

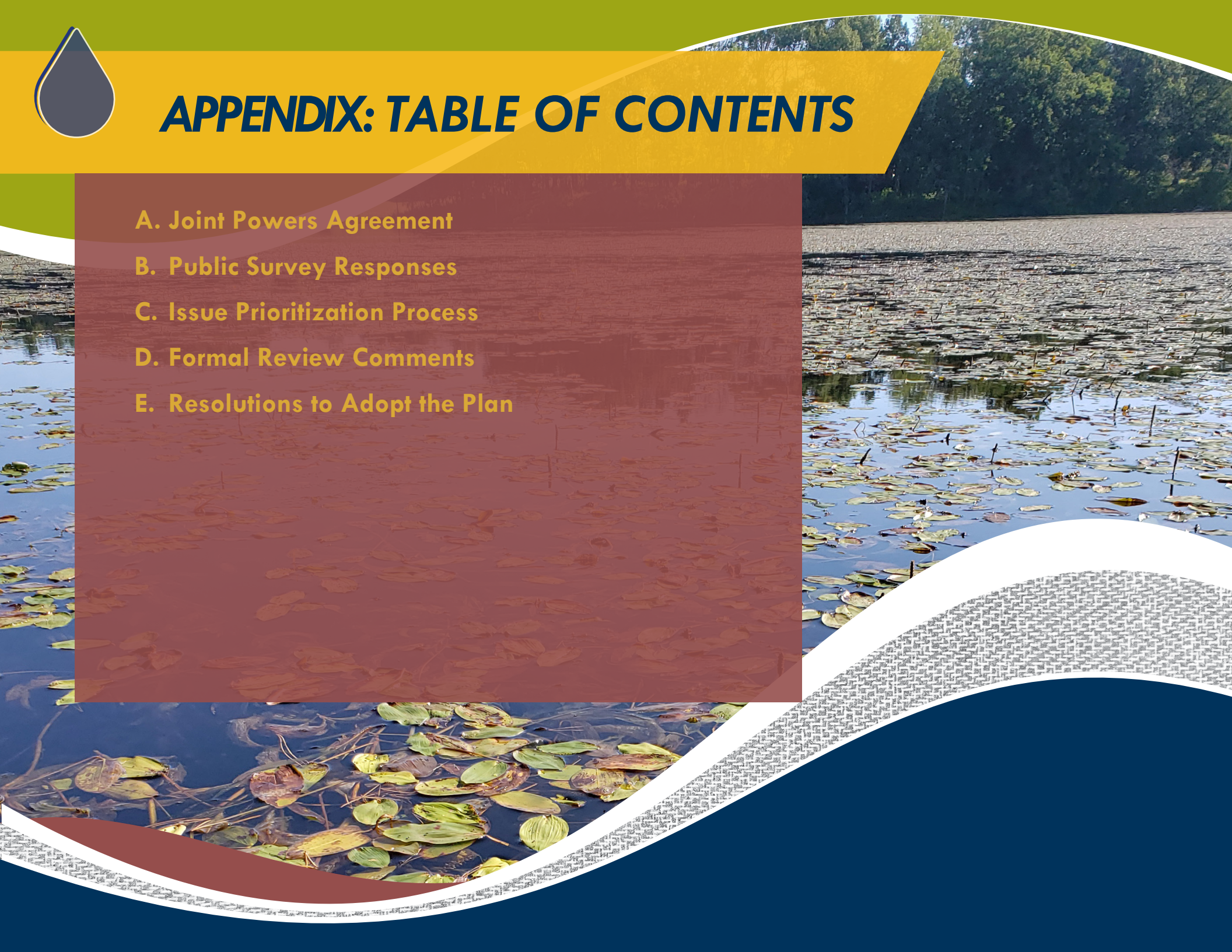
Vadnais Lake Area Water
Management Organization
**Watershed
Management
Plan**

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Joint Powers Agreement



VADNAIS LAKE AREA WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT

THIS JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT (“**Agreement**”) is made and entered into by and between the participating units of local government of the Cities of Gem Lake, Lino Lakes, North Oaks, Vadnais Heights, and White Bear Lake and the Township of White Bear (individually a “**Member**” and collectively the “**Members**”).

RECITALS

- A. The Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (“**VLAWMO**”) was organized in 1983 and is located in the northeast metro area within Ramsey and Anoka counties.
- B. VLAWMO is responsible for an approximately 24.2 square mile watershed that encompasses the City of North Oaks, along with portions of the Cities of White Bear Lake, Gem Lake, Vadnais Heights, Lino Lakes, and White Bear Township and includes 17 lakes, 1 creek, and over 1000 wetlands as shown on the map maintained by VLAWMO.
- C. Local government units in the metropolitan area are required by the Metropolitan Water Management Program (Minn. Stat. §§ 103B.201 to 103B.255) (“**Act**”) to plan for and manage surface water.
- D. Under the Act, one of the options available to local government units to satisfy its requirements is to adopt a joint powers agreement pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 471.59 to establish a watershed management organization to jointly plan for and manage surface water within a watershed.
- E. The Members elected to exercise their authority under the Act to adopt a joint powers agreement establishing VLAWMO to cooperatively manage and plan for the management of surface water within the watershed.
- F. The original joint powers agreement has been updated over time and the term of the current joint powers agreement expires on December 31, 2026.
- G. VLAWMO is funded in large part by storm sewer utility fees certified to the respective County Auditors and imposed by the Counties on properties within the watershed as authorized by special legislation adopted by the Minnesota Legislature in 2008 (2008 Minn. Laws Chap. 366, Art. 6, Sec. 47).
- H. The Members previously acted pursuant to their authority to establish the “Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization Board of Directors” (“**Board**”) and said Board is hereby reaffirmed as the entity charged with the authority and responsibility to manage VLAWMO.
- I. VLAWMO has also established a Technical Commission that performs a variety of functions to assist with VLAWMO’s operations and assist with developing VLAWMO’s annual budget.

- J. The Board has previously acted to adopt a Watershed Management Plan for the watershed and has regularly updated the Watershed Management Plan in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 103B.231, Minn. R., chap. 8410, and such other law as may apply.
- K. The Members desire to enter into this Agreement to reaffirm VLAWMO and the Board in furtherance of its efforts to continue working cooperatively to prepare and administer a watershed management plan to manage surface water within the watershed in accordance with the Act and Minn. R., chap. 8410.

AGREEMENT

In consideration of the mutual promises and agreements contained herein, the Members mutually agree as follows:

SECTION I ESTABLISHMENT AND GENERAL PURPOSE

- 1.1 Reaffirming the Establishment. The Members hereby reaffirm and ratify the establishment and continued operation of the “Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization” pursuant to the Act and such other laws and rules as may apply.
- 1.2 General Purpose. The general purpose of this Agreement is to continue VLAWMO and its work on behalf of the Members to cooperatively adopt, administer, and update as needed the Watershed Management Plan, and to carry out the purposes identified in Minn. Stat. § 103B.201 and the other provisions of the Act. The plan and programs shall operate within the boundaries of VLAWMO as identified in the official map filed with the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources. The most current version of the official map defining the boundaries of the Watershed is incorporated herein by reference. The boundaries of the Watershed are subject to change utilizing the procedure set out in Minn. Stat. § 103B.225 as may be needed to better reflect the hydrological boundaries of the Area.

SECTION II DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 Definitions. The definitions contained in Minn. Stat. § 103B.205 and Minn. R., part 8410.0020 are hereby adopted by reference, except that the following terms shall have the meanings given them in this section.
 - (a) “Agreement” means this Agreement developed pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 103B.211 & 471.59 and which reestablishes and continues the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization.
 - (b) “Alternate Commissioner” means the person appointed by a Member to serve as its alternate to represent the Member on the Technical Commission in the absence or disability of its appointed Commissioner.

- (c) “Alternate Director” means the person appointed by a Member to serve as its alternate to represent the Member on the Board in the absence or disability of its appointed Director.
- (d) “Area” means the boundaries of the Vadnais Lake Area Watershed as set forth on the official map incorporated herein by reference.
- (e) “Board of Directors” or “Board” means the governing board of VLAWMO consisting of one elected official from each of the Members which are parties to this Agreement.
- (f) “Capital Improvement” means a physical improvement that has an extended useful life. A capital improvement is not directed toward maintenance of an in-place system during its life expectancy. A study or a research project do not constitute a capital improvement that must be included in the Watershed Management Plan.
- (g) “Capital Improvement Program” means an itemized program for at least a five-year prospective period, and any amendments to it, subject to at least biennial review, setting forth the schedule, timing, and details of specific contemplated capital improvements by year, together with their estimated cost, the need for each improvement, financial sources, and the financial effect that the improvements will have on the local government unit or watershed management organization.
- (h) “Commissioner” means a person appointed by each Member to the Technical Commission.
- (i) “Director” means the elected official appointed by each Member as its representative on the Board of Directors.
- (j) “Governing Body” means the city council of a Member city or the town board of the Member town.
- (k) “Local Water Management Plan” means a plan adopted by the each of the Members pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103B.235 and Minn. R., part 8410.0160.
- (l) “Member” means each of the cities and the town that are parties to this Agreement.
- (m) “Special Legislation” means 2008 Minn. Laws Chap. 366, Art. 6, Sec. 47.
- (n) “Storm Sewer Utility” or “SSU” means the public utility established by VLAWMO pursuant to the Special Legislation. The Board establishes and certifies to the County for collection within the Area a Storm Sewer Utility fee for the management of surface water.

- (o) “Technical Commission” or “TEC” means the commission established herein that is composed of technically skilled persons, appointed by each Member.
- (p) “Vadnais Lake Area Watershed” or “Watershed” means the area contained within a line drawn around the extremities of all terrain whose surface drainage is tributary to Vadnais Lake as shown on the official watershed map incorporated herein by reference.
- (q) “VLAWMO” means the “Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization” that is reestablished and continued pursuant to this Agreement.
- (r) “Watershed Management Plan” means a plan adopted by VLAWMO pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103B.231.

SECTION III ORGANIZATION OF VLAWMO

- 3.1 Board of Directors. The governing body of VLAWMO shall be the “Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization Board of Directors.” The Board of Directors is comprised of a total of six (6) Directors. The parties hereby reaffirm the establishment and continued operation of the Board of Directors, which shall carry out the purposes and have the powers as provided in this Agreement.
- 3.2 Appointment of Directors. Each Member shall appoint one representative to serve as the Member’s Director on the Board. The appointment process shall comply with the requirements in Minn. Stat. § 103B.227, subs. 1 and 2.
- 3.3 Appointment of Alternate Directors. Each Member may appoint one representative to serve as the Member’s Alternate Director on the Board. A Member’s Alternate Director may attend the meetings of the Board, but shall only be counted as part of the quorum and be allowed to vote on matters before the Board in the absence of the same Member’s Director.
- 3.4 Eligibility to Serve. Each Member shall determine the eligibility or qualification standards for its Director and Alternate Director appointments. Only current elected officials on the governing body of the Member are eligible to serve as a Director or Alternate Director.
- 3.5 Terms of Office. Directors and Alternate Directors serve three-year terms of office, which shall commence from the date of their appointment and will continue until their successors are selected. Each Member shall notify VLAWMO Administrator of its appointments.
- 3.6 Removal. Directors and Alternate Directors shall serve at the will and consent of the Members that appointed them. If a Member removes a Director or Alternate Director, it shall provide VLAWMO written notice within 10 days of the removal. The governing body of the Member shall act within 90 days to appoint an elected official to fill the vacancy and shall promptly provide VLAWMO written notice of such appointment.

- 3.7 Vacancies. A Member shall notify VLAWMO in writing within 10 days of the occurrence of a vacancy in its Director or Alternate Director positions. VLAWMO will notify BWSR of the vacancy within 30 days of receiving the notice of a vacancy as required by Minn. Stat. § 103B.227, subd. 1. The Member shall comply with the requirements of Minn. Stat. § 103B.227, subd. 2 and appoint someone to fill the vacancy. The Member shall promptly notify VLAWMO of the appointment in writing. The appointed person shall serve the unexpired term of the position.
- 3.8 Appointment of Technical Commission Commissioners. Each Member to this Agreement shall appoint one Commissioner, and may also appoint one Alternate Commissioner, to serve on the Technical Commission. A Member shall promptly appoint someone to fill a vacancy in its Commissioner or, if applicable, Alternate Commissioner positions.
- 3.9 Compensation. Directors, Alternate Directors, Commissioners, and Alternate Commissioners shall serve without compensation and without an expense allowance from VLAWMO. A Director or Alternate Director may be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses incurred on VLAWMO business with the approval of the Board. A Member may compensate its Director, Alternate Director, Commissioner, and Alternate Commissioner for their service, in the discretion of the Member.
- 3.10 Annual Meeting; Election of Officers. At a meeting of the Board held no later than April of each calendar year, also known as the Annual Meeting, the Board shall elect from among the Directors a Chair, Vice Chair, a Secretary-Treasurer, and such other officers as it deems necessary to conduct its meetings and affairs. An Alternate Director may not serve as an officer of VLAWMO.
- 3.11 Duties of Board Officers.
- (a) Chair. The Chair shall preside over meetings of the Board, sign checks, and review audits. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall perform the Chair's duties. In the absence of the Chair or Vice Chair, the Secretary-Treasurer shall serve as the presiding officer at the Board meeting. The Chair shall retain all rights of a Director to speak, make motions, and vote on matters coming before the Board.
 - (b) Vice Chair. The Vice Chair shall preside at meetings when the Chair is absent and shall automatically be promoted to complete the annual term of the Chair if the elected Chair resigns or is removed from the Board.
 - (c) Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer shall maintain a record of the proceedings of the Board, be responsible for the custody of the Board's records, see that notices are duly given, and complete such other duties as the Board may assign. The Secretary-Treasurer shall also be responsible for all monies of VLAWMO and shall periodically report the fiscal condition of VLAWMO to the Board. The Secretary-Treasurer may delegate one or more of its duties to another officer or the VLAWMO Administrator. If the duties of the Secretary-Treasurer are delegated to

another person, the Secretary-Treasurer shall supervise the performance of those duties.

- 3.12 Quorum. A majority of the Directors shall constitute a quorum at all Board meetings. No business or decision of the Board may be made without a quorum.
- 3.13 Meetings. Regular meetings of the Board shall be held on a schedule adopted by the Board. All meetings of the Board are subject to the Minnesota Open Meeting Law. Notice of the time and place of each meeting shall be sent to all Members and public notice shall be provided as required by Minn. Stat. § 13D.04. Board meeting agendas shall be posted on VLAWMO's website. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the most current version of Robert's Rules of Order, or such other rules as may be adopted by the Board.
- 3.14 Voting. Each Director shall have one (1) vote in all matters coming before the Board. Approval of all matters, except capital improvement projects, will be determined by a simple majority of Directors present and voting at the meeting. The Board must approve a capital improvement project by a two-thirds vote of the Directors present and voting at a meeting before a contract may be let to construct the project.
- 3.15 Committees. The Board may establish such committees and subcommittees as it deems appropriate. At least one Board member shall be appointed as the Chairperson of each committee and all committees shall regularly report their activities to the Board.
- 3.16 Public Participation. The Board may appoint such committees and subcommittees composed of citizens as needed to provide for public participation and input in watershed activities and the responsibilities of VLAWMO. Such citizen committees shall be advisory.

SECTION IV POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 4.1 Policies and Procedures. The Board shall adopt rules and regulations as it deems necessary to carry out its duties and the purpose of this Agreement. Such rules and regulations may be amended from time to time in either a regular or special meeting of the Board. No such amendment shall be adopted unless the language of the proposed amendment is included in the packet for the meeting at which it is considered. These rules and regulations, after adoption, shall be recorded in the VLAWMO policy book.
- 4.2 Watershed Management Plan (Plan). The Board shall adopt a water management plan, as required by the Act. The Plan shall be subject to the appropriate governmental unit review as required by the Act.
- 4.3 Data. The Board, in order to give effect to the purposes of the Act, may:
- (a) Acquire and record appropriate data within the Area; and

- (b) Establish and maintain devices for acquiring and recording hydrological or other data within the Vadnais Lake Area Watershed.
- 4.4 Studies. VLAWMO is authorized to conduct studies as it deems appropriate to carry out its purposes and to further the goals of the Watershed Management Plan. Nothing in this Agreement limits the authority of Members to conduct separate or concurrent studies on any matter under study by VLAWMO. The Member shall make every effort to coordinate its studies with VLAWMO in order to maximize the use of resources.
- 4.5 Transfer of Drainage System. VLAWMO shall have the authority to accept the transfer of drainage systems in the watershed, to repair, improve, and maintain the transferred drainage systems, and to construct all new drainage systems and improvements of existing drainage systems in the watershed. All such activities and projects shall be carried out in accordance with the powers and procedures set forth in the Act and must be in conformance with the Watershed Management Plan.
- 4.6 Storm Sewer Utility Fee. VLAWMO is authorized pursuant to the Special Legislation and this Agreement developed pursuant to Minn. Stat. 103B.211 to establish and impose on nonexempt properties within the Area a storm sewer utility fee pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 444.075 to pay for the management of water within the watershed. The storm sewer utility fee shall be approved by the Board and, as required by the Special Legislation, certified to the County Auditors in Anoka County and Ramsey County by November 30th each year to be placed on property taxes payable in the following year.
- 4.7 Capital Improvements.
- (a) Authority. VLAWMO is authorized to undertake, construct, and maintain capital improvements within the Area and may cooperate with one or more Members in the construction and maintenance of such improvements.
- (b) New Capital Improvements. A proposed new capital improvement may be initiated by VLAWMO, the TEC, or by one or more Members. If the Board agrees to include the proposed capital improvement in its Capital Improvement Program, it will undertake the process to include it in the Watershed Management Plan, its budget, and to work cooperatively with the affected Member as needed to complete the Capital Improvement.
- (c) Costs. VLAWMO may use funds budgeted by the Board for the capital improvement, as well as any funds received from grants and any other outside funding sources. If VLAWMO works cooperatively with one or more Members to construct a capital improvement, the parties will enter into a cooperative agreement that identifies the responsibilities and cost share of each party toward the project, including associated engineering, planning, legal, and administrative costs.

