

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
Technical Commission  
Minutes  
September 19, 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)
<i>Absent</i>	Gem Lake (GL)
Chris Mann	North Oaks (NO), Alternate

Others in attendance: Stephanie McNamara, Kristine Lampert, Brian Corcoran, VLAWMO; John Blackstone, St. Paul Regional Water Service (SPRWS), Jessica Collin-Pilarski, TEC Alternate, VH; Geoff Nash, Ramsey Conservation District (RCD); Kristi DuBois, VH resident

- I. Call to Order** Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:34 am.
- II. Approval of Agenda** Stephanie requested an additional update to the agenda; under WCA activity to add the McNulty application (VII.B.3)). It was moved and seconded by Graham & Franey to approve the agenda. Vote: all aye. Motion Passed
- III. Minutes** It was moved and seconded by Graham & Franey to approve the minutes of the August meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- IV. Old Business**
  - A. Whitaker Pond Project**

Emmons & Olivier (EOR) sent over a revised feasibility report. Graham had questions that needed to be addressed. Specifically, the costs in the original report were inaccurate since they only covered the construction rather than the engineering and other associated costs. The revised report has been modified to reflect total costs. Since the costs have gone up considerably with this revision, the actions that can be taken may need to be considered. EOR also studied how much drainage can be associated to WBL, WBT, or Ramsey Co. They found that WBL had the majority of the drainage. We are also looking into grants but have found that it may not be likely since this is a maintenance project and grant opportunities don't generally give money for that sort of work. Graham thinks we should have a stakeholders meeting to discuss this with the other local government units (LGUs) that are a part of this project. Franey thinks that the County might have more impact from the salting and sanding. Franey asked about timelines. Stephanie said that we are already behind schedule if we are going to get any work done this winter. There are 3-4 months of stakeholder meetings and final engineering reports that need to be done. Blackstone thinks this an impressive project and important for the

watershed. He thinks we need to think about the precedent we are setting with this project. Also suggested searching for equipment rental contracts for governments and that he would be happy to help with that. Blackstone stated that SPRWS has an interest in this project but that it is not necessarily accurate to place the onus on them for funding this project. It is like saying that anything that happens here on the Mississippi River is ultimately New Orleans' problem so they should pay for it. It was agreed that SPRWS is a stakeholder in this project just as WBL, WBT and Ramsey County.

Motion by Peterson and Franey to direct Administrator to set up another stakeholder meeting, continue to search for grants, and prioritize funds for implementing this project based on the cost estimates for Option D. Vote: all aye. Motion Passed.

**V. New Business**

**A. Groundwater in Ramsey County – Geoff Nash, RCD**

Nash gave a presentation about groundwater basics.

\*\*Request to adjust the agenda to accommodate Tim McNulty (McNulty Construction) & Ben Hodapp (Anderson Engineering). Refer to Item VII.B.3

**VI. Programs & Projects – possible action**

**A. Monitoring Program Update**

A resident called to complain about what they felt was contaminated runoff from Garceau's hardware and small motor repair in VH. Kristine got some prices on testing water for this. Discussion was had regarding the precedence of doing tests whenever someone complains. Graham said he, Stephanie and Urban will go talk with the guy and then discuss it further at October meeting.

**B. Lambert Lake Update**

- 1) Culvert removal and planting – Kristine & Brian reviewed the work completed this past month. Work at Lambert Lake is likely completed unless planting is warranted in the biologists next year.
- 2) Hydrology Study – SPRWS  
SPRWS and the Upper Mississippi Water Resource Project are working with the (United States Geological Survey) USGS to study the flow of Lambert Creek now that Lambert Lake is complete. SPRWS has wanted the outflow to go through the wetland and want to make sure it is happening. The work is done and the report will come shortly and will be shared with VLAWMO.

**C. Public Education Program Update**

- 1) Partnership Summit Conference – Conference is Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. VLAWMO would like to give its Environmental Excellence Award to Jim Johnston who is a founding father of VLAWMO. His health is failing and Stephanie has not been able to reach him over the last week. We will still award it to him and we hope to have him present at the summit to receive the award.

- 2) WBT Festival – WBT is having a 150<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration on September 27<sup>th</sup> and VLAWMO is going to have a table/display there. Peterson said he could help in the afternoon.

**D. Sustainable Lake Management Plans (SLMP)**

- 1) Birch – Received the sediment report from Steve McComas and am told he will get the SLMP to me this week.
- 2) Tamarack & Fish – Received the sediment report from Steve McComas. Kristine is going through all the results from this year’s study and will begin pulling it into a SLMP. Planning to have a meeting later in the fall to review the report and talk about any future steps.
- 3) Gilfillan – Kristine is starting to plan for studies that will be conducted for this SLMP and will focus on it more once Tamarack’s SLMP is completed.

**E. Watershed Boundary Update**

Almost done, need concurrence letters from GL and WBL and then it can be sent in to BWSR. The change won’t be effective for this year’s storm sewer utility (SSU) billing.

**F. Storm Sewer Utility**

- 1) Update from Board of Directors (BOD) meeting
- 2) Budget Amendment

**VII. Reports**

**A. Financial**

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

**B. Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Activity**

- 1) Lucius exemption request – homeowner was worried that the pool construction on her property was filling a wetland. Site inspection found that the wetland hasn’t been affected but she is within the 30’ setback with a fence. Stephanie said she could apply for a de minimus exemption in case the fence crosses into the wetland area. It is likely that there will be no wetland effect. Move to approve Graham & Mann.
- 2) Enforcement activity in LL, WBL, & NO  
Stephanie reviewed activity this last month. No action required – for information purposes only.
- 3) McNulty exemption – Stephanie recommends that the exemption request be approved contingent on accommodating drainage and planting a newly discovered wetland pocket (little less than 100 s.f. and it is close to being a wetland). The original delineation did not find this because it formed while re-grading for the developments. Lot 5 of Hillary Farm addition in GL is ready to be developed and they want a driveway to cut through part of the low area. Franey/Graham move to approve the exemption. All Aye.

**VIII. Commissioner Reports** Peterson has requested a date change for the November meeting due to a conflict. Franey will be gone as well. Graham/Franey change the November meeting to November 14<sup>th</sup> rather than the 21<sup>st</sup>.

- IX. Administrator Report** - Anoka Conservation District has asked the local watersheds to pay for their share of development of an Anoka County Geologic Atlas. VLAWMO's share is \$121.
- a. VLAWMO has another grant opportunity for a Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) grant. Mark Gehringer, a WBT resident and engineer with HR Green has volunteered to work on the application with the knowledge that it doesn't bind us to hiring their company if the work is funded. The grant is being written for more work along Lambert Creek especially in the area between Rice and Grass Lake. Staff is asking the TEC for direction with this endeavor. A motion was made by & seconded by Graham & Franey to proceed with the application for LCCMR grant funding to do work along Lambert Creek. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
  - 4) Birch Lake grant proposal. A grant opportunity has come up through Minnesota Waters to give \$5000 to citizen's lake groups on projects. VLAWMO pulled together the information for the grant which would restore eroded areas along the NW shore of the lake. A motion was made by and seconded by Franey & Graham to support working further with the Birch Lake Improvement District (BLID) and WBL on this project. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- X. Public Comment** - Du Bois suggested talking with Garceau about the resident's complaint as well.
- XI. Adjourn**  
It was moved and seconded by to adjourn at 9:20 am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Lampert.