

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
March 20, 2009

Attending:

Paul Peterson	White Bear Township (WBT), Chair
Neil Franey	White Bear Lake (WBL)
<i>Absent</i>	Vadnais Heights (VH)
Marty Asleson	Lino Lakes (LL)
<i>Absent</i>	Gem Lake (GL)
Chris Mann, alternate	North Oaks (NO)

Others in attendance: Stephanie McNamara, Kristine Lampert, Brian Corcoran, VLAWMO; Margaret Behrens, Ramsey Conservation District (RCD); John Blackstone (SPRWS)

I. Call to Order Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:30 am.

II. Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded by Franey & Asleson to approve the agenda as amended. Vote: all aye. Motion Passed.

III. Minutes

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

IV. New Business

A. Water Plan Standards Policy – updates, MOU & workshop – April 23

Stephanie reviewed the draft Memorandum of Understanding written by Della Young from HDR which each municipality will sign stating that their standards will meet or exceed the new VLAWMO standards. It will go to our legal counsel for review and then before the Board for approval in April. The Cities have been reviewing our draft Standards Policy and have gotten some good feedback. We will have a workshop on April 23 to review this policy.

B. SWAG Grant authorization for equipment

VLAWMO has finalized the SWAG Grant and signed the contract with the PCA. We can start spending money beginning April 1. We will purchase a new YSI Probe as well as other equipment such as Amber glass bottles, and parts to make integrated samplers. We do not expect to spend over \$400 on any one purchase with the exception of the YSI probe.

C. Report to the Board

As the April Board meeting is a month away, the report form will be updated in early April. It will then be forwarded to the TEC and BOD.

D. NEMO Request

NEMO is looking for local partners to donate money to their program due to a loss of grant funding from the MPCA (around \$40,000). NEMO came to our Watershed Summit last fall and have valuable education resources. We have money in our education budget. Is the TEC willing to donate to this program?

Asleson stated that NEMO came to a meeting at Lino Lakes and he believes NEMO is one of the best resources out there for education and public outreach. NEMO does great work and has great people working for them. Other watersheds are donating between \$2,000 – \$10,000. Stephanie feels that we could handle a donation in the \$2,000 range. It would go to the NEMO program to fund one of the instructor positions. What would VLAWMO receive? Currently, NEMO gives workshops for free. If they don't receive funding, they may have to charge fees. We would more likely get service if we are one of their partners. Stephanie is hoping that we could have NEMO at the April 23 workshop. So we would get a return on our investment. Asleson thinks it is a great thing to put money towards.

Asleson/Franey – motion to spend up to \$2,000 to the NEMO program.

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

A. Lambert Creek TMDL – Workplan Update

Rebecca Kluckhohn from Wenck will have the workplan ready before the next meeting.

B. Public Education Program

1) Citizen's Advisory Committee

- a) Earth Day at Tamarack Nature Center – April 18
- b) Governor's Fishing Opener – May 8-9
- c) Raingarden Workshops – April 9 and May 6
- d) Watershed Tour – June
- e) Other – VLAWMO and CAC agree that VLAWMO should have something to hand out (such as pens, pads, magnets, etc.) as well as shirts for CAC and TEC members to wear at these events or when representing VLAWMO. Brian did some research and handed out a sheet with price estimates for various things. Franey asked if the handouts are a wise use of taxpayer money. Peterson thinks if we did pens, we wouldn't need more than 1,000. Franey and Asleson agree that having shirts is a good idea. Peterson recommends polo style shirts. Kristine discussed the idea that a hand out was meant to be something to get people to recognize VLAWMO since no one heard of us before they received SSU bills. This is another way to get our name out. T-shirts are more cost effective but polos are more substantial. Franey/Mann made a motion to authorize up to \$1200 for shirts and handout items.

2) Blue Thumb Partnership

Kristine is going to a meeting today after the TEC. Will likely hear more about the billboard program for this spring and will discuss the idea of having an ad in Northern Gardener magazine. Will let TEC know of anything they may need to act on.

D. Whitaker Pond – proposal and update

We received a proposal from EOR yesterday afternoon. There has been no agreement made yet between WBL, WBT, and Ramsey County as of yet. Blackstone put together a draft grant application for Drinking Water Revolving Fund money. He handed it out for review and comment. VLAWMO can move forward with it if they are interested. There is also

an opportunity to allocate more money to this project out of the 2010 budget. The estimate provided by EOR was just under our expectation. If we approve this proposal, we could hopefully get the plans done in time. It would have to go out to bid in September. Blackstone said to tell our stakeholders that we are moving forward and they need to now come to the table with their share. Franey asked Blackstone if SPRWS will be putting up any money for this project. Blackstone stated that any money from them would actually be through the Upper Mississippi River Source Protection Project (a JPA between the Cities of Minneapolis and St. Cloud, and SPRWS). Flume 2 is included in the proposal from EOR. The actual flume has been sitting at VH Public Works and we need to finish up this project by getting it in the creek. It would be part of the CIP budget – with an estimated cost of \$20,000. Stephanie is seeking approval from the TEC to go to the Board for their approval on the engineering for Whittaker Pond and Flume as proposed by EOR. Franey / Peterson moved to recommend to the board that we approve the EOR the proposal for Whittaker Pond and Flume 2 installation engineering, as well as bid and construction oversight. Stakeholder support for this project will continue to be pursued. All aye. Motion passed.

E. Sustainable Lake Management Plans

1) Birch Lake – VLAWMO staff met with Jim Grisim and Dale Bacon of the BLID. Edits to the current SLMP have been requested. Kristine is working on them. The SLMP was taken off the website while these changes are made. Basic changes will be to make the report easier to read and to have a “State of the Lake” statement which would give a summary of the lake health and projects that could be implemented. We have implementation money set aside for projects on Birch Lake that we would like to spend. Kristine also spoke with Ron Auger on Birch Lake and encouraged him to rally up other homeowners to host a shoreline restoration workshop.

2) Tamarack & Fish – the focus has been on Birch and Gilfillan right now. Once Birch is back on the website, effort can be shifted to Tamarack and Fish. VLAWMO will meet with stakeholders to go over the draft later this year.

3) Gilfillan – a letter was sent to homeowners on Gilfillan to let them know that we are doing an SLMP. We are hosting an informational meeting on April 22.

V. Reports

A. Financial

1. March Report: Stephanie reviewed the March report.

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

A 2010 budget worksheet was handed out and Stephanie will hold a Budget committee meeting in the near future.

B. WCA Activity – nothing to report at this time.

- C. IT Request & Update** – we received the server and more money was spent than expected. Bringing back to the TEC for re-approval for getting ArcGIS software. It is in the budget still but will exhaust that item line. Franey/Mann moved and seconded to approve the expenditure of an additional \$600 to complete the IT purchases as listed in the handout.
- VI. Commissioner Reports**
- VII. Administrator Report** – BWSR will be having their Board meeting next week to approve the VLAWMO boundary change. We will then have to hire someone to write up the new legal description which will then go to the Cities for their approval. We have met with the auditor and accepted the draft audit which will in turn be accepted at the April Board meeting.
- VIII. Public Comment** – none
- IX. Adjourn**
It was moved & seconded by Asleson & Franey to adjourn at 9:08 am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Lampert.