- (d) County Levy. Nothing in this Agreement limits the authority of VLAWMO to undertake capital improvements and to certify the costs to the County for collection in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 103B.251.
- 4.8 Water Conveyances. The Board may order any Member to construct, clean, repair, alter, abandon, consolidate, reclaim or change the course of terminus of any ditch, drain, storm sewer, water course, natural or artificial, that affects the Watershed in accordance with its adopted plans.
- 4.9 Watershed Operations. The Board may order any Member to acquire, operate, construct or maintain dams, dikes, reservoirs and appurtenant works in accordance with adopted plans.
- 4.10 Storm and Surface Waters. The Board shall regulate, conserve and control the use of storm and surface water within the Vadnais Lakes Area Watershed pursuant to its Watershed Management Plan.
- 4.11 Entrance upon Land. To the extent permitted by law, or with the owner's permission, the Board or its designated representatives may enter upon lands within or outside the Watershed to make surveys and investigations to accomplish the purposes of VLAWMO and the Act.
- 4.12 Legal and Technical Assistance. The Board may obtain and provide legal and technical assistance as it determines is needed, including in connection with its on-going operations and projects, any litigation, and on such other matters as the Board may request.
- 4.13 Permits. VLAWMO shall cooperate with appropriate local, state, and federal agencies in obtaining required permits and shall review permits issued by local units of government to accomplish the purposes identified in Section I of this Agreement.
- 4.14 Office. VLAWMO shall maintain an office within the Area. All notices to VLAWMO shall be mailed or delivered to such office.
- 4.15 Insurance and Liability. VLAWMO may contract for or purchase such insurance as the Board deems necessary for its protection. The Members agree as follows with respect to the liability of VLAWMO and the Members:
- (a) VLAWMO is a separate and distinct public entity to which the Members have transferred all responsibility and control for action taken pursuant to this Agreement.
 - (b) VLAWMO shall defend and indemnify the Members, and their officers, employees, and volunteers, from and against all claims, damages, losses, and expenses, including attorney fees, arising out of the acts or omissions of the Board in carrying out the terms of this Agreement. This Agreement does not constitute a waiver on the limitations of liability set forth in Minn. Stat. § 466.04.

- (c) Nothing herein shall be construed to provide insurance coverage or indemnification to an officer, employee, or volunteer of any Member for any act or omission for which the officer, employee, or volunteer is guilty of malfeasance in office, willful neglect of duty, or bad faith.
 - (d) To the fullest extent permitted by law, action by the Members to this Agreement are intended to be and shall be construed as a “cooperative activity,” and it is the intent of the Members that they shall be deemed a “single governmental unit” for purposes of liability, as set forth in Minn. Stat. § 471.59, subd. 1a, and provided further that for purposes of that statute, each party to this Agreement expressly declines responsibility for the acts and omissions of another Member. The Members are not liable for the acts or omissions of another Member to this Agreement except to the extent they have expressly agreed in writing to be responsible for the acts or omissions of the other Members.
 - (e) Any excess or uninsured liability shall be borne equally by all the Members, but this does not include the liability of any individual officer, employee or volunteer that arises from his or her own malfeasance, willful neglect of duty, or bad faith.
- 4.16 Financial Records. The Board shall maintain the books and accounts of VLAWMO consistent with generally accepted accounting principles.
- 4.17 Audit. The Board shall annually cause an independent certified audit of the books and accounts of VLAWMO.
- 4.18 Claims. To the extent required by Minnesota Statutes, VLAWMO shall be responsible for damages caused by it. All Minnesota Statutes governing notices of claims and limits on municipal liability shall be applicable to VLAWMO. To the extent permitted by Minnesota Statutes, VLAWMO shall be treated as a single municipal entity for municipal liability purposes.
- 4.19 Employees. The Board may employ or subcontract with such persons or entities as it determines are needed to fulfill defined responsibilities of VLAWMO with the approval of the Board.
- 4.20 Contracts. The Board may make such contracts and enter into such agreements as necessary to fulfill its obligations under this Agreement. Any such contract or agreement shall be in accordance with the Uniform Municipal Contracting Law and other applicable laws.
- 4.21 Annual Report to Members. The Board shall make and file a report with the administrator of each Members at least once each year that includes the following information:
- (a) The financial condition of VLAWMO;
 - (b) The status of all VLAWMO projects and work; and

- (c) The business transacted by VLAWMO and other matters which affect the interests of VLAWMO.
- 4.22 Records. VLAWMO's books, reports and records shall be available for and open to inspection at reasonable times.
- 4.23 Planning.
- (a) Watershed Management Plan (Plan). VLAWMO shall prepare and/or update a watershed management plan as required by the Act. The Plan, either a new one or an updated one, shall be recommended to the Board for approval. The Plan shall be compliant with Minn. Stat., chap. 103B and applicable Minnesota Rules. The Plan shall be subject to the appropriate governmental unit review as required by the Act.
 - (b) Local Water Management Plan. As provided in Minn. Stat. § 103B.235, once VLAWMO adopts a new or revised watershed management plan, each Member and any other local government unit within the Area shall review its local water management plan for changes needed for it to be consistent with the new or revised Watershed Management Plan. Each local water management plan shall be consistent with the Plan and state law. After consideration, but before adoption of a new or revised local water management plan, each Member shall submit its water management plan to the Board. The Board shall within sixty (60) days approve or disapprove the plan or parts thereof. If the Board fails to complete its review within the prescribed period, and unless an extension is agreed to by the Member, the local plan shall be deemed approved consistent with applicable state laws.
- 4.24 Other Powers. The Board may exercise such other powers necessary and incidental to the implementation of the purposes set forth herein as authorized by the Members.
- 4.25 Special Tax District. Nothing in this Agreement limits the authority of a Member to establish a special tax district pursuant to its authority under Minn. Stat. 103B.245 or such other law as may apply.
- 4.26 Amendments to this Agreement. The Board may recommend changes in this Agreement to the Members. This Agreement may be amended only by the agreement of all of its Members.

SECTION V

RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF TECHNICAL COMMISSION

- 5.1 Establishment. The Board has established, and shall maintain, a Technical Commission ("TEC") that provides technical expertise for the planning and operation of VLAWMO programs and projects. Each Member shall appoint one Commissioner, and may appoint one Alternate Commissioner, to serve on the TEC. Each Member shall determine the eligibility or qualification standards for its TEC appointments, following guidelines

promulgated by the Board. The VLAWMO Administrator shall serve as a non-voting member of the TEC.

- 5.2 Duties and Responsibilities. The TEC, through the VLAWMO Administrator and other VLAWMO employees, shall administer the day-to-day operations of VLAWMO and shall review VLAWMO expenditures. The TEC has the authority to review and approve VLAWMO's monthly expenditures and may approve capital improvements in accordance with a policy adopted by the Board. The Board may assign additional duties and responsibilities to the TEC as it may determine are appropriate.
- 5.3 Technical Commission Officers. At the first meeting of the TEC each calendar year the Commissioners shall appoint from among its members a Chair, Vice-Chair, Financial Officer, and Liaison to the Board. The TEC shall assign duties to the officers as it deems appropriate. An Alternate Commissioner may not serve as an officer of the TEC.
- 5.4 Meetings. Regular monthly meetings of the TEC shall be held on a day and time selected by the Commissioners. All meetings of the TEC are subject to the Minnesota Open Meeting Law. Notice of the time and place of each meeting shall be sent to all Commissioners, and provided to the public requesting this information, and follow notice requirements outlined in Minn. Stat. § 13D.04. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the rules adopted by the TEC or, if a specific set of rules has not been adopted, then the latest version of Roberts Rules of Order. Each Commissioner shall have one vote. A majority of the Commissioners present shall constitute a quorum at all TEC meetings. In the absence of a quorum, a scheduled meeting shall be opened, re-scheduled, and adjourned.

SECTION VI FINANCING VLAWMO

- 6.1 Annual Budget. The annual VLAWMO budget, which includes both operational costs and capital improvement costs, shall be developed and approved as provided in this section.
 - (a) Staff Prepares Draft. VLAWMO staff shall work with the appropriate Member staff to prepare a preliminary draft long range budget, which shall include the proposed budget for the upcoming year and the proposed SSU rates.
 - (b) Budget Subcommittee Recommendation. VLAWMO staff shall present the preliminary draft budget to the budget subcommittee. The budget subcommittee is responsible for reviewing and making a recommendation to the Board regarding the proposed budget and the SSU rates.
 - (c) Budget Approval. The Board shall consider the annual budget as recommended by the budget subcommittee and act on it. A majority vote of Directors present and voting is required to approve the annual budget. The Board may modify the annual budget proposed by the budget subcommittee. This review and approval of the annual budget

typically occurs at the June Board meeting, but can occur at a different meeting as the Board may determine is appropriate.

- (d) SSU Rate Approval. The Board shall consider and act to approve the SSU rates. This review and approval typically occurs at the August Board meeting, but can occur at a different meeting as the Board may determine is appropriate.
- (e) SSU Charge Certification. The Board shall act by November 1st each year to certify the SSU charges to the County Auditors for collection on the upcoming year's property taxes.
- (f) Budget Adjustments. Before December 31st each year, the Board shall consider and make such adjustments to the annual budget as may be needed to allocate funds being carried over into the following year.
- (g) Work Plan. Included with the annual activity report required by Minn. R., part 8410.0150 shall be a work plan specifying the activities planned to be undertaken and a summary of the budget for the current year.

6.2 Funding. The annual budget is funded by one or more of the following:

- (a) The primary source of funding for the annual budget is the SSU charges imposed on properties within the Watershed each year pursuant to the Special Legislation.
- (b) Member contributions toward specific capital improvement projects.
- (c) VLAWMO may also receive grants to help fund specific capital improvements.
- (d) If the funds collected from the SSU charges and grants are not sufficient to fully fund an approved budget, the Board may exercise any other authority available to it under law to fund the budget including, but not limited, Member assessments.

6.3 Member Assessments.

- (a) Authorized. A Member assessment may be imposed to cover an anticipated shortfall in VLAWMO's annual budget. A Member assessment amount shall be calculated using the formula set out in this section. At least 10 days prior to the meeting at which the Board considers acting on a proposed Member assessment, VLAWMO shall provide each Member written notice of the proposed Member assessment that identifies the amount to be paid by each Member. Members shall be given an opportunity to be heard at the meeting before the Board acts on the Member assessment. A Member assessment must be approved by at least a majority of the full Board by no later than July 1st for collection in the following year. If approved, VLAWMO shall notify each Member in writing of the approved Member assessment amount.

- (b) Formula. To the extent a Member assessment is established, it shall be calculated based upon the following formula:
- (1) Forty percent (40%) based upon the assessed valuation of all real property of each government unit within the Area;
 - (2) Forty percent (40%) based upon the total area of the property within each governmental unit with the Area; and
 - (3) Twenty percent (20%) based upon the population of each governmental unit within the Area.
- (c) Payment. Each Member shall pay its Member assessment amount: (1) no later than January 31st in the year in which it is due; or pay one-half (1/2) of the assessment by January 31st of the year due and pay the second one-half (1/2) of the assessment by August 31st of the year due. If a Member fails to pay its assessment by the applicable due dates, it will be required to pay a one percent (1%) per month service on the unpaid amount due.

6.4 Capital Improvement Program and Funding.

- (a) Preparation. Each year the Board shall prepare a Capital Improvement Program and budget for Capital Improvements anticipated to be started or completed in the following year as described in the Watershed Management Plan. Each proposed Capital Improvement shall be specifically identified and its estimated cost and time for completion shall be provided. Only Capital Improvements included in the Watershed Management Plan, or its amendments, may be included in the capital improvement budget.
- (b) Funding. Capital Improvements may be funded by a combination of funds budgeted by VLAWMO as part of its annual budget, grants received by VLAWMO, and expenditures made directly by one or more Members. For jointly funded projects, VLAWMO shall agree in writing with the Members making direct contributions toward the Capital Improvement the amounts of funding and the responsibilities toward constructing and maintaining the Capital Improvement.

6.5 Governmental Unit Financing. Members may establish a watershed management tax district in the Area for the purpose of paying costs of the engineering and planning required to develop a watershed management plan for the Area. After the plan is adopted and approved, a tax district may be established for the purpose of paying capital costs of projects described in the plan (including normal and routine maintenance of projects). If required, the tax district shall be established by ordinance adopted after a hearing by a local government unit, following provisions of Minn. Stat., chap. 103B.

6.6 Reserve Funds. The Board may accumulate reserve funds for the purposes herein mentioned and may invest funds of the Board not currently needed for its operations in the

manner and subject to the laws of Minnesota applicable to statutory cities. Any and all reserve funds must be clearly indicated on the annual financial audit provided to the Members.

- 6.7 Gifts; Grants; Loans. VLAWMO may, within the scope of this Agreement, accept gifts, apply for and use grants or loans of money or other personal property from the United States, the State of Minnesota, a unit of government, or other governmental unit or organization or any person or entity for the purposes described herein; may enter into any reasonable agreement required in connection therewith, shall comply with any laws or regulations applicable thereto, and may hold, use, and dispose of such money or personal property in accordance with the terms of the gift, grant, loan, or agreement related thereto.
- 6.8 Disbursements. VLAWMO disbursements on budget items shall be reviewed and approved by the Technical Committee. A report of all disbursements shall be sent to the Board's Secretary-Treasurer and the TEC's Finance Officer for review and a copy provided to the Board. Checks issued by VLAWMO shall be signed by the VLAWMO Administrator and the Board Chair. The Secretary-Treasurer shall maintain a bond in the amount of at least \$10,000. VLAWMO will be responsible for paying the premium on said bond.
- 6.9 Revenue Bonds to Secure MPCA Loan. VLAWMO is given express authority to issue revenue bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$800,000 (the "Bonds") to secure the Loan to finance the Project. The term "Bonds" shall also include bonds issued to refund and refinance the Bonds. As provided in Minn. Stat. § 471.59, subd. 11, the Bonds shall be revenue obligations of VLAWMO which are issued on behalf of the Members, and shall be issued subject to the conditions and limitations set forth in Minn. Stat. § 471.59, subd. 11. The Bonds shall be payable solely from VLAWMO's revenues including its storm water utility fees. VLAWMO may not pledge to the payment of the Bonds the full faith and credit or taxing power of the Members. No bonds, obligations or other forms of indebtedness other than the Bonds may be issued by VLAWMO without the prior consent of the Members.

SECTION VII DURATION OF THIS JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT

- 7.1 Duration of Agreement. Each Member agrees to be bound by the terms of this Agreement until December 31, 2036, and that it may be continued thereafter at the option of the Members. This Agreement shall be in full force and effect upon the filing of certified copy of the resolution approving said Agreement by each Member.
- 7.2 Termination of Agreement. This Agreement may be terminated prior to December 31, 2046, by the unanimous consent of the Members. If the Agreement is to be terminated, a notice of the intent to dissolve VLAWMO shall be sent to the Board of Water and Soil Resources and to Ramsey and Anoka Counties at least 90 days prior to the date of dissolution.

- 7.3 Dissolution. In addition to termination as provided above, any Member may petition the Board of Directors to dissolve this Agreement. Upon ninety (90) days' notice in writing to the clerk of each Member, the Board of Water and Soil Resources, and to Anoka and Ramsey County, the Board shall hold a hearing and upon a favorable vote by a majority of all eligible votes of then existing Board members, the Board may by resolution recommend that VLAWMO be dissolved. Said resolution shall be submitted to each Member and if ratified by three-fourths of the governing bodies of all eligible Members within sixty (60) days, said Board shall dissolve VLAWMO allowing a reasonable time to complete work in progress, pay any outstanding obligations, and to dispose of personal property owned by VLAWMO.
- 7.4 Assets. Upon a set of findings and order for dissolution of VLAWMO by the State Board of Water and Soil Resources, all personal property of VLAWMO shall be transferred, either jointly or severally, to the Members after all VLAWMO's obligations are paid. The Board may determine to allocate and transfer VLAWMO assets to members in accordance with the formula set out herein for determining Member assessments.

SECTION VIII MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- 8.1 Adoption of Agreement. This Agreement shall be in full force and effect upon the filing of a copy of the resolution approving said Agreement by all six members. Said resolutions shall be filed with the Chair. VLAWMO shall provide each a Member a fully executed copy of this Agreement.
- 8.2 Dispute Resolution. The Members agree that any dispute related to this Agreement that cannot be resolved by discussions among the Board and a Member shall be submitted to mediation. The mediation shall be conducted in accordance with a process agreed to by the parties involved in the dispute. If the parties are not able to mutually agree on a mediator, each party shall provide a list of two mediators to VLAWMO. The Chair shall select the mediator from the combined list. If, however, the Chair is from a Member that is a party to the dispute, then the Vice-Chair shall select the mediator from the combined list. Each party to the mediation shall be responsible for its own costs in mediation and shall share equally in the costs of the mediator and all other costs of mediation. If the dispute is not resolved in mediation, the parties may agree to submit the dispute to binding arbitration or any party may pursue any options available to it under law to seek a resolution of the dispute.
- 8.3 Data Practices. VLAWMO shall comply with the requirements of Minn. Stat., chap. 13, the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act ("MGDPA"). Any entity with which VLAWMO contracts is required to comply with the MGDPA as provided in Minn. Stat. § 13.05. The contractor shall be required to notify the Board if it receives a data request and to work with VLAWMO to respond to it.
- 8.4 Amendments. The Board may recommend changes and amendments to this Agreement to the governing bodies of the Members. Amendments will only take effect if adopted by all

governing bodies of the Members. Adopted amendments shall be evidenced by appropriate resolutions or certified copies of meeting minutes of the governing bodies of each party filed with the Board and shall, if no effective date is contained in the amendment, become effective as of the date all such filings have been completed.

