

VLAWMO TECHNICAL COMMISSION MEETING

8:15 AM September 9, 2026

Vadnais Heights City Hall, Council Chambers, 800 County Road E East, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

Action items: 🍁

- I. Call to Order – 8:15am –Chair Ousky 🍁
- II. Approval of Agenda 🍁
- III. Approval of Minutes (August 12, 2026) 🍁 **2**
- IV. Administration & Operations - Phil
 - A. September Financial Report and Consider Authorization for Payment 🍁 **6**
- V. Programs –Angela, Lauren
 - A. Outreach Update: August into September **13**
 - B. SHG 2026-06 Hilpisch Native Plant Restoration Grant Application 🍁 **13, 15**
 - C. Smart Irrigation Controller Project Highlights **14**
 - D. Grant Projects Revisited: Before and After Photos **14**
- VI. Commissioner Reports
- VII. NOHOA
- VIII. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division
- IX. St. Paul Regional Water Services
- X. Public Comment
- XI. Next meetings: TEC: October 14, 2026; Board Meeting: October 28, 2026
- XII. Adjourn 🍁

Upcoming Events: Visit vlawmo.org/events

Workshop: Caring for a Native Garden	Sept. 15
Watershed Action Volunteers (WAV) Meeting	Sept. 17
MN Water Steward “Love Our Lakes” Event	Sept. 29
Metro Children’s Water Festival	Sept. 30

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission (TEC) Minutes
August 12, 2026
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Council Chambers
800 County Road E East, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127**

Commission Members Present:

Nick Ousky	Vadnais Heights (VH)
Gloria Tessier	Gem Lake (GL)
Susan Miller	North Oaks (NO)
Jami Philip	White Bear Township (WBT)
Terry Huntrods	White Bear Lake (WBL)
Tom Hoffman	Lino Lakes (LL)

Others in attendance: Phil Belfiori, Dawn Tanner, Brian Corcoran, Lauren Sampedro, Angela Hugunin (VLAWMO staff), Ed Shapland (WAV).

I. Call to Order

Chair Ousky called the meeting to order at 8:15 am.

II. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Philip to approve the August 12, 2026 TEC agenda as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes (July 8, 2026)

It was moved by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Philip to approve the July 8, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IV. Administration & Operations

A. August Financial Report and Consider Authorization for Payment

Administrator Belfiori summarized the August financial statement as included in the TEC packet. He highlighted income from the first installment of the Storm Sewer Utility (SSU) fee. For expenditures, he outlined monitoring and analysis expenses for creek and lake monitoring, continued restoration work for the Rotary Nature Preserve wetland, ongoing work related to the 319 grant project, and public ditch maintenance for Lambert Creek. Administrator Belfiori recommended approval of the August financial report and payment of the bills.

It was moved by Commissioner Huntrods and seconded by Commissioner Philip to approve the August financial report and authorize for payment. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. August TEC Report to the Board

Administrator Belfiori summarized key items from the August TEC Report to the Board, including early design work for a project from the East Vadnais Subwatershed Resiliency Study, a continued effort between the City of Vadnais Heights and partners including VLAWMO; the completion of the City of Vadnais Heights' whole-city resiliency study; and the Board's upcoming consideration of 2027 Storm Sewer Utility (SSU) rates.

It was moved by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Tessier to approve the August TEC Report to the Board. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

V. Programs

A. Update on Recent Community Engagement Efforts

Hugunin outlined recent outreach efforts, including two educational presentations at Tamarack Nature Center. Staff visited groups of interns with the Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa (CCMI). On the first day, interns observed staff conducting their standard water quality monitoring at Tamarack Lake. On the second day, learning centered on watershed projects and conservation career paths. Staff appreciated the opportunity to connect with young learners and the Tamarack Nature Center team. Hugunin also highlighted the Environmental Resources Expo, part of the City of White Bear Lake's Marketfest. Minnesota Water Steward volunteers joined staff for the event tabling, which drew many visitors and increased community connections.

B. Update on Upcoming Events

Hugunin provided an update on upcoming events including the City of Vadnais Heights' Family Fun Zone, Neighborhood Garden Tour, and a fall workshop about caring for native gardens. Staff and volunteers will attend the Family Fun Zone on Saturday, August 15th from 11 am to 2 pm. In addition, Hugunin shared that the second round of garden tours will occur on Tuesday, August 25th from 6:00 – 7:30 pm, and the fall workshop, Caring for a Native Garden, will take place on September 15th from 6:00 – 7:30 pm at the White Bear Town Hall.

C. SHG 2026-05 Peterson Native Plant Restoration Grant Application

Sampedro presented a Soil Health Grant application for a native plant restoration project in Vadnais Heights. Sampedro shared the proposed location of the project, which drains directly to a wetland before ultimately draining to Sucker Lake.

