

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission (TEC) Minutes
April 8, 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, Brian Corcoran, Dawn Tanner, Lauren Sampedro, Angela Hugunin (VLAWMO staff), Jeremy Erickson (SPRWS)

I. Call to Order

Chair Ousky called the meeting to order at 8:13 am.

II. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Huntrods and seconded by Commissioner Philip to approve the April 8, 2026 TEC agenda as revised. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes (March 11, 2026)

It was moved by Commissioner Tessier and seconded by Commissioner Philip to approve the March 11, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IV. Administration & Operations

A. April Financial Report and Consider Authorization for Payment

Administrator Belfiori summarized the April financial statement as included in the TEC packet. He highlighted expenses from the previous month including expenses for the annual audit that will be considered at the April Board meeting. He shared Ehlers' continued work on analysis of past billing and the current Storm Sewer Utility fee. In addition, he noted continued website work with HDR and beginning work on Lambert Creek erosion control practices. Administrator Belfiori recommended approval of the April financial report and payment of the bills.

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

B. April TEC Report to the Board

Administrator Belfiori presented an overview of the April TEC Report to the Board, pointing out continued partnership with the City of Vadnais Heights on analysis of the site behind City Hall

as they await the final decision from the LCCMR. He outlined continued work on the citywide Vadnais Heights Resiliency Study, including discussion of priority sites. He pointed out increasing demand for cost share programs and noted that the audit will be shared at the April Board meeting. Administrator Belfiori stated that the Subcommittee had their first meeting on the 2027 budget at their March 31st meeting.

Staff recommended approval of the April TEC Report to the Board.

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

C. Consider VLAWMO Bylaws

Administrator Belfiori shared the draft VLAWMO Bylaws and explained their purpose of establishing rules to govern the conduct of business by the VLAWMO Board of Directors in accordance with the recently approved 2026-2036 VLAWMO Joint Powers Agreement, the VLAWMO Watershed Management Plan, and applicable laws. He explained that these Bylaws are intended to be consistent with the JPA and applicable watershed laws and these are anticipated to be brought to the April Board meeting.

Staff recommended that the TEC approve a recommendation to the Board for approval of the VLAWMO Bylaws.

Commissioner Miller asked if these Bylaws proposed changes to any existing practices. Administrator Belfiori explained that this is documentation of activities already taking place, as well as more detail than what is currently found in the JPA.

It was moved by Commissioner Tessier and seconded by Commissioner Huntrods/Miller to recommend that the Board approves the VLAWMO Bylaws. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

D. Consider TEC representative at May 20, 2026 Budget Subcommittee Meeting

Administrator Belfiori shared that it is anticipated that the VLAWMO Board of Directors will approve a motion at their April 22nd meeting to request a member of the TEC to attend the mid/late May Board Subcommittee meeting to discuss and recommend to the full Board the 2027 VLAWMO Budget. Per discussions at the March 31, 2026 VLAWMO Subcommittee meeting, this meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at 6:30 pm. Staff requested that the TEC appoint a representative to this meeting as this meeting involves discussion of the 2027 budget.

Chair Ousky asked what the responsibilities would be. Administrator Belfiori said that every year, the Board requests that someone from the TEC attends to provide comments on the budget and VLAWMO's programs.

Commissioner Huntrods said he had done this in the past and would be happy to continue being the representative.

It was moved by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Phillip to appoint Commissioner Huntrods as the representative to attend the May 20, 2026 Subcommittee meeting.

V. Programs

A. Consider Annual Report and Monitoring Report

Hugunin shared an overview of the 2025 Annual Report. She shared that VLAWMO is required to submit an annual report and monitoring report each year in addition to financial documents to BWSR. She provided an overview of the annual report, which offers key information on each VLAWMO program such as capital improvement projects, grants awarded, monitoring data, and community involvement. The annual report also includes a progress report on goals staff set for 2025, setting a work plan for 2026, an overview of financial standing, and a list of the current members of the Board, TEC, Board-approved consultants, and staff.

