

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
March 10, 2017
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room

Commission Members Present:

Mark Graham	Vadnais Heights (VH)
Jim Grisim	White Bear Lake (WBL)
Bob Larson	North Oaks (NO)
Jim Lindner	Gem Lake (GL)
Marty Asleson	Lino Lakes (LL)

Commission Members Absent:

Tom Riedesel	White Bear Township (WBT)
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Others in attendance: Kristine Jenson, Brian Corcoran, Nick Voss (VLAWMO); Margaret Behrens (Ramsey Conservation District – RCD); Justine Roe (St. Paul Regional Water Service – SPRWS); Diane Gorder (NO Natural Resources Commission, WAV member); Connie Taillon (City of WBL)

I. **Call to Order** Chair Graham called the meeting to order at 7:30am.

II. **Approval of Agenda**

It was moved by Lindner and seconded by Grisim to approve the March 10, 2017 agenda as amended. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. **Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Graham and seconded by Larson to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2017 Meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IV. **Administration & Operations**

A. Administrator's report

- The new Board Officers for 2017 are Dan Jones as Chair, Jim Lindner as Vice Chair, and Rob Rafferty as Secretary-Treasurer. The Board also appointed Mark Graham as TEC Chair, as recommended.

- The Board chose to retain legal services with Kennedy & Graven but opted to change auditors to allow for a 'new set of eyes' to review finances. The new firm is Clifton, Larson & Allen. The audit will be done this month.

- The insurance firm, United Fire and Casualty, who has been carrying our Errors and Omissions insurance, will no longer offer it in 2017. We are working with our agent to secure new insurance and will be looking into transferring policies to the League of MN Cities. This may involve transferring several of VLAWMO's policies (general, liability, and officers bond).

-The League of Women Voters are hosting an Upper Mississippi River Region discussion on March 23 at 7pm at Vadnais Heights City Hall. All are invited to come and learn about this critical and endangered resource that flows through our metro area. The speaker, Lonnie McCauley, is from the League's Upper Mississippi River Region Inter League Organization. Action options for individuals as well as policy considerations will be discussed.

B. TEC Officers

Reelection for TEC Finance Officer: The Board of Directors elected Jim Lindner as Vice Chair of the Board, however, they also asked that he step away from the Finance officer of the TEC position. This leaves the TEC with the need to find a new Finance officer. Recall that our 2017 officers are: Mark Graham, Chair; Jim Grisim, Vice Chair, and Jim Lindner, Finance officer. If you aren't already serving

as an officer, please consider the Finance officer position. It was moved and seconded by Lindner and Grisim to nominate Larson as Finance Officer. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

We ask them to review the monthly finance report and perhaps serve on the finance committee. Amendment of January Minutes: Staff would also like to offer an amendment to the January minutes.

When the Board acted last week to elect their officers, it became apparent that our January TEC minutes didn't quite capture our election of officers. Strike: ~~"search for a TEC chair. Mark will chair until someone wants to take the lead. Jim Lindner continue to serve as treasurer, willing to do double duty. Marty will be vice chair."~~ Replace with: "It was moved by Bob Larson, seconded by Marty Asleson, to elect Mark Graham as Chair, Jim Grisim as Vice Chair, and Jim Lindner as Finance officer of the Technical Commission for 2017. Vote: all aye. Motion passed."

It was moved by Graham and seconded by Grisim to amend the January 2017 TEC Minutes as described above. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

C. Appointments to Finance and Policy & Personnel Committees

Two action packed committees are in need of representation from the TEC. How would you like to help direct next year's budget (Finance meets once per year in the spring) or wrestle with weighty policy questions (P & P meets 1 - 2 times per year)?

Mark Graham stated that he will continue to serve on the P&P and Bob Larson will serve on the Finance Committee.

V. **Projects**

A. Project Updates

1. Kohler project update

The contractor was on site to place fill in areas of the project that have settled during the warm stretch. Since the work began last fall with semi-frozen ground, it was expected that some areas would need fill added when the ground thawed. The project will be completed in early spring.

2. Wilkinson & Goose Lakes Project Study

As stated last month, Barr-Young plan to have their report completed and submitted to VLAWMO by the end of this month and will attend the April TEC and Board meetings to discuss their recommendations for moving forward. At the last Board meeting, approval was given to hire Steve McComas from Blue Water Science to conduct fish surveys on East & West Goose Lakes and Wilkinson Lake. They also approved hiring RCD to conduct bathymetry survey on Wilkinson Lake.

3. Charley Lake SLMP Studies

The Board also approved having RCD conduct a bathymetry survey on Charley Lake. Charley Lake is on schedule to have a Sustainable Lake Management Plan (SLMP) for 2017. As part of SLMP development, we conduct surveys to help assess the current state of the lake. In April we will be bringing a proposal from RCD to conduct a vegetation survey on the lake as part of the SLMP development.

4. Birch Lake BMP Assessment

The Board approved a proposal from Barr Engineering to assist us in determining the optimal BMP for the site at 4th & Otter Lake Rd, next to Birch Lake. The proposal includes conducting modeling to ascertain the current conditions of the site as well as how it could be modified to provide a better pollutant capture before the water flows into Birch Lake. They will provide conceptual designs for two of the top project options. This work is expected to be completed in July.

