

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization**  
**Technical Commission Minutes**  
**November 14, 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; Larry Breimhurst, VH, Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), John Blackstone, St. Paul Regional Water Service (SPRWS), Dave Schuler, SPRWS, Jessica Collin-Pilarski, VH, TEC Alternate

**I. Call to Order** Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:35 am.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

Stephanie asked to add discussion under Lambert Creek TMDL regarding an unpaid bill from last winter's construction. *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 Franey & Graham to approve the minutes of the October meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.*

**IV. New Business**

**A. Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) sub-grant agreement with Ramsey Conservation District (RCD)**

*It was moved and seconded by Graham & Franey to approve the sub-grant as written. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.*

**B. Policies Handbook Update – Personnel Handbook**

A draft handbook was in the TEC information packets for review. The Policy and Personnel Committee will be meeting to pursue this further. A major need is to figure out how to provide insurance for VLAWMO employees and whether we can piggyback onto another City or perhaps the Ramsey County insurance program. Stephanie requests that the TEC give comments before the December meeting.

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

**A. Whitaker Pond Project**

Stephanie has been trying to get a meeting scheduled but it has been difficult to get all the stakeholders together at one time. We are now aiming for the first 2 weeks of December for the meeting. One of the main discussions will be how to share the cost among the partners and create a long term maintenance agreement. There was consensus from TEC that VLAWMO pay 50% of the cost and the other stakeholders paying for the other half. *\*\*After*

*the meeting, Youngstrom stated that he is not necessarily in favor of VLAWMO agreeing to 50% of the cost and wanted that stated in the minutes.\*\**

**B. Lambert Creek Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)**

- a. **Unpaid bill from Jay Bros:** Jay Bros damaged a Qwest utility box and did not pay for the repairs. Jay Bros is now out of business. CMR, a claims company for Qwest, was not able to get the money from Jay Bros and they have now come to VLAWMO to get payment since we were the ones who hired them. If we put in a liability claim with our insurance, our premiums will go up. We could just pay the \$3500 bill but that doesn't seem fair. We could ignore it but that wouldn't be wise. Graham suggested that VLAWMO just pay it because it was damaged, Qwest fixed it, and we will still have to work with Qwest in the future so it would be best to get this done. It's a no win situation. Graham emailed a copy of the CMR letter to Mark Jay but has not heard back from him.

*It was moved and seconded by Graham & Youngstrom moved to work with the claims company to pay this bill. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.*

- b. **TMDL:** Stephanie has sent out requests for proposals for a TMDL work plan to EOR and HDR. It was suggested to send it to Houston Engineering, HR Green, Bonestroo, Barr as well as the Consulting Engineers Council. It was also suggested that Stephanie check with the Pollution Control Agency's (PCA) preferred consultant list for other companies. Peterson has started writing background information for the TMDL. Peterson has also found a professor at the U of M who is doing research on e. coli

**C. Public Education Program**

**a. TEC/Board workshop agenda**

Stephanie will be asking the Board at their meeting next week if they would be willing to participate in a workshop with John Bilotta as well as "Stormwater U" materials. It would likely be in conjunction with a planned Board meeting but held earlier in the evening and providing food for dinner.

**b. Engineering staff workshop focus**

Based on Graham's suggestion from the last meeting, Stephanie has been looking into what information would be good for City Engineers. There is a budget item for "Local Plan Development" that Stephanie would like to suggest using some of that money to create a set of rules that explain VLAWMO's standards. Then that would be something worth having a workshop for. Graham thinks that is the best thing to do and how other watersheds are doing it. Stephanie passed out some examples from other watershed districts. Graham thinks HDR should do this since they wrote our Work Plan so it would be more cost effective to use them for this.

*It was moved and seconded by Franey & Graham to use the funding from Local Plan Development to hire HDR to create our rules. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.*

**D. Lambert Lake Hydrology Study – SPRWS report**

Schuler said haven't had much time to look at the report. Schuler said that there was no flow so there won't be much to say. The USGS will do more studies when we have flow.

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

Kristine stated that she is writing the reports and hoping to have Birch completed by the end of the year. She plans to have Tamarack completed by spring. Kristine is in the planning stages for Gilfillan SLMP. At this point, it appears that the homeowners that have spoken with Stephanie and Youngstrom are most interested in diverting water into the lake to raise its levels. A meeting will be pulled together with Gilfillan residents to discuss the expectations of an SLMP. Also had a meeting with Gem Lake homeowners who are anxious to study the water quality of their lake as well.

**VI. Reports**

**A. Financial**

McNamara reviewed the November report.

*It was moved and seconded by Franey & Graham to accept the November report and authorize checks for payment. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.*

**B. WCA Activity**

Stephanie said that White Bear Lake Public Works will be getting variances for work that is being done on the site. Also working with Jeff Buckley, NO homeowner who will be applying for a wildlife variance for the lagoon he was dredging out. Staff will likely be going to some WCA training this winter to review new rules.

**VII. Commissioner Reports**

Graham wanted to inform TEC that nothing more has happened with the Sports Complex. No plans have been submitted yet. He still thinks something will happen but doesn't know when. There is a lot of talking but no formal plans.

**VIII. Administrator Report**

**A. Representation from Lino Lakes**

Stephanie spoke with City staff and Marty Asleson is planning to come to future TEC meetings (he was unable to attend this one). Asleson is the Environmental Manager.

Emeott said that Gem Lake may not have representation on VLAWMO TEC and Board because our current representatives were not re-elected and that "no one in Gem Lake is interested in VLAWMO or wants anything to do with VLAWMO."

George Rux, NO Board Alternate did not run for re-election so NO will need to assign a new person to represent on the Board as well.

Stephanie said that VLAWMO has survived these changes before and will survive again. Graham said a letter should be sent to the new GL mayor and NO mayor explaining what VLAWMO does and its importance.

**B. Watershed Boundary Update**

As of this morning, we have all the concurrence letters so now it can now go to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for approval and our new boundary can be finalized.

**C. Ramsey County Groundwater Plan**

They are in the process of writing the newer updates based on advisory committee meetings. We received a request from Ramsey County to comment on their Comprehensive Plan.

**D. 2009 Storm Sewer Utility**

It will be certified at next week's board meeting.

**IX. Public Comment**

**X. Adjourn**

*It was moved and seconded by Graham & Youngstrom to adjourn at 8:50 am.*

*Vote: All aye. Motion passed.*

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Lampert.