The proposed restoration application involves two phases. Sampedro explained that the first proposed project phase includes a plan to naturally stabilize a steep, eroding slope with native

shrubs and groundcover. The second proposed project phase would involve replacing invasive plants along a wetland with a 5-10 foot-wide wetland buffer with native plants.

Sampedro explained that in total, the project would involve adding over 600 native plant plugs and bareroot plants, as well as 21 shrubs. The total estimated project cost is \$2,184.50. Staff recommended approval of SHG 2026-05 in the amount of \$1,250.

It was moved by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Huntrods to approve SHG 2026-05 in the amount of \$1,250. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

D. LL2 2026-02 City of Lino Lakes Stormwater Reuse for Irrigation Grant Application

Sampedro shared a Landscape Level 2 Grant application from the City of Lino Lakes for a stormwater reuse system for irrigation at the intersection of Centerville Road and County Road J East. Sampedro showed the project's location at the new roundabout at County Road J, Wilkinson Lake Blvd, and Centerville Road, an effort that has involved partnership between multiple agencies. Sampedro explained that the grant project proposes to irrigate the new roundabout's vegetation with water from a nearby stormwater pond for an estimated savings of 35,000 gallons of water annually. She noted that this area is located within the North and East Metro Groundwater Management Area that is at risk of groundwater overuse.

The stormwater reuse for irrigation system cost estimate is \$49,140.00. Staff recommended approval of a 90% grant level for the stormwater reuse system up to \$44,226.00 to the Board of Directors at their August 26th meeting.

Commissioner Miller asked about the plants selected to go in the roundabout and whether the chosen grasses may spread. Sampedro responded that the plants were selected to be hardy enough for the roundabout conditions with non-natives that require less maintenance and should not spread. Commissioner Miller affirmed that the new plants will be a nice addition to the community.

It was moved by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Philip to approve LL2 2026-02 in the amount of \$44,226.00.

VI. Projects

A. Update on 319/Phase 2 Project

Tanner provided an update on the proposed Phase 2 project, sharing that the lab analysis and report of soils sampled in June has been completed, with results being favorable. The semi-annual report for the grant was completed ahead of the August deadline and approved by the project manager at the MPCA. Reimbursement has been received for the first project invoice.

B. WMP Accessible Version/Posting and Sharing

Tanner stated that staff received a draft of the digitally accessible version of the Watershed Management Plan (WMP) from the consultant. She said that VLAWMO staff would be reviewing and discussing it later that day, following the TEC meeting. Staff will move forward with WMP distribution to partners and the public.

C. Rotary Nature Preserve: Summer Planting and Remaining Late Summer/Fall Work

Tanner shared that planting work at the Rotary Nature Preserve wetland has been productive to date. Treatment of reed canary grass along the wetland buffer has been successful. Shallow standing water areas have been planted with more native plants. She stated that work this fall will include ongoing invasive species treatment (e.g., cattail and reed canary grass) and overseeding with native species.

VII. Commissioner Reports

None.

VIII. NOHOA

None.

IX. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division (RCSWCD)

None.

X. St. Paul Regional Water Services

None.

XI. Public Comment

None.

XII. Next Meetings

TEC meeting: September 9, 2026 at 8:15 am; Board meeting: August 26, 2026.

XIII. Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner Hoffman and seconded by Commissioner Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 am. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VLAWMO Finance Summary: September 2026

