

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
June 11, 2010**

Attending:

Paul Peterson	White Bear Township (WBT), Chair
Brent Thompson	White Bear Lake (WBL), Alternate
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 Jenson, Brian Corcoran, Eric Iverson (VLAWMO); Marty Long (VLAWMO Board, NO City Council); Larry Bohrer (White Bear Township Engineer, TKDA)

- I. Call to Order** Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:33 am.
- II. Approval of Agenda**

Stephanie requested an addition under New Business (IV. A.) for 2010 Road Construction in White Bear Township.
It was moved and seconded Mann & Graham by to approve the agenda as amended. Vote: all aye. Motion Passed.
- III. Approval of Minutes (May)**

It was moved and seconded by Graham & Mann to approve the minutes of the May meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- IV. New Business**
 - A. 2010 Road Construction in White Bear Township**

White Bear Township engineer, Larry Bohrer, TKDA discussed the WBT 2011 road plans in VLAWMO. VLAWMO is looking for the new water standards to be utilized and this would include pretreatment of stormwater before it goes into the receiving body. The area targeted would be the stormsewers that empty right into Lambert Creek on Oakmede Lane. Larry will be coming to discuss plans and options. Graham stated that roadwork generally falls within the “Linear Projects” exception. Thompson stated that other WMOs allow for this type of work when they are disturbing within the current road way. McNamara stated that the exception in the Standards policy appears to not apply to linear projects that affect stream crossings. Larry Bohrer was asked to look at what can be done to pre-treat stormwater at the creek crossing on Oakmede Lane and then what else could be done within the smaller watershed area for water treatment. WBT is still in the beginning stages of this plan and will investigate options for water treatment. Borher will come back to the TEC in the future once the feasibility report is produced and options are known.
- V. Programs & Projects – possible action**
 - A. TMDL – Lambert Creek & Lakes**
 - 1. 2010 Work - Contract with MPCA**

We received final comments on our Work Plan as of yesterday afternoon. Haven't had time to read through them yet but we are very close to getting our contract complete.

2. Retrofit analysis project update

Chris Zadak at the MPCA has the updated work plan for the project and final approval should be coming soon. Mike Goodnature from Ramsey Conservation District is currently running P-8 modeling on each of the catchments we studied and is using that information to put together a list of the "best" possible areas in each catchment for a potential pilot project.

On final approval of the work plan VLAWMO will also be given money to help implement a pilot project.

B. Monitoring Program – update

Eric stated that the monitoring program is proceeding on track. We have installed some monitoring equipment around the Whitaker Pond area. We are seeking two new volunteers for East Goose and Deep Lakes. Mann suggested Andy Hoem as someone to contact as a possible volunteer on Deep Lake.

C. Public Education Program

1. Community Events

June 5 – North Oaks Community Fair

June 10 – Taste of Vadnais

2. Blue Thumb – National Geographic special

Kristine reported that the Blue Thumb program has been asked to participate in the "Expedition Blue Planet" tour through National Geographic. The tour bus will be in the Cities on July 3-4 and is working with Blue Thumb to take part in a large event at Powderhorn Park in Minneapolis to promote the Blue Thumb program and film segments for a documentary they are making. This is a 14,500 mile tour taking place this summer. There will be a lot of media coverage about it. Keep your eyes and ears open for it.

3. Watershed Tour - tentatively scheduled for mid August.

4. Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) Proposal

The \$2000 per year for 2010 & 2011 has been discussed with the idea of some tailored programming targeted toward meeting the Stakeholder and public education component of our TMDL study has been agreed to with NEMO staff. The outline of the components was presented at the May TEC meeting but will include a workshop meeting, survey and survey assessment, and direction on press use.

D. Sustainable Lake Management Plans

1. a. Gilfillan – The plan is complete and has been presented to the heads of their lake association. A final action item list has been developed. The plan will go up on the website today. They would like to hire a consultant to help them with their plans and to get other opinions of what can be done for the lake. They may come back to VLAWMO and ask to use some of our money towards this.

b. Wilkinson – We did a lake depth survey which showed the lake is only about 4 feet deep.

2. Shallow Lakes Committee – North Oaks

A new committee has been formed to act as an informational liaison for NOHOA. It began through a couple of people that live on Deep Lake.

E. Governance & Policy

1. Budget for 2011

The budget shown is the same as the one shown for the last two months.

It was moved and seconded Mann & Graham by to recommend that the Board give approval to the 2011 Budget. Vote: all aye. Motion Passed.

2. Local Water Plan Comments

VLAWMO received Local Water Plans for White Bear Township and North Oaks and Stephanie has drafted comments. They will go to the Board and recommend that the WBT Plan be approved by the Board. The North Oaks plan has more comments which will be brought to the City and their consultant for further review.

