

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission
Minutes
May 16, 2008**

Attending:

Paul Peterson	White Bear Township, Chair
Neil Franey	White Bear Lake
Mark Graham	Vadnais Heights
<i>absent</i>	Lino Lakes
<i>absent</i>	Gem Lake
John Youngstrom	North Oaks

Others in attendance: Kristine Lampert & Stephanie McNamara, VLAWMO; John Blackstone, SPRWS

Agenda Paul Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:41 am. It was moved and seconded by Graham & Youngstrom to approve the agenda as amended.

Minutes It was asked to change Chris Mann's status as "alternate" from the March meeting to "others in attendance" since she was not officially named as an alternate at that time. (She is now officially North Oaks alternate). It was moved & seconded by Youngstrom & Graham move to approve the change in the March minutes. Vote: all aye. Motion passed. It was moved and seconded by Youngstrom & Graham to approve the minutes of the April meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Old Business

A. Storm Sewer Utility recommendations for 2008-2009

1. Legislative Update: Waiting to see how the Legislature votes on the Omnibus Bill.
2. Credit Program: The credit policy, if adopted, would be referenced in the storm sewer utility rule but not a part of the rule. This is done so that if any changes are needed, it can be done through meetings rather than having a public hearing. Stephanie explained the Board concerns regarding budget issues – we run a tight budget already and fees would have to be increased to meet our already lean budget. Questions for SEH to answer – how many owners pursue credits in other situations like this? The only persistent asker of credits within VLAWMO is a church in WBT that has put in pervious surface and other BMPs. Peterson suggests looking into a limit to the amount of credits. It was moved & seconded by Peterson & Graham to investigate other options such as limiting the credit to 1/3 and having a minimum threshold for the bill. Vote: all aye. Motion passed. A new draft will be presented at the June meeting.

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

It was moved & seconded by Franey & Graham to accept the boundary change. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

An issue was brought up by the Board to ask RCWD to pay us back for the WBL fees they have collected in the past. Graham thinks that is a bad idea. The Board did not make a motion on it. Peterson thinks we have a good relationship with our neighbor WDs and this could be bad. For the amount of money we would collect, we would do much more damage. TEC does not support pursuing that.

Projects & Possible Actions

A. Programs & Projects

1. Lambert Lake – spring work

2. Lambert Creek Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

a. Work Plan – Board approved using some of our Goose Lake money to hire a consultant to develop a work plan. EOR & HDR have experience working on bacteria TMDL. Staff will have a scope & budget at next TEC meeting.

b. Whitaker pond project & engineering scope – we have a signed contract with EOR. We will have a stakeholder’s meeting within the next 3 weeks.

3. Cost Share Program – Kristine presented 2 applications and recommends approval for the 2 projects. It was moved & seconded by Graham & Youngstrom to approve the applications. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

4. Monitoring Program – Kristine said the monitoring season has started. Lake level gauges have been recalibrated. First CLMP samples were picked up; Tamarack storm samplers have worked and Kristine suggested we get more bottles for the samplers.

5. Public Education Program

a. Blue Thumb activity – billboards were put up and a bad storm came through and shredded our billboard. Clear Channel said they would fix them and extend the time the billboards are up. We put some partnership hours in through helping set up at the Green Expo and hosting a raingarden workshop as well as for paying for 1.5 billboards.

b. Raingarden workshop – The May workshop went well with about 25 people in attendance. Another one is planned for June.

c. Partnership Summit conference – We have scheduled the next summit for September 25th. We are still in the planning stages and looking for other venues since Tamarack was a bit tight for our group. Peterson suggests using Heritage Hall. Graham said he would speak at the summit. Stephanie showed the draft partnership letter in the hopes of encouraging more involvement in planning and taking part through sponsorship. This could go to the communities, lake associations, Lions Club, Rotaries. It was moved & seconded by Peterson & Graham to have staff pursue this and send out the letters. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

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 to receive sediment sample results from the U of M.

b. Tamarack – nothing new to report.

B. Reports

1. Financial

May Report was presented. It was moved & seconded by Graham & Franey to approve the May report & authorize payment of May checks. Vote: all aye.
Motion passed.

2. Annual Report to the membership & BWSR – has been submitted.

3. WCA Activity – still pursuing a couple of enforcement actions.

4. Local Water Plan Updates

New Business

Commissioner Reports

Administrator Report – Intern update: We received approval from the Board to hire two interns. Staff has interviewed applicants and will offer the jobs to Brian Corcoran and Brian Henderson.

Public Comment - None

Adjourn

It was moved and seconded by Peterson & Franey to adjourn at 9:10am. Vote: All Aye.
Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Lampert.