

A motion was made by Mample & seconded by Johannsen to approve the new watershed line based on hydrologic information as supplied by the three watershed and municipal staff as well as direction to proceed with the petition process to amend the boundary as well as to amend the legal description and send it to Joint Power Agreement (JPA) communities for review and approval. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Director Jones asked VLAWMO staff to make sure communities are informed of this issue. Stephanie said that the communities will have it on their agenda for City Council review prior to any final changes by the State.

B. Intern Proposal – VLAWMO advertised for 1 intern but got 16 applicants and several are very good. Stephanie proposed the hiring of 2 interns this year with funding coming from the Technical Budget line item.

A motion was made by Schilling & seconded by Mample to allow hiring of 2nd intern and funding from other resources as per Stephanie's discretion. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VII. Programs & Projects

A. Monitoring & data analysis

B. Education – Raingarden Workshops; VLAWMO 2nd Annual Summit, September 25, 2008

Stephanie asked for input regarding the concept of asking for local involvement with the Summit to foster the partnership process (letter drafted by Della Young, HDR was presented). Jones suggests that we cut the proposed monetary requests by half. Also suggested that businesses

and local groups (Lion's and Rotary) have money set aside for "green" projects and they may be a resource for partnership funding as well.

C. Sustainable Lake Management Plans (SLMP) May 21st Workshop with Birch Lake Improvement District to present the report that Steve McComas pulled together.

D. Lambert Creek – 2007 spring wrap up; TMDL Work Plan; Whittaker Pond Work

2007 spring wrap up: The contractor is finishing up Lambert Creek work and must be done by 5/16. TMDL: VLAWMO would like to hire a consultant to write the work plan using money from Goose Lake line item in the budget. Board directed to move ahead with this. Whittaker Pond: Board asked that VLAWMO makes sure that all partners are involved (City of White Bear Lake, White Bear Township, and Ramsey County). Stephanie said that EOR is writing a feasibility report for the different options to fix Whittaker Pond with a possible construction plan in winter 2009.

VIII. Administration Report

IX. Director's Reports – Johannsen stated that the Board needs to consider how to review Stephanie's work and compensation. Jones asked if VLAWMO has a HR policy. There is no official HR policy for VLAWMO. Johannsen stated that there is a job description and a work plan and goals that you need to meet. The Board suggested using what Cities have done for HR processes. Johannsen suggested the formation of a subcommittee of 2 Board members who review and recommend to the Board for action. Johannsen also asked Stephanie to please send a letter of thanks to the speakers for the Board Workshop earlier in the evening.

X. Next Meeting Date: Johannsen asked Stephanie to poll everyone. Need to meet in June to approve the 2009 budget. Jones asked to add a discussion item for HR policy. Johannsen asked Stephanie to poll the Board for a good date to meet in June. Johannsen raised concern that Lino Lakes has not had a representative for the last 2 meetings, and only Johannsen and Mample were present for the workshop. Johannsen wants to make sure we have quorum for these meetings.

XI. Public Comment

XII. Adjourn

A motion was made by Jones & seconded by Schilling to adjourn at 8:20pm.

Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled by Kristine Lampert.