Corcoran shared some of the content from the monitoring program, including that staff monitors 14 lakes and 6 locations on Lambert Creek from May to September. He said the monitoring report highlights parameters staff regularly test for. Project-specific monitoring data is completed but not contained in the Water Monitoring Report.

Commissioner Miller asked whether the special project monitoring data is available on the website. Corcoran responded that yes, some of the data is on the website, such as reports that were completed by consultant engineers.

Corcoran stated that the full monitoring report can be found on VLAWMO's website. He highlighted the types of graphs that are contained in the report, which show long-term trends for VLAWMO lakes.

Commissioner Huntrods asked what the impairment threshold is for chloride. Corcoran responded that it is two or more exceedances during a three-year period of the 230 mg/l standard.

Staff recommended that the TEC approve a recommendation to the Board for approval of the 2025 Annual Report and 2025 Water Monitoring Report with non-material changes.

It was moved by Commissioner Huntrods and seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve a recommendation to the Board for approval of the 2025 Annual Report and 2025 Water Monitoring Report with non-material changes. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. Early Spring Outreach Updates

Hugunin provided an overview of recent outreach program activities, including development of updated grant signage and resources to support prospective grant applicants and grant recipients, including native garden maintenance.

Hugunin explained that four different sign designs will be completed. She highlighted the next workshop for potential grant applicants/grantees scheduled will be the Planting for Clean Water workshop on May 7th at the Maplewood library. She invited the TEC to share the workshop with any interested community members.

Huginin also shared an overview of upcoming volunteer opportunities happening throughout Earth Month including the first WAV planning meeting on April 16th, volunteer appreciation dinner at the Tamarack Nature Center on April 22nd, and a lake cleanup event at the Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park on April 25th.

VI. Projects

A. Update on 4/6 BWSR Central Region Committee Meeting on VLAWMO WMP 90-day Draft

Tanner provided an update on VLAWMO's Watershed Management Plan (WMP), which was on the agenda for the BWSR Central Region Committee meeting on April 6, 2026, for consideration. VLAWMO's Board Conservationist was there to facilitate the WMP presentation. Board Director West attended the meeting. Tanner shared that the Committee gave thoughtful feedback and questions. The WMP has now been approved at the Committee level, and the full Board of Water and Soil Resources will consider the WMP on April 22, 2026.

B. Update on 319/Phase 2 Project: Easement, Dashboard, HEI scope of work for Board

Tanner gave an update on these efforts to improve Wilkinson Lake. She stated that the grant contract was fully executed, enabling staff to bill to the grant. Staff met with the project manager at the MPCA. The project easement has received approval from MLT in addition to NOC. Tanner shared the project dashboard that offers an overview of timeline, budget, and notes as funds are utilized. Tanner shared that Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI) has prepared a separate contract to continue engineering/design that will be brought to the Board for authorization in April.

C. Update Tamarack Alum Project: spring preparation underway

Tanner stated that the final phase of alum application on Tamarack Lake is in progress. After confirming water temperature and pH, alum application began on Monday. Tanner noted today's project pause due to high winds, with completion anticipated for tomorrow. pH updates have been shared at the end of each day, and the lake is responding well.

D. Update Carp Removal Program: spring preparation underway

Tanner described Carp Solutions' work with MN DNR to finalize the permit for the barrier. The barrier is now closed, and the antenna is running. Low level carp removals are anticipated for the year ahead, with monitoring and maintenance continuing for the program.

VII. Commissioner Reports

The City of Lino Lakes will partner with Anoka County for Earth Day on Saturday, April 18th. They are still looking for volunteers to support programming efforts.

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: May 13, 2026 at 8:15 am; Board meeting: April 22, 2026.

XIII. Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner Tessier and seconded by Commissioner Philip to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 am. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.