F. Cost Share Program

1. Tangwall-Larkin cost shares

These two homeowners received cost-share grants for \$1000 each that were approved in May. It was brought to staff attention that neither of the projects have been granted a permit from the City of Gem Lake. Gem Lake directed the homeowners to cease shoreline activity – installation of a beach blanket – last summer. The City Council directed them to secure a consultant to come up with a restoration plan and have it approved by the City Council before proceeding. The homeowner, Mr. Tangwall, represented his belief that he was working with the city by his contacts with the City Attorney. Recommendation: the TEC recommend to the Board that the homeowners be advised that their grant from VLAWMO is contingent upon approval from the city. No grant funding will be available until this approval has been secured.

This also brings up the question of whether or not cost-share funds may be used for ordered remedial work in the future. The Tangwall property plan was developed by Ryan Johnson, Ramsey Conservation District whose time is subsidized by VLAWMO. The adjacent Larkin property was anticipated to be roughly a mirror image of that plan. The TEC may wish to develop a recommendation for Board consideration.

G. Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

1. Charley Lake Restoration

Work started yesterday (June 10) on the site. Buckthorn brush bundles were made and installed in the channel. Work will continue next week.

2. Whitaker Pond – update

a. Planting – MCC Crew came out June 2-3 to assist with planting. They were a hard working crew and got a lot done. VLAWMO staff still had a few more days of work to complete the job but it is essentially done now. 10 trees, 500 shrubs, 3000 perennials, and 30 yards of mulch were put on site.

b. Monitoring of the project

The automated flow meter upstream in the manhole was installed and is operational. It is suspended and a backup support system has been added as it has fallen once. The automated precipitation gauge has been installed and is working. The barologger and level loggers also have been installed although

staff has had to redesign the retrieval system for the level logger. The worst glitch in the system is the old laptop being used to download data. Brian & Eric's laptops we have tried to use unsuccessfully. At this time staff would recommend the purchase of a 'field laptop' for a cost not to exceed \$500. It was moved and seconded by Graham & Mann to buy a new laptop, not exceed \$1000 in cost. Vote: all aye. Motion Passed.

Additionally, the UMRSWPP has granted VLAMWO \$6400 which will cover half of the equipment monitoring costs.

c. Weir problems from settling, warping and what appears to be some missing caulk – the weir is not holding water at the design elevation, and there is significant flow under the weir which will get worse if not addressed. We have been on site with the contractor, Nate Landwehr and our engineer, Eli Rupnow, EOR and the stakeholders. Possible fixes are under email discussion this week with Landwehr currently scheduled to come next week (6/14) for remedial work. Current plan would remove rip rap, caulk lower boards, replace torn filter geotextile and restore fill material that has flushed under the weir to the upstream pond side on top of filter medium. Additional cost to enhance the water holding capacity of the weir, bentonite clay between the lower boards and an impermeable membrane attached at the normal water elevation on the upstream side of the weir. We don't have costs estimated yet. Roughly \$30k of the contract has not been dispersed as yet.

3. Birch Lake Shoreline Restoration – update

Rob Langer at Natural Shores reported the shoreline excavation work will probably be the week of June 14th. He will give us a firmer date when they have confirmed with their subcontractor. Most likely there will be no more herbicide treatments as the remaining vegetation will probably be excavated anyway. We are still looking at the week of June 21st for planting. VLAWMO is planning to work with Birch Lake Improvement District volunteers and Natural Shores for an evening planting session that same week. BLID has indicated a willingness to water the plants.

4. Lower Lambert Creek - MCC Grant

As you know VLAWMO was selected to receive State Clean Water Legacy funding in the form of a second larger MN Conservation Corps grant to use on Lower Lambert Creek. 42 days have been approved with the winter work to hopefully be approved after July 1st. The neighborhood meeting was held 6/2 with half of the 24 affected homeowners in attendance. Kristine and Stephanie will be contacting each homeowner individually to follow up to discuss the project and ask them to identify any specific trees they want to save. This will look different as the canopy in the area will be opened up. The buckthorn, box elder and honeysuckle removed will be used to make the brush bundles stabilizing the streambank. We hope to help people understand what is happening, why and manage expectations. It will take time to mature. Live staking with sandbar willow will not take place until next spring (March).

H. Report to the Board – Stephanie will made an adjustment. Graham/Mann approve the Report as amended to present to the Board. All Aye. Motion passed.

VI. Reports

A. Financial Report for June & authorization of payment

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

VII. Commissioner Reports

VIII. Administrator Report

IX. Public Comment –

X. Next TEC Meeting: July 9; Board Meeting: June 16

XI. Adjourn

It was moved and seconded by Mann & Graham to adjourn at 9:37am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Jenson.

DRAFT