

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission
Minutes
June 20, 2008

Attending:

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

Others in attendance: Stephanie McNamara, Kristine Lampert, Brian Henderson, Brian Corcoran, VLAWMO; Shannon Smith, Short Eliot Hendrickson (SEH); John Blackstone, St. Paul Regional Water Service (SPRWS)

Agenda Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:35 am. Stephanie requested to move the item under 6H to 5B because it ties in with the storm sewer update. Peterson requests to move the June Financial Report to 6A. It was moved and seconded by Franey & Youngstrom to approve the agenda as amended. Vote: all aye. Motion Passed

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

Old Business

A. Storm Sewer Utility recommendations for 2008-2009

1. Database Update: To solve the dilemma of Multi-Family Residential (MFR) fees that were that were assessed a miniscule fee and therefore cost more money to process than they actually paid, our consultants, Shannon Smith (SEH) & Jeanne Vogt (Ehlers) suggest that we assess a minimum fee that is not less than the Single Family (SFR) rate. Concurrence among TEC members.
2. Credit Program: Shannon Smith has been working on this for VLAWMO. Shannon led the TEC through the draft proposed credit policy. Based on last year's fee structure and land use database, if all land uses other than SFR received a 50% credit, approximately it could amount to \$100,000. Shannon said that in other similar situations there are very few applications for credits. Shannon said we would likely see 10 – 20% maximum of the eligible applicants come in for a credit. Stephanie said the only inquiry we have had regarding credits is a church that has installed pervious pavement and other measures. Discussion regarding the timing of credit application: people would have to apply at least by September 15th in order to have them evaluated before we have to supply the following year's list of assessed parcels to the Counties by November 30th. Applicants would have to provide all supporting documentation; VLAWMO does not have the time to do the legwork. Agreement to require (rather than suggest) an engineer's report for

all applications for all BMPs installed on a site. Discussion that it should be “advertised” in the local papers, legal notices, VLAWMO website, and postings at municipal buildings. Also recommended that VLAWMO do a mailing to those eligible applicants who paid over \$1000 in fees for 2008. Discussion about expiration of credits: The policy currently has a 5 year expiration date. Smith said that many places do not have expiration but that 5 years is a reasonable amount of time to recertify. On page 2 of the draft, under stormwater quality reduction –Smith stated that some agencies have dealt with the idea of someone stating they have a wetland on their property where water flows to which is a natural feature rather than the installation of a BMP. Those agencies have either said that they do not count towards a credit or some have said that it can be up to 25% reduction. Vogt has suggested a credit pool where we set aside a dollar amount that is the maximum amount of money that can go to credits and that once it is used up; there are no more credits available. Peterson suggests a \$25,000 pool. Smith will redraft the policy based on the changes discussed and it will be brought to the Board for their June 30th meeting. It was moved & seconded by Emeott & Youngstrom to recommend to the Board the draft credit policy with changes discussed at this meeting, including a timeline plus the allocation of funds for advertising and the mailing. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

3. Boundary Update: Stephanie stated that the BWSR petition is being constructed.

Programs & Projects – possible action

A. Lambert Lake & Lambert Creek – planting updates

Purchases of approximately \$2800 were made in order to get spring plants and shoreline restoration materials in the ground prior to approval from TEC.

Youngstrom thinks that if something is in the budget and is needed for our work that we should not have to wait for a TEC meeting to get approval. That is a policy change that would have to occur and VLAWMO staff will begin to look into that. It was moved and seconded by Franey & Emeott to forgive the purchases prior to approval and approve the June expenditures up to \$2800.

Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. Whittaker Pond project – stakeholder meeting update

Stephanie reviewed findings by Emmons and Olivier Resources (EOR) from the first stakeholder meeting. EOR has also taken sediment cores and will do analysis to determine what sort of disposal would be needed by the dredge material.

Peterson requests that we post Whittaker Pond information on the website. It was moved and seconded by Franey & Emeott to approve the PACE soil sampling fees of up to \$5000. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

C. Lambert Creek Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

D. Cost Share Program – Kristine presented 1 application for another North Oaks Homeowners Association (NOHOA) project along Pleasant Lake and recommended approval for the project. It was moved & seconded by Youngstrom & Franey to approve the application. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

E. Monitoring Program

F. Public Education Program – Stephanie informed the TEC about the raingarden workshop, Heritage Pond, and Partnership Summit plans. Stephanie reviewed the summit agenda at this point. It was moved and seconded by Youngstrom & Emeott to officially invite TEC and Board at no cost and if the main person cannot come, then their alternate can come for free. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

G. Sustainable Lake Management Plans

1. Birch Lake – The Birch Lake Improvement District (BLID) had their annual meeting on Wednesday and the SLMP was presented by Steve McComas & Stephanie. Franey would like to see more analysis done on the inputs into the lake. TEC directed staff to purchase more storm samplers to monitor the inputs to Birch Lake. Stephanie discussed that there is implementation money for Birch Lake right now and that direction is needed regarding how to allocate the money.
2. Tamarack Lake – VLAWMO Interns have been collecting some historical information, and collecting the storm samples and regular Tamarack samples. Staff will have a meeting with Nature Center staff and John Moriarty (Ramsey County Parks) to discuss any other information they may have that would be useful for the SLMP. This SLMP one will be different than the one for Birch because there are no homeowners around the lake and therefore no current development directly adjacent to the waterbodies.

Reports

1. Financial

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

2. WCA Activity – There are three possible violations that were checked. One has to do with an improperly placed silt fence but the owner is fixing it, another was neighbors complaining about a homeowner, and three others that need to be checked today.

4. Local Water Plan Updates

New Business

Commissioner Reports -

Administrator Report – VLAWMO would like to have a regular engineering firm to turn to with issues and questions. HDR has provided VLAWMO with a general services contract for this. They wrote our water plan and sponsor our annual summit so there is a strong working relationship. The contract would have them “on retainer” for questions. We would only pay if we use them for questions. It was not required to go out for bid since it is expected to cost under \$50,000 (we are only planning up to \$10,000) annually. Motion to recommend to the Board to approve the general services contract with HDR – Franey & Youngstrom

Public Comment - None

Adjourn

It was moved and seconded by Peterson & Franey to adjourn at 9:40am. Vote: All Aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Lampert.