Sep-26		Actual 9/1/26	Actual to Date	2026 Budget (June 2025 Board Approved)	Carry over from 2025 to 2026	Remaining in Budget	2026 Available (Dec. 2025 Board approved)	Act vs. Budget
BUDGET #	INCOME							
5.11	Storm Water Utility		\$747,697	\$1,335,000	\$0	\$587,303	\$1,335,000	56%
5.12	Service Fees			\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	0%
5.13	Interest + mitigation acct	\$10,070	\$37,061	\$30,000	\$0	(\$7,061)	\$30,000	124%
5.14	Misc. income - WCA admin & other	\$400	\$400	\$3,000	\$0	\$2,600	\$3,000	13%
5.15	Other Income Grants/ <u>loan</u>	\$21,321	\$51,105	\$180,000	\$0	\$128,895	\$180,000	28%
5.16	Transfer from reserves			\$1,138,245	\$172,445	\$1,310,690	\$1,310,690	0%
	TOTAL	\$31,791	\$836,263	\$2,687,245	\$172,445	\$2,023,427	\$2,859,690	31%
EXPENSES								
3.1	Operations & Administration							
3.110	Office - rent, copies, post tel supplies	\$2,384	\$18,597	\$35,544	\$0	\$16,947	\$35,544	52%
3.120	Information Systems	\$2,238	\$20,889	\$37,150	\$0	\$16,261	\$37,150	56%
3.130	Insurance	\$9,581	\$9,581	\$12,000	\$0	\$2,419	\$12,000	80%
3.141	Consulting - Audit		\$16,238	\$29,900	\$0	\$13,662	\$29,900	54%
3.142	Consulting - Bookkeeping	\$62	\$620	\$1,500	\$0	\$880	\$1,500	41%
3.143	Consulting - Legal	\$20	\$1,998	\$9,000	\$0	\$7,002	\$9,000	22%
3.144	Consulting - Eng. & Tech.	\$1,729	\$2,164	\$50,000	\$0	\$47,836	\$50,000	4%
3.150	Storm Sewer Utility	\$7,440	\$38,472	\$22,500	\$93,619	\$77,647	\$116,119	33%
3.160	Training (staff/board)		\$694	\$18,000	\$0	\$17,306	\$18,000	4%
3.170	Misc. & mileage	\$199	\$1,796	\$7,276	\$0	\$5,480	\$7,276	25%
3.191	Administration - staff	\$38,808	\$347,720	\$511,724	\$0	\$164,004	\$511,724	68%
3.192	Employer Liability	\$12,733	\$107,773	\$169,583	\$0	\$61,810	\$169,583	64%
3.2	Monitoring and Studies							
3.210	Lake and Creek lab analysis	\$3,811	\$16,461	\$25,000	\$0	\$8,539	\$25,000	66%
3.220	Equipment			\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	0%
3.230	Wetland assessment & management			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!
3.240	Watershed planning /special study		\$28,194	\$80,000	\$0	\$51,806	\$80,000	35%
3.3	Education and Outreach							
3.310	Public Education	\$541	\$2,017	\$8,000	\$0	\$5,983	\$8,000	25%
3.320	Comm., Outreach & Marketing	\$3,202	\$17,275	\$25,000	\$0	\$7,725	\$25,000	69%
3.330	Community Blue Ed Grant		\$7,939	\$12,000	\$0	\$4,061	\$12,000	66%
Total Core functions: Ops, Monitoring, Education		\$82,748	\$638,428	\$1,057,177	\$93,619	\$512,368	\$1,150,796	55%
Capital Improvement Projects and Programs								
3.4	Subwatershed Activity							
3.410	Gem Lake			\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	0%

3.420	Lambert Creek			\$455,000	\$0	\$455,000	\$455,000	0%
3.421	Lambert Lake Loan		\$19,284	\$38,568	\$0	\$19,284	\$38,568	50%
3.425	Goose Lake		\$4,377	\$40,000	\$0	\$35,623	\$40,000	11%
3.430	Birch Lake		\$35,255	\$102,500	\$20,000	\$87,245	\$122,500	29%
3.440	Gilf Black Tam Wilk Amelia	\$3,340	\$94,127	\$383,000	\$0	\$288,873	\$383,000	25%
3.450	Pleasant Charley Deep		\$13,650	\$115,000	\$0	\$101,350	\$115,000	12%
3.460	Sucker Vadnais		\$506	\$271,000	\$20,000	\$290,494	\$291,000	0%
3.48	Programs							
3.480	Soil Health Grant	\$1,250	\$5,261	\$25,000	\$15,530	\$35,269	\$40,530	13%
3.481	Landscape 1		\$7,450	\$50,000	\$11,558	\$54,108	\$61,558	12%
3.482	Landscape 2/BWSR WBF	\$583	\$5,334	\$80,000	\$11,738	\$86,404	\$91,738	6%
3.483	Project Research & feasibility			\$5,000		\$5,000	\$5,000	0%
3.485	Facilities Maintenanc/ Pub. Ditch Main.	\$4,490	\$19,584	\$50,000		\$30,416	\$50,000	39%
3.5	Regulatory							
3.510	Engineer Plan review			\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	0%
	<i>Total CIP & Program</i>	\$9,663	\$204,828	\$1,630,068	\$78,826	\$1,504,066	\$1,708,894	12%
	Total of Core Operations & CIP	\$92,411	\$843,256	\$2,687,245	\$172,445	\$2,016,434	\$2,859,690	29%

Fund Balance		8/1/2026	9/1/2026
4M Account		\$1,297,481	\$1,165,377
4M Plus Savings		\$269,201	\$270,037
Total		\$1,566,682	\$1,435,414