- 8.5 Waiver. The delay or failure of any party of this Agreement at any time to require performance or compliance by any other party of any of its obligations under this Agreement shall in no way be deemed a waiver of those rights to require such performance or compliance.
- 8.6 Headings and Captions. The headings and captions of these paragraphs and sections of this Agreement are included for convenience or reference only and shall not constitute a part hereof.
- 8.7 Entire Agreement. This Agreement, including the recitals and the official boundary map (which are incorporated in and made part of this Agreement), contains the entire understanding of the Members concerning the subject matter hereof. This Agreement supersedes and replaces the prior joint powers agreement among the Members regarding VLAWMO and such prior agreement is hereby terminated. Any outstanding obligations of the Members under the prior agreement are not affected by the termination and shall be continued under this Agreement.
- 8.8 Examination of Books. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 16C.05, subdivision 5, the books, records, documents, and accounting procedures and practices of the Board are subject to examination by the State.
- 8.9 Governing Law. The respective rights, obligations, and remedies of the Members under this Agreement and the interpretation thereof shall be governed by the laws of the State of Minnesota which pertain to agreements made and to be performed in the State of Minnesota.
- 8.10 Counterparts. This Agreement shall be executed in several counterparts and all so executed shall constitute one Agreement, binding on all of the Members hereto. Each party to the agreement shall receive a fully executed copy of the entire document following adoption by all Members.
- 8.11 Notice. To the extent this Agreement requires a notice to be mailed to a Member, the notice requirement may be satisfied by VLAWMO emailing the notice to its primary contact for the Member.
- 8.12 Statutory References. All references to statutes in this Agreement include any amendments made thereto and any successor provisions.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned governmental units, by action of their governing bodies, have caused this Agreement to be executed in accordance with the authority of Minn. Stat. §§ 103B.211 and 471.59.

CITY OF LINO LAKES

Adopted on the 11 of August 2025.

BY THE CITY COUNCIL


Mayor

Attest: Roberto Colotti
Clerk

CITY OF GEM LAKE

Adopted on the 19 of August 2025.

BY THE CITY COUNCIL

Shelton Artig Smalley
Mayor

Attest: Heleen Deen
Clerk

CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS

Adopted on the 19th of August 2025.

BY THE CITY COUNCIL

Attest:


Clerk
Mayor

WHITE BEAR TOWNSHIP

Adopted on the 3rd 18 2025.

BY THE TOWN BOARD

Ed Pundhorn
Chairperson

Attest: [Signature]
Clerk

CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE

Adopted on the 26th of August 2025.

BY THE CITY COUNCIL



Mayor

Attest: Cathy Lovendyke
Clerk

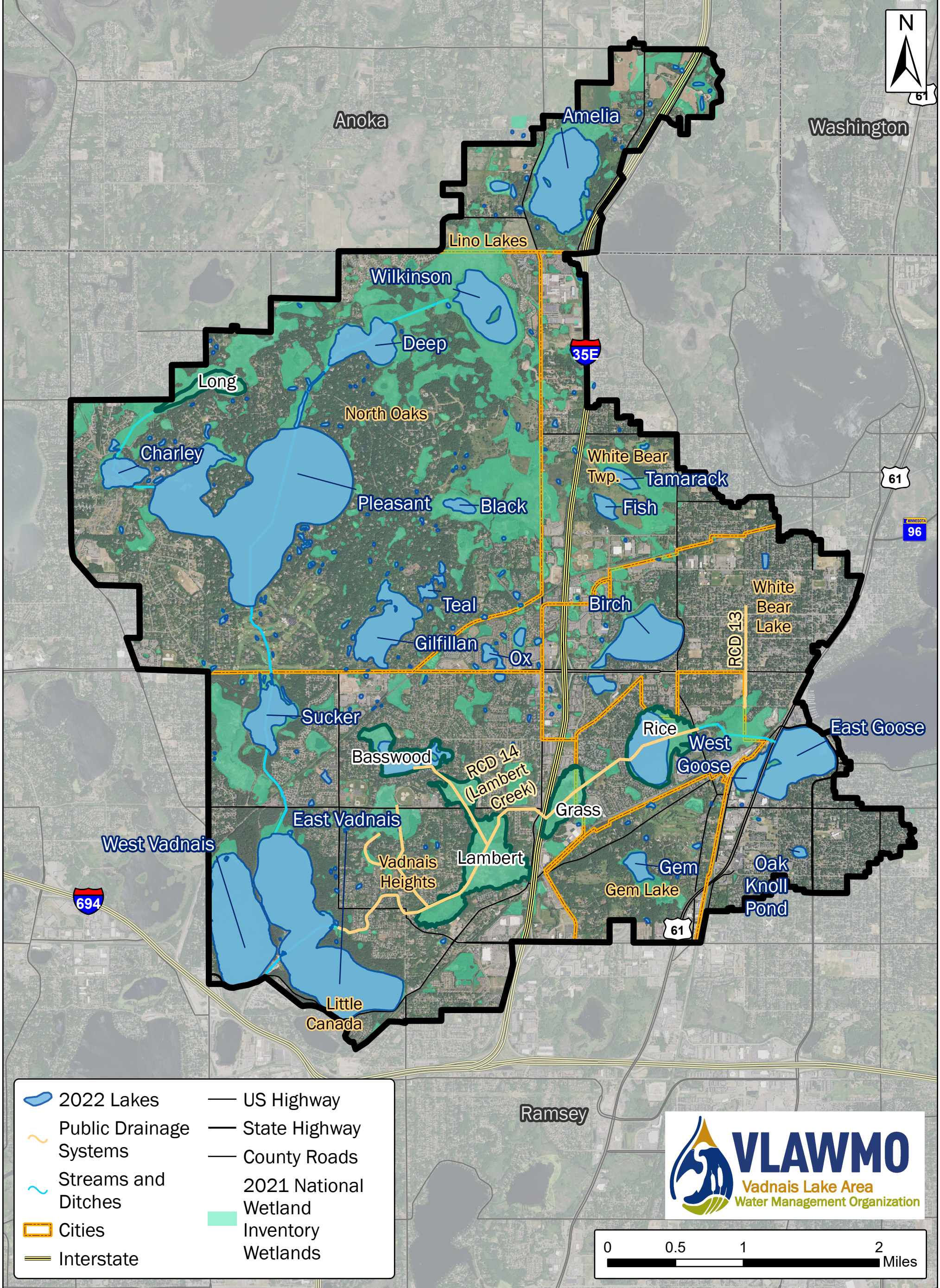
CITY OF NORTH OAKS

Adopted on the 14th of August 2025.

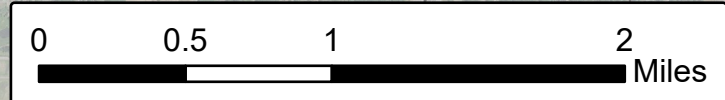
BY THE CITY COUNCIL

Krista Wolter
Mayor

Attest: Kevin Kress
Clerk

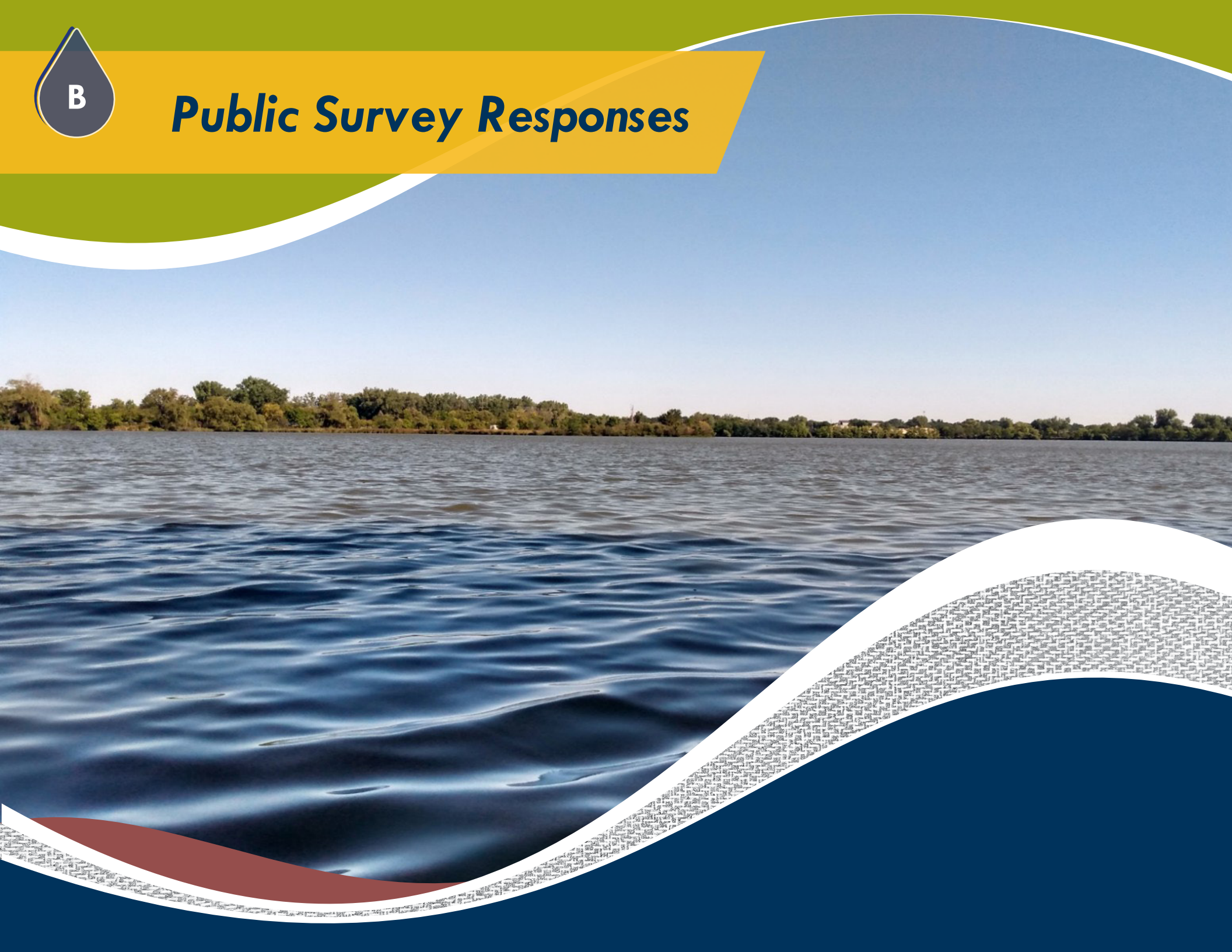


- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 2022 Lakes | US Highway |
| Public Drainage Systems | State Highway |
| Streams and Ditches | County Roads |
| Cities | 2021 National Wetland Inventory Wetlands |
| Interstate | |





Public Survey Responses





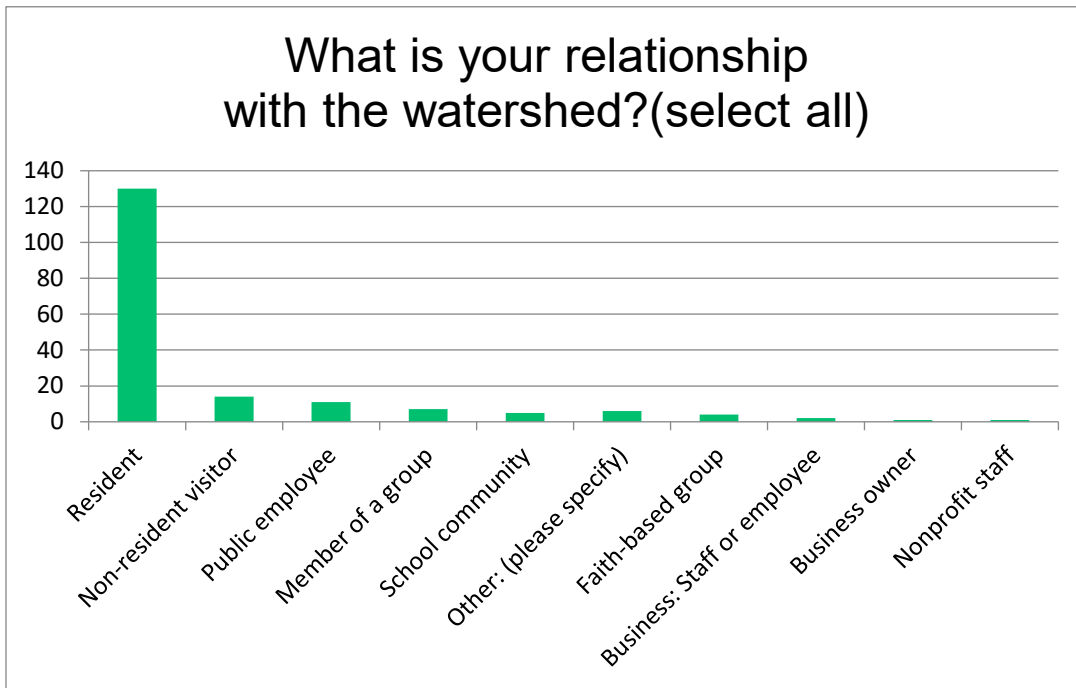
VLAWMO Watershed Management Plan Appendix B: Public Survey Responses

March 13, 2024

Total number of surveys completed: 146
Survey results by question for Q1-6 below

Q1: What is your relationship with the watershed?(select any/all that apply)

What is your relationship with the watershed?(select any/all that apply)		
Answer Choices	Responses	
Resident	89.04%	130
Non-resident visitor (recreation, fishing, etc.)	9.59%	14
Public employee	7.53%	11
Member of a non-profit, civic, or advocacy group (Scouts, etc.)	4.79%	7
School community	3.42%	5
Other: (please specify)	4.11%	6
Faith-based group	2.74%	4
Business: Staff or employee	1.37%	2
Business owner	0.68%	1
Nonprofit staff	0.68%	1
	Answered	146
	Skipped	0

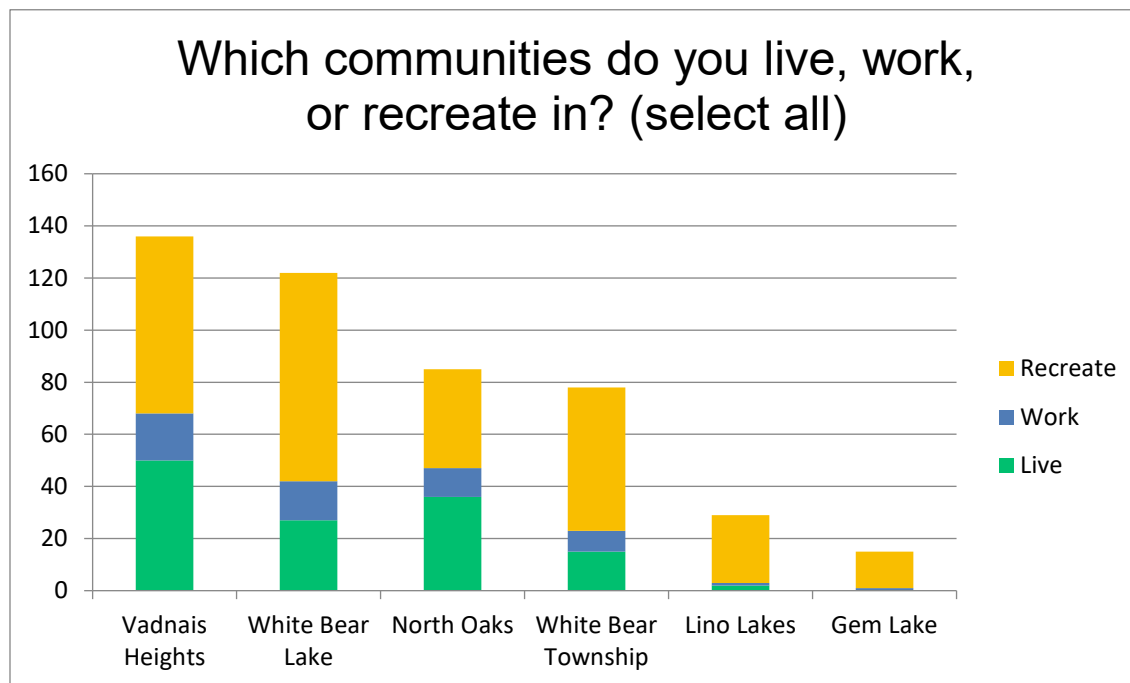


Other:

- Recreation
- Former resident of VH. I live in Shoreview now but love our waters
- City Council member
- Member of WBL Rotary club
- Individual Volunteer
- Environmentalist

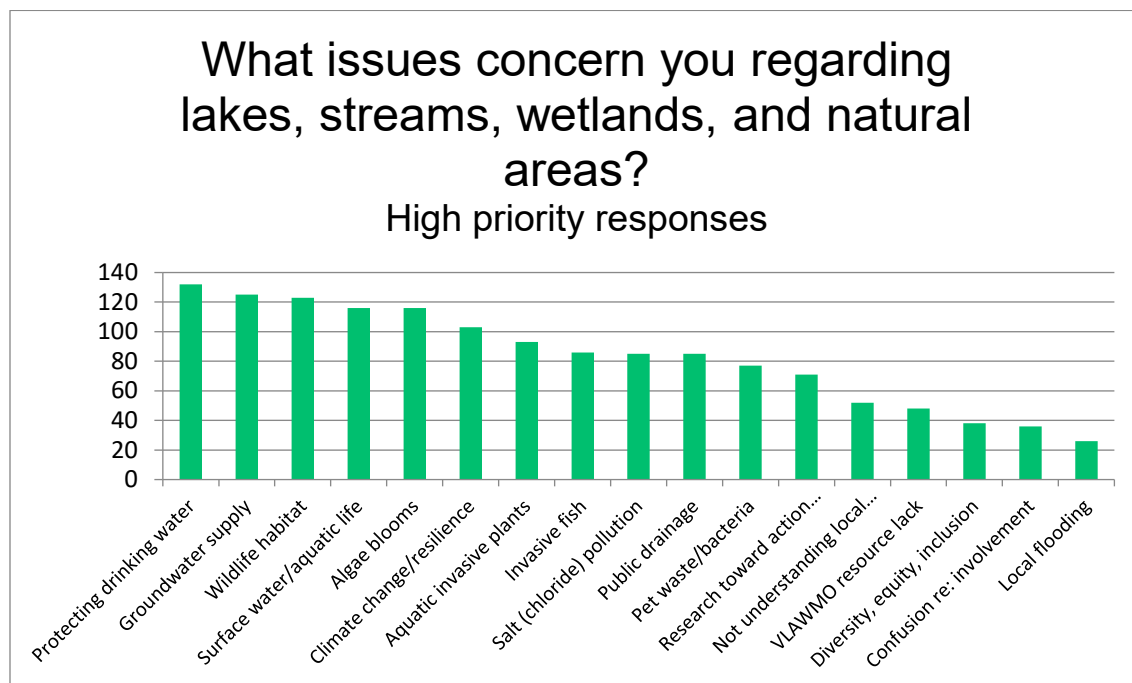
Q2: Which community/ies do you live in, work in, or recreate in? (select any/all that apply)

Which community/ies do you live in, work in, or recreate in? (select any/all that apply)							
		Live		Work		Recreate	Total
Vadnais Heights		50		18		68	136
White Bear Lake		27		15		80	122
North Oaks		36		11		38	85
White Bear Township		15		8		55	78
Lino Lakes		2		1		26	29
Gem Lake		0		1		14	15
						Answered	143
						Skipped	3



Q3: What issues concern you regarding our lakes, streams, wetlands, and natural areas? Please indicate high or low priority level, or select "N/A" if not an issue.

