

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission
Minutes
April 18, 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; Joe Fox, Ramsey Conservation District; Eli Rupnow, Emmons & Olivier Resources (EOR)

Agenda Paul Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:35 am. It was moved and seconded by Graham & Franey to approve the agenda as amended. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

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

Old Business

A. Storm Sewer Utility recommendations for 2008-2009

1. Legislative Update: The Ramsey County Board passed its resolution of support for the action being proposed at the Legislature. It has moved through the Anoka County Board Committee which will then go to their full Board for approval. It has also moved through the House and Senate Committees. Once we get resolutions from the Counties, we have a stronger stance for the Legislature to pass. The Counties will charge a fee per parcel that they process for the VLAWMO storm fees (Ramsey County will charge .40 each; don't know yet what Anoka will charge).
2. Credit Program/SEH scope of service: Stephanie reviewed the scope of work we are asking SHE to do for us to prepare for the 2009 Storm Sewer Utility fee, explaining that portions of this scope may be reduced or even removed so the estimated cost is on the high end. The estimated cost is \$7800; VLAWMO had only budgeted \$3000 (line item 6.3.7 of the budget). Discussion was had about the different tasks detailed in the scope and the costs of starting a credit program as well as staff time to implement credit programs. Stephanie said that we could use money set for Line Item 6.1.1.6 for part of this. Studenski asked if the annual cost will always be at least \$3000 to update and how much staff time will be required for implementing a credit system. Yes - we estimate \$3000 but we are still learning how this process will work. It cost over \$10,000 last year and over 2 months of staff time to implement the storm

sewer utility fee which makes \$3000 seem not so bad. The credit program has some valid pros and cons, and the time spent on it is related to how many people ask for credit. It was moved and seconded by Franey & Graham to approve the Scope for up to \$7800. Vote: All Aye. Motion passed.

B. Watershed boundary change with Rice Creek & Ramsey-Washington WDs

Kristine reviewed the new proposed boundary which has been agreed upon by RCWD and RWMWD. Kristine is compiling the detailed list which will go to both watershed districts for final agreement. We will get concurrence from the cities and then it goes to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for their approval. Water Management Organizations do not need the approval from BWSR, but Districts do. We are pushing this through as quickly as we can.

C. Draft Budget 2009 Stephanie explained that what this Commission approves today will go to the Board in May. The numbers used in the draft budget were mainly taken from the Work Plan unless specifics are known for other items. It was moved & seconded by Graham & Studenski to recommend the budget. Vote: All Aye. Motion passed.

Projects & Possible Actions

A. Programs & Projects

1. Finalize Clean Water Partnership (CWP) grant – Report & Spring Work

- a. Our grant money did come in and has been put into our account. Jay Bros did a walk thru with us to go over the work left to do this spring. Eli Rupnow (EOR) stated that flume 3 is where most of the work is going to be done for erosion control and fill will need to be added around the new flumes to reach to the top of the sheet piling. Burying some pipes and earth work also needs to be done.

VLAWMO will be meeting with the St. Paul Regional Water Service (SPRWS) within the next couple of weeks to reinstall the monitor equipment and to learn how to use them.

One resident is concerned that we have left his property in worse shape than he expected and wants to know if we stayed within our easement. Graham asks to have EOR out and survey the area to define our limits which will cost around \$750 for the survey. The money for this could be taken from the Tech/Scientist budget. It was moved and seconded by Youngstrom & Graham to approve up to \$800 for the survey. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

- b. Cost Estimate for restoring shoreline along Lambert Creek off Oakmede Lane. It was requested at the last TEC meeting that we determine how much it would cost to restore the streambank along Lambert Creek on the east side of Oakmede Lane. Kristine worked with Ryan Johnson (Ramsey Conservation District) to develop a plan and cost estimate. There was discussion of the plan and working with the homeowners to share in the cost. It was moved & seconded by Graham & Studenski to approve up to \$3000 to cost share with the White Bear Preserve Condo Association to

provide shoreline stabilization from Oakmede to the Rice Lake weir. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