Restricted funds		9/1/2026
Mitigation Savings		\$0
Term Series		\$0

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization

9:21 AM

Check Detail

09/02/2026

August 13 through September 9, 2026

	Type	Num	Date	Name	Item	Account	Paid Amount	Original Amount
	Check	eft	08/19/2026	Reliance Standard		Checking - 1987		-228.36
					Insurance Benefit		-228.36	228.36
TOTAL							-228.36	228.36
	Check	eft	08/28/2026	US Bank		Checking - 1987		-61.56
					3.142 · Bookkeeping help		-61.56	61.56
TOTAL							-61.56	61.56
	Check	6224	09/09/2026	Lauren Sampedro		Checking - 1987		-67.03
					3.170 · Misc. & mileage		-67.03	67.03
TOTAL							-67.03	67.03
	Check	6225	09/09/2026	Brian Corcoran		Checking - 1987		-131.48
					3.170 · Misc. & mileage		-131.48	131.48
TOTAL							-131.48	131.48
	Check	6226	09/09/2026	Metro - Inet		Checking - 1987		-2,200.00
					IT Support		-2,200.00	2,200.00
TOTAL							-2,200.00	2,200.00
	Check	6227	09/09/2026	RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc.		Checking - 1987		-3,811.12
					3.210 · Lake & Creek lab analysis		-1,517.34	1,517.34
					3.210 · Lake & Creek lab analysis		-508.92	508.92
					3.210 · Lake & Creek lab analysis		-1,517.34	1,517.34
					3.210 · Lake & Creek lab analysis		-94.05	94.05
					3.210 · Lake & Creek lab analysis		-79.42	79.42
					3.210 · Lake & Creek lab analysis		-94.05	94.05
TOTAL							-3,811.12	3,811.12
	Check	6228	09/09/2026	Houston Engineering, Inc		Checking - 1987		-9,559.25
					3.144 · Eng. & Tech.		-1,729.25	1,729.25
					3.485 · Facilities & Maintenance		-2,315.50	2,315.50
					3.485 · Facilities & Maintenance		-2,174.50	2,174.50
					Wilkinson 319 grant 320705.50		-3,340.00	3,340.00
TOTAL							-9,559.25	9,559.25
	Check	6229	09/09/2026	Damien Lepoutre		Checking - 1987		-1,250.00
					3.480 · Soil Health Grant		-1,250.00	1,250.00
TOTAL							-1,250.00	1,250.00
	Check	6230	09/09/2026	Minuteman Press		Checking - 1987		-1,782.41

			3.310 · Public Education	-409.96	409.96
			3.482 · Landscape 2	-583.28	583.28
			3.320 · Marketing	-789.17	789.17
TOTAL				-1,782.41	1,782.41
	Check 6231	09/09/2026 Ehlers & Associates, Inc.	Checking - 1987		-7,440.00
			3.150 · Storm Sewer Utility	-7,440.00	7,440.00
TOTAL				-7,440.00	7,440.00
	Check 6232	09/09/2026 HDR Engineering, Inc.	Checking - 1987		-399.91
			3.320 · Marketing	-399.91	399.91
TOTAL				-399.91	399.91
	Check 6233	09/09/2026 Metro Blooms	Checking - 1987		-2,000.00
			3.320 · Marketing	-2,000.00	2,000.00
TOTAL				-2,000.00	2,000.00
	Check 6234	09/09/2026 City of Vadnais Heights	Checking - 1987		-2,384.35
			Rent	-1,865.00	1,865.00
			Phone/Internet/Machine Overhead	-335.00	335.00
			Postage	-116.13	116.13
			Copies	-68.22	68.22
TOTAL				-2,384.35	2,384.35
	Check 6235	09/09/2026 League of MN Cities Insurance Trust P & C	Checking - 1987		-6,269.00
			3.130 · Insurance	-6,269.00	6,269.00
TOTAL				-6,269.00	6,269.00
	Check 6236	09/09/2026 League of MN Cities Insurance Trust WC	Checking - 1987		-3,312.00
			3.130 · Insurance	-3,312.00	3,312.00
TOTAL				-3,312.00	3,312.00
	Check 6237	09/09/2026 City of White Bear Lake	Checking - 1987		-51,312.83
			payroll	-38,808.25	38,808.25
			Administration FICA	-2,838.34	2,838.34
			Administration PERA	-2,910.64	2,910.64
			Insurance Benefit	-6,294.76	6,294.76
			Admin payroll processing	-266.05	266.05
			Employer PFML	-194.79	194.79
TOTAL				-51,312.83	51,312.83
	Check 6238	09/09/2026 Town Law Center, PLLP	Checking - 1987		-20.00
			3.143 · Legal	-20.00	20.00
TOTAL				-20.00	20.00

