

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
November 13, 2009**

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)
John Youngstrom	North Oaks (NO)

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

- I. Call to Order** Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:37 am.
- II. Approval of Agenda**
Stephanie asked to remove Item D. 3., because it is duplicated as Item F.2.
It was moved and seconded by Franey & Graham to approve the updated agenda. Vote: all aye. Motion Passed.
- III. Minutes**
It was moved and seconded by Graham & Franey to approve the minutes of the October meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- IV. New Business**
- A. Cost Share Request**
Kristine is seeking approval for grant application to install a raingarden in North Oaks. Total grant request is \$1000.
It was moved and seconded by Youngstrom & Graham to approve Grant Application 2009-8. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- V. Programs & Projects – possible action**
- A. Lambert Creek**
1. Streambank restoration in lower Lambert
Kristine is meeting with Ed Mathieson from Wenck at 10am to work on this project and do a field site visit so that we can complete the BWSR grant application which is due December 1st. The general plan is to do restoration of a steep bank of the creek near the area where the Thomas Court project was completed. When we did the field visit earlier this year with Ed, he was very concerned with the amount of erosion evident in the area. Mark Graham that the City of Vadnais Heights can be listed as a partner on this project and that the City would be willing to
 2. Biota Monitoring
Kristine has been working with Lorin Hatch from HDR on the development of a biota monitoring plan for 2010 on Lambert Creek.

Lorin has put together the application for SWAG funding from the PCA which would help cover the cost of the program. If awarded, we would be eligible to get reimbursement for \$4238.00. Lorin would train staff on biota monitoring and identification. The monitoring itself would be a one day field event – hopefully with volunteer assistance. Then it is expected to take another day, with help from volunteers to learn and do general identification. Another week of time is expected to do identification to the detail needed for PCA assessments. We expect to hear about the grant decisions in late January – early February. Stephanie also stated that as part of the TMDL process we will implement waterfowl counting along with other wildlife.

B. Monitoring Program Report

Brian stated that the data has been entered into STORET and that he is now pulling it all together for the annual monitoring report. Graham stated that the City of Vadnais Heights has put in a rain gauge this year. He contacted Ramsey Conservation District to ask about it and they sent him the gauge and information on collecting the data. He would encourage all of the Cities to put in a rain gauge.

C. Public Education Program

1. Citizen's Advisory Committee

a) Meeting – November 19 at 6pm.

Note the date of the meeting is actually November 19th rather than the 16th, as stated on the agenda. Kristine has sent out a press release, asking for those interested to come to the meeting. We have had a low attendance the last couple of months. This is a normal issue for these sorts of groups. Kristine is hoping to get those involved working on specific projects so they feel like they are getting things accomplished rather than just showing up for meetings. One project that a CAC member is pursuing is developing an e-newsletter for VLAWMO so that we can have another way to communicate about our projects and programs with the public.

2. Shallow Lakes Workshop Request

In working on SLMPs, VLAWMO staff have seen the need to work with homeowners on the lakes about the issues faced on shallow lakes. Chris Mann (NOHOA) offered to secure a room at the Presbyterian Homes for this. We know of a couple of great speakers about lake ecology – Joe Bischoff from Wenck and Steve McComas from Blue Water Science who we could have participate. TEC is supportive of the idea and feels that it could be opened to all of VLAWMO. Stephanie is asking for up to \$2000 towards this.

It was moved and seconded by Graham & Franey to approve spending up to \$2000 towards the implementation of the Shallow Lakes Workshop.

Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

3. Watershed Game Request

Kristine attended a class to learn how to lead people through the watershed game developed by the U of M NEMO program. There are 3 versions of

the games – one for lakes, one for streams, and one for big rivers. These games are effective at helping laypeople understand how actions affect our water resources and provides a setting for people to work together to solve water resource pollution problems. These games could be used for our TEC, CAC, Board, as well as working with City staff, and lake/homeowner groups. Each version of the game costs \$200 for all of the materials. Kristine would like permission to purchase copies of the stream and lake versions for a total of \$400.

It was moved and seconded by Graham & Franey to approve the purchase of the Lake and Stream versions of the watershed game for \$400. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

D. Sustainable Lake Management Plans

1. Gilfillan

Brian stated that he has all of the information to pull together the report and will get that written when the Annual Monitoring Report is done. Marty Long stated that Gilfillan will be putting in a aerator and that NOHOA is contributing \$2000 towards but that VLAWMO will not need to be involved with that topic.