VI. **Programs**

A. Education & Outreach

1. Survey results and action plan

Results of the survey conducted last month are summarized:

“Which of the following activities interest you?”

1. Tour Saint Paul Regional Watershed, Tour key VLAWMO sites (60%)
2. Special events such as guest speakers in the hour before a board meeting (50%)

“Favorite past TEC/VLAWMO activities”

1. Tours, events, education efforts

“What are you looking forward to?”

1. Taking action, progress in research studies, seeing Kohler Rd restoration after the winter
2. Work with drainage – understanding, education effort on debris, hiring a drone to inspect.

Action: VLAWMO will schedule a tour of the Saint Paul Regional Water Service treatment plant in April, as well as arrange at least 1 guest speaker to be hosted before a board meeting.

2. 2017 Community events and bothing

TEC and Board members are invited to volunteer at the VLAWMO booth at the following events. Contact Nick for planning purposes and to obtain a VLAWMO nametag. In addition to helping set-up/takedown the booth and speaking to the public, notify Nick if any family, friends, or kids would like to volunteer to be the water drop costume!

- April 30th: NE Business Expo 9-2pm, Vadnais Sports Arena
- June 3rd: North Oaks Community Fair 12-3pm, North Oaks Pavilion/hockey rink
- June 3rd: WBL Water Symposium 8-2pm, WBL South Campus
- July 18th: Taste of Vadnais: 4:30-8:30pm, Vadnais Square
- July 27th: MarketFest 5-9pm, WBL downtown

Additional events TBA!

3. Raingarden and Native Plant Workshops

VLAWMO is hosting 2 workshops this spring. A raingarden workshop on April 12 and a workshop about native plants on May 10.

4. TEC “thank you” photo – used for program promotion and relationship building

To build programs that are approachable to the public, showing that we’re a friendly, positive community will help residents engage VLAWMO. A photo of TEC and staff holding a “thank you” sign will be used for things like thanking residents who participate in the Adopt-a-Drain program.

B. Monitoring

1. 2016 Monitoring Report – Amelia, Black, Charley, Deep, Gilfillan, West Vadnais Lake Total Phosphorus

Ameila – Historical overall averages TP and Chl A have been steady and most meeting state standards. TP average this year was 51.

Wilkinson – TP levels in the lake are above state standards (169). Historically, the lake does not meet state standards for TP and Chl A. We captured some storm samples within the Amelia-Wilkinson subshed area to ascertain the levels of pollutants entering and leaving Wilkinson. When it leaves Amelia, it meets standards. At the area on the north side of the Wilkinson (Ash St) it was over 200. From Waverly Gardens, it was very low. As the water leaves Wilkinson, the level was 150. From the south, in the North Oaks Farm, the TP was above state standards. We have limited samples at these sites but based on what we have, the “hot spots” are from the Ash Street area with NO Farm area as second.

Deep – TP average was 76.

Pleasant – TP average was 65 which meets standards because it is a deeper lake.

Charley TP average of 78. It had met standards the last 3 years. Overall, for the last 8 years, it has met standards half the years. It is consistently meeting standards for ChIA Gilfillan – TP average of 48. Has met standards the last 4 years (due to the input of Mississippi River water in 2012). ChI A has started to come up the last 2 years and is currently not meeting standards.

Black – TP average of 17. One of our best water quality lakes. There isn't much input or output unless it is a high rainfall year. This lake also has wild rice.

West Vadnais – TP average of 110. Does not have a large subwatershed but receives water from the west.

East Vadnais – TP average of 38. There is no surface water connection between West and East but there may be groundwater connection.

SPRWS does more intensive testing on Pleasant and East Vadnais Lakes. These lakes are deeper and large so they get samples at different depths and different areas of the lakes.

VII. Reports

A. Financial Report for March 2017 & Authorization for Payment

It was moved by Graham and seconded by Larson to approve the treasurer's report and March payment of checks. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VIII. Commissioner Reports

Asleson stated that the City finally got the Army Corps to sign off on the wetland bank they created. It took 4 years to get the approval.

Graham is working to use a drone to fly over some wetlands in Vadnais Heights. VLAWMO may utilize the footage as well to use for outreach and promotional needs.

Graham also stated he has been subpoenaed for the White Bear Lake augmentation trial. Asleson stated that Lino Lakes has been called in for the trial as well. The trial is the homeowners against the DNR because they feel the DNR has issued too many permits to create wells for development which is using up groundwater and is a reason for the lower water levels of White Bear Lake.

IX. St. Paul Regional Water Service (SPRWS) Report

Roe stated that they now have the capabilities to test for Legionella and will only be done in areas of the service area that warrant it.

X. Ramsey Conservation District (RCD) Report

Behrens stated that on 3/30 1-3 will be having the 2017 update on the Aquatic Invasive species forum to give updates on studies from last year and plans for 2017. Nick and Stephanie came to an event with the Ramsey County League of Local Governments with State Legislature representatives.

XI. Public Comment

Gorder stated that they had a meeting with SPRWS, VLAWMO, DNR, and RCD to talk about North Oaks lakes and they felt it was very beneficial. Additionally, Kimberly Murray is leaving NOHOA on March 31. She is moving to Florida due her spouse's job transfer.

XII. Next Meetings

TEC: April 14; Board: April 26

XIII. Adjourn

It was moved by Lindner and seconded by Larson to adjourn at 8:29am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Jenson.