

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission
Minutes
August 23, 2007**

Attending:

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

Others in attendance: Joel Schilling, Schilling Consulting, John Blackstone, SPRWS; Eli Rupnow & Kevin Biehn, EOR; Jake Ruzsa, Kristine Lampert & Stephanie McNamara, VLAWMO, Jessica Collin-Pilarski, Project Engineer, Ayers Associates (interested VH resident), Karen Eckman Ramsey Conservation District Board

Two presentations were done prior to calling the meeting to order:

Water Matters

Jake Ruzsa is making a presentation about the data collected regarding DO and temp readings in the lakes.

Lower Lambert and Flume replacement.

75% Plans - Kevin Biehn & Eli Rupnow of EOR discussed the flume replacement and stream bank restoration plans in detail; answering questions from the Commission and discussing the time line and next steps for the project.

Neighbor letter & follow up – there is a stakeholder’s meeting and Oakmeade neighbor meeting scheduled for early September.

Eli Rupnow discussed a possible change order to the contract with EOR. Flume #1 currently has non functioning electronic rain gauge. It is full of debris and under tree canopy. EOR has staff with experience in electronic rain gauge installation. Three options for addressing the rain gauge were presented in an August 23, 2007 memo. The rain gauge could be salvaged and reinstalled at Flume 2 (no trees) for a cost of \$552 (6 hrs labor). A new rain gauge could be installed for \$928 (4 hrs labor, \$600 expenses). Or the rain gauge could be abandoned.

Agenda Paul Peterson called the meeting to order at 8:42. It was moved and seconded by Franey and Studenski to approve the agenda as printed. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

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

Finance Report.

Stephanie reviewed the report; Peterson said it is looking clearer. Changes were suggested that Stephanie will work with Marilyn on to help certain areas that are still confusing.

It was moved and seconded by Franey and Youngstrom to approve the financial report with the corrections discussed and the checks as listed for August. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Old Business

Storm Water Utility feasibility study.

Joel Shilling presented the new rate spreadsheet. Joel discussed what the rules and process of the SWU program should look like for VLAWMO. Joel presented his August memo with many FAQs. Mentioned the credit system and that we should push the credit system since we are a watershed district-organization and that long term, it would all balance out with those who cannot receive credit paying more than those who have implemented water resource protection measures on their property. Discussion about whether existing runoff control structures will qualify for credits. Joel suggests that any credits given be for a finite amount of time since maintenance can slide or ownership change. Need to consider how much effort is put in to monitoring those properties that apply and/or receive credits since there are 1000s of properties that could apply for credits. Direction from the Commission is “Keep it Simple”

Watershed Monitoring Program.

Lake level – Steph, Kris & Jake met with Sandy Fecht from the DNR to learn how to calibrate lake level gauges. VLAWMO will recalibrate existing gauges each spring and will look to install lake level gauges on the rest of VLAWMO’s lakes.

Birch Lake Sustainable Lake Management Plan

Steve McComas will be doing another aquatic plant survey on September 5th. Kristine plans to join him and to discuss what more Steve could possibly do to add to the Birch Lake SLMP. I spoke with Ron Auger a couple of weeks ago and asked him to work with the BLID to come up with a list of questions and concerns that they would like to see addressed by the SLMP so that I know where the strongest concerns are with the homeowners and what, if anything, we can do about those concerns.

Paul asked Neil about the beetles on Birch Lake that has been put in to help fight purple loosestrife. On the N side of Birch Lake, loosestrife is spreading. Should we get more beetles?

Watershed Partnership Summit

All speakers have confirmed that they will speak and the planning is moving forward.

New Business.

Cost Share Policy Update

Kristine reviewed the recommended additions to the Cost Share Policy. The changes are underlined and include details about the sort of projects eligible with this program and some additional requirements regarding the process. Kristine also created an application for the program. The application follows the format used by other agencies doing this

sort of program. A motion made and seconded by Studenski & Franey to approve the policy changes and application. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Reports/Projects/Possible Action

Cost Share Program

The first recipient of the funding from the Cost Share program has completed their project and is awaiting reimbursement for a portion of their materials cost. Kristine and Jake visited the site on August 16 and met with the consultant who did the design and installation. Kristine showed pictures of the site (before, during, and after installation) and felt that the plantings and shoreline restoration materials were holding up well and that the Commission should approve the reimbursement check of \$829.00 to Mr. Portoghese. A motion was made and seconded by Studenski and Franey to approve the reimbursement to Mr. Portoghese. Vote: All Aye. Motion passed.

Water Plan

Comments have been made and BWSR will take the Water Plan for their final approval but want to have the JPA amendments approved and completed.

Lambert Lake Project – Erosion Control

Kristine and Jake laid an erosion control blanket around the slope of the canal leading to Lower Lambert Lake.

Watershed Modeling Update

Della Young from HDR came last week and gave a demonstration of the BATHTUB model that she has been working on for VLAWMO.

WCA Activity

None

Commissioner Reports

none

Administration Report

none

Public Comment

none

Moved by Franey to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:08am

[Submitted by Kristine Lampert on behalf of the Technical Commission Secretary.](#)