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization

9:26 AM

Profit & Loss

09/02/2026

August 13 through September 9, 2026

Cash Basis

Aug 13 - Sep 9, 26

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

Misc. 400.00

5.1 · Income

5.13 · Interest 10,069.97

Total 5.1 · Income 10,069.97

6.6.6 · Grants 21,321.41

Total Income 31,791.38

Gross Profit 31,791.38

Expense

3.1 · Administrative/Operations

3.110 · Office

Copies 68.22

Phone/Internet/Machine Overhead 335.00

Postage 116.13

Rent 1,865.00

Total 3.110 · Office 2,384.35

3.120 · Information Systems

IT Support 2,200.00

WEB 38.18

Total 3.120 · Information Systems 2,238.18

3.130 · Insurance 9,581.00

3.142 · Bookkeeping help 61.56

3.143 · Legal 20.00

3.144 · Eng. & Tech. 1,729.25

3.150 · Storm Sewer Utility 7,440.00

3.170 · Misc. & mileage 198.51

3.191 · Employee Payroll

payroll 38,808.25

Total 3.191 · Employee Payroll 38,808.25

3.192 · Employer Liabilities

Admin payroll processing 266.05

Administration FICA 2,838.34

Administration PERA 2,910.64

Employer PFML 194.79

Insurance Benefit 6,523.12

Total 3.192 · Employer Liabilities 12,732.94

Total 3.1 · Administrative/Operations 75,194.04

3.2 · Monitoring and Studies

3.210 · Lake & Creek lab analysis 3,811.12

Total 3.2 · Monitoring and Studies	3,811.12
3.3 · Education and Outreach	
3.310 · Public Education	541.00
3.320 · Marketing	3,202.02
Total 3.3 · Education and Outreach	3,743.02
3.4 · Capital Imp. Projects/Programs	
3.440 · Gilfillan Black Tamarack Wilkin	
Wilkinson 319 grant 320705.50	3,340.00
Total 3.440 · Gilfillan Black Tamarack Wilkin	3,340.00
Total 3.4 · Capital Imp. Projects/Programs	3,340.00
3.48 · Programs	
3.480 · Soil Health Grant	1,250.00
3.482 · Landscape 2	583.28
3.485 · Facilities & Maintenance	4,490.00
Total 3.48 · Programs	6,323.28
Total Expense	92,411.46
Net Ordinary Income	-60,620.08
Net Income	-60,620.08

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization

Custom Transaction Detail Report

July 1 through September 1, 2026

9:20 AM

09/02/2026

Accrual Basis

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Account	Clr	Split	Amount	Balance
Jul 1 - Sep 1, 26									
Credit Card Charge	07/01/2026		Google*SVCAPPS_VLAWM		US Bank CC	✓ WEB		21.00	21.00
Credit Card Charge	07/09/2026	mnl	tour host e-cards		US Bank CC	✓ 3.310 · Public Education		15.00	36.00
Credit Card Charge	07/09/2026	Canva	grant stickers		US Bank CC	✓ 3.310 · Public Education		23.84	59.84
Credit Card Charge	07/10/2026	Ace Hardware	stencil supplies		US Bank CC	✓ 3.310 · Public Education		175.16	235.00
Credit Card Charge	07/10/2026	USPS	stamps for cards		US Bank CC	✓ 3.320 · Marketing		17.60	252.60
Credit Card Charge	07/13/2026	Grainger	vests		US Bank CC	✓ 3.310 · Public Education		91.29	343.89
Transfer	07/20/2026		Funds Transfer		US Bank CC	✓ Checking - 1987		-21.00	322.89
Credit Card Charge	07/23/2026	Canva	business cards		US Bank CC	✓ 3.170 · Misc. & mileage		127.35	450.24
Credit Card Charge	07/27/2026	Canva	postcards		US Bank CC	✓ 3.320 · Marketing		104.04	554.28
Credit Card Charge	07/28/2026	WalMart	marketfest spinners snacks		US Bank CC	✓ 3.310 · Public Education		24.97	579.25
Credit Card Charge	08/01/2026	Google*SVCAPPS_VLAWM			US Bank CC	✓ WEB		21.00	600.25
Credit Card Charge	08/13/2026	Go Daddy	domain renewal		US Bank CC	WEB		38.18	638.43
Credit Card Charge	08/17/2026	Amazon.com	camera cord		US Bank CC	3.320 · Marketing		12.94	651.37
Credit Card Charge	08/25/2026	Target	tour supplies		US Bank CC	3.310 · Public Education		59.13	710.50
Credit Card Charge	08/25/2026	mnl	tour host e-cards		US Bank CC	3.310 · Public Education		60.00	770.50
Credit Card Charge	08/25/2026	Target	event table		US Bank CC	3.310 · Public Education		11.91	782.41
Jul 1 - Sep 1, 26								782.41	782.41

TEC Staff Memo – September 9, 2026

IV. Administration & Operations

A. September Financial Report and Consider Authorization for Payment

Please find the September financial report and authorization to pay bills for consideration and approval.

V. Programs

A. Outreach Updates: August into September

Staff and volunteers tabled at the Vadnais Heights Family Fun Zone on August 15th. The second round of neighborhood garden tours was held on August 25th. At this event, 22 attendees explored three residential grant projects: one in Vadnais Heights and two in White Bear Lake. Staff appreciate the support of volunteers and hosts who help make these events possible. Staff also received four site visit inquiries from the event.

