

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
May 14, 2010**

Attending:

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

Others in attendance: Stephanie McNamara, Kristine Jenson, Brian Corcoran, Eric Iverson (VLAWMO); John Blackstone, St. Paul Regional Water Service (SPRWS); Marty Long (VLAWMO Board, NO City Council)

- I. Call to Order** Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:33 am.
- II. Approval of Agenda**
It was moved and seconded Franey & Graham by to approve the agenda.
Vote: all aye. Motion Passed.
- III. Approval of Minutes (April)**
It was moved and seconded by Graham & Franey to approve the minutes of the April meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission. Vote: all aye.
Motion passed.
- IV. New Business**
- A. Introduction of Eric**
- B. Education and Outreach: Sustainable Lake Management Plan (SLMP) & Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) with Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) 2011 proposal**
- NEMO has one & half staff people who provide workshops & training and coordination for the efforts of a network of volunteers. The staff works through the U of M extension service. Stephanie has been an occasional member of this ad hoc working group. Funding levels for the program through the Extension service have been cut significantly and NEMO is looking to a cohort of partners to help support the collaborative water resource educational effort. The letter signed by Steve Woods, Asst. Director of BWSR and John Bilotta of NEMO discusses the request further. Roughly \$2000 of the 2010 & the 2011 budgets were allotted for NEMO. The request is for \$5000.
- NEMO use within VLAWMO: they brought a NEMO 101 presentation to the VLAWMO Board several years ago and last year to the WBL City Council; the Watershed game for rivers was facilitated at the VLAWMO 2007 Summit, Kristine was trained in facilitation of the Watershed Games and VLAWMO purchased the versions for Lakes and for Streams. The watershed games were used with the VLAWMO CAC and at the Shallow Lakes Workshop. All service from NEMO except purchasing the Lake and Stream games and \$30 to train Kris in their use has been free.

NEMO and its counterpart Stormwater U (audience: municipal technical & PW staff, watershed staff) has a number of training modules which may be tailored for use with municipal boards, commissions, lake associations or other interested groups. \$5000 is a significant part of the \$9,000 2011 VLAWMO education budget. As the 2011 budget is not final and the education budget could be increased slightly. Those who join and pay their dues would receive scheduling preference for workshops and program assistance at no charge. There would also be training in the use of the program modules for members. Otherwise there would probably be some kind of fee for service and only if the staff is available. More information on current modules or those under development is available on the attached material and on the Northland NEMO website. Watersheds already supporting NEMO are in the packet material.

It was moved and seconded by Graham & Franey to recommend that Stephanie offer NEMO the \$2000 budgeted. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

V. Programs & Projects – possible action

A. TMDL – Lambert Creek & Lakes

1. 2010 Work - Contract with MPCA

Stephanie McNamara met last month with our MPCA project manager, Barb Peichel, and Wenck project manager, Rebecca Kluckhohn and Steve Menden, Wenck Vice President. Agreement was reached on how to complete the TMDL study effectively for the \$40,000 the MPCA currently has budgeted. As you will recall, the Work Plan scope changed last summer when the MPCA directed new TMDL studies to include all impaired waters within the watershed in the “One Waters” TMDL study. The new Work Plan was submitted; unfortunately the new budget of \$60,000 was not received at MPCA. This left a \$20,000 shortfall in project budget when it was approved over the winter that we were unaware of until PCA sent the approved Plan & budget back. The gap has been bridged by several methods: some of the data gathering will be reduced, modeling and analysis of the data will be based on one data point on the creek rather than several, and finally, VLAWMO will provide stakeholder information and meetings and with help from the MPCA, VLAWMO will be writing the implementation plan for the study. Barb mentioned the possibility of additional funding after July when we met last month; however that was before the latest State budget crisis. It’s hard to say if that is still on the table. Attached is the new time line and budget for the study.

Recommendation: Wenck contracted to produce the Work Plan for this TMDL for \$1500. Because of the changing scope and then the changing budget, Rebecca has produced roughly 4 work plans. While they are still producing new editions of the Work Plan, and meeting with the MPCA, they have exceeded their estimated hours quite awhile ago. They have asked if VLAWMO would consider splitting some of the extra expense which was estimated at \$1500 the last time I talked with Rebecca about it. Stephanie recommends approval of \$750 from our Engineering consultant budget for Wenck.

Graham stated that it is an unfortunate situation when you get a quote to do something and then the rules change. Graham suggests that Wenck should be

given \$1500 rather than \$750 because they have been doing work above and beyond what was expected.

