

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission
Minutes
August 15, 2008**

Attending:

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Paul Peterson | White Bear Township (WBT), Chair |
| Neil Franey | White Bear Lake (WBL) |
| Mark Graham | Vadnais Heights (VH) |
| <i>Absent</i> | Lino Lakes (LL) |
| Paul Emeott | Gem Lake (GL) |
| John Youngstrom | North Oaks (NO) |

Others in attendance: Stephanie McNamara, Kristine Lampert, Brian Corcoran, VLAWMO; John Blackstone, St. Paul Regional Water Service (SPRWS), Jessica Collin-Pilarski, TEC Alternate, VH; Eli Rupnow, EOR; Brent Thompson, City of White Bear Lake Engineer; Gary Johnson & Ben Hodapp, Anderson Engineering; Mark Bigelbach, Conquest Development Services

I. Agenda Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:35 am. It was moved and seconded by Graham & Youngstrom to approve the agenda. Vote: all aye. Motion Passed

II. Minutes It was moved and seconded by Graham & Emeott to approve the minutes of the July meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. Old Business

A. Whitaker Pond Project

Rupnow handed out EOR's Feasibility Report for Whittaker Pond Improvements and discussed the studies conducted and described the different options to the TEC. If the project could be done in phases, Rupnow prefers doing the new structure first and then the dredging. TEC prefers Option D but doing it in phases. There is a slight cost efficiency in doing both dredging and structure work at once but not financially significant.

It was moved and seconded by Franey & Graham to direct Stephanie to have a stakeholder meeting to discuss partnership funding and how best to move forward. Vote: all aye. Motion Passed.

****Change in agenda – Item V. Reports B. WCA Activity 2. Sports Complex in Vadnais Heights – direction for replacement plan** (moved up the schedule to accommodate visitors)

Bigelbach, Johnson, and Hodapp discussed the proposed development of the property on County Rd E & Labore Rd. They want to move ahead as soon as possible with the hockey arena development. The land has wetlands and is an old dump site from the 1950s – 1960s; apparently it has serious contamination and construction debris from the old Anchor Hospital (bricks, mortar, asbestos and other contaminants). MPCA has

recommended that the soils remain in place and encapsulate it rather than dig it out and remove to another site. There will be wetland mitigation issues due to a lack of onsite replacement options. Infiltration and ponding on site is not feasible due to the area being an old dump site. \$300,000 used for soil testing alone. They are asking for some leniency on wetland sequencing in order to move this project forward. VH thinks this is a positive proposed development because it is recreational use – hockey arena and soccer fields. Emeott asked how much will be impervious surface and wanted clarification as to how much water would come off the site in a rain event and if they have planned accordingly to deal with that. If the developer doesn't want on site mitigation (ponds or infiltration), where will all the runoff water go? Johnson responded that there are a couple of raingardens and a small pond planned which would outlet to a wetland and the 35E ditch. In prior meetings, Gerry Urban (VH City Administrator and abutting landowner) suggested that some of the runoff be diverted through a culvert beneath 35E over to land that would require working with some private landowners and VH Public Works. The Lambert Lake wetland area is also nearby and could possibly be used. It was suggested that some depressed areas in the parking lots be installed as well. This property has been identified in the City's Local Water Plan as an area of regional importance. The developers would like answers from the TEC for the following two questions: Are you open to flexibility in sequencing; thereby allowing mitigation offsite? And are you open to being flexible regarding the new infiltration standards?

It was moved & seconded by Franey & Graham to allow for flexibility in mitigation location and infiltration standards given the unique constraints of this site. All aye. Motion passed.

IV. Programs & Projects – possible action

A. Monitoring Program Update

Corcoran gave an overview of the activities completed this summer – including the plantings at the flumes, Lambert Lake, Heritage Pond/Raingarden, installation of more storm samplers, and SLMP work.

B. Cost Share Program – Policy Changes

Kristine went over the proposed changes to the Cost Share Program Policy as well as the proposed Agreement that would have to be signed by the applicant and VLAWMO after grant approval. These changes provide for more protection to VLAWMO, and therefore less liability. It follows the lines of the cost share agreement that Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD) uses.

It was moved and seconded by Emeott & Youngstrom to approve Cost Share Policy changes and Agreement. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

C. Lambert Lake Update

Covered under A.

D. Public Education Program Update

Partnership Summit Conference – agenda/timeline/cost

Mc Namara reviewed the agenda and some of the attendees that have already registered.

Motion made by Youngstrom & Emeott to not charge TEC and Board members for attending the Summit. All aye. Motion passed.

E. Sustainable Lake Management Plans

1. Tamarack
2. Gilfillan Lake – proposal to move the SLMP study for Gilfillan up one year and exchange with Wilkinson.
Residents have reformed the Gilfillan Lake Association and are raising concerns to Youngstrom and VLAWMO about the water level of Gilfillan getting lower. Some quick research has shown that Gilfillan’s lake level has not gone down more or quicker than any of the other lakes in the area. There is interest from the lake association for VLAWMO to conduct an SLMP and willingness for cost sharing for studies on the lake.
Youngstrom is asking for VLAWMO to consider moving Gilfillan up a year in SLMP order and moving Wilkinson to 2010 rather than 2009. One of the ratings for the list of SLMPs is based on whether there were active groups involved with the lake. When the list was created, Gilfillan was not rated for an active group. Now there appears to be interest and active involvement. A motion was made and seconded by Youngstrom & Graham to move Gilfillan’s SLMP study to 2009 and change Wilkinson to 2010. Vote: all aye. Motion passed. McNamara stated that she needs to check with the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) and the North Oaks Company to make sure there are no issues with this change.

F. Watershed Boundary Update

Concurrence letters from all of our partners are coming in. RWMWD, WBL, and LL have all signed their letters. GL, WBT & VH Councils meet next week. RCWD did pass it and the letter should arrive shortly.

- G. Storm Sewer Utility** – McNamara reviewed the rates that Jeanne Vogt from Ehlers has proposed and passed along the feelings of the Board that the Credit Program may be premature at this time since our reserves are so low. They think we should hold off on the credit system for a couple of years. There was not quorum therefore no formal action was taken but the 3 Directors that were present all agreed on this point.

V. Reports

A. Financial

McNamara reviewed the August report. It was moved and seconded by Graham & Franey to approve the report and authorize checks for payment. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. WCA Activity

1. Enforcement activity in Lino Lakes and White Bear Lake – Smart Carte site has some fill in a depression and the other is a residential property in LL that has encroached on wetland.
2. Sports Complex in Vadnais Heights (*covered earlier in the minutes*)
3. 12 Dogwood Lane, NO – Were informed by the City that it appeared there was some excavation. Indeed there appears to be some violation and

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McNamara is going out with the Conservation Officer (CO) for a Cease & Desist Order (CDO).

Franey & Youngstrom left at 9:35am

VI. New Business

VII. Commissioner Reports – none

VIII. Administrator Report – Policy & Personnel Committee met and committed to have an Employee Handbook Manual by the end of the year.

IX. Public Comment - None

X. Adjourn

It was moved and seconded by Emeott & Graham to adjourn at 9:45 am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Lampert.