What issues concern you regarding our lakes, streams, wetlands, and natural areas? Please indicate high or low priority level, or select "N/A" if not an issue.				
	High priority	Low priority	N/A	Total
Protecting quality of drinking water	132	9	1	142
Protection and promotion of sustainable groundwater supplies	125	16	1	142
Protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat	123	15	3	141
Protecting and improving surface water for aquatic life	116	15	2	133
Algae and blue-green algae blooms impacting recreation	116	21	3	140
Impacts of climate change and building climate resiliency	103	28	6	137
Aquatic invasive plant species such as curly leaf pondweed	93	39	4	136
Aquatic invasive fish species such as common carp	86	46	4	136
Salt (chloride) pollution	85	45	5	135
Maintenance and repair of public drainage infrastructure	85	38	9	132
Pet waste and other bacteria sources of pollution	77	56	5	138
A need for research and analysis to better develop action plans	71	45	15	131
A lack of understanding on local water policies	52	61	15	128
A lack of VLAWMO resources to help meet issues	48	55	22	125
Diversity, equity, inclusion	38	69	25	132
Confusion on how to be involved	36	62	34	132
Local flooding	26	85	20	131
Other: (please specify)				17
			Answered	145
			Skipped	1



Other responses:

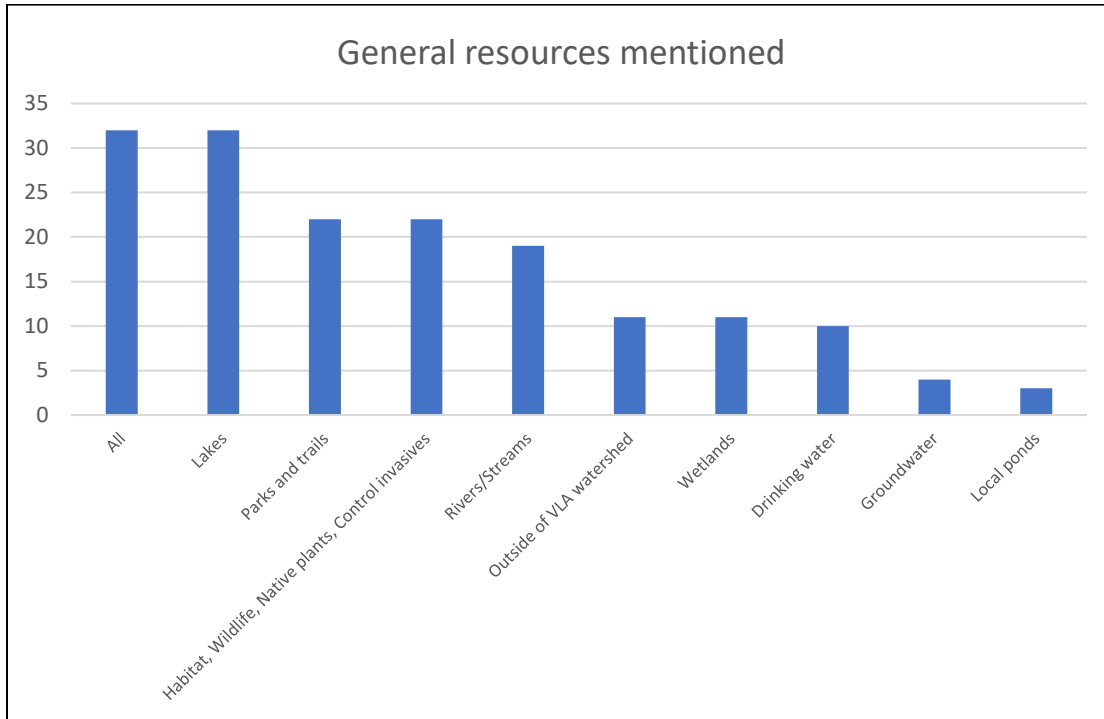
- Add pet sustainable poop bags
- Lake level
- Pollinator gardens and corridors
- What residents and businesses dump that hurt our water resources and wildlife
- my pond that is over drained and wildlife use it for sustenance and water to drink.
- Birch Lake becoming a "dead" lake. Weed control, sediment, inflow, outflow.
- I'm very concerned what will happen to Otter LAke as they put in the new bridge at County J Road and 35E - where will drainage into Otter Lake come from? The lake is down and I live/own the lake shore... the lake is definitely a selling point for my home!!

- Extra emphasis on impacts of climate change
- Lawn chemical runoff. People who live on or near the lake either apply themselves or hire companies who apply fertilizer, herbicide, and pesticide with no care about runoff. I see lawn chemicals in the streets, in the curb, etc. But they have no problem complaining when lake levels are low and putting up SAVE THE LAKE signs.
- Invasive purple loosestrife
- Many of these issues do not pertain to WMOs. Groundwater option write-in: "Not an issue for VLAWMO"
- effects of drought
- Invasive terrestrial plants such as buckthorn that impact watershed health
- Reduction of development near lakes if applicable.
- better access for recreation (kayak, canoe launches on more lakes)
- Keeping swimmers itch under control in Pleasant Lake is the highest priority for us, we can't use the lake as it is now!
- Why was a huge housing facility built on the edge of a water reservoir? When will we stop developing on fragile watersheds?

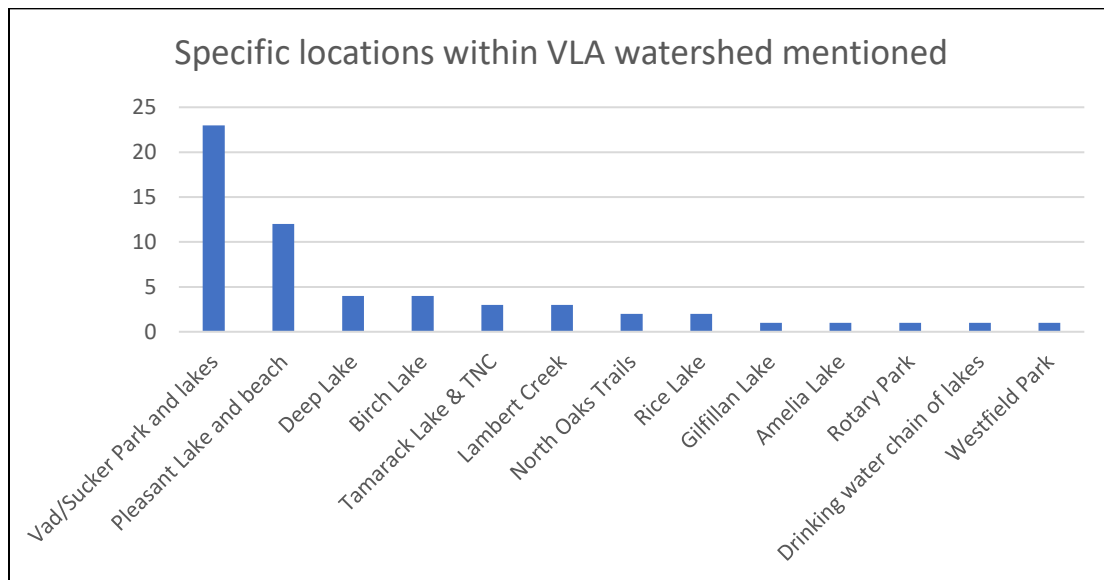
Q4: What resources (lakes, rivers, streams, parks, trails) are you most passionate about, and why?

What resources (lakes, rivers, streams, parks, trails) are you most passionate about, and why?									
Answered	127								
Skipped	19								

General resources mentioned in responses and coded for graphical expression in Q4:



Specific locations mentioned in responses and coded for graphical expression in Q4:



*For details on coding used for each comment to develop the two graphs above, click here to view Attachment A.

Top 5 Themes used to summarize “Why” people mentioned resources Q4:



*For details on coding used for each comment to develop the “why” themes shown above, click [here](#) to view Attachment B.

All responses received:

- Sucker Lake, Vadnais Lake, Grass Lake, Snail Lake
- All of the above. For habitat improvement and recreation.
- Snail lake area. Don't build on the mission property - animal wildlife will be ruined.
- All. It's all part of the ecosystem.
- Sucker Lake Park, North Oaks Trails. We use them.
- Rice Lake. I live on the lake.
- Pleasant Lake, Deep Lake, Deep Lake channel. Proximity to my residence.
- Sucker Lake. Wonderful walking area around lake - Trumpeter Swans, mallards, bird life, beaver?
- All of above. We live amongst them all.
- all
- Sucker Lake, Lake Vadnais, snail lake regional parks and bald eagle lake. Biking through parks. Sometimes fishing.
- Lakes and rivers - it's why we love MN.
- White Bear Lake. My boat is on WBL.
- Lake Gilfillan, Pleasant Lake. Heavy weeds, animal waste pollution, geese.
- All water resources. Water is essential for everything, changing weather patterns aren't helping. Want to conserve and protect where possible.
- All of them. Quality of all life in our community.
- Wetlands and trails. We enjoy walking on trails and wetlands are critical habitat and to water quality.
- Native plantings to restore pre-colonization habitats and to accommodate future climate change
- Lakes, because a lot of runoff and pollution impact the people and organisms that rely on the lake.
- Lake Vadnais
- All of them why I'm taking survey. My concern is VLAWMO getting involved in any waterway and ruining it for everyone. This organization is the worst.
- Lakes near me. I worry about water quality, which funnels to the fish, birds, and us.!
- Wetlands all around the VH area
- Lambert Creek. Vadnais Lake, Sucker Lake. Lambert Creek is in my yard, and I visit Vadnais and Sucker almost daily to walk my dogs.
- Lakes because I grew up near a lake and know how important they are to a healthy environment for plants, animal life and human beings as well.
- I love all of them. I grew up in area.
- Lakes/rivers/streams equally. Desire to be a good steward of aquatic resources (and surrounding lands) so as to enable aquatic life and other local wildlife to thrive.
- My pond. many forms of wildlife use the pond.
- All.
- Vadnais Lake. Use trails around lake for walking, wildlife watching.
- Birch Lake. Refer to question #3 other.
- The lake. People use.
- Amelia, Pleasant, Tamarack, Birch. Where I live and spend time.
- White Bear Lake
- Habitat

- I have a deep seeded passion for all waterways. I am a former aquatic ecologist for the MNDNR. I also am very fond of the trails and paths that we have in the watershed.
- Rice Lake - it's where I live White Bear Lake - It's a hub in my community
- Lake Vadnais because of the natural setting
- All of the above. Enhancement of my entire area all year around.
- The watershed - whole
- White Bear Lake and surrounding lakes quality as our source of drinking water. Businesses using way too much salt.
- Lakes, rivers, streams, parks, trails. Recreation.
- Tamarack park and trails. I use and visit Tamarack.
- Lakes, trails. Why: Protection of lakes in my community - aquatic life, curly leaf, protect groundwater, protect wildlife, recreation.
- White Bear Lake, Vadnais Lake, Sucker Lake, Snail Lake, also all the rivers and streams in Minnesota - it is in reality all connected. Why: It's the water.
- Lakes, streams, parks, & trails. I live, work & recreate near to these resources.
- All of the above, we need to find sustainable ways to utilize our water sources for drinking and sanitation without depleting our natural resources and protect wildlife.
- wetlands: better common-sense rules for development and allowing wetland credits to be purchased out of the area so prices are more realistic and not a money grab for cities.
- Clean lakes, hiking trails that are well maintained (that doesn't mean hacked to pieces or hardscaped), xc skiing trails, walking paths, wooded and wildlife areas. To preserve habitat for local and migrating wildlife.
- Sucker Creek & Regional park, i love the trail system for hiking. Protecting wetlands from invasive plant species.
- Parks, trails
- All - Over use/ abuse is affecting the current and future availability of all our clean water resources.
- White Bear Lake and Lost Lake; recreation
- All of them but primarily WBL. They are together, each is part of the whole.
- need to improve groundwater quality. so we all have good drinking/washing water.
- parks, trails, lakes, rivers. It's important for the health and wellbeing of people and wildlife to properly maintain and conserve natural resources.
- WBL, local runoff ponds. Lots of use, runoff ponds i.e. peppertree pond, receives road runoff that is heavily polluted.
- all of them. quality of life.
- All of the above but especially monitoring invasive species and maintaining the natural beauty of our water resources.
- Lakes, rivers, streams, parks. I'm just passionate about them all.
- Wetlands for wildlife habitat, buffer zones around lakes, water clarity everywhere. Why: Need wild spaces for wildlife habitat.
- Water is important to me because it can have unseen issues, get overlooked in contrast with public eye projects such as trails and parks
- White Bear Lake because I live near it and recreate there.
- Parks, trails, and groundwater. Waterways that my children can safely swim in and clean drinking water.
- vadnais lake and sucker
- Birch Lake (we live on Birch Lake) Rotary Nature Preserve (I'm a member of WBL Rotary Club)

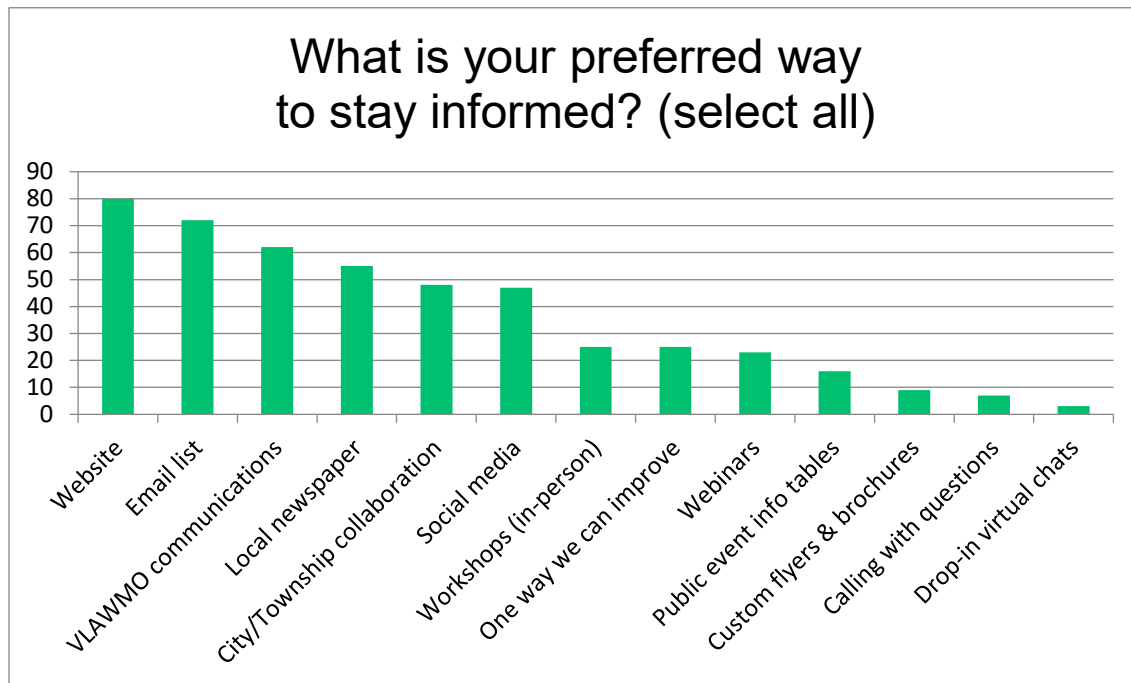
- Aquatic ones including wetlands. My interest area at this time.
- lakes, rivers, and parks high impact on quality of life and they are at risk of negative impact
- white bear lake and around it St Croix river and Stillwater Miss river - old man river William Obrain - great park I live near and use
- sucker lake regional park lake vadnais
- Lakes/fishing
- All! Diversity of species, general health of waterways, recreation
- all the trails and wetlands in Vadnais Heights. They are a great resource for our community.
- Birch Lake, because it's most visible to me
- trails, rivers, lakes, streams, parks I want them in the most natural status
- Sucker Lake, I live nearby.
- all
- Parks and trails because I used them more. But all are very valuable resources.
- All of the above as they are interconnected
- Lakes and trails.
- Vadnais Lakes
- lakes
- I am passionate about them all.
- Vadnais and Sucker Lakes since they are close to home and we recreate around them all year. Lambert Creek (and the wetlands it is connected to) since it is in my backyard!
- Lake Vadnais as it is important for our clean water supply
- Lakes and Rivers as they provide the water for us.
- Vadnais Lake and Sucker Lake
- All natural resources. Rivers and streams because they flow into our lakes. Lakes because water is so important as a natural resource. Parks and trails because green space enhances our areas immensely. Development and destruction of these areas is a concern. It seems development trumps natural areas.
- Pleasant lake beach is in horrible condition due to invasive species and weeds.
- I work at Tamarack, so I'm most passionate about Tamarack and Fish Lake on site. Since these are at the top of the watershed, I also recognize how their health affects everything downstream.
- I want using lead fishing tackle to be illegal in Vadnais and Sucker to save swans and whatever carnivores feed on the dead swans. Loons have tried to nest in West Vadnais. Is there a way such as a nesting box to make their lives easier? Vadnais Lake and Sucker paved trails have often not been maintained and have had huge dips in them. I want more wildflower plantings like at Snail Lake but not at the expense of cutting trees. I want Lot A opened at Sucker in the winter. If there is no snow, Lot D should also be open. The goal is to make it easy for people to access the lakes. Maybe have a naturalist walk through with a group of people and put the video on YouTube or the website. I would like a brochure with pictures to identify plants and birds in the watershed. Lambert Creek has been impaired and I would like it cleaned up before it exits to Vadnais.
- Lakes, rivers and streams. All humans and animals depend on them for life.
- Sucker Lake, Lake Vadnais.
- Parks and trails. To keep people healthy and happy.
- Hard to choose but am most passionate about Lakes and Rivers—water is life!
- lakes, rivers, streams and other water retention/mitigation ponds.
- All of them. They all need our protection, and it's our responsibility to do so.
- Overall water quality in our area including drinking, natural, and recreational.

