

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Evaluation Panel
Minutes
January 24, 2007

Attending:

Paul Peterson, White Bear Township
Donn Wiski, Vadnais Heights, alternate
Jim Studinski, Lino Lakes
Gretchen Swomley, Gem Lake
Paul Emeott, Gem Lake alternate

Others in attendance: Joel Schilling, Schilling Environmental Consulting, Ron Leaf, Short Elliot Hendrickson, Della Young, HDR, Inc.

Water Matters – Joel Schilling, Schilling Environmental & Ron Leaf, S.E.H. discussed the use of Stormwater Utility Fees as a possible source of revenue for VLAWMO. The Schilling report included memos from Charles LeFevre, Kennedy & Graven on the legal authority to use this funding mechanism and from S.E.H., with a preliminary review of the parcel data and how it would translate into stormwater utility fees (SWU). The preliminary investigation being presented indicates the authority derives from the JPA. Joel indicated that there will need further discussion of possible additions to the Water Plan as well as amendments to the JPA. The average parcel size was 0.69 acres. One of the next steps, if VLAWMO were to proceed, would be to do a feasibility study. This roughly two month study would verify the parcel data with each municipality, work with the counties on the collection mechanism, and work with the VLAWMO budget to determine the charge per Residential Equivalency Factor (REF).

Many questions will still need to be addressed. Municipal utilities are not available in all communities, hence the need to involve the counties in collection. Vadnais Heights has a SWU already and Lino Lakes is in the development process. Timetables for implementation in 2008 or 2009 were discussed. Involving the municipalities and public will be key to successful implementation. Public information could involve meetings, cable TV, mailings, and the website. South Washington watershed district uses a SWU for capital projects. The cities within that watershed also have SWU fees which fund local projects. The fees collected by the watershed fund regional projects in this case. SWU fees may also fund the operations budget or a CIP in a specific Subwatershed may be charged a weighted fee.

Agenda

Acting Chair Paul Emeott was present to facilitate the meeting. Paul Peterson suggested having a field trip to this spring or summer to familiar the Commission and Board with the watershed. There was could be discussion of TMDL's. A motion was made by Paul Petersen, seconded by Paul Emeott to approve the agenda as printed. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Minutes

A motion was made by Paul Petersen, seconded by Paul Emeott to approve the minutes of the November meeting of the VLAWMO Board of Commissioners. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Orientation- An orientation to the watershed and current projects was provided by administrator, Stephanie McNamara. The commissioners asked questions.

Election of Officers

A motion was made by Gretchen Swomley, seconded by Jim Studenski to table the election until next month. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Financial report

The monthly financial statement was reviewed. The payment of bills was authorized by those present.

Water Plan-

Della Young, HDR and Stephanie highlighted changes in the January 2007 draft Water Plan. Stormwater standards and credits for best management practices have been added to the latest edition of the Water Plan. Wetland management classifications and standards were also reviewed. The commission offered suggestions and questions which will be reviewed for incorporation into the Water Plan.

The request for a change order to address the substantial comment response needed was also reviewed along with the recommendation for approval of last years Board of Commissioners. The Commission asked if the remaining budget would be sufficient to complete the Water Plan project. A motion was made by Paul Peterson, seconded by Donn Wiski approve recommend change order of \$14,992 be approved and have an itemized contingency expense up to \$5000 be added. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Regular meeting time. After discussion the Commission directed the regular meeting date to remain the 4th Wednesday of the month.

Adjourn: 10:20 PM