August was National Water Quality Month. In efforts to increase resident familiarity with VLAWMO's water quality monitoring program, staff created an [educational blog post](#) and creek monitoring video. Staff will share the video during the TEC meeting.

In the coming weeks, VLAWMO will host a Blue Thumb workshop focused on native garden care. This will take place from 6:00 – 7:30 pm on September 15th at the White Bear Town Hall. Attendees will learn how to care for their native plants through hands-on time in the Town Hall's native gardens. On Thursday, September 17th, the fall Watershed Action Volunteers (WAV) meeting will be held at the Vadnais Heights City Hall with time to discuss community priorities heading into fall and winter. Dates are being solidified for the second part of the Adopt a Storm Drain event series led by Minnesota Water Stewards Josie and Caden, as well as a fall lake trash cleanup event.

B. SHG 2026-06 Hilpisch Native Plant Restoration Grant Application

Landowner Jeanne Hilpisch submitted a Soil Health Grant application for a native plant restoration project in the backyard of her 0.7-acre property in the City of Vadnais Heights. The project area drains directly to a wetland that ultimately drains to Sucker Lake. The project is also within a VLAWMO priority zone area for volume reduction. Outside of the grant project, the landowner will be preparing the site by removing invasive species and aggressive non-native species such as buckthorn, burdock, and creeping Charlie. The proposed native plant restoration will involve adding more soil after invasive species removal and replacing the invasive and non-native species with native forbs, sedges, and grasses this fall or next spring over a total area of about 1,750 square feet. The landowner will be hiring a contractor to complete the work. 168 native plant plugs and two native seed mixes containing 20 species will be added. Erosion control will be installed

to keep the seed in place until establishment. The total estimated project cost is \$2,235.00.

Requested action: Staff recommends approval of SHG 2026-06 in the amount of \$1,250.

C. Smart Irrigation Controller Project Highlights

Staff have been collecting water usage information from past smart irrigation controller grant projects over the last three years. During the TEC meeting staff will highlight the benefits they see so far from completed projects.

D. Grant Projects Revisited: Before and After Photos

Staff will share several photos of past grant projects during the TEC meeting that highlight their progression over time, from before the grant projects began to a year or more after installation.



Soil Health Grant Application



Submit completed application to:

Lauren Sampedro

lauren.sampedro@vlawmo.org

Applicant Information:

Name:	Jeanne Hilpisch
Address:	4310 Oak Ridge Court
City/Township, State, Zip:	Vadnais Heights MN 55127
Phone:	(612) 578-9520
Email:	jeanne.hilpisch@gmail.com



Project Summary:

ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST (\$)	\$2235
AMOUNT REQUESTED (\$1,000 MAX or \$1,250 in Priority Area)	\$1250
EXPECTED PROJECT COMPLETION (Month, Year)	Fall 2026 or spring 2027

PROJECT TYPE:

- ☐ Downspout/Small Rain Garden
- ☒ Native Restoration/
Pollinator Garden
- ☐ Turfgrass Replacement
- ☐ Other

If other, please describe
the proposed project:

Completion will depend on site prep and contractor availability

Project Background:

Describe your property. What is the purpose of your project? Does your property connect to a lake, creek, ditch, or wetland in VLAWMO?	Purpose is to restore native plants and eliminate invasive weeds. The project will be in the backyard which backs some woods and drains into wetland/pond. We will be removing Buckthorn and other invasive weeds in area about 72 ft across and 20-26 ft deep. We need add about 2-3" of top soil and will cover the area in a mix of native wildflower plants, grass sledge and seed mix.
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Project Background: Continued

Describe how your project will support the goals of the Soil Health Grant Program. (See grant policy)	Installing native plantings to create a pollinator garden and replace invasive Buckthorn and turf grass with more compatible garden. It will enhance drainage and soil health.
Briefly describe the planned installation and maintenance activities for your project.	Contracting with landscaper for Buckthorn removal. Then, we will prepare soil for plantings. Plan is a mix of native plantings selected for deer resistance and shade. Depending on availability have selected Red Columbine, Wild Bergamot, Wild Geranium, Calico/Large Leaf Asters and Common Ox Eye. May also use grasses for dry soil and part shade including Pennsylvania sedge. Plants will be planted in fall or early spring depending on site prep completion.

Project Specifications:

TOTAL PROPERTY AREA (Acres)	.7 is lot size
Total PROJECT SIZE (SQ FT)	~1750
IF APPLICABLE: DEPTH OF RAIN GARDEN BASIN (Inches)	NA



Required Attachments:

- ⇒ Detailed drawing or plan of the proposed project.
- ⇒ Detailed project budget estimate with itemized costs and materials that equal your total estimated cost.