It was moved and seconded by Graham & Franey to approve \$1500 from the Engineering Consult budget for Wenck to complete this TMDL task. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

2. Retrofit analysis project update

Brian has been helping with field assessments as part of the project. Brian reviewed the 8 sites that have been located for possible best management practice (BMP) installation. In the near future, we will narrow down which sites we want to pursue for the implementation.

B. Monitoring Program – update with TMDL

Brian stated that the program has started and is moving smoothly. The rain has been an issue this week with installation of the monitoring equipment at Whitaker Pond. The U of M will also be installing their monitoring equipment shortly.

C. Public Education Program

1. Community Events

May 20 – Heritage Hall Raingarden clean up

June 5 – North Oaks Community Fair

June 10 – Taste of Vadnais

D. Sustainable Lake Management Plans

1. Gilfillan – Our work is complete. We have been waiting on the Gilfillan Homeowner’s Association to give us a mission statement. We gave them a deadline of the end of the month to give that to us. If we don’t receive that mission statement, we will release the plan as is.

2. Wilkinson – We will be doing a lake depth survey next week and will look into doing a vegetation survey as well. We will also going to meet with Gary Eagles at North Oaks Company about possibly monitoring the inlet and outlet of Wilkinson.

E. Governance & Policy

1. Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Subgrant agreement for 11-1-2009 to 4-30-2010

It was moved & seconded by Graham & Mann to approve and expedite the submittal of the WCA Subgrant. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

2. Preliminary Budget for 2011

Stephanie asked the TEC to please review and make comments and suggested changes before the next meeting. It needs to be approved at the June Board meeting.

F. Cost Share Program

Several applications were received this month. 2010-03 is for Carol Reamer, 4159 Primrose Path, Vadnais Heights - a raingarden in Vadnais Heights. 2010-04 is for Amy Shih, 27 N. Deep Lake Rd, North Oaks for a planting project on an eroding area that runs to the creek that goes to Deep Lake. 2010-05 is for Gary Tangwall at 11 Hillary Farm Road, Gem Lake and 2010-06 is for Michael Larking at 10 Hillary Farm Road, Gem Lake for a joint project to do a shoreline

restoration on Gem Lake. Kristine has met with the applicants and recommends the TEC approve these grant applications.

It was moved and seconded by Franey & Graham to approve Cost Share Application Number 2010-03, 2010-04, 2010-05, and 2010-06, each for reimbursement of \$1000.00 each. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

G. Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

1. Charley Lake Restoration

Mann has applied for a CIP grant to do a restoration of the channel inlet from Charley Lake into Pleasant Lake. Joe Walton did a shoreline survey of Pleasant Lake and this is an area of urgent need for restoration. The area around the walking bridge over the channel has serious erosion issues. This project would provide erosion control and restoration of the shoreline on both sides of the channel as it enters Pleasant Lake.

It was moved and seconded by Graham & Franey to approve the Charley Lake CIP application for \$5,000. Vote: all aye. Mann abstained. Motion passed.

2. Whitaker Pond – update

a. Planting – 10 trees, 500 shrubs and 3000 native perennials have been ordered from Ramsey County Corrections for June delivery. VLAWMO has secured another small grant (Clean Water Legacy through BWSR & the MN Conservation Corps). We will have an MCC crew for 2 days of planting. VLAWMO will have staff on-site as well. We also plan to purchase a pump and hoses for watering from the basin. Planting date: June 1 & 2.

The VLAWMO Board would like to do a dedication once things are wrapping up out there. A little press, get all the people contributing to the project. What do you think?

b. Monitoring of the project

The U of M equipment will also probably be installed in the next week or so, with Andy showing our staff how to do the sample collection. We are working with EOR to install the flow meter in the first manhole above the SS outlet as well as other equipment the week of May 17th. Andy Erickson has been working with Dr. Gulliver and other SAFL staff to fabricate the water quality sampling ports that will be put on either side of the weir to assess the effectiveness of the filter. VLAWMO staff will draw the samples for analysis. E. coli sampling will be done at the mouth of the Storm Sewer and downstream of the project; analysis at SPRWS lab. Nutrient sampling will be done at the mouth of the SS and the then the dual sample ports on the weir; lab analysis at Ramsey Co. lab. Nutrient and flow data will go to Andy for analysis. E.coli data will be fed into the TMDL analysis being done by Wenck.

