

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
June 12, 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)
John Youngstrom	North Oaks (NO)

Others in attendance: Stephanie McNamara, Kristine Lampert, Brian Corcoran, Kathryn Smith, (VLAWMO); Eli Rupnow, (EOR); Terry Noonan, (Ramsey County Public Works); Ken Wehrle, (Ramsey County Parks & Rec)

- I. Call to Order** Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:35 am.
Unable to take action on any items due to needing one more member to reach quorum. Terry Noonan and Ken Wehrle took the time to discuss the Tamarack Plan Amendment request and development plans for the Nature Center. Marty Asleson arrived at 7:45am to achieve quorum.
- II. Approval of Agenda**
Request to add two items to the agenda – Cost Share Program (approval of recent application) and Rain barrel public education proposal. Peterson asked to include it under Administration report. It was moved and seconded by Franey & Youngstrom to approve the agenda as amended. Vote: all aye. Motion Passed.
- III. Minutes**
Franey had one correction – on page 2, bottom of page, change “we” to “the Board.” And under section D, change “we” to “VLAWMO.”
It was moved and seconded by Asleson & Youngstrom to approve the minutes of the May meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- IV. New Business**
- A. Tamarack Banking Plan Amendment – Terry Noonan, Ramsey County**
***Terry Noonan made the presentation at 7:35am** The County is asking for a bank plan amendment to a wetland creation project. The County is asking for the following provisions:
- No signage requirement since it is within a regional park that already has boundaries posted.
 - The ability for Ramsey County Parks to construct board walks, observation blinds, and other amenities for wildlife and nature viewing in accordance with WCA specifications.
 - The ability to mow interpretive trails and cross country ski trails within the easement areas.

-The ability to control water levels in consultation with VLAWMO for the purpose of vegetation management.

Ken Wehrle described the changes planned for the Tamarack Nature Center redevelopment project.

A motion was made and seconded by Franey & Youngstrom to approve the Wetland Bank Plan Amendment. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. Gilfillan Lake – recommendation request

Brian reported that Wenck finished the water budget for Gilfillan and a summary was included with the TEC packet. Staff is asking the TEC to direct us on how much involvement staff should put into the augmentation requests from the homeowners. Do you want VLAWMO to take the lead on these types of projects or should we have the homeowner groups do it? What sort of precedence do you want us to set? TEC asked staff if it is the watershed's responsibility to handle the drying up shallow lakes. The answer is not necessarily since it is happening naturally around the area due to the drought conditions. Peterson stated that he does not want VLAWMO to set the precedence for taking the lead on projects like this. Franey suggested directing the Gilfillan homeowners to the Snail Lake Homeowners Group in regards to their augmentation project. Youngstrom stated that we have water rushing right through the area from the Mississippi due to the SPRWS and it seems like it is a feasible option to use that water to augment area lakes. Youngstrom suggests recommending VLAWMO as an "idea group" that can propose ideas to the homeowner groups but not be the leader in implementing the projects. Youngstrom thinks that the Gilfillan homeowners need to get organized so that they can speak as a group. There was consensus from the TEC that VLAWMO will not be their homeowner's group.

A motion was made and seconded by Franey & Youngstrom to follow the staff recommendation as listed in memo by Corcoran with an amendment that VLAWMO will continue to encourage the Gilfillan homeowners to organize into a group. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

A secondary issue was discussed regarding the budget for the consulting from Wenck. The work that Wenck did went over budget and we would like to use their services for additional work on Gilfillan. The work they performed was very valuable. There was consensus from the group that VLAWMO should continue incorporating water budgets into SLMP preparation. The request from staff is to authorize funds to pay for the tasks that went over budget and to cover the additional expenses (up to \$3000) for further work we would like to do. A motion was made by Youngstrom and seconded by Franey to approve spending up to an additional \$3000 to carry out the additional tasks as requested by VLAWMO staff. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

C. 2010 Budget Worksheet

At the last TEC meeting, it was approved to recommend the 2010 budget with the \$44,909 increase. Staff drafted a memo regarding why the TEC feels the budget should be approved as proposed rather than with any cuts to the budget. Staff asks TEC to review the recommendation memo to ensure there is consensus before going to the Board with the 2010 budget next week. A motion was made

and seconded by Youngstrom and Franey to recommend the 2010 budget with attached report to the Board. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

D. Report to Board

TEC reviewed the report to the board as drafted by staff. It was noted that there were not any low priority projects. Most projects are moving ahead. No action is required.