- Pleasant lake Beach -- It used to be something we could enjoy and now its unswimmable! North Oaks community wants to know what we can do to help make it a family friendly beach where we can swim again!
- Deep Lake, because we live next to it, and Pleasant Lake because we want to ensure all of these connected bodies of water are protected and well maintained.
- Drinking water safety, after seeing neighboring communities affected and residents forced to mitigate and deal with risks or move. Concerns about flooding of neighborhoods with weather patterns creating more extreme extremes.
- Lakes and water bodies that connect them. Why? They are both a treasured resource for wildlife, but also a valuable resource for people (recreation, zen moments, drinking water).
- All. I want to boat, water ski and float on them
- I walk around Pleasant Lake almost daily, so I'm particularly a tuned to that lake. The trails in North Oaks are an amazing resource and I would love to see them well taken care of. The restoration project going on at Pleasant Lake is fabulous.
- Lakes and rivers for recreation. Swimming, kayaking, etc.
- Wetlands in VH are all impaired
- Lakes and trails
- Vadnais Lake
- Pleasant Lake - the health of the lake has taken a poor turn
- Lakes and rivers. We need to protect our natural resources!
- Protection of lakes and wetlands from invasive, non natives- so next generation will also have utility and recreation of same.
- Pleasant Lake, we want to take the kids swimming but can't due to the constant swimmers itch.
- Used to enjoy the lakes so much more, but now many, if not most, are not swimmable due to algae, swimmer's itch, bacteria, etc - heartbreaking to see an important facet of MN culture deteriorate due to climate change.
- The chain of lakes providing St Paul water supply. I live near them and recreate near them.
- Pleasant and Deep Lakes in North Oaks since I live here and also any watershed that impacts my well water. We thought Pleasant Lake Beach was an awesome benefit to living in North Oaks but in the two years we have been here we have had E. coli or other bacteria by the end of June making it unsafe for swimming or for my toddler to play with the water table and in the sandy areas near the water.
- Lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands. We are all connected and our actions have deep consequences.
- Lakes, trails for recreation.
- Pleasant Lake we see it from my home everyday
- The aquifer that we draw our water from to bring water to our house. Ensuring pleasant Lake is swimmable
- Deep Lake (I've watched its shoreline and water quality degrade over 25 years. Rehabilitation efforts in the last couple of years seem to be bearing fruit, but I'm concerned that local government is becoming distracted by other issues and that we're going to lose momentum.) Vadnais/Sucker Lakes (This is a gem in the north metro. Heavily used by both walkers and fishermen, but it's shocking how much trash is being left along the shoreline.)
- Drinking water supply.
- Sucker Lake, Lake Vadnais
- All of above
- Lakes, rivers, streams, trails, to help wildlife areas and slow climate change effects

- I am deeply passionate about all of the natural and wild areas in the watershed. Humans have developed too much land and destroyed too much of natural ecosystems. It is critical that we protect as much of our lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, parks, and trails as possible. We need to protect and improve the water, land, and ecosystems to sustain aquatic life, wildlife, and human life.
- Westfield Park is our favorite. I would like more trails to walk or bike. Parks and playgrounds are a high priority for us; pickleball courts, continue to maintain and build
- We like to walk at Vadnais Lake all year around. Please protect this area. We are not invited to the private lakes in North Oaks. But they are invited to use our water. Let's stop all the wasteful irrigation/toxic fertilization that's damaging the watersheds. If we're living in a drought, teach people how to conserve water!!! We used to see a lot more diversity in wildlife here. Now we see less and less. We need more laws that prohibit motorized boatcraft. How about some quiet?

Q5: What is your preferred way to keep informed on the progress of the watershed plan? (select any/all that apply)

What is your preferred way to keep informed on the progress of the watershed plan? (select any/all that apply)					
Answer Choices	Responses				
Website	80				
Email list	72				
VLAWMO communications	62				
Local newspaper	55				
City/Township collaboration	48				
Social media	47				
Workshops (in-person)	25				
One way we can improve	25				
Webinars	23				
Public event info tables	16				
Custom flyers & brochures	9				
Calling with questions	7				
Drop-in virtual chats	3				
Answered	136				
Skipped	10				



What's one way we can improve our communications to keep you informed?

- Any of the above. More frequently tie in to the cities (events, website links).
- Emails
- Communication with North Oaks Homeowner Assoc. to communicate with residents via our internal social media channel.
- Partner with city to piggy-back on their outreach.
- Public fliers and notices, especially in public parks or facilities
- Post more information in the VH Press and VH News.
- Please keep me informed via US Mail.

- List projects and their status, i.e. started, finished, planned
- I didn't know your organization existed. My Otter Lake is in both Ramsey and Anoka Counties so I hope everyone works together - so glad I am aware of you all now! I don't do live chats.
- You are doing a very good job! Thank you!
- Facebook or twitter.(X)
- Public updates via the library.
- inform newspapers
- get local paper to prominently make your info available
- I don't have suggestions for improvement, but I appreciate the variety of info sources being offered.
- Email
- focus on core responsibility and use the items I checked to let people know what you are doing and what they can do to help.
- actually send them to me
- I really like the emails that link to the website. I read most of them.
- I think you do a good job at trying to get your information out.
- Several times a year have info tables at the major grocery stores.
- provide more detail of what is included or would be included in an upcoming event so we can prioritize what the information is and whether we would want to adjust our schedules to participate.
- You are doing a good job now
- You need to develop a higher profile on social media. Reach out to administrators of local sites/pages/groups and solicit permission to post content to their sites.
- More physical mail
- Well, don't put up the world's ugliest sign right in front of the nicest view of Turtle Lake. Put the signs down in the parking lot. Don't strip the detritus off the whole park area surrounding the lakes. Don't kid yourself that you need the priority of an all oak savannah if that is what it once was. Let the past be done. What we need are solutions that fit today--not yesterday.

Q6: Is there anything else you'd like us to know as we conduct our planning process?

Is there anything else you'd like us to know as we conduct our planning process?					
Answered	42				
Skipped	104				

Response Theme #1

Suggestions that fit
VLAWMO's focus.

"I also strongly encourage VLAWMO to include an environmental justice lens in their approach to the work."

Response Theme #2

Organizational support.

"Keep up the great work!"

Response Theme #3

Appreciation for the
opportunity to provide
feedback.

"Thank you for the opportunity to offer feedback!"

*For details on coding used for each comment to develop these themes, click [here](#) to view Attachment B.

- Please promote the Jr Watershed program and booklet at local libraries - it was awesome!
- Thank you for the contributions to our community.
- please maintain walking paths both paved and non paved paths!
- Please keep the area pet friendly/make it more pet friendly. Pets are the only reason many get exercise/go outdoors.
- Are there any efforts to control buckthorn which chokes out native plants?
- Keep up the great work!
- Please coordinate efforts amongst public agencies. I live in the extreme SE corner of VLAWMO and our neighbors across the street have different management criteria and resources and opportunities than I do.
- It is time to open up the east side of Lake Vadnais to pet walking. Put up some places for bags, and enforce water pickup on Both sides of the lake.
- Please do nothing. Everything you do makes things worse.
- Keep doing good work! It's important that the community is involved.
- I value VLAWMO and what they have already done to improve the environment.
- School field trips, info signs at parks, lakes of interesting facts about said areas, contests so more homeowners create/construct rain gardens, etc, then set up home tours. Thanks
- What is being done about lawsuit between DNR and WB Lake Association?
- I would like to be involved. As mentioned I have a background in aquatics.
- I am Loni Kay 5955 Otter Lake Rd White Bear Lake, MN 55110. Thank you for caring.
- Please make protecting our water source a hug priority!
- Clean water benefits all animals, i.e., humans and other species.
- Not at this point - thanks for the opportunity to offer feedback!

- At this time, I have not had a lot of involvement with your organization.
- You guys may be entering into "mission creep."
- Stay awesome!
- Curious whether there are any TMDLs for the watershed, what pollutants are high concern, residential efforts we can do to address pollutants of high concern, and what ways are you engaging with the municipalities
- And of course, with global warming, I want to make sure people's houses don't flood. I know you have done some work on that. If we had 8 inches of rain in 24 hours, how high would Lambert Creek be? Do we have flood maps for 4 inches of rain in 24 hours, 8 inches and 10 inches for instance.
- You are so appreciated!
- Allow city staff (and others as appropriate) to discuss the process, analysis, results and recommendations with citizens who contact them. Avoid the - we'll let you know; sorry, we can't discuss this now - responses. If they can't be discussed, provided more descriptive reason why and when the information could be discussed.
- Safe water takes research and resources that require financial investments.
- What do experts from this group believe is the cause for problems with Pleasant Lake beach? What can residents do to help?
- Make sure to set clear measurable goals for short/median/long term outcomes. Communicate necessary steps and progress with the affected community members.
- Stop raising the fees on our taxes...well over 100% in nine years. That's BS
- Need more access points to canoe and kayak on lakes and rivers. Vadnais Lakes canoe launch would be awesome!
- Would love to see pleasant lake swimmable again.
- Really appreciate your reaching out for input. Frankly very uninformed about this despite living in North Oaks for 24 years. Embarrassed to say I am uninformed about what the top opportunities and challenges are
- I look at your volunteer possibilities. I am too old for most. I wish you well.
- I hope VLAWMO gets more funding to do more and grow and have a bigger impact. VLAWMO does excellent work and should receive more resources from local government to expand their work and impact. I also strongly encourage VLAWMO to include an environmental justice lens (i.e., social justice and consideration of privilege, power, oppression, and marginalization) in their approach to the work.
- Don't use plastic pens to advertise--make pencils instead. Limit plastic as much as possible. Stop cutting down trees to build rain gardens. Save our precious trees. Promote organic maintenance of local land near/in our watersheds. Slow down the traffic. Move stop signs, speed bumps. Thanks for listening. Listen with your heart.

Attachment A: Coding used to categorize responses and build graphs for Q4

Attachment A

Response	General resources mentioned										Specific Locations within VLA mentioned												
	All	Lakes	P&T	Hab	Rivers	N/A	Wet	Drinking	Ground	Pond	VSP	Pleas	Deep	Birch	TNC	Lamb	NOt	Rice	Gil	Amelia	Rot	Chain	West
Sucker Lake, Vadnais Lake, Grass Lake, Snail Lake						1					1												
All of the above. For habitat improvement and recreation.	1			1																			
Snail lake area. Don't build on the mission property - animal wildlife will be ruined.						1																	
All. It's all part of the ecosystem.	1																						
Sucker Lake Park, North Oaks Trails. We use them.											1						1						
Rice Lake. I live on the lake.																	1						
Pleasant Lake, Deep Lake, Deep Lake channel. Proximity to my residence.												1	1										
Sucker Lake. Wonderful walking area around lake - Trumpeter Swans, mallards, bird life, beaver?				1							1												
All of above. We live amongst them all.	1																						
all	1																						
Sucker Lake, Lake Vadnais, snail lake regional parks and bald eagle lake. Biking through parks. Sometimes fishing.			1			1					1												
Lakes and rivers - it's why we love MN.		1			1																		
White Bear Lake. My boat is on WBL.						1																	
Lake Gilfillan, Pleasant Lake. Heavy weeds,												1							1				

animal waste pollution, geese.																						
All water resources. Water is essential for everything, changing weather patterns aren't helping. Want to conserve and protect where possible.	1																					
All of them. Quality of all life in our community.	1																					
Wetlands and trails. We enjoy walking on trails and wetlands are critical habitat and to water quality.			1				1															
Native plantings to restore pre-colonization habitats and to accommodate future climate change				1																		
Lakes, because a lot of runoff and pollution impact the people and organisms that rely on the lake.		1																				
Lake Vadnais											1											
All of them why I'm taking survey. My concern is VLAWMO getting involved in any waterway and ruining it for everyone. This organization is the worst.	1																					
Lakes near me. I worry about water quality, which funnels to the fish, birds, and us.!		1		1																		
Wetlands all around the VH area							1															
Lambert Creek. Vadnais Lake, Sucker Lake. Lambert Creek is in											1					1						

my yard, and I visit Vadnais and Sucker almost daily to walk my dogs.																							
Lakes because I grew up near a lake and know how important they are to a healthy environment for plants, animal life and human beings as well.		1		1																			
I love all of them. I grew up in area.	1																						
Lakes/rivers/stream s equally. Desire to be a good steward of aquatic resources (and surrounding lands) so as to enable aquatic life and other local wildlife to thrive.		1		1	1																		
My pond. many forms of wildlife use the pond.				1					1														
All.	1																						
Vadnais Lake. Use trails around lake for walking, wildlife watching.				1						1													
Birch Lake. Refer to question #3 other.												1											
The lake. People use.		1																					
Amelia, Pleasant, Tamarack, Birch. Where I live and spend time.											1		1	1				1					
White Bear Lake						1																	
Habitat				1																			
I have a deep seeded passion for all waterways. I am a former aquatic ecologist for the MNDNR. I also am very found of the trails and paths that we have in the watershed.	1		1																				
Rice Lake - it's where I live White																	1						

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

I am passionate about them all.	1																						
Vadnais and Sucker Lakes since they are close to home and we recreate around them all year. Lambert Creek (and the wetlands it is connected to) since it is in my backyard!							1				1					1							
Lake Vadnais as it is important for our clean water supply								1			1												
Lakes and Rivers as they provide the water for us.		1			1																		
Vadnais Lake and Sucker Lake											1												
All natural resources. Rivers and streams because they flow into our lakes. Lakes because water is so important as a natural resource. Parks and trails because green space enhances our areas immensely. Development and destruction of these areas is a concern. It seems development trumps natural areas.	1	1	1		1																		
Pleasant lake beach is in horrible condition due to invasive species and weeds.												1											
I work at Tamarack, so I'm most passionate about Tamarack and Fish Lake on site. Since these are at the top of the watershed, I also recognize how their health affects everything downstream.															1								

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

critical that we protect as much of our lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, parks, and trails as possible. We need to protect and improve the water, land, and ecosystems to sustain aquatic life, wildlife, and human life.																							
Westfield Park is our favorite. I would like more trails to walk or bike. Parks and playgrounds are a high priority for us; pickleball courts, continue to maintain and build			1																				1
We like to walk at Vadnais Lake all year around. Please protect this area. We are not invited to the private lakes in North Oaks. But they are invited to use our water. Let's stop all the wasteful irrigation/toxic fertilization that's damaging the watersheds. If we're living in a drought, teach people how to conserve water!!! We used to see a lot more diversity in wildlife here. Now we see less and less. We need more laws that prohibit motorized boatcraft. How about some quiet?				1							1												
Total	32	32	22	22	19	11	11	10	4	3	23	12	4	4	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1

Question #4

“What resources are you most passionate about and why?” – identifying the motives for the responses received in question #4 with an evaluation of the text that followed specific waterbody or park identification. Reference to data not utilized in part 1 (specific waterbody/park/trail identification).

Summary themes

1. Recreation, wildlife, and value of natural resources.
2. What’s close to home, visible, and interconnected.
3. Water quality, groundwater, drinking water, and water conservation.
4. Future use of water and natural resources.
5. Aquatic vegetation, climate change, and flooding.

Full themes – in survey results document

1. The largest motivators for responses in question #4 are recreation, wildlife, and value of natural resources. Swimming, boating, and wildlife watching are commonly mentioned with specific lake uses, types of wildlife, or a voiced support for maintenance and protection of wildlife.

Examples: *“Used to enjoy the lakes so much more, but now many, if not most, are not swimmable due to algae, swimmer’s itch, bacteria, etc.”*

“We recreate around them all year.” “I want them in the most natural states.”

“...also am very fond of the trails and paths that we have in the watershed.”

2. Many are motivated by what’s close to home, visible, and interconnected. These are supported by notions of health, quality of life, a passion for water as a whole, dependence on water, and one area impacting another. A sense of responsibility, maintenance and community are also included in respondent reasoning.

Examples: *“We see it from my home every day.”*

“It’s where I live.” “To keep people healthy and happy.”

“Quality of all life in our community.”

3. Water quality, groundwater, drinking water, and water conservation. Cleanliness, health and safety, specific pollutants, and protection are commonly referenced to support these interests.

Examples: *“Lambert Creek has been impaired and I would like it cleaned up before it exits to Vadnais.” “I worry about water quality.”*

“Need to improve groundwater quality for drinking”

4. Future use of water and natural resources.

Examples:

“So next generation will also have utility”

5. Aquatic vegetation, climate change, and flooding.

Examples:

“Protecting wetlands from invasive species” “Heavy weeds.”

“Concerns about flooding of neighborhoods with weather patterns creating more extreme extremes.” “Heartbreaking to see an important facet of MN culture deteriorate.”

Raw data step: Summary of raw data/qualitative analysis

Statements that articulate the messages observed in the data in a condensed form. Organized according to the number of data points extrapolated from responses given in the survey. For example, a one sentence response can contain one or multiple data points.

Survey responses on question 4: 127

Data points extrapolated from responses given in question 4: 178

The most common expressions pertain to trail use for walking and hiking (14) as well as a basic notion of recreation (13). Reference is also made to swimming both in Pleasant Lake and in general, with disappointment regarding obstacles to swimming (6). Occasional mention of boating and lake access with mixed opinions on use type (5).

2) Theme 1: Intrinsic value of wildlife, species diversity, and general natural resources - 27

Most respondents refer to an intrinsic value of wildlife and natural settings in their reasoning (14). Others frame support for wildlife and natural spaces out of a sense of proactive encouragement (7). Lastly, several frame support for wildlife and natural spaces in context of human forces such as development (6).

3) Theme 2: Living nearby, proximity, and visibility – 24

Because of living or working near certain bodies of water, and because they're most visible (21). Some state connections to community affiliations or refer to the notion of growing up near lakes or in the area (4).

4) Theme 2: A holistic sense of water for interconnectedness, health and happiness, quality of life, reliance, and passions.- 24

There is a strong acknowledgement of the interconnections of water, supported by passion for water as a whole (14). Responses emphasize the dependence on water and how one area impacts another (5), while calling for a sense of active stewardship, responsibly, and proper maintenance (5).

5) Theme 3: Measurable water quality, cleanliness, protection, and health - 19

Reasoning based on water quality derives from the notion of cleanliness, clarity, health, and concern about impaired waters (8). There are references made to specific pollutants or sources of harm to water quality (6), and some responses emphasize the notion of protection and maintenance in context of interconnected waters and systems such as parks, trails, aquatic life, and human life (3).