VLAWMO Soil Health Grant Agreement



It is understood that:

1. The grantee is responsible for maintaining the project for at least 5 years after its installation. VLAWMO is not responsible for completing maintenance activities.
2. The grantee will participate in VLAWMO's outreach and project sharing efforts.
3. A project may be visited and inspected by a VLAWMO representative during the 5-year maintenance period.
4. Grant awards will expire within 1 year of grant approval unless the project is extended with VLAWMO approval.

The applicant's signature indicates their agreement to the above terms and certifies the grant application information is true and accurate. A VLAWMO staff signature will constitute an approved and executed grant agreement between the grantee and the VLAWMO.

Applicant/Grantee

Signature _____

Date Aug 11, 2026

Print Jeanne Hilpisch

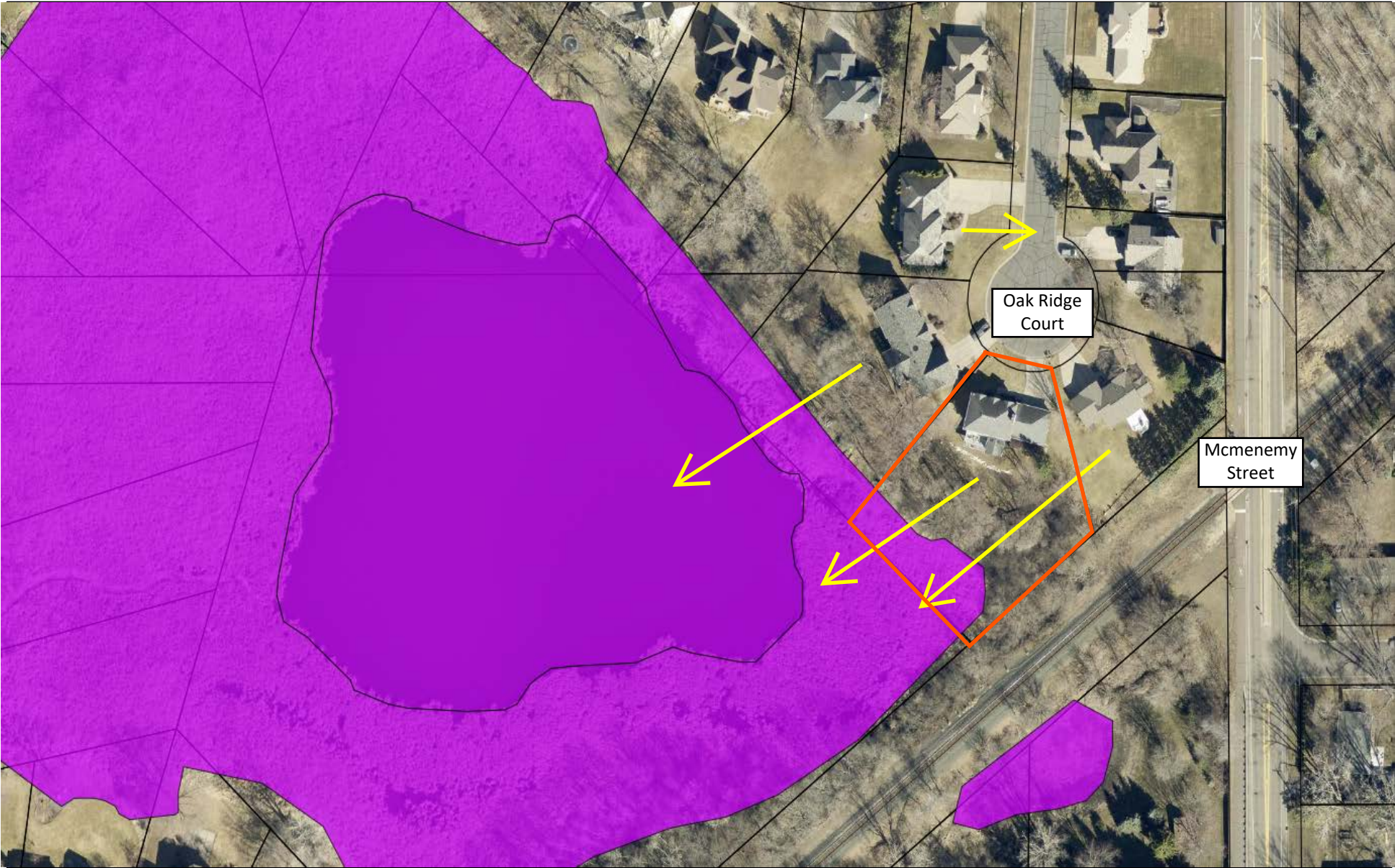
VLAWMO Staff

Signature _____

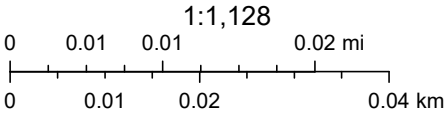
Date _____

Print _____

SHG 2026-06 Hilpisch Native Plant Restoration Application



- Ramsey County Parcels
- Project Location
- Flow Arrows
- Wetland



Plants	Number	Price	Total
Red Columbine	24	7.75	186
Wild Bergamot	24	7.75	186
Wild Geranium	24	7.75	186
Calico/Large Leaf Asters	24	7.75	186
Common Ox Eye	24	7.75	186
Pennsylvania sedge*	48	8.50	408
Seed:Graminoid Mix - Shady Woodland(Grass) 1/4lb for 1800 sq ft			37.50
Shady Woodland Forb Mix 3oz should cover our fill in area			108.00
	SubTotal		\$1483.50 10%
Top Soil			512
Coverings - straw and biodegradable erosion control blanket			240
