

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
October 17, 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)
John Youngstrom	North Oaks (NO)

Others in attendance: Stephanie McNamara, Kristine Lampert, Brian Corcoran, VLAWMO; John Blackstone, St. Paul Regional Water Service (SPRWS)

- 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; Item V. E. “Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) – E.coli study”
It was moved and seconded by Graham & Franey to approve the agenda.
Vote: all aye. Motion Passed.
- III. Minutes**
Franey - Fix shorthand on page 3. Youngstrom – spell out Legislative Citizen Commission for Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) shorthand on page 4.
It was moved and seconded by Graham & Franey to approve the minutes of the September meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- IV. New Business**
- A. Commissioner Workshop**
1. How involved with VLAWMO do you want to be? Franey – want to be involved if he knows what his job is. Youngstrom feels like they are more of a citizen’s group rather than governing.
 2. What does the Technical Commission (TEC) accomplish? Graham – TEC gets the first review of plans and discusses with the proposed engineers and/or citizens. Our name implies technical stuff and that’s what we should and do focus on. Peterson – we influence that money goes to projects that are worthy and needed. Youngstrom – does the Board of Directors (BOD) listen to the advice of the TEC? Franey – provide a public oversight on VLAWMO’s activities. Graham – would like VLAWMO to set up a little field trip a week before a TEC meeting or when needed to look at the projects we are talking about or send out a map with the packets so they can look at it. Youngstrom – wants Blackstone’s input on this issue: Blackstone thinks VLAWMO has made a lot of progress in its operation and SPRWS is pleased with the changes. Blackstone thinks this is a worthy discussion because it should be analyzed and roles considered.
 3. Summit evolution

Peterson suggests that a different time of year. Winter may be a more feasible time. Perhaps charge less for the public. Graham – a diverse audience makes it harder to have speakers that can interest everyone. Should we have shorter targeted workshops? How about combining other active lake associations for a workshop? Graham – maybe ½ day workshops and maybe not every year. Youngstrom remembers that when the new 2 tract governing system was established, it was talked about that the TEC would be involved with Education items. Chris Mann said that all the topics at the summit were over her head. Youngstrom suggests a workshop for TEC/BOD. Graham – suggests that VLAWMO a workshop for City Staff that states what VLAWMO (and maybe include DNR Hydrologist or BWSR or PCA) expects from the Cities for development projects or wetland issues with a packet of information that they can use. Doesn't think the summit is worthy of how much time it takes. Who? Homeowners/VLAWMO staff, TEC, BOD/Public/City staff/Other agencies. John Bilotta (NEMO) would be a good speaker in terms of showing the TEC/BOD and City Staff what it takes to work together on a watershed. Peterson wants us to pursue that and wants the TEC to recommend this to the Board. Graham thinks it should be done during a regular meeting. The TEC recommends that we not have a summit next year and put our energies towards focus group meetings as discussed above.

- B. We have 4 grants in the works right now. One from Minnesota Waters for BLID project, one through LCCMR via Mark Gerhinger to do shoreline restoration, walking trails, and a bridge along Lambert Creek for \$150,000 from Rice Lake to Grass Lake. Kristine is applying for a Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG) which would be used for . One in partnership with Blue Thumb to put in BMPs and have it as a web-based tour – would be with VH on the rain garden they plan on putting in at the new Public Works facilities.

V. Programs & Projects – possible action

A. Public Education Program

- B. Lambert Lake Update – Hydrology Study by SPRWS – SPRWS hasn't had time to look at it.**

C. Sustainable Lake Management Plans

- 1) Tamarack & Fish – Kristine has a rough draft done and had a meeting yesterday with Ramsey County Public Works, Ramsey County Parks, Tamarack Nature Center to review and get more information for it. We plan to have the report finished this winter.
- 2) Gilfillan Lake – did a lake depth plan and has had some initial contact with residents. Will have a meeting late fall – early winter with homeowners and City staff to discuss the SLMP process and visions for the stakeholders.
- 3) Gem Lake – asked to come to their new homeowners association and are anxious to start working on projects.

D. Whitaker Pond

Stephanie has just sent out an email asking for a stakeholder’s meeting. Mark Burch (WBL) is very interested in a meeting.

E. TMDL – E. coli study

VI. Reports

A. Financial

McNamara reviewed the October report. Peterson would like to recommend to BOD to move the \$50,000 from 6.4.6

*It was moved and seconded by Peterson & Graham to move available funds from Goose Lake Capital Improvement Project 6.4.6 to Whitaker Pond (6.4.3)
It was moved and seconded by Graham & Youngstrom to approve the October report and authorize checks for payment. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.*

B. WCA Activity

We haven’t had any response from the Dogwood Lane enforcement action so we may be moving to have a restoration plan directed. The WB Pkwy/Smart Carte site has been resolved.

VII. Commissioner Reports

Franey asked if Lino Lakes was going to have representation at VLAWMO. Suggested to either send a letter to the residents within the border or put an ad in the paper. Tell them you are paying for this but you aren’t represented. Mark will write up a letter and Brian will get it out. Stephanie will talk with the City so that they know what we are doing.

VIII. Administrator Report

A. Watershed Boundary Update

Still waiting for GL and WBL’s letter. Stephanie will ask them to get them in as soon as possible.

B. Ramsey County Groundwater Plan

C. Storm Sewer Utility

IX. Public Comment

X. Adjourn

*It was moved and seconded by Graham & Youngstrom to adjourn at 9:20 am.
Vote: All aye. Motion passed.*

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Lampert.