

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
Technical Commission  
Minutes  
September 26, 2007**

**Attending:**

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

Others in attendance: Kevin Biehn, EOR; Kristine Lampert & Stephanie McNamara, VLAWMO; John Blackstone, SPRWS (came at 8:25am).

**Water Matters**

Paul Peterson presented the Hydrologic Cycle

**Agenda** Paul Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:55am. It was moved by Youngstrom and seconded by Artig-Swomley to approve the agenda as printed. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

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

**Finance Report**

Stephanie reviewed the report. Suggested that the Annual Projections and Income lines need to be clearer. It was moved and seconded by Studenski and Graham to approve the financial report with the corrections discussed and the checks as listed for September. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**Old Business**

**CWP Grant Elements**

Engineers estimate was received and TEC and a vote is requested to let it out for bid. Base bid is estimated at \$85,446 for Flumes 1 & 3 and erosion control work on Kohler Rd. The Alternate bid is for Flume 2 at \$19,498. Kevin Biehn mentioned that plantings are not included with this bid since it would not be completed this year. He said we can assess our needs in the spring and perhaps have a separate contract to do plantings in sensitive areas.

Motion made by Franey and seconded by Artig-Swomley authorizing to let the work for bid. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Further Discussion: Graham stated that his comments on behalf of the City of Vadnais Heights have been incorporated. Stephanie mentioned that if we do plantings next year,

we may not be able to use grant money because it has to be spent by 12/31/07. Stephanie will look into whether an extension can be placed for this item or if not, VLAWMO will find a way to incorporate it into next year's budget.

### **Birch Lake Sustainable Lake Management Plan**

Kristine sent out a survey to Birch Lake residents to get their views and concerns regarding Birch Lake. Responses are coming in. Will be used as part of the SLMP. Since this is the first SLMP that VLAWMO has worked on, there has been discussion that we hire a consultant to guide us through this first time through. Discussion with Franey about using Steve McComas on the SLMP. TEC has recommended that we explore working with Steve McComas on writing the SLMP and that we can utilize the \$5,000 SLMP budget to use a consultant.

### **Monitoring Program**

Kristine picked up the last samples of the season on Tuesday. Will be getting the data from Ramsey Co Water Lab this fall.

### **Stormwater Utility**

Ramsey County has told us that they will not do the initial billing for the SWU but will handle the delinquent payments through property tax statements. This has put us on a timeline crunch to get the billing done this year in-house. Vadnais Heights has stepped up to help us get this done. They have a SWU fee in place and Jeanne Vogt has helped immensely in getting this pulled together. Bills have to be out by 11/1 and therefore a lot of work has to be done to meet this timeline. We'd use the same contractors as City of Vadnais Heights to get this done because they are set up to do this. There are costs that VLAWMO will incur this year which were not expected. The Board will need to decide how to move forward.

TEC recommends the Board to explore all billing options and move fast and go to the Legislature to get the Counties to handle billings. Franey wants to recommend to the Board that the communities be assessed for this year. Peterson wants to recommend that we go to the Legislature and get them to change the statutes so that the County can handle our billing. Artig-Swomley recommends that something be included on the billing envelope so that it doesn't get thrown away by the residents. Lots of concern about residents being angered and confused by this bill.

### **Watershed Partnership Summit**

Budget Update: Stephanie requested an additional \$600 to pay for TEC and Board members to attend the summit and to purchase thank-you gifts.

Gretchen feels a t-shirt as a thank you gift is wasted since many people would not want it. She feels a better thank-you gift would be Godiva Chocolates at Macy's which are on sale right now due to packaging changes. Motion to approve budget addition for payment for TEC and Board members and to purchase thank-you gifts for speakers. Made and seconded by Artig-Swomley & Studenski. Vote: All Aye. Motion passed. Franey commits to coming to the Summit.

### **New Business.**

**Reports/Projects/Possible Action  
Cost Share Program**

**Lambert Lake – Erosion Control**

Kristine put in some plantings in areas that were showing continued sensitivity to erosion and has been monitoring them. We might want to get more erosion blanket for these sensitive areas. The large amount of rain we have gotten has taken a toll on things but overall things are still looking good.

**Water Plan**

Plan has been sent to BWSR for their blessing.

**Watershed Modeling Update**

Nothing to report

**WCA Activity**

Steph went over changes that have gone into effect as of August 1, 2007. Hereaus site almost had an enforcement action put against them for some wetland violations. They were responsive to the changes we needed to have happen so no ticket was issued.

**Meeting Time**

Gretchen has a conflict with Thursday mornings. Discussion amongst TEC for what would work. Friday mornings were chosen.

November and December fall into the holidays

Change October to 10/19, November to 11/16, and December to 12/21

Should we change to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday for all months?

Motion to change dates as listed and continue after with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday morning of the month was moved and seconded by Franey & Studenski. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

**Commissioner Reports**

none

**Administration Report**

none

**Public Comment**

none

Moved by Artig-Swomley & Studenski to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:21am.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Lampert.