V. Programs & Projects – possible action

A. Whitaker Pond Project – Update, drinking water fund, mtg

Eli Rupnow (EOR) updated TEC on further study and design issues with Whitaker Pond. Soil borings were done last week down to 32 feet and the material is very spongy. The current weir settled in due to the spongy material under the gravel fill they put in when it was originally built. The first step in this project will be to dredge out 2/3 of the sediment so that the pollutants would sit in the pond rather than flowing through immediately. Eli has put together some options for making Whitaker pond functional.

-Reconstruct the existing weir so that it is more functional and raise the existing berms. This would be one of the cheaper options but it may not be functional long term. The wood is not impermeable and fails at holding in water.

-Install sheet pile weir and raise the existing berms. A steel filter system would be included. A positive for this option is that it is impermeable so water would not be seeping through it but it is more expensive.

-Install a permeable limestone filter wall. This is less than the sheet pile option and the limestone is able to filter out phosphorus and allows water to seep through. Then if the pond fills up again, it will act as a weir.

Between the storm sewer outlet and the pond, there is a lot of debris and sedimentation. EOR would recommend cleaning out this area and having this area be maintained often in order to slow down the filling up of the pond.

Staff also talked about a creek assessment done in the area last week with Ed Matthiason from Wenck. Ed suggested doing some clean up and stabilization upstream from the pond, just outside the storm sewer to clear out the overstory, put in a rock vein, and perhaps create a holding pond for pre treatment before it goes to Whitaker Pond.

A motion was made and seconded by Franey & Asleson to authorize up to \$1000 to have EOR come up with cost estimates for the different options. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. Lambert Creek

a. TMDL – Workplan Update

b. Creek Assessment with Wenck and RCD

c. Kohler easement vegetation damage

C. Monitoring Program Report

DO readings are being done once every 3 weeks due to the time consuming nature of the project. Upper Lambert Creek didn't have any flow lately so we weren't getting any samples. Kristine submitted the first reimbursement request for the SWAG program.

D. Public Education Program

a. Citizen's Advisory Committee

- 1) **North Oaks Community Fair** – very cold and rainy day with not a huge turnout.
- 2) **Taste of Vadnais** – very good turnout. Had Paul Peterson draw the names for the soaker hose raffle we had people sign up for. There were two winners.
- 3) **Raingarden Design Class** – June 18
- 4) **Watershed Tour** – June 24, 4:15 – 6:15pm, will start at WBL City Hall.

E. Policy Implementation – June 3 Workshop report and recommendations
There was a good turnout. All communities were present except for Gem Lake. There was a lot of discussion. Some changes were proposed which Stephanie will bring to the next TEC meeting.

F. Sustainable Lake Management Plans

- 1) **Tamarack & Fish**
- 2) **Gilfillan**

VI. Reports

A. Financial for June & authorization of payment

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

B. WCA Activity –

VII. Commissioner Reports –

VIII. Administrator Report –

A. The Birch Lake Improvement District submitted an application to the DNR for dredging an area of the lake for access for their weed harvester. VLAWMO commented on the application and had no major concerns. TEC approves of the memo submitted to the DNR.

B. Cost Share Program - A motion was made and seconded by Franey & Asleson to approve Grant application 2009-3 for \$800. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

C. Rain barrel education – at the Governor’s Fishing Opener, we had a lot of interest from the public to purchase rain barrels. Kathryn created an information sheet about rain barrels. Staff has learned that the City of Maplewood has incorporated a rain barrel program with the Green Institute so that they could sell them at a low rate to homeowners. They sold out their first shipment right away. RWMWD subsidized the program for a second round. The Green Institute is willing to partner with VLAWMO to do this program. It would cost approximately \$2000 to implement this and have 100 barrels. A motion was made and seconded by Youngstrom & Asleson to approve this expenditure. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IX. Public Comment –

X. Next Meeting – July 10

XI. Adjourn

It was moved & seconded by Franey & Youngstrom to adjourn at 10:00am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Lampert.