6) Theme 3: Groundwater, drinking water, and conservation - 16

The basic notion of drinking water and water supply is most heavily emphasized (7). Proactive call for improving, conserving, and protecting (5), or emphasizing drinking water cleanliness, safety, and risk (4).

7) Theme 4: General use – 11

Because of a value based on human and community use today and for the next generation (10). Mention of washing water (1).

8) Theme 5: Aquatic vegetation – 8

Concern expressed on invasive species and invasive species monitoring (5). Concerns on general aquatic weeds and lake function such as sedimentation and flowage (3).

9) Theme 5: Climate change – 5

Concerns on accommodating for and slowing climate change and flooding (5).

10) Theme 5: Concerns, support, organizational role – 5

Expression of conflict and disputes on VLAWMO organizational roles and policies or the interaction between communities (3). Expression of support on a specific project mixed with concern (1) and support for a specific project (1).

11) Theme 5: Brainstorming and programs – 4

Suggestions for wildlife well being, wildlife education (2). Advocacy on stopping fertilization practices (1) and recommendations to other departments outside of VLAWMO (1).

12) Theme 5: Specific concerns - 3

Specific issues cited such as lead fishing tackle, pet walking, and the risk of water being overlooked in the public eye (3).

13) Theme 5: MN culture - 2

Out of an emotional connection to Minnesota and MN culture (2).

Question #6

"Is there anything else you'd like us to know?"

Responses from question 6: 43

Data points extrapolated from responses given in question 6: 55

Subthemes from Q4 that were restated as part of responses given in Q#6: Recreation, water quality, wildlife, water's interconnectedness, and climate change re-appeared in question 6.

Recreation – 4

Advocacy for path maintenance and continuing and improving pet walking (3). Would love to see Pleasant Lake swimmable again (1).

Measurable water quality – 2

Encouragement for water source protection to be a huge priority and for financial investments and research to support safe water (2).

Wildlife – 1

A question on controlling buckthorn and concern how it chokes out native plants (1).

A holistic sense of water for interconnectedness – 1

Clean water framed as something that benefits humans, animals, and other species (1).

Climate change – 1

An expression of support for preventing home flooding in context of global warming, and interest in conveying flood details such as floodplain modeling and maps (1).

New themes stated in Q6:

Themes:

1. The most common response was suggestions that fit VLAWMO's focus.
2. The next most common responses were statements of organizational support.
3. Lastly, there were several statements of appreciation for the opportunity to provide feedback and concerns stated.

Theme 1: Suggestions on organization operations: Most fitting to VLAWMO's focus – 12

Most input includes encouragement or inquiries that relate to existing programs or areas of focus (6). There are also encouragement or inquiries expressed regarding public and municipal agency coordination, pollutants of concern, residential involvement, and environmental justice (3). Some express encouragement around organizational communication, advocating for transparency, maintaining measurable goals, and communicating progress (2).

Theme 1: None/opt-out of question – 11

A simple response of "no" or not having anything else to add (11).

Theme 2: Organizational support – 9

Expressions of support focused on community contributions, past actions, improving the environment, or using and increasing funds for a bigger impact (9).

Theme 2: Ideas and brainstorming: Peripheral to VLAWMO's focus – 8

Topics expressed that don't relate directly to VLAWMO's area of focus include boat access, park and land management, the WBL/DNR lawsuit, signs, and traffic (8).

Theme 3: Appreciation for survey opportunity – 4

Expressed appreciation for the survey opportunity with occasional sentiments of love and care. Recognition of being uninformed on opportunities and challenges (4).

Theme 3: Concerns – 3

Concerns about mission creep, tax increases, and the organization's actions making things worse (3).



Issue Prioritization Process



Appendix C: Issue Prioritization Process

Plan Issues and Descriptions

Below is a table summarizing the issues impacting Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO) resources. Issues are organized by resource categories. Issue descriptions are provided for each issue. This list of issues was developed after review and consideration of the following:

- The current VLAWMO Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan
- Existing data and agency reports
- Responses from the 60-day plan notification
- Responses from the public, TEC, and Board survey, and
- Feedback from the Initial Planning Meeting, held April 24, 2024.

One of the first steps of the planning process is to identify priority issues to focus VLAWMO implementation efforts. To inform this prioritization process, survey results, the capital improvements partner table, and responses from the 60-day plan notification were analyzed to create priority ranks for each issue.

- Survey results: The public, TEC, and Board survey asked each group to identify priority issues. The resulting priority issues from each survey were sorted from highest priority to lowest priority. Those in the top third received a rank of “1,” medium third received a “2,” and issues in the lower third a “3”.
- Capital improvements partner table: Using best professional judgement, projects in the five-year project table were reviewed to identify which issue the project most directly addressed. The sum of each issue indicated how prominently each issue was addressed by a planned priority project. Issues were sorted and ranked by prominence so those in the top third received a rank of “1,” medium third received a “2,” and issues in the lower third a “3”.
- 60-day plan notification responses: Each response letter was reviewed. Using best professional judgement, if a VLAWMO draft issue was mentioned, it was marked. The sum of each issue indicated how prominently each issue was mentioned by a 60-day response letter. Issues were sorted and ranked by prominence so those in the top third received a rank of “1,” medium third received a “2,” and issues in the lower third a “3”.

Each priority rank (Public Survey, TEC Survey, Board Survey, Partner Table, and 60-Day Response) was considered equally. The average of each priority rank is shown in the “Average Score” column. Issues were sorted and ranked by Average Score so those in the top third received a rank of “1,” medium third received a “2,” and issues in the lower third a “3”. The rank of the average is provided as the final “Average Rank.”

Resource Category	Issue	Description	Public Survey	TEC Survey	Board Survey	Partner Table	60-Day Response	Average Score	Average Rank
Surface Water Quality Management	Surface Water and Drinking Water Quality	Surface waterbodies are in need of protection and restoration to preserve surface drinking water sources and promote aquatic life and recreational opportunities.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Erosion of Shorelines and Streambanks	Development along shorelines, reduction of riparian buffers, and increased streamflow accelerates erosion and nutrient loading to surface waters.	N/A	N/A	1	2	2	1.67	1
	AIS Management	AIS such as rough fish and curly leaf pondweed contribute to declining water quality and can outcompete native species, threatening the ecological function of lakes.	2	2	3	3	2	2.4	3
Groundwater Management	Groundwater and Drinking Water Quality	Surface water / groundwater interaction and groundwater contaminants have the potential to impact groundwater quality. VLAWMO supports groundwater quality protection through partnership and technical assistance.	1	1	1	2	1	1.2	1
	Groundwater Supplies and Conservation	Groundwater supplies need to be protected from overuse and replenished through aquifer recharge. VLAWMO supports groundwater quantity protection through partnership and technical assistance.	1	2	1	2	1	1.4	1
Data Collection	Chloride and Emerging Contaminants	Road salt application results in the addition of chloride to roads, lakes, and streams, where it corrodes infrastructure, is toxic to roadside vegetation, and impacts aquatic life. In addition to chlorides, other emerging contaminants have been detected in surface waters may need monitoring per State requirements to protect human and aquatic health.	2	1	3	3	1	2	2
	Water Monitoring	Surface water monitoring is needed to provide an overview of current water quality and quantity conditions and trends, inform future implementation efforts, and document the impact activities have on improving VLAWMO resources.	N/A	1	2	3	1	1.75	1
	Data Gaps	Data acquisition, analysis, surveys, and reports may be needed to close data gaps and better inform action.	2	2	3	2	3	2.4	3

Resource Category	Issue	Description	Public Survey	TEC Survey	Board Survey	Partner Table	60-Day Response	Average Score	Average Rank
	Staff Professional Development and Training	In order to meet needs of the community, VLAWMO staff must have access to professional development and training opportunities, and staff capacity must be adequate to accomplish plan goals.	3	2	3	3	3	2.8	3
Outreach, Education, and Community Engagement	Community Formal Education and Communications	VLAWMO provides formal education opportunities (e.g. curriculum) and maintains current digital communication and outreach to enhance community knowledge in water quality management.	N/A	N/A	3	3	3	3	3
	Outreach and Marketing	VLAWMO staff engage the community through events (demonstration sites of projects and experiential learning) and general outreach efforts (promotion, communication, and marketing) to increase understanding and engagement in VLAWMO efforts, participation, and communication regarding VLAWMO policies.	3	1	3	1	3	2.2	2
	Collaboration and Engagement	There is a need to influence more projects that benefit water resources. VLAWMO staff provide stakeholder and partnership coordination, with collaboration on associated projects that benefit managed resources.	N/A	3	3	1	3	2.5	3
Flooding and Water Quantity	Public Drainage Systems	Public drainage systems are in need of inspection and maintenance to preserve their capacity and function and minimize downstream sediment delivery.	2	2	2	3	2	2.2	2
	Infrastructure Partnership Projects	Aging infrastructure or current infrastructure is in need of expansion for climate change effects and development. VLAWMO collaborates with partners managing infrastructure to build and repair infrastructure projects that help reduce flooding and water quantity.	3	3	3	1	1	2.2	2
	VLAWMO Facilities	To preserve VLAWMO's investment in projects and practices, VLAWMO-built facilities must be inventoried, inspected, and maintained.	N/A	2	3	3	1	2.25	2
Policy and Facilitation	Wetland Conservation Act	VLAWMO, as the local government unit (LGU) for the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA), manages wetlands per State Requirements by ensuring no net loss of wetlands in quantity, quality, and biological diversity in the watershed.	N/A	1	1	2	3	1.75	1

Resource Category	Issue	Description	Public Survey	TEC Survey	Board Survey	Partner Table	60-Day Response	Average Score	Average Rank
	Stormwater Management Standards	VLAWMO does not regulate stormwater management or erosion and sediment control, but provides advisory technical review support to its member communities that enforce associated ordinances and VLAWMO's water standards.	N/A	N/A	2	3	1	2	2
Community and Ecosystem Health and Resiliency	Environmental Justice	There is a need to focus on how plan issues disproportionately impact areas of low income, limited English proficiency, and people of color.	3	3	3	2	2	2.6	3
	Climate Resiliency	Climatic changes have increased the frequency of high-magnitude rainfall and runoff events, which can potentially overwhelm the capacity of existing stormwater management infrastructure. Partnership projects are needed to build resiliency in communities.	2	3	3	1	1	2	2
	Natural Features and Habitat	Within capital improvement project areas, partnership with landowners is needed to promote the protection and management of well-functioning perennial vegetation, forests, floodplains, and upland habitat to support native plant communities, pollinators, rare species, and wildlife and support community livability and resiliency.	1	2	2	1	2	1.6	1



Formal Review Comments



VLAWMO Watershed Management Plan

Formal Review Comments



#	Source	Section	Sub.	Page	Par.	Comment	Change Needed	Revision/Comment
1	MDH	Overall	n/a	n/a	n/a	We commend VLAWMO for the emphasis on the importance of VLAWMO lakes as sources of drinking water throughout the plan. Of note is the presence of this information in the Executive Summary, as well as the inclusion of location within the chain of lakes used for drinking water as a resource prioritization criterion.	N	Thank you
2	MDH	Overall	n/a	n/a	n/a	We commend VLAWMO for the inclusion of implementation actions that will protect both groundwater and surface water sources of drinking water. It is clear that drinking water protection was considered throughout plan development.	N	Thank you
3	MDH	Overall	n/a	n/a	n/a	We are appreciative of the opportunity to be involved in the TEC+ and to provide preliminary informal comments on draft sections of the plan. The MDH Source Water Protection Unit will continue to be available as a resource to VLAWMO.	N	Thank you
4	MDH	Overall	n/a	n/a	n/a	Recommend a final review of the plan to check for errors. There are some minor ones throughout the plan including references to "Appendix X", minor typos (including in in-text citations), and references to the implementation table as both Table 4-5 and 4-6.	Y	Appendix X is a placeholder until this final review. Will amend any in-text citation typos and change implementation reference to table 4-5.
5	MDH	Overall	n/a	n/a	n/a	During implementation of the plan, we strongly recommend considering the intersection of multiple issues, whether this be considering the multiple benefits of projects, or considering potential negative impacts to a resource while working to improve another. Some examples of this are: 1) limiting or conducting a higher level of engineering review of infiltration BMPs places adjacent to a source waterbody within a protection area, considering the impacts to the drinking water source body; 2) consider the costs and benefits to groundwater and/or drinking water when implementing grant programs (e.g., soil health projects will likely have an added benefit of groundwater quality improvement or protection, whereas some stormwater infiltration BMPs can negatively impact these resources); 3) Much of the area along Lambert Creek in its subwatershed is within a highly vulnerable DWSMA, so infiltration BMPs may not be advised or should have a higher level of engineering review. See informal comments on section 4 for more details. MDH Source Water Protection staff are available for technical assistance regarding all subjects related to this.	N	Thank you, we will consider it.
6	MDH	Overall	n/a	n/a	n/a	During informal comments, VLAWMO staff notes that some technical work is planned that will investigate groundwater impacts and potential projects during the life of this plan. Keep in mind MDH's Groundwater Protection Initiative Accelerated Implementation Grant for such work, as it is likely eligible: https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/groundwater/accompgrant.html . Contact the MDH planner if considering applying for assistance.	N	Thank you, VLAWMO will consider this grant.
7	MDH	2	2.1	7	1/list	Consider that member communities' 2040 Comprehensive Plans will soon be outdated as they will begin and complete their 2050 Comprehensive Plans during the first half of the life of this Watershed Management Plan. Consider linking to general city planning webpages instead of direct PDF links, or noting in the text that this update is occurring and should be complete in late 2028 or early 2029.	Y	Text added that cities may be updating their Comprehensive Plans, and websites should be referred to for the latest version.
8	MDH	2	2.3.1	10	3	Consider noting that Sucker Lake, where there is a fishing pier, has fish consumption guidelines more restrictive than the statewide guidelines for bullhead due to mercury contamination. The guidelines for Sucker Lake can be found here: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/fca/report.html?downum=62002800 . The statewide guidelines can be found here: https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/fish/guidelines.html#NaN . Note that it appears that only fish from Sucker, Pleasant, East Vadnais, and Goose lakes have been tested for contaminants within the watershed.	Y	Added this comment to Table 2-2 for Sucker Lake.
9	MDH	2	2.4.1	14	2	Since DWSMAs change over time and the figure in the plan is a snapshot in time, consider directing readers to MDH's Source Water Protection Map Viewer for the most up to date information, as on page 16. Be sure to link to the static page, not the map itself, as that link may change over time as updates are made to the map viewer. https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/mapviewer.html (see additional comment later in this spreadsheet as well regarding the map viewer).	Y	Kept Figure 2-5, but added link as recommended.

#	Source	Section	Sub.	Page	Par.	Comment	Change Needed	Revision/Comment
10	MDH	2	2.4.1	15	1	It appears that the link to the Watershed Health Assessment Framework tool has been updated. Consider linking to the static DNR webpage instead in case that happens again: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/whaf/index.html .	Y	Updated link.
11	MDH	2, 3	2.4.1 and 3.4.2	15 and 35	2 and 2	While some of the decrease in groundwater withdrawals in the watershed may be due to water conservation efforts, this is likely mostly due to the increased reliance on surface water by SPRWS. Recommend including this factor to avoid misleading readers. This comment was given informally for the text in section 3.4.2, which was temporarily changed to include a note about the decrease in groundwater use by SPRWS, but now has changed again. The text in section 3.4.2 no longer implies a reason for the decreasing withdrawals, so that one is okay, but could consider a revision to that section as well.	Y	Amended text on page 15 to say the decrease in groundwater use may be due to increased reliance on surface water by SPRWS, and water conservation efforts also assist in decreasing groundwater use.
12	MDH	2	2.4.2	16	1	The link to the Source Water (not surface water, as written in the plan) Protection Map Viewer is no longer an active link. As the map viewer link itself may change over time as updates are made, please link to the static webpage, where users can then click on the link on that page for the map viewer: https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/mapviewer.html .	Y	Updated link as recommended.
13	MDH	3	3.2	24	1	Consider providing an example of a partner project table or sharing a link to the most recent one, if available, to provide readers some context regarding what this entails.	Y	Added "such as Table 4-5."
14	MDH	3	3.3.3	30	3	This section ties AIS management to surface water and drinking water quality. Keep in mind that there are restrictions to invasive plant removal depending on the waterbody's status. Chemical treatment is not recommended on any waterbody that serves as a drinking water source. DNR permits for chemical application that involve a waterbody that serves as a drinking water source will also be reviewed by MDH. We evaluate these on a case by case basis, but chemical treatment is never recommended on these waterbodies, even if allowed by the DNR.	Y	Added "MDH does not allow chemical treatment of AIS on waterbodies that serve as a drinking water source in order to protect drinking water quality."
15	MDH	3	3.4.1	33	Table 3-2	It appears that the last column for Pleasant Lake was cut off.	Y	Spacing fixed.
16	MDH	3	3.4.3	37	3	Consider a brief mention in this section that chloride is a contaminant of concern for groundwater as well as surface water. Also consider if an evaluation of chloride sources in the watershed may be worth pursuing as an action item. It is good to see other sources of chloride listed in this section, especially water softeners, and the reference to Overbo, 2021.	Y	Added "Chloride is a contaminant of concern <i>for both surface water and groundwater</i> in the watershed"
17	MDH	4	4.4.5	69	4	Really like to see the notes of water reuse projects occurring where "feasible and safe" in projects 303H/403H and 305D/405D. Consider this note in project 305L on page 69 as well.	Y	Added this disclaimer to water reuse projects.
18	MDH	Appendix	Appendix C	43	n/a	It is noted that the Water Management Policy is currently under revision. Consider allowing plan review agencies the opportunity to review the policy in case there are comments that can be provided to assist in this update.	N	The Water Management Policy will be updated at a later time, in a process separate from the plan update process.
19	BWSR	Overall		N/A		This was a pleasure to read! Very well-written, well-organized, and visually appealing. Very nice work!	N	Thank you for your assistance in plan development.
20	BWSR	Overall		N/A		VLAWMO did an excellent job with public and stakeholder engagement process and issue prioritization, which was well-documented in the plan and appendix.	N	Thank you
21	BWSR	Overall		N/A		Thank you for considering many of the priorities submitted in our early input letter including chloride pollution, climate change and resiliency, and environmental justice.	N	Thank you
22	BWSR	Overall		N/A		The implementation table for this plan runs from 2027-2036; will VLAWMO be using the current plan for implementation during 2026? When does VLAWMO hope to seek BWSR Board approval? Note that the BWSR Board approval date is what determines the duration and expiration of a plan. MN Statute §103B.231 Subd. 4 (a) states, "The watershed management plan must specify the period covered by the plan and must extend at least five years but no more than ten years from the date the board approves the plan", where "board" refers to the BWSR Board, per MN Statute §103B.205 Subd. 2.	N	Upon consultation with BWSR, implementation table to remain as is.
23	BWSR	ES		ES1		Consider using "residents" rather than "citizens" for inclusivity. Also appears in Section 1, p. 1	Y	Replaced "citizens" with a combo of "the public", "community members", or "residents" depending on the context of where it appears.
24	BWSR	ES		ES7		Wonderful subwatershed map - very useful for orienting the reader to the WMO's resources and geography.	N	Thank you
25	BWSR	1		1		In figure 1-1, there are green outlines around some areas in the Lambert Creek subwatershed that do not appear in the legend; unclear what they represent.	Y	Map revised, these are restored wetland complexes

