

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
September 11, 2009

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) - Alternate

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

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

II. Approval of Agenda

Stephanie asked to add an item to V.A.3.: White Bear Preserve Streambank Project. It was moved and seconded by Franey & Graham to approve the agenda as amended. Vote: all aye. Motion Passed.

III. Minutes

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

IV. New Business

A. Whitaker Pond

1. Stakeholder meeting & follow up
2. Optimization of the Forebay Plans from EOR

Stephanie reviewed the latest changes to plans. Due to stakeholder input, EOR has generated plans that include a bigger forebay with this project. The idea of the larger forebay is that it will allow for easier maintenance. As designed, it is expected that there could be annual maintenance in the forebay and will be easier to access than the Whitaker Pond area. White Bear Lake has had many concerns about this project in terms how much they should pay now and for future maintenance. Blackstone thinks this is a good project and worthy to do. Franey wonders if it is worth the extra cost to do the forebay. Peterson and Graham feel that it is worth getting all the work done now.

It was moved and seconded by Graham and Mann to recommend the newest plans with a larger forebay and that they support the Board's action of setting a deadline for having the stakeholders supporting the project.

Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

V. Programs & Projects – possible action

A. Lambert Creek

1. Creek Assessment with Ramsey Conservation District (RCD) – Phase 2

The field work is complete

2. Clean Water Protection (CWP) Grant application

As part of the Phase 2 assessment, RCD would pursue grant opportunities for VLAWMO that may help with these projects. There is a Clean Water Partnership Grant which RCD is working on that would be partnered with VLAWMO. The grant would help with RCD to do an assessment of the best placement of BMPs along the creek. VLAWMO is seeking approval to apply for this grant. It was moved and seconded by Franey & Graham to approve the pursuit of this grant opportunity. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

3. White Bear Preserve Streambank Project

In April 2008, the TEC approved up to \$3000 to help with a streambank restoration project. RCD developed a plan last year and the homeowners association has moved ahead and gotten a bid to do the project. Stephanie would like to add a contingency to the funding received from VLAWMO that White Bear Preserve gives an easement to VLAWMO and White Bear Township as part of the agreement for this funding. Graham has offered to write up the language of the easement which would then have to go to our attorney to do the official paperwork.

It was moved & seconded by Franey & Graham to add that VLAWMO will give the money to this project if the Preserve grants VLAWMO an easement at no cost along the creek and to spend up to \$1000 in legal fees to put it in a proper form.

Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. Monitoring Program Report

C. Public Education Program

1. Citizen's Advisory Committee

- a) Raingarden Workshop filming – the filming was completed on August 31 and is now in the editing process.
- b) Rainbarrel program – the requests have been moving very slowly which is disappointing. One problem has been that those who have expressed interest do not live within the VLAWMO boundary. Asleson said that Lino Lakes would likely buy some from VLAWMO if the TEC allowed that. Mann thinks they would sell better in the spring. TEC directed staff that the program can be changed so that anyone who expresses interest can buy a rainbarrel.
- c) Township Festival (9/12/09) – VLAWMO will have a booth at the festival from 9am-2pm.

D. Sustainable Lake Management Plans

1. Gilfillan

Brian stated that a vegetation survey was completed and that Geoff Nash (RCD) will be consulted on the SLMP as well since groundwater is a concern of some of the homeowners around the lake.

2. Tamarack & Fish

Kristine stated that she is having a meeting on September 14th with stakeholders to discuss the SLMP and determine future projects for the health of the lakes.

3. Birch Implementation

Natural Shore Technologies, Inc (NST) has looked at the proposed project to do some restoration work on the north shore on Birch Lake. NST has submitted a plan for work which is being reviewed. Stephanie is asking the TEC to allow VLAWMO to go into a contract with NST (once terms are agreed to between the stakeholders and NST). NST has worked on similar projects. Very early cost estimates to implement the construction is \$50/linear foot. The TEC directed VLAWMO to obtain sufficient data in the feasibility and design work to proceed with a pilot restoration project and to make sure that work which was completed as part of the SLMP was not duplicated with this project and to ask that a master plan be produced which will allow for phased restoration projects to be implemented along the target north shore pilot area.

It was moved and seconded by Graham & Franey to move ahead with pursuing a contract with NST with the terms stated above. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

E. Governance & Policy

1. Cost Share Program Question – aerators

A question was raised by a representative of a homeowners association about whether the Cost Share program could be used to help them with the installation of an aeration system on their pond. A VLAWMO staff memo discusses the pros and cons of funding this type of project with the Cost Share Program. Staff is asking the TEC to direct them on whether aerators should be part of the program. It was moved and seconded by Franey & Mann that aerators not be a part of the Cost Share program. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

2. Database reconciliation in White Bear Lake area

When finalizing the boundary changes with Ramsey County, it was discovered that there were some “islands” or blocks of parcels that are not identified by watershed in the Petition parcel list. Some are outside of the VLAWMO borders. The one that affects VLAWMO is a portion the White Bear Lake area. There were 98 parcels that were missed in the table listings as part of the BWSR application. The maps depicting the change were correct. However, Ramsey County cannot make the change in their database until we make some sort of official change. VLAWMO will work with Rice Creek and the Board of Water and Soil Resources to seek an administrative change. The 98 parcels will not be included in 2010 Storm Sewer Utility (SSU) fee certification. SSU rates may remain the same as approved by the Board in August.

F. Report to the Board

1. TEC member at the Board meetings

Graham stated that in the last Board meeting minutes, it was noted that no TEC member was there. It was agreed that a TEC member should be at every Board meeting. Graham stated that it needs to be organized so that someone is there. Peterson and Franey said that they try to show up for the meetings but scheduling conflicts arose for the last two Board meetings. If Peterson or Franey cannot

make it, Graham said to contact him and he will try to make it. Marty Long (VLAWMO Board Member) serves as liaison to the TEC and frequently at the monthly TEC meeting.

VI. Reports

A. Financial Report for September & authorization of payment

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

B. WCA Activity – none to report.

VII. Commissioner Reports

VIII. Administrator Report

Staff had BATHTUB Training on September 9th and will work with the program more to become more familiar with it and utilize to its fullest extent.

IX. Public Comment

X. Next TEC Meeting: October 9; Board Meeting: October 21

XI. Adjourn

It was moved and seconded by Franey & Graham to adjourn at 8:45am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Lampert.