

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission
Minutes
January 18, 2008**

Attending:

Paul Peterson	White Bear Township, Chair
Neil Franey	White Bear Lake
Mark Graham	Vadnais Heights
Jim Studenski	Lino Lakes
Paul Emeott	Gem Lake
John Youngstrom	North Oaks

Others in attendance: Kristine Lampert & Stephanie McNamara, VLAWMO; Ryan Johnson, RCD, Tom Peterson, RCD, Dave Schuler & John Blackstone, St. Paul Regional Water Service (SPRWS)

Agenda Paul Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:40am. Stephanie requests to add agenda item Election of Officers and Citizen's Advisory Committee. It was moved and seconded by Graham and Studenski to approve the agenda as amended. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Minutes It was moved and seconded by Franey and Graham to approve the minutes of the January meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Finance Report

Stephanie explained the financial report.

It was moved and seconded by Youngstrom and Graham to approve the Financial Report and pay the bills as reported. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Old Business

A. Work Plan 2007

- a. Lambert Creek Work** Graham explained that one neighbor is unhappy that a small lot he owns is now unable to be sold and developed. However the land is a drainage easement and can't be used that way. He is talking with the City to see if they will buy it. Graham said the City will handle the issue. Stephanie said that the Lambert Creek work is done. Some erosion and planting work will be completed in the spring. We are holding 8% of their payment until this spring work is completed.
- b. Birch Lake Sustainable Lake Management Plan** Kristine discussed Steve McComas' proposal to do a sediment survey on Birch Lake and his recommendation to do this. Franey asked if it was in the budget. Stephanie said that it can fit in the budget. It was moved and seconded by

Graham & Franey to go ahead with the survey as proposed. Vote: all aye.
Motion passed.

- c. **Storm sewer utility draft recommendations for 2008-2009** Emeott thinks there is only a 50/50 chance that anything will move ahead in the Legislature in terms of granting WMOs the authority to put the SSU bill on their property taxes. Emeott feels that Sen. Marty is still not in favor for allowing VLAWMO to do a tax levy. He feels that we need to plan for sending out the bills in 2008 and prepare so that we are not on a short timeline as we were in 2007. WBL is pursuing discussion with the Legislature. Emeott said that Joel Schilling found 3 ways to collect funds: SSU, City's tax authority, and getting Legislation passed for tax levy authority. Schilling recommended working with other WMOs to have a unified voice with the Legislature. MAWD is thinking about allowing WMOs in as associate members and then there would be some backing if we wanted a State Rule made or changed. Peterson wants to make a motion for Stephanie to make calls to other WMOs to see if they are interested in going to the Legislature. Youngstrom suggested Joel Schilling work on this. Discussion that Mayor Watson of NO has not been in favor of tax levy. Stephanie will send out an email to the other metro JPA WMOs to see if there in interest in moving forward with this. Kristine said that we are swamped with watershed work that doesn't get done because we are pursuing SSU Legislative work and we aren't getting watershed work done. Over 2 months have been eaten up with only SSU work. If Schilling were to be hired, it would require the Board to change the budget. It was moved and seconded by Emeott & Youngstrom to contact Joel Schilling for a scope of service on this item. Vote: all aye.
Motion passed.

New Business – Work Plan 2008 Overview

A. Governance recommendations to the Board:

- a. **Storm Sewer Utility Rule updates including credit program** covered above
- b. **Possible legislation to change fee collection process** covered above
- c. **Watershed boundary change with Rice Creek & Ramsey-Washington**
- d. **Local Water Plan Updates**
VH is working on their plan. VLAWMO is sending out the Watershed Plan to the communities so that they know what was approved and what is expected from the Local Water Plans. Emeott stated that Gem Lake is not doing their plan in 2008 and is wondering if there are funds to help Cities do their plans. Graham said he didn't know of any funds – that it is a part of being a City. Emeott stated that Gem Lake has had a hard time planning for what it would cost. Stephanie stated that \$10,000 is budgeted for "Local Water Plans" which could be allocated to Cities for their plans but there would need to be some fair way for dividing it up. Also, VLAWMO may need to use the money for an Engineer to review the City plans. Graham thinks our budgeted amount is not meant to be given away

– that it is needed for VLAWMO to review the plans. Stephanie said that we may want an Engineer on retainer to send plans to for review.

B. Programs & Projects

- a. **Finalize CWP Grant – Lambert Creek (report deadline 1/31/08)**
 - i. **PCA tour** - We will have a tour on 1/25 so that PCA can see what was done.
 - ii. **Flume #2 – winter installation?**
May get done if money is available. Would cost about \$30,000
 - iii. **Spring planting using maintenance budget?** Plant shrubs along the streambank to enhance stabilization. Seed was in the contract already.

- b. **Consider new Impaired waters list 2008 – TMDL’s will be required**
Barb Peichel with PCA has volunteered to come to a TEC/Board meeting to talk about TMDLs and what it will mean and involve. Decision to host a mini-workshop on 1/25 at 1:30pm after the tour. Blackstone will ask Peichel if that works for PCA staff. Stephanie asked Schuler to bring in his powerpoint presentation about the fecal coliform as well. Stephanie will send out an email and TEC can check their schedules. Stephanie will also ask the Board and alternates to come.
 - i. **Bacteria – Lambert Creek**
Schuler said that the bacteria comes in no matter what they do so it most likely non-point source pollution. A study will be done to determine where sources are. Then we have to make allocations to the sources to have allow a certain amount of output. Plans are developed and approved and then there is an implementation plan.
 1. **Proposal from Ramsey Conservation District (RCD) to do GIS baseline survey of the creek** Stephanie said RCD is estimating a cost of \$3000. This would provide information regarding the geography of Lambert Creek and shoreline conditions. TEC wants Stephanie to get more information from RCD.
 - ii. **Nutrient on the main chain (Pleasant, Sucker, Vадnais)**

- c. **Whittaker Pond – Paul Peterson study & CIP project** Peterson described the study he is working on for his Masters project regarding the influence of tree canopy on storm runoff and nutrient loading. It is moved and seconded by Emeott and Studenski to create a timeline for Whittaker Pond dredging so that the engineering work is done in 2008 with bidding for work in 2008-2009. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

- d. **2008 SLMP activity – Tamarack new plan & Birch Lake implementation**

- e. **Public education program**
 - i. **Blue Thumb partner** It was moved and seconded by Franey and Emeott to partner with the Blue Thumb program. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

- ii. **Website redesign – ICBits Proposal** It was moved and seconded by Franey & Graham approve the proposal and allow VLAWMO to move ahead with the redesign of VLAWMO’s website. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

7. Reports/Projects/Possible Action

A. Cost Share Program

B. Monitoring Program

C. WCA Activity Stephanie said that VLAWMO received an application for an exemption which will be presented next month. Another exemption application was received from NO and WB Township. There was some enforcement action in WBL on removing fill.

8. Commissioner Reports

9. Administrator Report

10. Public Comment

11. Adjourn

It was moved and seconded by Franey and Graham seconded by to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:45am.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Lampert.