2. Wilkinson & Goose (2010)

Stephanie stated that Wilkinson will be the SLMP in 2010 and that Goose will likely be implemented with the TMDL.

E. Governance & Policy

1. Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Pilot Project policy

VLAWMO has begun working on CIP projects and SLMP implementation projects. As more of these projects come in, VLAWMO needs to hammer out a policy of selection of projects. Part of what is driving this that the City of White Bear Lake is putting in a green room on part of their new Public Works site and has asked if VLAWMO would like to partner on this project. Graham stated that being involved with these sorts of projects gives VLAWMO a chance for having some recognition and informational pieces. We have \$20,000 in the 2010 budget. Stephanie would like to have a policy developed by the Policy and Planning Committee Meeting and hopefully have something to bring to the December Board meeting for consideration. TEC would like to have a cap on the amount awarded (up to 50% of the cost with a \$10,000 maximum). Youngstrom would be more comfortable with a maximum of \$2,500. Kristine stated that \$2,500 would not cover much for large projects. TEC is interested but is asking for more information before considering it formally. TEC has asked staff to look at how other watersheds implement this sort of program. TEC has directed staff to have a policy created by the December meeting so that it can be voted on and then brought to the Board.

2. 2009 Audit

VLAWMO received an engagement letter from Abdo Eick & Meyers, LLP for the 2009 audit. The proposed cost is \$5,152; \$5,500 is budgeted and has been approved by the Board. Stephanie is asking for authorization

to proceed with the audit by signing the engagement letter. It was moved and seconded by Graham & Franey to authorize the signing of the engagement letter and proceed with the audit. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

3. Boundary Update

Stephanie had a conversation with Doug Thomas, Rice Creek Watershed Administrator who has been talking with the Ramsey County Property Department. The County agreed that if Rice Creek submits a new legal description, they will take that as enough proof to change all watershed designations to either RCWD or VLAWMO based on that legal description line. RCWD is hoping to have this completed in January.

F. Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

1. Whitaker Pond

Pre-bid meeting was earlier this week and there were approximately 10-15 contractors on hand which is encouraging that we will get some good bids. The bids will be opened today at 2pm at White Bear Lake City Hall. TEC wants staff to put out a press release once the contractor has been awarded. Staff is also sending out a newsletter to the surrounding homes in the area of the project.

2. Birch Lake shoreline restoration update

Stephanie and Kristine met with Natural Shore Technologies this week to discuss the project further. We have asked them to develop a more detailed plan for an access point down to the lake in the same area that is currently eroded due to people walking down to the lake. The plan would include approximately 30' wide access area and 65' on either side for plantings. There will be more general plans for the rest of the 800' of shoreline. Kristine is submitting the more detailed plan as part of the BWSR CWL Grant program which is due December 1st.

VI. Reports

A. Financial Report for November & authorization of payment

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

B. WCA Activity

The year-end report has been submitted and VLAWMO will receive \$2500 from the State for the work done.

C. Technical Commission Report to the Board

Stephanie asked to defer this until the December meeting since there is no Board meeting in November.

VII. Commissioner Reports

It was discussed that it is a good thing to have a TEC rep at the Board meetings and that it may be good to have the Board rep to the TEC (Marty Long) communicate at the TEC meetings about what the Board needs and wants from the TEC. Everyone feels it is good to have as much communication between the two entities.

VIII. Administrator Report

The PCA tour went well and we have received a couple of really nice thank you notes from Rebecca Flood and John Hensel from the PCA. Stephanie also talked about some of the things learned from the conferences we have been to over the last couple of weeks. BWSR is asking for a change in how we do things – we need to prove how the work we do affects the environment and that we need to show outcomes and impacts from our work.

IX. Public Comment

Blackstone made a few statements. He congratulated VLAWMO on getting the Whitaker Pond project this far along. Dana Vanderbosch from PCA has contacted SPRWS and will be doing some monitoring on the Chain of Lakes in 2010. Another group is doing a hypolimnetic study. Susan Rani contacted SPRWU and is going to apply for funding to do some study and work on an eroded area by Sucker Lake (Susan Rani is an engineer who has worked with VLAWMO in the past and lives in Vadnais Heights). USGS is doing some monitoring in the Lambert Lake area to determine how much water is going into the wetland area (i.e., if the project is working).

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

XI. Adjourn

It was moved and seconded by to adjourn at 9:19am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Lampert.