- c. Kristine discussed the work still needed at the Lambert Lake area after the movement of the channel last year. Seeding and erosion control material is needed with a plan to spend under \$1000 for all this. It was moved & seconded by Studenski & Youngstrom to approve up to \$1000 for the upstream restoration. Vote: All Aye. Motion passed.
- d. Kristine also raised the issue of the serious erosion issues happening around the culvert from the channel into Lambert Lake. The culvert was never meant to be permanent and it is too small for the stream width as well as angled incorrectly – all of which is causing a lot of erosion and if left in place, will likely cause part of the stream bank to collapse. 3 options were proposed: 1) remove culvert and stabilize shoreline, 2) keep culvert in place with attempts to fortify the shoreline, 3) realign the culvert to follow the natural flow of the water while fortifying the shoreline. The culvert was put in to allow access to the west side of the sheet piling for SPRWS. Is the culvert still needed? It wasn't meant to be permanent and is not in the original plans for the area. Direction from TEC: Approach SPRWS as to whether they want the access there. If so, should they be doing the work to stabilize the erosion? The culvert was there for them – they should be partners (at least) in fixing the area. If they still want a culvert, they need to put a bigger one in and change its alignment.

2. Lambert Creek Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

a. Work Plan – Stephanie is asking for direction for going to bid for the TMDL work plan. If we hire out for the work plan they would also do the TMDL study so it would be a long-term commitment. If we can get the work plan in this year, it will put us in a better spot for getting Clean Water Legacy grants. There is \$50,000 in CIP Budget that can go for this. Direction from TEC: Go out for bid. Stephanie will go to firms who have already worked on bacteria TMDL. It was moved & seconded by Graham & Youngstrom to authorize staff to develop a scope and seek bids. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

b. Whitaker pond project & engineering scope

Eli put together a scope for recommendations for Whitaker Pond. The first phase would include a feasibility study and list of options for the pond with an estimated cost for this work and soil borings of \$18,000. \$50,000 is budgeted for Whitaker Pond for 2008. It was moved & seconded by Franey & Graham to approve the feasibility study. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

3. Cost Share Program – no applications this month.

4. Monitoring Program – nothing to report.

5. Public Education Program

- a. Website Update – the new website is up and running and have gotten a good response from the public. Kristine showed a report which tracks which countries have gone to our website. We have had hits from China, Korea, Iran, England, and Ireland, along with the US.
- b. Blue Thumb Partner – The Secret campaign billboards going up right now that we contributed to.
- c. Raingarden workshop request – VLAWMO is doing a raingarden workshop with the North Oaks Homeowners Association (NOHOA) on May 7th. A second raingarden workshop is set up Gem Lake Heritage Hall on June 10th. A Boy Scout is doing the planning & labor for the raingarden at Heritage Hall. VLAWMO will purchase some Blue Thumb Raingarden books for the workshops.

6. Sustainable Lake Management Plans

- a. Birch Lake - Planning a meeting for May with Steve McComas, members from the Birch Lake Improvement District (BLID) and VLAWMO to review the SLMP. Still waiting on sediment sample results from the U of M.
- b. Tamarack – Got sediment samples last month which the U of M is analyzing. Kristine will be installing the storm samplers this weekend.

B. Reports

1. Financial

- a) April Report; Authorization for payment
Stephanie reviewed the report and answered questions about expenses. It was moved and seconded by Studenski & Graham to approve the report. Vote: all aye. Motion passed. It was moved and seconded by Studenski and Graham to approve payment of April checks. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- b) Audit update

2. Annual Report to the membership & BWSR

3. WCA Activity

There are a couple of enforcement actions – one in White Bear Lake and one in Lino Lakes. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has issued a cease & desist order for the Lino Lakes property and will have a restoration order issued now.

4. Local Water Plan Updates

New Business

VLAWMO Computers

We currently have 3 computers. Stephanie's is 5 years old and does not have enough memory or speed. It is starting to break down. Request for a new computer. It was moved & seconded by Graham & Franey to spend up to \$2500 for a replacement computer for Stephanie. Vote: All Aye. Motion passed.

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Commissioner Reports –

Graham informed the TEC that Vadnais Heights has approved the redevelopment of Wal-Mart and it will be a huge project for the City.

Administrator Report - None

Public Comment - None

Adjourn

It was moved and seconded by Peterson & Graham to adjourn at 9:50am. Vote: All Aye.
Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Lampert.