	Grand Total		\$2235
		75%	\$1676 - cap \$1250

- Plant mix may vary based on availability. Want a mix of plantings.
- Have viewed plants at Prairie Restoration and reviewed best options for availability and shade. Recommended that we add topsoil after Buckthorn and weed removal.

- Plantings will be grouped roughly in rows of 3 by 4 on each side. May add more density if pricing permits.
- Seed will be used as fill and more maybe used based on need to supplement plants. Seed and grasses will be covered to protect growth.
- Grass will be used on sides of space and front. Depending on space, may add downy blue violet or other shorter growth plants on northside.

Estimate Detail for Top Soil:

The space requires coverage for 1750 sq ft --25 by 3 inches by 70ft. or 16.5 cubic yds.

The estimated total price to deliver 16.5 cubic yards of topsoil to Vadnais Heights ranges between **\$512.50 and \$1,042.50**, depending on the supplier.

Price Breakdown - used low end estimate

Expense Type	Low-End Estimate	High-End Estimate	Gertens Rate Example
Material Cost (16.5 yards)	\$412.50 (\$25/yd)	\$742.50 (\$45/yd)	\$626.84 (\$37.99/yd)
Estimated Delivery Fee	\$100.00	\$300.00	\$120.00 - \$180.00 (<i>approx.</i>)
Estimated Total	\$512.50	\$1,042.50	\$746.84 - \$806.84

V. B. Hilpisch Native Plant Restoration

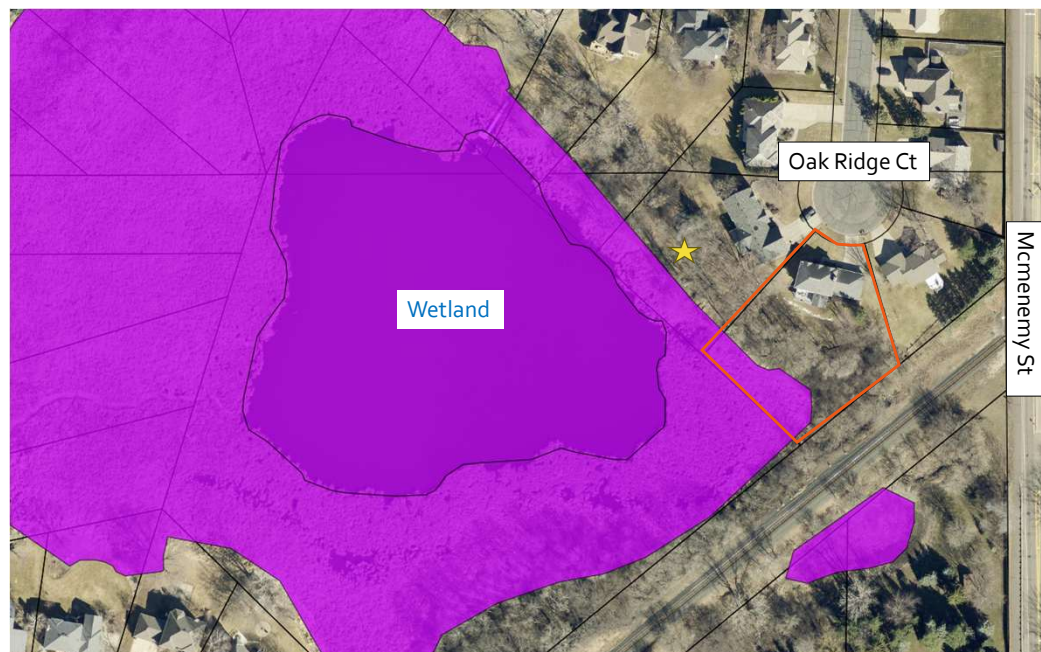
SHG 2026-06 Grant Application

Lauren Sampedro
TEC Meeting
9/9/2026



1

SHG 2026-06–Location Aerial



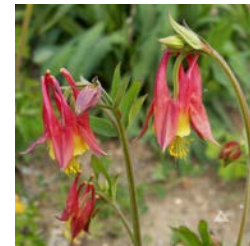
2

Existing Area



3

Proposed Plan



4