

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
Technical Commission  
Minutes  
April 25, 2007**

**Attending:**

Paul Peterson,	White Bear Township, Chair
	White Bear Lake
Donn Wiski,	Vadnais Heights, alternate
	Lino Lakes
Gretchen Artig-Swomley,	Gem Lake
John Youngstrom,	North Oaks

Others in attendance: Kristine Lampert, Mike Johnson & Della Young, HDR; Joel Schilling, Larry Briemhurst, Joe Fox, Ramsey CD. Brad Kuen, Heraeus; Brian Tolser, S.E.H. Engineer, John Blackstone, SPRWS;

**Water Matters** – Mike Johnson, HDR discussed streambank restoration. We do not have the reference streambank but must move to the analytical approach. Biotechnical design approach is a mixture of ‘hard; and soft’ approach. Involving the public is important. Property values and right of way are issues in the urban area. They use an interdisciplinary team: hydraulics, wildlife, geomorphology, structures, horticulture geotechnical hydrology. Field reconnaissance is needed to determine the cause and effect forces at work and which elements of the multi-disciplined team will be needed. Alternative progression- Stabilization depends on sideslopes and usage. Mike noted they have found that anchoring ‘the toe’ of the slope is critical to stabilization. When asked he said they may do up to 500’ at a time. Smaller Pilot projects work well with partners and neighbors. Models: HEC hms or HEC ras. Some can be downloaded for free. More work is being done at the St. Anthony lab in the twin cities.

**Agenda** Paul Peterson called the meeting to order. A motion was made by Donn Wiski and seconded by John Youngstrom to approve the agenda as printed. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**Minutes** A motion was made by Gretchen Artig-Swomley and seconded by Wiski to approve the minutes of the March meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**Finance Report.**

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer’s report as printed was made by Artig-Swomley and seconded by Youngstrom. Vote: all aye. Motion passed. A motion was made to approve the checks for payment as presented was made by Wiski and seconded by Youngstrom. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**Modeling Della Young and Loren Hatch, HDR** Loren Hatch noted that VLAWMO has the distinction of being modeled by William Walker, a nationally know modeling expert. The new VLAWMO model will build upon the work done by Walker 25 years ago. Precipitation range spans very also very wet and dry years. After discussion with SPRWS the new model will be using 24 water modeling cells. Water balance is done first. There is a dirth of lake level data which is being addressed through the new VLAWMO lake level monitoring program. One of the longest data sets is on Birch Lake which has had its lake level measured continuously since 1930. Temperature data is being added this year. Especially important are late spring early summer readings. The BATHTUB model will work well, which is an off shoot of the earlier Walker model. BATHTUB is available over the internet for free. Della reported that Martha of the SPRWS lab staff is finding and converting Pleasant Lake water levels from paper to spreadsheet format. HDR will train VLAWMO staff on model. Stream discharge measuring would also help calibrate the model. A stream meter could be used below a bridge (square) or culvert (round). SPRWS will continue to be a partner.

**Pleasant Lake Road bridge wetland replacement plan - mitigation through the state wetland bank.** This is a wetland replacement plan anticipated to impact 1390 square feet of wetland adjacent to the current bridge and the Deep Lake – Pleasant Lake channel. The existing Pleasant Lake Road bridge over the Deep Lake channel will be replaced with a longer and wider bridge under this project. Existing: 19' long & 16'5" wide; with an average of 5' vertical clearance. Proposed: 26' long & 32'6" wide with an average of 21 vertical clearance. Total avoidance of wetland impact is not possible as wetland surrounds the existing bridge. Guard rails have allowed minimization of impact through 2:1 side slopes. Total wetland impact to types 3/4/7 is 1390 square feet. The applicant is seeking replacement through the state wetland bank for public road projects. Sequencing discussion highlights this project as necessary for public safety with the existing 16'5" wide bridge as hazardous when there is oncoming traffic. The plan calls for guard rails and reduced side slopes to minimize impact to wetland.

Jeff Johnson, S.E.H. was there to speak for the plan and answer question. June 11 construction start. Est. cost \$300,000. A motion was made by Youngstrom, seconded by Artig-Swomley to approve the project as presented with three conditions

- VLAWMO must receive documentation of approval of the use of wetland banking credits from the state wetland bank.
- The temporary impact areas must be identified and must be restored through the wetland rectification process provided in WCA Rules.
- An erosion and sediment control plan will be received for comment in the VLAWMO office prior to construction.

Motion passed.

### **Policy Manual updates**

The Technical Commission discussed the cost-share policy as presented by Paul Peterson and recommended it for approval by the Board of Directors. The auditors internal control findings were briefly discussed and a memo highlighting delegation of duties to different staff members will be forwarded to the Board of Directors.

Office expenditures. A motion was mad by Artig-Swomley and seconded by Paul Peterson to approve the delegation of office expenditures to the administrator up to \$400.

Expenses over that amount will still be brought to the Technical Commission if within budget or the Board of Directors if beyond budget. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**Draft 2008 Budget**

The draft 2008 budget was discussed. The Technical Commission will have more input into budget needs in the future as they become more familiar with program. The draft budget will be forwarded to the Board of Directors.

**Work Plan 2007 –**

**Monitoring Program – Kristine Lampert**

Kris reported that the annual citizen's lake monitoring program (CLMP) is underway, a training session will be held May 10<sup>th</sup>, with the first sampling date to be May 15<sup>th</sup>. The DNR has calibrated the lake level gauges in the four lakes monitored last year. They will do training for VLAWMO staff in July.

**Lower Lambert and Whitaker Pond.**

EOR has provided cost estimates on engineering and construction which have higher than anticipated. We will ask them to provide areas we can reduce costs. A stake holders meeting will also be held to determine priorities. Ramsey Conservation District has also expressed concern over the preliminary cost estimates and would like assurances that VLAWMO will fund the stabilization project installation for which they are providing engineering assistance.

VLAWMO staff will meet with SPRWS staff and advise EOR of the direction needed.

**Birch Lake Sustainable Lake Management Plan**

Neil Franey facilitated a meeting between VLAWMO staff, a representative of the Birch Lake Improvement District and the consultant they have hired Steve McComas.

Opportunities to collaborate were identified. VLAWMO has agreed to share data as it is developed. As noted earlier, VLAWMO plans to use a portion of the SLMP budget to work with Ramsey Conservation District staff to complete a shoreline survey that will be linked to a GIS parcel database.

**Stormwater Utility**

Joel Schilling was present The role of the TC will be discuss the credit system. If it goes ahead things will move quickly. Park land is typically exempt

**Equipment / Software authorization**

A motion was made by Artig-Swomley, seconded by Peterson to purchase the Adobe standard level software, MS Office 2007 Professional with Access database software for use on the VLAWMO computer as well as \$100 in additional funding to purchase the a digital camera. All expenses are within budget. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**Water Plan** The final draft of the Water Plan has been sent out. Deadline for comments is April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Adjourn: 9:305 PM