#	Source	Section	Sub.	Page	Par.	Comment	Change Needed	Revision/Comment
26	BWSR	1, 4	1.2 and 4.5	3 and 58		In the description of plan priorities, it's noted that VLAWMO intends to focus on the "... Pleasant Lake chain, Wilkinson Lake, Tamarack Lake, and ongoing efforts to improve Lambert Creek". BWSR encourages resource prioritization and appreciates that VLAWMO has selected a handful of resources on which to focus conservation efforts. However, this statement conflicts with Table 4.3, "VLAWMO resource prioritization criteria" on p. 58, which includes all VLAWMO waters listed in Table 2-2, other than Gem Lake. If nearly every water body is a priority, how will the WMO decide where to target its efforts, given that you likely can't work everywhere at once? Which resources does the WMO hope to make measurable progress on over the next 10 years? Where would you like to start? It's not clear from the plan.	Y	Priority Resource Criteria renamed to Section 4.5 Enhanced Priority Criteria to keep the door open for working on all important lakes and streams in the watershed on an opportunity basis with partners. The 319 Designation criteria will be removed. Wilkinson, Tamarack, and Birch will be an elevated resource priority designation in the next 10 years of this plan because of the 319 small, priority watershed program participation.
27	BWSR	2	2.1	7		Consider referencing the Water Management Policy (and similar policy documents, both here and elsewhere in the plan) rather than including in the appendix. Items in the appendix are considered part of the plan, so any changes to them could require a plan amendment.	Y	Noted with thanks. The policy documents will be added to the References Cited document with a link to the VLAWMO homepage website to access the policy documents.
28	BWSR	2	2.1	8		Thank you for clarifying the land use map and chart and ensuring that they are consistent with one another.	N	Thank you for your review.
29	BWSR	2	2.3.1	9-10, Table 2-2		The text states that Table 2-2 includes "...a summary of each lake's... trend in total phosphorus (TP) and chlorophyll-a (Chl-a)...", but there is no trend information present in the table. While the most recent 5 year-average for these parameters is an important data point, one cannot infer a trend in water quality from this information alone. There is no other place in the plan where water quality trends are discussed with any significance. VLAWMO and partners do an excellent job with water monitoring and should be able to easily include a discussion or even a simple table to illustrate positive, negative, or no change in water quality parameters. Trends are vital for a thorough understanding of the state of the water resources in VLAWMO, developing measurable outcomes, and providing public transparency. Further, trend analysis is a required component of the issue prioritization process, and trends must be included in the land and water resources summary.	Y	Trend data summarizing TSI trends from monitoring report added to Table 2-2. "Neutral" status used to summarize lakes that are holding steady, or do not have a clear trend. Paragraph added to explain TSI trends (and why used) and why 5 years is used for trends versus 10 (based on creating an inclusive dataset as some lakes do not have 10 years of data). Trend graphs is available in monitoring report.
30	BWSR	2	2.3.2	11		Thank you for clarifying the drainage geography, history, and ownership in this section.	N	Comment noted, with thanks.
31	BWSR	2	2.3.3	11		While WCA is intended to be protective of wetland acres, part of planning is to consider which, if any, of those wetlands could be priorities for restoration, functional enhancement, or protection. With 15% of the land area of VLAWMO classified as wetland (>1000 wetlands, 47 of which are public waters), are there some with greater biological significance or some that would benefit from projects that go above WCA's requirements? While there are at least two wetland-related projects in the implementation table (Rotary Park Resotration - 401G and Whitaker Wetland Retrofit Project - 405A), there are no wetland areas that have been specifically prioritized in the plan. Where would VLAWMO like to prioritize activities to see improvement in wetland resources over the next 10 years?	Y	Language added to section 4 prioritization section "Rotary Park is a priority area for partner communication to pursue wetland restoration. Rotary Park efforts are currently underway with a 5-year conservation partnership grant to complete a large wetland restoration in the area. The Wilkinson Deep-Water Wetland is a completed project toward improvement of Wilkinson Lake and is a priority for wetland maintenance. VLAWMO will also explore prioritization in Vadenais-Sucker Lake Regional Park based on partner involvement. Efforts would be led by partner entities." Priority areas added to a wetland map. Map placed in LWRN to address 8410 requirements
32	BWSR	3	3.7	19		Thank you for including a section about climate that includes trends and discusses the implications of changing precipitation/temperature regimes for watershed planning and resource protection. As Atlas 15 is rolled out, how will VLAWMO ensure that municipalities are utilizing this data for planning and design to ensure resiliency and resource protection?	Y	Added to goal statement: VLAWMO will review Local Water Plans to determine that municipalities will use Atlas 15 as available for future studies.
33	BWSR	2	2.7.1	20		It's wonderful to see the reference to the Met Council flood mapping tool. However, are there any particular areas of concern within VLAWMO that the WMO or its partners would want to prioritize for volume reduction projects? Also, please add information about or reference to the 100-year flood levels.	Y	Text added "VLAWMO is currently pursuing high impervious areas within the Lambert Creek planning region for volume reduction projects." Added link to FEMA 100-year floodplain

#	Source	Section	Sub.	Page	Par.	Comment	Change Needed	Revision/Comment
34	BWSR	2	2.7.1	20		The heading of this section is, "Flooding, Peak Discharge, and Climate Resiliency", but there is no text addressing peak discharge. Please include.	Y	Text added addressing peak discharge.
35	BWSR	4	4.4	30-47		In general, most of the goals are not clear in how they will contribute to <i>measurable progress</i> in protecting and restoring VLAWMO's resources with respect to the priority issues identified in the plan. While BWSR appreciates the inclusion of quantifiable <i>outputs</i> (e.g. number of BMPs), they often are not able to provide a meaningful description of the progress (e.g. water quality <i>outcomes</i>) that VLAWMO hopes to see in 10 years. Specific examples for some, but not all, goals are provided in comments, below.	Y	All goals reviewed to ensure measurability and capability to readily assess progress during implementation. Where needed (i.e. Erosion of Shorelines and Streambanks; Groundwater and Drinking Water Quality), additional measurability was added. For Surface Water Quality Goals, the following language was added: <i>Outcomes from Project / Grant Dependent Measures aim to accomplish the following water quality outcomes:</i> • <i>Tamarack Lake (Project 403J): Maintain total phosphorus concentration below 80 ug/L, using a five-year average of summer total phosphorus concentrations.*</i> • <i>Wilkinson Lake (Project 403A, 403B, 403C): Reduce watershed phosphorus loading by 21 lbs./year** based on watershed projects implemented or to the maximum extent practicable given the uncertainty of future available funding, the final design of the project area, and modifications that may be incurred during construction. This reduction will be pursued through targeted management strategies that enhance upstream storage, conveyance, and water quality.</i> • <i>Birch Lake (Project 200C, 200H) : Achieve an in-lake summer-average total phosphorus concentration of equal to or less than 40 ug/L</i>
36	BWSR	3	3.4.2	32-34		Surface water quality goal of "protect and improve" everywhere is vague and the number of BMPs, while quantifiable, does not contribute meaningfully to what success looks like for water quality. Consider including parameters such as delisting a particular lake, or no new impairments for nutrients and/or chloride, reducing average TP in XYZ lake by 20%, or adding specificity to how the WMO will help MS4s meet their WLAs. In other words, what do you want the state of the resource to be after 10 years of work? What do you want your monitoring data to show and, importantly, what do you want to be able to tell the public about your accomplishments? It's noted that the water quality goals and strategies in the 2017-2026 plan were considerably more measurable than the goals and actions of this plan, e.g. Goal 1-2: Demonstrate stable or improving water quality trends in all of VLAWMO lakes and streams by 2026 (p. 27).	Y	See response to Comment #35.
37	BWSR	3		34		If the quantifiable measure for the surface water quality goals, as well as for many others, is "up to X number of things", what does success look like? Is doing 1 out of 4 things sufficient, or 1 of 12 things? Suggest that you reconsider this framing to provide a more specific benchmark by which to measure success or failure over the next 10 years.	Y	Revised to remove "up to" language.
38	BWSR	3	3.4.2	36		Ensure that groundwater goals address issues identified within Met Council's water supply plan and relevant source water protection plans, as stated in MN 8410.	N	Goals confirmed relative to Met Council and source water protection plans.
39	BWSR	3	3.4.4	40		In Table 3-3, is the target audience for MS4 Outreach only the MS4 partners themselves, or are you also targeting their residents?	Y	Target audience expanded to MS4 partners and residents.

#	Source	Section	Sub.	Page	Par.	Comment	Change Needed	Revision/Comment
40	BWSR	3	3.4.5	42		The drainage system goal addresses inspections and identifies needs, but does not discuss implementation of maintenance or repairs. Consider revising to "maintain functionality of public drainage systems in accordance with the Public Drainage Policy", which also includes the inspection process as a strategy to accomplish this goal.	Y	Text revised to "manage public drainage systems in accordance with the Public Drainage Management Policy. Systems will be inspected per the Public Drainage System Inspection Protocol."
41	BWSR	3	3.4.5-3.4.7	41-45		The plan is missing specific, measurable water quantity goals, e.g. no net increase in volume or peak flows. VLAWMO has standards, and while those standards are potentially changing, they could still be used to frame a measurable goal. Further, if municipalities have water quantity goals and VLAWMO is coordinating to meet these goals, the plan should make this connection in a tangible way.	Y	VLAWMO does not enforce water quantity standards; member municipalities do this. Goal added to summarize East Vadnais Lake project benefits for peak-flow reduction. • <i>Peak Flow (Project 407A): Reduce peak stormwater flows from the East Vadnais Lake Subwatershed project area by 10% during a 10-year, 24-hour design storm event, or to the maximum extent practicable given the uncertainty of future available funding, the final design of the project area, and modifications that may be incurred during construction. This reduction will be pursued through targeted management strategies that enhance upstream storage, conveyance, and water quality.</i>
42	BWSR	4	4.3.3	51		VLAWMO has a robust and well-run monitoring program, for which the stated purpose includes "... to evaluate project and program effectiveness and progress towards water quality goals". However, the water quality goals, as written, do not contain water quality parameters that can be used to assess success or failure of the goal. Because VLAWMO has such an excellent monitoring program, BWSR recommends that goals be reevaluated to include metrics for which the monitoring program can be utilized to directly measure success or failure of the goal. Creating plan goals that can be measured with monitoring data also increases public transparency with respect to how VLAWMO is spending money to improve natural resources.	Y	See response to Comment #35.
43	BWSR	4	4.3.3	51		Text says "...four automated samplers are in place along Lambert Creek to provide continuous flow data", but Figure 4.1 and what should be Table (not Figure) 4.2 indicate that there are only three samplers.	Y	Text revised to 3 samplers for consistency.
44	BWSR	4	4.3.5	54		Figure 4.2 is great; a concise high-level overview of previous plan goals/accomplishments.	N	Comment noted, with thanks.
45	BWSR	4	4.3.7	55		VLAWMO has a variety of highly successful incentive programs. Please ensure that a description of or reference to complete program information (general purpose, amount of funds, eligibility criteria, etc) is provided to meet plan content requirements.	Y	Text added: "Eligibility criteria for specific grant programs are updated on an annual basis. See the VLAWMO website for more information."
46	BWSR	4	4.4	58		The 319 Grant priority subwatersheds are mentioned several times throughout the plan and in the implementation table, but without identifying any projects that would be implemented as part of the program. The Nine Key Elements plan includes specific subwatershed projects and anticipated implementation year, but there is very little connection between these projects and the watershed plan. Could you be more specific with respect to which 319 program projects are likely to be implemented? Also, can you clarify how the anticipated projects in these subwatersheds will contribute to the goals for this plan?	N	Connection to priority resources, projects included as part of partner / grant dependent measure (303 B and C; 403 A, B, C).

#	Source	Section	Sub.	Page	Par.	Comment	Change Needed	Revision/Comment
47	BWSR	4	4.4	58		Please explain or add a brief summary and reference regarding the Grant Program priority zones; where are they and how have then been established?	Y	Text added to plan "The locations of the priority zones for VLAWMO's grant programs can be found on the VLAWMO website: https://www.vlawmo.org/grants/landscape/ ." The targeted habitat priority zones are locations that have been identified by the MN DNR as native plant communities or high potential rusty patched bumblebee habitat areas that should be preserved or restored. The volume reduction priority zones are areas where there is denser development and higher likelihood for flooding to occur.
48	BWSR	4	4.4	58		Priority criteria #4 includes lakes that are "impaired, nearly impaired, barely impaired, or a lake of high biological significance". Are those all of equal importance for targeting projects? Where is progress more likely to happen and be visible/measurable? Suggest prioritizing within this category to help target implementation and make measurable progress.	Y	Specifics added to Resource Prioritization to identify enhanced priority waterbodies: Wilkinson, Tamarack, and Birch. See also response to Comment #31 regarding prioritization of wetlands and parks as identified in survey results.
49	BWSR	4	4.4	58		With respect to prioritization, there are data in the survey to indicate some resources that may be priorities for residents. Granted, the survey results indicated that respondents want to prioritize "all" resources and "lakes", but the reality is that VLAWMO won't be able to make measureable improvements everywhere or protect everything, and much of the general public may not understand the limitations. Drilling down, however, respondents identified Vadnais and Sucker parks and lakes as being very important, followed by Pleasant lake, and then Deep Lake, Birch Lake, etc. Consider using the survey results as well as additional parameters such as TEC/Board priorities, direct or indirect public access, habitat/park adjacency etc. to further prioritize implementation activities.	Y	Specifics added to Resource Prioritization to identify enhanced priority waterbodies: Wilkinson, Tamarack, and Birch. See also response to Comment #31 regarding prioritization of wetlands and parks as identified in survey results.
50	BWSR	4	4.4	76-77		BWSR understands and appreciates the need to provide flexibility to respond to unforeseen opportunities for CIPs through the "Future Subwatershed Capital Improvement Project" activities in the implementation table. However, note that this particular plan reference may not be sufficient for eligibility for some BWSR grants, e.g. WBIF or Projects & Practices. Should a project that falls into the "Future CIP" category arise for which VLAWMO would like to pursue BWSR funding, a plan amendment may be the best option to meet eligibility requirements.	N	Comment noted with thanks.
51	BWSR	N/A				Please specify the degree to which the plan may be adopted by reference by a local government unit.	Y	Text added to clarify the degree to which the cities can adopt the plan by reference. Member cities may adopt the data and maps in the Land and Water Resources section by reference, but not the implementation section.
52	BWSR	N/A				Please include a include a schedule for implementation of local water plans that requires all local water plans to be adopted not more than two years before the local comprehensive plan is due.	Y	Statement added to 5.2.1, "all local water plans must be adopted not more than two years before the local comprehensive plan is due."
53	BWSR	Appendix C				Suggest moving policy documents out of the Appendix and including them by reference. Items in the Appendix are considered part of the Plan, so any significant modification to those documents would likely need to be part of a Plan amendment.	Y	Noted with thanks. The policy documents will be added to the References Cited document with a link to the VLAWMO homepage website to access the policy documents.
54	BWSR	ES		ES3		Second sentence of top right paragraph uses "intended" twice in five words; consider an alternative for improved readability.	Y	Deleted second intend.
55	BWSR	ES		ES6		3. If a resource is <u>in</u> VLAWMO's...	Y	Revised as suggested.
56	BWSR	ES		ES8		Looks like there's a space before "As a joint powers..." starting the second paragraph on the right.	Y	Fixed spacing.
57	BWSR	1	1.1	2		Inconsistent first-line indentations; right-column paragraphs are indented, left are not.	Y	Revised as suggested.
58	BWSR	2		6		Missing half of last sentence in middle paragraph. "This summary is intended"	Y	Revised as suggested.
59	BWSR	2	2.1	7		Consider adding a link to the WBL comp plan for consistency with others	Y	Revised as suggested.