There was some damage to the Township irrigation system. One area is fixed. A temporary power pole damaged a main line pipe and wiring; this has been repaired. The 2nd area will be assessed. Two

(?) sprinkler heads ended up under the berm. We are hoping capping them shouldn't be difficult, but will probably still need a site visit with appropriate people to determine if this is the best alternative (or if a new head is needed). VLAWMO is interested in running a hose from the system to water the 50 new shrubs planted on the berm. A site visit with WBT, EOR & Albrecht is scheduled Friday at 1.

3. Birch Lake Shoreline Restoration – update

a. Maintenance budget request

The Birch Lake Improvement District (BLID) approved \$3000 toward the project and the City of White Bear Lake approved \$7000 toward the project. Site preparation should be starting shortly with the planting tentatively scheduled for early June. The BLID would like to have a spot on our webpage for updates on the project. Two requests are before you today:

- The City WBL authorized \$7000. Unfortunately that still leaves the project up to \$1300 short if we cannot find some free boulders. So far the sources checked have not come up with boulders that we would not have to purchase. The TEC has authorized the \$5000 allowed under the CIP policy. **Staff recommends that the final \$1300 be recommended for approval to the VLAWMO Board. The funds to come from the CIP pilot budget.**

It was moved and seconded by Graham & Mann to recommend to the Board that VLAWMO pay the remaining \$1,300 to complete the project.

Vote: all aye. Motion passed. Franey abstained.

- To reduce costs, the two year maintenance budget was also removed from the project. The first year or two of a native plantings life is very important. Natural Shores Technology had proposed \$2400 per year. Stephanie thinks that may be a little high based on other maintenance contracts. Stephanie recommends VLAWMO spend up to \$2000 of its facilities maintenance budget in 2010 to get this project off to a good start. If both BLID volunteers and VLAWMO staff work with Natural Shores occasionally, we may be able to handle it by next year.

It was moved and seconded Graham & Mann to approve up to \$2,000 for maintenance of the Birch Lake Restoration Project. Vote: all aye. Motion

passed. Franey abstained.

4. Lower Lambert Creek - MCC Grant

The Minnesota Conservation Corps have pledged 40 crew days this summer, starting in July to do the labor intensive work. More work to do the live staking is anticipated in November. A total of 70 days @ \$275 / day may be used: total grant of \$19,250. VLAWMO is matching the cost through three sources: VLAWMO in-kind labor - \$16,600; consultant (Ed Matthiesen & Susan Nelson of Wenck) -\$12,360 and Materials \$8,740. This is a total cash cost for the project of \$21,100. The City of Vadnais Heights has pledged \$5000. Some of the materials costs may be less and this includes a 10% contingency. Recommendation: authorize the use of

the \$16,870 of the Lambert Creek restoration budget for matching funds to proceed with the project.

It was moved and seconded by Graham & Franey to authorize up to \$16,870 for the Lower Lambert Creek project. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VI. Reports

H. Report to the Board – deferred until the June meeting.

A. Financial Report for May & authorization of payment
It was moved and seconded by Franey & Graham to accept the May report and authorize checks for payment. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. WCA

1. Report 11-09 to 4-10

The report for the last seven months has been submitted for reimbursement. Activity over the winter has been relatively light.

2. Release of NO Company mitigation funds for Gardens of North Oaks (Waverly Gardens)

A request has come in from the landowner, North Oaks Company to release the mitigation bond of \$5000 for completion of the mitigation created in 2004. A monitoring report has been received that shows successful wetland mitigation. Photos will be available at the meeting. Staff has done a spring review of the site and recommends the release of the mitigation bond to the applicant.

It was moved and seconded by Franey & Graham to release the mitigation bond to North Oaks Company. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VII. Commissioner Reports

Franey wanted to acknowledge the City of WBL passing an ordinance prohibiting the use of coal tar based asphalt sealer. It has been shown that this product leaves high levels of PAHs (pollutants) in wetlands and storm ponds. Discussion occurred among the TEC in support of this ban.

It was moved & seconded by Franey & Mann to express appreciation for the City of WBL's action and to support action by the other communities to support and enact similar bans. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VIII. Administrator Report –

Boundary Update – Ramsey County is working towards getting this finalized so that we get the last 96 parcels within the VLAWMO Boundary.

IX. Public Comment –

X. Next TEC Meeting: June 11; Board Meeting: June 16

XI. Adjourn

It was moved and seconded by Graham & Franey to adjourn at 9:10am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Jenson.