

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission
Minutes
February 15, 2008**

Attending:

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

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

Agenda Paul Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:34am. Request to add agenda items: Election of Officers and Citizen's Advisory Committee formation. It was moved and seconded by Franey and Graham to approve the agenda as amended. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

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

Speaker – Ryan Johnson: 2007 Native vegetation program in VLAWMO Presented a slide show about work done by RCD within VLAWMO.

Old Business

A. Storm Sewer Utility recommendations for 2008-2009

Stephanie reviewed the how the SSU went. She reviewed the pros and cons of the institution of the program. Discussion about the costs involved and staff time it consumed. Blackstone said SPRWS feels the SSU was a great success and perhaps we need to hire a business that manages this type of work in order to lessen the work load for staff. Members agree that Stephanie and Kris need to be doing their technical work and that the billing work needs to be done by someone else.

What changes should we make?

- Hire out to do data entry and billing issues. Either take on a temp or hire it out to a business.
- Need to address a credit system.
- Include a newsletter touting the good work the watershed does and increase the public awareness.

Reports/Projects/Possible Actions

A. Programs & Projects

1. Finalize CWP grant – Lambert Creek (report)

Report was turned in and the Pollution Control Agency (PCA) has commented on some changes that need to be made by next week before we get the last of our grant. Moved and seconded by Franey & Studenski to accept the report as amended. Vote: All Aye. Motion passed.

2. Lambert Creek Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Study

The PCA has listed Lambert Creek on the Impaired Waters List for fecal coliform. A TMDL study will need to be done to determine if there are source points for this contamination and to develop plans to address the contamination. The list needs to be approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

3. Cost Share Program – NOHOA application

Kristine explained the proposed project and stated that the North Oaks Homeowners Association (NOHOA) has received approval from RCD for \$1,000 for the project. They are asking VLAWMO for \$1,000 as well. Total project cost is about \$8,000. Kristine will oversee the project as it moves forward. Moved and seconded by Youngstrom & Graham to approve the cost share application. Vote: All Aye. Motion passed.

4. Monitoring Program – Draft Report

Kristine reviewed the report. Commission members stated that it looked very good. It was moved and seconded by Graham & Studenski accept the CLMP Report. Vote: All Aye. Motion passed.

5. Public Education Program

a. Website Update

b. Blue Thumb Partner

c. Raingarden workshop request

6. Sustainable Lake Management Plans

a. Birch Lake

b. Tamarack

Kristine spoke with Steve McComas from Blue Water Science about collecting sediment samples on Tamarack and Fish Lakes as well as on Goose Lake. Tamarack Lake will have its SLMP written this year and therefore sediment sampling will give us valuable information. Since Fish Lake is directly connected to Tamarack, samples should be taken from there as well. It was recommended to have sediment samples for Goose Lake since it will be part of the TMDL study for Lambert Creek. The estimated cost to include these 3 water bodies is \$4,250. It was moved and seconded by Franey & Studenski to do sediment sampling on Tamarack, Fish & Goose. Vote: All Aye. Motion Passed.

B. Reports

1. Financial

The Board voted to have VLAWMO keep their account at USBank but change to an account type that Governments use. The money will earn about 4%. We have already earned some interest on our savings account.

2. WCA Activity

Stephanie reviewed two applications:

Technical Commission – February 15, 2008

- Ramsey County for a banking site at Tamarack. No approval needed at this point.
- Prudhorn property in White Bear Township for a no-loss wetland application. Stephanie recommends the approval of this application to re-dig a wetland area. Moved & seconded by Youngstrom & Studenski to approve. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Election of Officers

It was moved and seconded by Youngstrom and Franey to keep the Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer the same. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

New Business – Work Plan 2008

Tom Petersen from RCD spoke about the Ramsey County Groundwater Plan update. The current plan was for 1991 - 2006. The landscape has changed greatly in this time and the plan needs major updating. There are 30,000 abandoned wells in Ramsey County, with contaminants flowing through the system that weren't identified 15 years ago. A new plan is needed to protect our groundwater. Peterson requests a resolution of support for the revision to the Ramsey County Groundwater Quality Protection Plan and \$3500 for costs associated in revising the plan. Other Watershed Districts, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and Ramsey County have agreed to provide money. It was moved and seconded by Studenski and Graham to update the water plan to reflect the groundwater plan. Vote: All Aye. Motion passed. It was moved and seconded by Youngstrom & Franey to include a line item of \$3500 in the 2009 budget for support of the update. Vote: All Aye. Motion passed.

Tom also mentioned the possibility of doing GIS survey for the Lambert Creek shoreline. The utility is a real, editable database and photo archive that can be useful and have images every 10 feet. Cost is about \$1/lineal foot. U of M grad students do the work. Since Lambert Creek will be having a TMDL study done, this information could be very useful. The Commission will consider this at March meeting. It couldn't be done until 2009 at the earliest since it wasn't proposed before the 2008 budget passed.

Finance 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.

Commissioner Reports - None

Administrator Report - None

Public Comment - None

Adjourn

It was moved and seconded by Studenski & Graham to adjourn at 9:12am. All Aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Lampert.