

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
March 12, 2010**

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), Interim Commissioner

Others in attendance: Stephanie McNamara, Kristine Lampert, Brian Corcoran (VLAWMO); John Blackstone, St. Paul Regional Water Service (SPRWS); Marty Long (VLAWMO Board, NO City Council); Mike Goodnature, Ramsey Conservation District (RCD)

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

II. Approval of Agenda

Due to Graham's need to leave at 8:30, the approval of the financial report and checks will be addressed at the beginning of the meeting. Stephanie has also asked for an item to be included under Governance to allow for the introduction of the 2011 Budget.

It was moved and seconded Graham & Franey by to approve the agenda.

Vote: all aye. Motion Passed.

III. Approval of Minutes (February)

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

IV. New Business

A. Gem Lake Local Water Plan – draft comments

Tabled until April meeting.

B. Request for Sobota Slough Restoration

There was preliminary discussion last meeting. A neighbor would like the some of the wetland adjacent to the current PW site (soon to phased out) to be restored to wetland, similar to the surrounding Sobota Slough. The land belongs to WBL and significant portions are old fill. The City is considering many different options for the site. ***STAFF RECOMMENDATION: VLAWMO is into the 4th year of its Water Management Plan (WMP) and should be looking at reviewing the WMP for inclusion of possible plan amendments in the next year.*** This restoration project is within the Lambert Creek drainage area. Adding it to the WMP will generate more grant potential. Aerials below show an increase in the fill area from 1940 to 1985, but little or no increase until 2009. Some small areas of fill post-1992 (WCA) were removed under a WCA enforcement action.

Defining how much restoration is sought would be necessary. Graham offered to

assist staff at looking at the site to determine ideas for the site that could be brought

It was moved and seconded by Franey & Graham to direct VLAWMO staff to do a preliminary study of the area and develop ideas for this site. Vote: all aye.

Motion passed.

V. Programs & Projects – possible action

A. Lambert Creek – Retrofit Analysis Project

Mike Goodnature (RCD) gave a presentation about the study RCD and VLAWMO are partnering on. It is a diagnostic study which will determine the best placement of BMPs within the Lambert Creek Subwatershed.

B. Monitoring Program

The season has started. We have collected three rounds of chloride samples from the Lambert Creek Locations so far, no results yet. Dissolved Oxygen (DO) was taken last week from Birch Lake. We will be kicking off the lake sampling May 4th, and the creek sampling will begin May 3rd. We will begin to contact the volunteers next month. The 2010 monitoring budget was emailed out to the TEC.

C. Public Education Program

1. Citizen’s Advisory Committee

Kristine will set up another CAC meeting this spring once plans are finalized for the planting project at Whitaker Pond so that volunteers can be recruited to help.

2. Shallow Lakes Workshop

Attendance figures were excellent – 36 local residents attended and discussion was lively. The comments were favorable and those attending found it very worthwhile. There was significant interest in the DVD being produced and the broadcasting of the program. Staff would have liked more of the lake association people we have been working with to have been there, however they may get the DVD and hear what the speakers had to say. Net cost of the event was about \$2250 (\$2000 budgeted). Attendees were excited about it, felt they learned new things and there were several requests for the DVD or the times it would be on cable.

3. Education & Outreach Plan – BWSR Workshop

Next workshop: 3/23 to share implementation strategies and learn more about measurement & evaluation of those strategies.

4. Rainbarrel Program - 2010

The brochure has been updated and is on the website. Articles will go to the local papers as well.

5. Raingarden 101 Workshop

A workshop is scheduled for April 7th at the Vadnais Heights South Fire Station training room. Information will be on the website and in the local papers.

D. Sustainable Lake Management Plans

1. Gilfillan

The draft SLMP was presented the Gilfillan Homeowners Group. Comments were given for changes and future ideas. The homeowners are working on their mission statement and that statement will help create the

action plan for the lake. They have asked for a 3 year plan for action items. VLAWMO will clean up the draft once the mission statement is received and the final SLMP will be presented to the whole group. The consensus was, as shown in the homeowner surveys, that wildlife viewing and water quality are now the top priorities for Gilfillan Lake.

