

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
April 9, 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); David Austin & John Borghesi, CH2MHill; Eli Rupnow, EOR

I. Call to Order Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:33 am.

II. Approval of Agenda

Stephanie requested the deletion of IV, B. Gem Lake Local Water Plan.
It was moved and seconded Graham & Franey by to approve the agenda as amended. Vote: all aye. Motion Passed.

III. Approval of Minutes (March)

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

IV. New Business

A. Hypolimnetic aeration systems CH2MHill Presentation

Austin & Borghesi gave a presentation regarding the oxygenation of the hypolimnion layer of Pleasant and Vadnais Lakes. It was found that if oxygen was at about 5 mg/L, phosphorus stays in the sediment rather than becoming suspended. Aeration has not helped Pleasant Lake, there is a low DO and the aeration system is not working at all. Vadnais has good DO until later in the summer. Aeration has helped reduced Phosphorus but it is not doing enough. When you lose oxygen, the chemistry of the lake changes. 5mg/L is the “magic number” for allowing redox reactions to occur and allow for clearer water. Ferric Hydroxide cap in the water helps hold phosphorus down. Oxygenation is preferable to aeration: better O₂ transfer, higher energy efficiency, and has become standard since the mid-1990’s. Aeration works well in shallow lakes; oxygenation is a better answer for deeper lakes. The slides used in the presentation are available for review by request.

V. Programs & Projects – possible action

A. TMDL – Lambert Creek & Lakes

1. 2010 Work

- a) **Contract with MPCA**
- b) **Contract and change order** (recommendation with Wenck)

Due to complications with adding 4 lakes to our TMDL work plan, we have \$60,000 worth of work with only \$40,000 budget. There will be some work that VLAWMO takes on by itself and some project elements will likely be reduced in order to be within budget. Stephanie is meeting with the PCA & Wenck on Monday to work this out.

B. Monitoring Program

We will start monitoring May 3rd.

C. Public Education Program

1. Citizen's Advisory Committee

Had a meeting on 4/1/2010 with a nice turnout. Members are going to help staff VLAWMO booth at Tamarack Nature Center Earth Day event on 4/17/2010 and want to help with planting projects. Kristine will also be meeting with one member who had some research on e-newsletters.

2. Rainbarrel Update

We have sold out our rainbarrels and have received a few inquiries of people interested in buying them still. Does the TEC want us to buy more and continue the program? Another option is to direct them to the Ramsey County Program. TEC has directed staff to let people know about the Ramsey County Program rather than run the program ourselves.

3. Education & Outreach Plan – BWSR Workshop

Stephanie has been attending workshops to develop an EOP. Having an EOP is part of our 10 year plan. By developing an EOP for a particular topic, it provides an option for VLAWMO to get grant money. Stephanie has begun the draft of an EOP. She reviewed the EOP she has been working for the TEC and asked for responses.

4. Raingarden 101 Workshop

We hosted a workshop on April 7th with 18 attendees. There was a lot of interest in getting projects in the ground and using our cost share program. Kristine will follow up with an evaluation and determine if there is enough interest to hold a Raingarden 102 class.

D. Sustainable Lake Management Plans

1. Gilfillan – The draft SLMP is complete except for prioritizing the action list. The lake association has agreed to provide a goal or mission statement to assist with the prioritization.

2. Wilkinson – nothing to report this month, will do more surveys later in the spring and summer.

E. Governance & Policy

Preliminary Budget for 2011 -

F. Cost Share Program

An application was received for a project at a condo association in Vadnais Heights. The application being considered is for a raingarden and will use native plants. Ryan Johnson at RCD did the design. Kristine has met with the lead people on the project and recommends the TEC approve this grant application. It was moved and seconded by Graham & Franey to approve Cost Share Application Number 2010-02 for a total reimbursement of \$1000.00. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

G. Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

1. Whitaker Pond – update

Filter socks have been installed (filled with sand and iron), seeding and erosion control will happen next week. Flume 2 has been finished as well.

a) **Fiscal Update and Operations & Maintenance** – 70-75% has been paid of the project.

b) **Monitoring of project and weir efficiency** – We are working with the St. Anthony Falls Lab with the U of M to develop a monitoring plan. The U of M has a list of recommended materials to effectively monitor the weir. We have equipment that needs to be purchased for this part of the project. Materials needed include: 2 staff gauges, 1 automated precipitation meter, 1 automated flow meter, 1 pump for sample collection, 1 lock box, 1 level logger, and time from EOR to help set up the equipment and provide staff training. Total estimated cost is \$10,000.

It was moved and seconded by Franey & Graham to approve the purchase of the above listed materials. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

2. Birch Lake Shoreline Restoration

We are moving ahead with this project. Our Native Buffer Grant through RCD is hopefully getting final approval later today. The project cost is about \$28,000. The Native Buffer Grant is for \$6,982.50 and both the City of WBL and BLID need to finalize their shares towards the project.

It was moved and seconded by Franey & Graham to approve up to \$5,000 towards the Birch Lake Restoration Project

3. Lambert Creek Pilot Projects – possibilities for 2010

H. Report to the Board – Approval of Report

Franey will attend the Board Meeting as the TEC representative for the Board Meeting.

It was moved and seconded by Graham & Mann to approve the report to the Board. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VI. Reports

A. Financial Report for April & authorization of payment

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

VII. Commissioner Reports –

Graham received information about rain gauge data and will like to pass it along to Brian. Vadnais Heights has a rain gauge and he submits data to this group. VH has been directed by the PCA to re-write ordinances for erosion control, construction standards, and illicit discharge standards.

Mann stated that NOHOA has agreed to start testing Pleasant Lake Beach water for e.coli this year. She will share the data with VLAWMO.

VIII. Administrator Report –

Intern – we have hired our intern for the summer, Eric Iverson. He has a lot of experience with monitoring and vegetation work. He begins on May 3.

Audit with management notes –

- We have heard that there is a TEC Commissioner assigned by Gem Lake but no one has contacted VLAWMO. Stephanie will follow up and determine who this person is and get them information regarding our meetings.

IX. Public Comment –

X. Next TEC Meeting: May 14; Board Meeting: April 21

XI. Adjourn

It was moved and seconded by Mann & Franey to adjourn at 9:30am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Lampert.

DRAFT