

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission
Minutes
February 28, 2007

Attending:

Neil Franey, White Bear Lake -Send foot notes
Paul Peterson, White Bear Township, Chair
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 – The Sustainable Lake Management Plans Workbook was highlighted. The process brings all the interested parties together, identifies what kind of information is needed, form committees as needed, research existing information, plan ways to secure additional information, link data to a parcel map in a GIS database, evaluate data, develop recommendations and prioritize implementation, establish measurable goals and evaluation schedule. The draft Water Plan has identified Birch Lake as the pilot SLMP at least in part because of the local partnership with the Birch Lake Improvement District. Other local partners could include the City of White Bear Lake, Ramsey County and the DNR.

Agenda Paul Peterson was introduced the newly appointed Chair of the Technical Commission. A motion was made by Neil Franey, seconded by Donn Wiski to approve the agenda as printed. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Minutes A motion was made by Franey, seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes of the December meeting of the VLAWMO Board of Commissioners. Vote: all aye, with Wiski and Studinski abstaining. A motion was made by Gretchen Swomley, seconded by Donn Wiski to approve the minutes of the January meeting of the VLAWMO Board of Commissioners. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Election of Officers –Jim Studinski was nominated as Vice Chair and Neil Franey was nominated for the office of Secretary and acting finance officer by Wiski and seconded by Swomley. Those voting to accept the slate of officers as nominated: all Aye.

Financial report

The monthly financial statement was reviewed. The payment of bills was authorized by those present. A motion was made by Swomley, seconded by Franey to accept the finance report as printed. Vote: all Aye. Motion passed. A motion was made by Franey,

seconded by Studinski to authorize the checks for payment. Vote: all Aye. Motion passed.

Native Vegetation specialist program. Tom Petersen discussed the program through Ramsey Conservation District which provides technical assistance to residents and groups. Some service is being provided to VLAWMO residents currently. The County Board has asked that other interested partners be approached to allow this service to continue. Tom Peterson indicated that VLAWMO could expect an increase availability of consultations as well as level of detail and follow up with a contribution from VLAWMO. VLAWMO could also look at the Conservation District to partner on a public educational event. Staff indicated that VLAWMO had a budgeted amount for technical and scientific consultation for 2007. This contribution could be funded from that line item. A motion was made by Franey, seconded by Stidinski to approve a contribution to Ramsey Conservation District to fund the technical assistance of the Native vegetation landscape specialist in a variety of restoration and educational activities. The RCD specialist will document activity and submit a report at least quarterly to VLAWMO. Vote: All ayes. Motion passed.

Lambert Lake update – John Blackstone discussed the pilot ditch being dug to route water to the lower wetland area for sheet flow. If this is not adequately effective in reducing the short circuiting of the pond flow into the overflow ditch more sheet pile may be needed in the southwest corner of the pond. Further evaluation will take place this spring. Donn Wiski mentioned the easement question that had been raised in conjunction with the proposed development on the Momsen, Bacon and Urban properties. A GIS overlay of parcels and easements suggested that some of the new ditch alignment may be outside of the easement on the Momsen property. The proposed development would move the access to the Lambert pond to the new residential street, a proposal not favored by SPRWS or the MPCA. An alternative remedy, if one is needed, is to move a portion of the ditch so it stays within the easement. The commission recommended the easement and new ditch be surveyed to clarify whether or not the ditch was entirely within the easement.

Work Plan 2007 A motion was made by Wiski, seconded by Swomley to approve the addition of Whitaker pond work and flume replacement as identified in the Clean Water Partnership grant. Vote: all Ayes. Motion passed.

Watershed Modeling – Della Young presented the updated schedule of the watershed modeling effort. After discussion with commission direction to proceed as scheduled.

Education – With partnership assistance from HDR a Water Quality Summit is being planned for this summer. A variety of speakers are possible. More information will be coming.

Water Plan- The final draft of the Water Plan will be sent out shortly. BWSR will advise VLAWMO of when the 45 day comment period will be complete.

Adjourn: 9:35 PM