2. Wilkinson

Kristine and Brian did sediment sampling and those samples are now at the U of M to be tested. North Oaks Company has shared a few reports and studies that they have completed over the years which will be reviewed and incorporated into the plan.

3. Gem

We anticipate working with the City of Gem Lake to scope an RFP for a highway 61 drainage study. This will be a significant piece for the SLMP. It is also timely as MNDOT has advised VLAWMO that highway 61 will be reconstructed from Cedar Avenue south to 600' south of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe RR crossing. This included bridge replacement and realignment and will create 0.38 acres of new impervious surface.

E. Governance & Policy

Introduction of the 2011 Budget – Stephanie reviewed a draft of the 2011 budget. Stephanie is trying to keep the budget increase to 3%; the preliminary numbers show a 4.3% increase.

F. Cost Share Program

An application was received for a project in Vadnais Heights. The application being considered is for an expansion of a raingarden project we funded last year. The expanded garden will collect runoff between two properties and will use native plants. It is recommended the TEC approve this grant application.

It was moved and seconded by Franey & Mann to approve Cost Share Application Number 2010-01 for a total reimbursement of \$225.00. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

G. Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

1. Whitaker Pond – update

The project has been on pause again; however all of the pond excavation is done and 90% of the forebay. We are anticipating several action items in the next couple of weeks:

- Final boards added to the weir with the sand-iron filing filter medium being added.
 - Final grading on the west side of the forebay with finish grading and final seed & mulch as weather permits.
 - Design for the weir and project to be finalized with the help of the University of MN and others.
- a. **Payment #3** is ready for TEC authorization this month: \$73,899. This will bring us to about \$51,000 left in the Landwehr contract. Pay application #3 includes the change order of \$5942, of which VLAWMO is responsible for 40%. The EOR invoice is \$3878, with about \$3100 left in the contract. Funds will be transferred from the

4M Plus account to cover these expenses. Payment #1 reimbursement from Stakeholders has been received. Payment #2 reimbursement invoices have been sent to stakeholders with WBT payment received. The Stakeholder financial summary is included for your information.

- b. **Monitoring of the project** – We are working with the St. Anthony Falls Lab with the U of M to develop a monitoring plan.
- c. **Re-vegetation of the site** will be aided by a Native Buffer Grant for approximately \$7,600 that VLAWMO will be getting through RCD via the Board and Water Soil Resources (BWSR). VLAWMO will be doing the labor with assistance from the Citizen’s Advisory Committee. The site will be planted in May or early June.

1. Birch Lake Shoreline Restoration

VLAWMO is receiving money (approximately \$6,900) from RCD through the BWSR Native Buffer Grant to help pay for the project. We are working with the BLID and the City to determine what they will contribute to get this project completed.

2. Lambert Creek Pilot Projects – possibilities for 2010

- a. Stream bank restoration in lower Lambert. VLAWMO did not receive grant funding to help this year, however \$8,869 remains in the budget.
- b. Subwatershed best management practices (BMPs) are being identified as part of the Retrofit project. There is metro Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) grant funding that could be leveraged to install BMPs in high-return areas.

H. Report to the Board – tabled until April

VI. Reports

A. Financial Report for March & authorization of payment

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

B. WCA Activity

VII. Commissioner Reports – Franey complimented the staff on the Shallow Lakes Workshop and Kristine’s work with the Citizen’s Advisory Committee.

VIII. Administrator Report – We have received 22 applications for the summer internship position. The announcement closes today and we will interview next week. At this point, we have the list narrowed down to 6 applicants and would like to narrow it down to interview 3 candidates. We have received our Audit report and there were no major findings. Due to our small staff, we have a difficult time with delegation of duties but we are doing the best we can based on our staff size.

IX. Public Comment – Long discussed the North Oaks Natural Resources Committee and is looking to have a partnership with VLAWMO, NOHOA, SPRWS, and S & S Tree Service.

X. Next TEC Meeting: April 9; Board Meeting: April 21

XI. Adjourn

It was moved and seconded by Mann & Franey to adjourn at 9:15am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Lampert.