#	Source	Section	Sub.	Page	Par.	Comment	Change Needed	Revision/Comment
60	BWSR	2	2.3.3	11		"RCD <u>14</u> is also..."	Y	Fixed typo.
61	BWSR	3	3.4.5	39		In green box, "Continuously monitor and maintain website;	Y	Revised as suggested.
62	BWSR	Multiple	Multiple			Be sure to update "Appendix X" as appropriate, e.g. on p. 41	Y	Revised as suggested.
63	BWSR	4	5.1	48		Figure 4.1 should be Table 4.1	Y	Revised as suggested.
64	BWSR	4	4.3.4	52		Figure 4.2 should be Table 4.2	Y	Revised as suggested.
65	BWSR	4	5.4	58		Figure 4.3 should be Table 4.3	Y	Revised as suggested.
66	BWSR	4	4.4.7	70		Delete the commentary in the red box	Y	Revised as suggested.
67	BWSR	4	4.5	75		Figure 4.4 should be Table 4.4	Y	Revised as suggested.
68	BWSR	5	5.2	78		Very nit-picky, but noticed the "Enter into contracts & agreements" row in Table 5-1 has "&" on one side but "and" on the other.	Y	Changed both to "and."
69	DNR	2				Rotala ramosior (Toothcup) should be added to the list of rare species in the WMP area. Toothcup was confirmed in the area in 2024 by a DNR ecologist.	Y	Toothcup added as threatened.
70	DNR	2				The WMP should include a discussion of how Threatened and Endangered species are regulated. All projects must comply with Minnesota's endangered species law in accordance with Minn. Stat. 84.0895. Permit applicants should be directed to Minnesota Conservation Explorer to complete an environmental review. Project proposers should be aware that they may need to seek an NHIS review from the DNR regardless of the size of their project area. Early coordination is strongly encouraged.	Y	Text added on how species are regulated as provided.
71	DNR	2				The new WMP should include a discussion of Rare Natural Communities (RNCs). RNCs are determined by the DNR and are a special consideration under the Wetland Conservation Act. A guidance document on RNCs is available at WCA Rare Natural Community Guidance	Y	Included in plan "VLAWMO follows WCA rules pertaining to RNCs."
72	DNR	3				We appreciate the plan's goal of encouraging streambank and lakeshore landowners to plant native vegetation riparian buffers through partnership projects and VLAWMO's landscape grant programs. We recommend that the plan point out the many benefits of using native plants, including: deep roots to help control runoff, reduce erosion, and reduce flooding; providing shelter and food for wildlife, including pollinators; requiring little to no fertilizer, which is a benefit to establishing native plants around water systems; and plants that are adapted to local climate conditions.	Y	Benefits added to plan text.
73	DNR	4				There are numerous online resources that could be included in the plan covering native plants and their use to protect shorelines and streambanks from erosion. These include: BWSR's list of state seed mixes, BWSR's page on native plant identification and establishment, information from Blue Thumb, a BWSR partner at https://bluethumb.org/ , the DNR's native plant supplier webpage, BWSR's Streambanks and Shorelines webpage, BWSR's Lakeshores fact sheet, DNR's Planting Trees and Shrubs on Your Shoreline fact sheet, and DNR's Natural Shorelines webpage.	Y	Thank you, VLAWMO often uses these helpful resources when communicating with the public. Language added "VLAWMO also promotes the State's resources and grant programs as part of its internal grant processes."
74	DNR	4				We encourage VLAWMO to coordinate early with the DNR on the projects identified in Chapter 4, Implementation Plan. Through discussion with the Area Hydrologist, public waters work and water appropriation permitting requirements can be identified ahead of time. By submitting project review requests online to the Minnesota Conservation Explorer (MCE), VLAWMO can identify measures required to protect rare resources, including threatened and endangered species.	N	Comment noted for use in implementation, with thanks.
75	City of WBL	N/A		General		We have enjoyed being a part of the VLAWMO TEC+ meetings during the development of this Plan. The opportunity to provide comments and hear feedback from other agencies during these meetings has helped to streamline the formal review process and make the Plan more relevant and useful for stakeholders.	N	Thank you for your engagement!
76	City of WBL	Multiple		General		Consider adding sources to the maps throughout the Plan as needed.	Y	Sources added as relevant.
77	City of WBL	1		4	Figure 1-3	consider adding another arrow near the outlet of Birch Lake	Y	Arrow added to map.
78	City of WBL	2		6	section 2	complete the last sentence or delete.	Y	Typo fixed.
79	City of WBL	2	2.1	7		revise the WBL 2040 Comprehensive Plan text to be bold and underlined like the others in the list.	Y	Link added.
80	City of WBL	2	2.5	17		revise the last sentence of the first paragraph to include wetlands and lakes as final discharge points, and replace 'filtration' with 'treatment'.	Y	Revised as suggested.
81	City of WBL	2	2.5	17		in the second paragraph, last sentence, VLAWMO also actively supports MS4s by partnering on stormwater BMP projects that help meet TMDL load reduction requirements.	Y	Added that VLAWMO supports MS4s through stormwater projects.

#	Source	Section	Sub.	Page	Par.	Comment	Change Needed	Revision/Comment
82	City of WBL	2	2.5	17		in the fourth paragraph, consider adding a hyperlink to the 'What's in My Neighborhood' text to direct readers to the MPCA WIMN map.	Y	Link added.
83	City of WBL	2	2.7.1	20		the word 'size; is misspelled in the second sentence.	Y	Typo fixed.
84	City of WBL	3	table 3-2	33		remove the word 'for' in last column for Pleasant Lake	Y	Formatting cut line off, fixed in formal review
85	City of WBL	3		35-36		switch the order of the sections to be consistent with the two items listed at the top of page 35.	Y	Swapped bullet points.
86	City of WBL	3		38		flip the boxes around to be consistent with the order of the items listed at the top of page 37.	Y	Revised as suggested.
87	City of WBL	3		39		for consistency, change the section title from 'Outreach and Marketing' to 'Outreach and Communication'.	Y	Revised as suggested.
88	City of WBL	3		41		fill in the Appendix letter in the last sentence of paragraph 3.	Y	Revised as suggested; was a placeholder.
89	City of WBL	3		42		remove the text 'Public Works or' in the last sentence.	Y	Revised as suggested.
90	City of WBL	3	table 3-4	43		add the WBL Sports Center Swale to this table, assuming the maintenance agreement will be finalized soon.	N	The city was a VLAWMO Landscape Level 2 grantee, and therefore does not qualify as a VLAWMO facility.
91	City of WBL	3		44		fill in the Appendix letter in the third sentence under the Stormwater Management Standards section.	Y	Revised as suggested.
92	City of WBL	4		50		update the Program Summary title.	Y	Rephrased to match resource category
93	City of WBL	5		79		revise the photo title to say 'White Bear Lake' or 'Downtown White Bear Lake', and update the website to our new link at www.whitebearlakemn.gov	Y	Revised as suggested.
94	City of WBL	5		80		clarify which NPDES program is being referred to in the first sentence or remove 'NPDES and'.	Y	Revised as suggested.
95	City of WBL	5		82		change Table 5-2 to Figure 5-2	Y	Revised as suggested.
96	City of WBL	5		83		Update the website in the photo to our new link at www.whitebearlakemn.gov , if this photo is from our website	Y	Revised as suggested.
97	MPCA	3	3		Table 3-2	Pleasant Lake – adjust the depth of the row so that it says "No TMDL for Nutrients"	Y	Revised as suggested.
98	MPCA	4	5			Implementation tables – add a description of the toggle switch column.	Y	Revised as suggested.
99	MPCA	5	5.2.2			It is nice to see the WLA and MS4 responsibilities. a. This will help track projects and reductions in the watersheds. b. Consider adding the pounds reduced with already implemented projects or an estimated percent reduction already achieved.	Y	See response to Comment #35.
100	RCWD	3				Shared high priority issues and goals -There are many high priority issues that RCWD is concerned about as well. Surface water, groundwater management, data collection and flooding are major concerns for our district and drive many of our WMP Goals. -As the adjacent Watershed District to the north, we encourage collaboration if there are opportunities to partner on these goals, especially at our shared boundary or where the hydrologic and legal boundaries vary.	N	Comment noted with thanks.
101	RCWD	Multiple				Photo crediting lacked uniformity throughout the Plan. Consider citing all the photos at the beginning of the document (example: Credit for all photos: vlawmo.org) or labeling each photo individually.	Y	Photo credit changed for consistency- added credit at the beginning unless it is a non-VLAWMO photo
102	RCWD	Multiple				Symbology used in various maps: -Some maps were challenging to distinguish between elements in the legend and in use on the map. Ex: page 15 used shades of reds and blues to denote different features on the map. The similar gradient of colors made it challenging to interpret the map's features. Consider alternative solutions like using a variety of shapes for the symbology or more contrasting colors.	Y	Symbology changed to be consistent.
103	Met Council	2		7		Communities will be undergoing a new Comprehensive Planning cycle as early as September this year. Please be prepared to update the links on this page with new links once the new comprehensive plans have been adopted.	Y	Plan will not be edited without an amendment process. Text added that readers can reference city and township websites for the most up-to-date plans.
104	Met Council	2		20		Thank you for including the Met Council's Localized Flood Map Screening Tool as a resource.	N	Comment noted with thanks.

#	Source	Section	Sub.	Page	Par.	Comment	Change Needed	Revision/Comment
105	Met Council	3		36		Please cross check that the groundwater goals address issues identified within the Met Council's Water Supply Plan. To develop the Water Supply Plan the Met Council split the metro region into seven subregions and held extensive stakeholder engagements with each subregion to develop individualized implementation plans. VLAWMO is within the Northeast Subregion and serves the Central Subregion's drinking water supply.	N	The WMP addresses challenges, opportunities, and changing conditions identified by Met Council WSP
106	Met Council	3		39		We suggest adding a measure relating to environmental justice in the Outreach and Community Engagement goal to reflect language in section 3.3.2, "Strategic community engagement in environmental justice areas will be incorporated into implementation of communication and outreach programs and projects where applicable to ensure community needs are reflected in programming".	N	Thank you for your suggestion. This will be pursued during implementation as opportunities are presented.
107	Met Council	4		64		There are reuse projects identified in the watershed's CIP, but there is no mention prior to the CIP of the benefits and challenges of stormwater reuse. We recommend including language about stormwater reuse, and why the projects identified have been identified as potential reuse options. Additionally, the Met Council may have available funding in 2026 for stormwater reuse grants. Please keep us in the loop on these projects for potential support and partnership.	Y	VLAWMO looks forward to learning more about the potential 2026 stormwater reuse funding from Metropolitan Council. Discussion of reuse added to Groundwater goal text: "VLAWMO will seek MDH guidance as needed during implementation of water reuse / infiltration projects to ensure protection of groundwater."
108	Met Council	5		79		We ask that VLAWMO includes a schedule for implementation of local water plans that requires all local water plans to be adopted not more than two years before the local comprehensive plan is due. As a reminder, local water management plans are reviewed by the Met Council as part of the local comprehensive planning process prior to their approval by the appropriate watershed organization(s) and adoption by the community. Local water management plans must be submitted to the Met Council for review and the appropriate watershed organization(s) for approval. Please update the language in this section to include the Met Council's role, to help limit confusion for its communities. We ask that once a watershed approves a local surface water plan they send the notice of approval to the Met Council as well to help inform our comprehensive planning process.	Y	Schedule table added.



Resolutions to Adopt the Plan



Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

520 Lafayette Road North
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

In the Matter of the review of the Watershed
Management Plan for the Vadnais Lake Area
Watershed Management Organization, pursuant
to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231,
Subdivision 9.

**ORDER
APPROVING
A WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Whereas, the Board of Directors of the Vadnais Lake Area Watershed Management Organization (VLAWMO) submitted a Watershed Management Plan (Plan) on February 26, 2026, to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subd. 9, and;

Whereas, the Board has completed its review of the Plan;

Now Therefore, the Board hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Watershed Management Organization Establishment.** The Vadnais Lake Area Watershed Management Organization was established by a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) in 1983 between the Cities of Gem Lake, Lino Lakes, North Oaks, Vadnais Heights, and White Bear Lake and the Township of White Bear. The first-generation Watershed Management Plan was approved by the Board in 1985.
- 2. Authority of Plan.** The Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act requires the preparation of a watershed management plan for the subject watershed area which meets the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Sections 103B.201 to 103B.251. The current VLAWMO Watershed Management Plan was approved by Board Order on September 28, 2016. Three minor amendments were completed between 2019 and 2022.
- 3. Nature of the Watershed.** The VLAWMO watershed encompasses 24.2 square miles in Northern Ramsey County and a small portion of Anoka County. The watershed is bordered by the Rice Creek Watershed District on the north and the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District on the south. VLAWMO is an urban watershed, but contains abundant surface water resources, including fifteen public water lakes, 47 public water wetlands, Lambert Creek, and several minor streams, ditches, and channels. There are also numerous parks and natural spaces, providing ecological and recreational benefits. Importantly, the watershed is home to East Vadnais Lake, which is the drinking water source for over 450,000 people – including the City of St. Paul. Further, nearly the entire watershed overlaps with one or more groundwater Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMAs), most of which have moderate vulnerability to contamination.
- 4. Plan Development and Review.** On December 14, 2023, VLAWMO sent notification of planning process initiation for the 2027-2035 Watershed Management Plan to the plan review agencies and other parties as required by MR 8410.0045. The notification solicited each agency's priority issues and opportunities, water management goals, and water resource data, reports, and other relevant information. The Board of Directors hosted an initial planning meeting on April 4, 2024. Three workshops were held with state, regional, and local partners in collaboration with VLAWMO's Technical Commission between November 2024 and April 2025. Additional input was gathered through several virtual and in-person community meetings as well as via online and in-person surveys.

The draft Plan was submitted to the Board, review agencies, and local governments for 60-day review on June 6, 2025, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231 Subd. 7. VLAWMO prepared a written response to comments, which was sent to reviewers on December 11, 2025. A public hearing on the 60-day draft plan was held on February 25, 2026; no comments were received. The final draft Plan, including revisions based on 60-day comments, was released for agency review and submitted to the Board for approval on February 26, 2026.

5. **Local Review.** VLAWMO distributed copies of the draft Plan to local units of government for their review pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231 Subd. 7. The City of White Bear Lake expressed appreciation for the opportunity to participate in workshops during Plan development and provided a list of minor clarifications, typos, and errors. Rice Creek Watershed District provided comments on shared priorities and suggestions for photo credits and map clarifications. VLAWMO provided responses to all comments and incorporated changes as they deemed appropriate.
6. **Metropolitan Council (Council) Review.** During the 60-day review, the Council offered suggestions for the narrative with respect to local water plans and comprehensive planning as well as environmental justice. They also requested clarification around stormwater reuse practices and targeting. VLAWMO provided a response to comments and made changes to the narrative as they deemed appropriate. The Council stated they had no further comments during the 90-day review.
7. **Department of Agriculture (MDA) Review.** The MDA did not provide formal comment.
8. **Department of Health (MDH) Review.** During the 60-day review, MDH commended VLAWMO for thorough consideration of drinking water protection throughout the plan. They provided suggestions for the narrative regarding fish consumption guidelines, groundwater withdrawal decreases, AIS chemical management, and chlorides as a contaminant of concern in groundwater. Comments were also provided regarding typos, inactive links, references, and other minor errors. MDH pointed to projects and opportunities for collaboration and/or where they can provide more information regarding resources. VLAWMO replied to all comments and made changes to the narrative where they deemed appropriate. During the 90-day review period, MDH stated that their comments had been adequately addressed and thanked VLAWMO for their consideration of and collaboration on addressing MDH's concerns.
9. **Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Review.** The DNR provided comments regarding Threatened and Endangered species, Rare Natural Communities, and utilizing native plants in shoreline and streambank restorations. They also provided several resources for native plant information and encouraged early coordination on projects. VLAWMO replied to all comments and incorporated all suggested changes to the narrative.
10. **Pollution Control Agency (PCA) Review.** During the 60-day review, the PCA provided positive feedback on the inclusion of the WLA (Waste Load Allocation) and MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) responsibilities in the Plan, particularly with respect to tracking outcomes. They also suggested adding language that describes progress to date with respect to pollution reductions. VLAWMO provided a response to comments and made changes to the narrative. During the 90-day review, the PCA noted that they had no further comments.
11. **Department of Transportation (DOT) Review.** The DOT did not provide formal comment.
12. **Board Review.** During the 60-day review, Board staff provided positive feedback on the engagement and issue prioritization process in collaboration with state, regional, and local partners; the inclusion of climate change, resiliency, environmental justice, and chloride pollution; and for creating a well-organized and well-written Plan. Board staff provided comments related to measurable goals and evaluation of progress towards goals, water quality trends, wetland prioritization, flood levels, and a few other items to help bring the plan into conformance with Minnesota Statutes Sections 103B.201 to 103B.251 and Minnesota Rules 8410. Suggestions were also made with respect to water resource prioritization and clarifying incentive program information. Staff sent a list of unofficial typographical, grammatical, and formatting comments. VLAWMO

provided responses for all comments and BWSR staff feel that the changes made to the Plan are sufficient to meet plan content requirements.

- 13. Plan Summary.** VLAWMO has identified seven priority resource issue categories: surface water quality management; groundwater management; data collection; outreach, education, and community engagement; flooding and water quality; policy and facilitation; and community and ecosystem health and resiliency. Each resource issue category has one to three priority issues, and the Plan sets several measurable goals to address these areas of concern. The Plan will build on previous success through the continuation of current activities, such as the Section 319 Program for small priority watersheds, cost-share programs, education/outreach activities, and the introduction of new activities, such as those that address climate change and resiliency.
- 14. Central Region Committee Meeting.** On April 6, 2026, the Board's Central Region Committee and staff met in St. Paul and online to review and discuss the final Plan. Those in attendance from the Board's committee were Joe Collins (in person), Jill Crafton (in person), Jayne Hager Dee (in person), Mark Zabel (in person), Mike Runk (in person), Lori Cox (online), Steve Robertson (online), Grant Wilson (online) and Heather Peterson (online). Board staff in attendance were Marcey Westrick (Central Regional Manager, in person) and Anne Sawyer (Board Conservationist, in person). Others in attendance included Andrea West (VLAWMO Board Director, in person), Dawn Tanner and Phil Belfiori (VLAWMO staff, in person), and Rachel Olm (consultant, online) who provided highlights of the Plan and planning process. After presentation and discussion, the committee recommended approval of the Plan to the full Board.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled.
2. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving the Watershed Management Plan for the VLAWMO pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subd. 9.
3. The VLAWMO Watershed Management Plan, attached to this Order, defines the water and water-related problems within the VLAWMO's boundaries, possible solutions thereto, and an implementation program through 2036.
4. The attached Plan is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Sections 103B.201 to 103B.251.

ORDER

The Board hereby approves the attached Vadnais Lake Area Watershed Management Plan submitted on February 2, 2026.

Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 22nd day of April, 2026.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES



BY: Todd Holman, Chair

Resolution to Adopt the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization's (VLAWMO) Watershed Management Plan

Resolution 04-2026

WHEREAS, VLAWMO has previously approved and adopted a comprehensive Watershed Management Plan ("Plan") as defined by Minnesota Statutes §103B, and Minnesota Rules §8410; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes §103B.231 requires the Plan to be updated every 10 years; and

WHEREAS, VLAWMO has identified the need to update its Plan dated (2017-2026), amended (2019, 2021, 2022); and

WHEREAS, VLAWMO must prepare a Plan and/or update in accordance to Minnesota Statutes §103B, and Minnesota Rules §8410; and

WHEREAS, VLAWMO prepared a draft Plan update and submitted the draft for 60-day review and comment according to Minnesota Statutes 103B.231 Subd. 7; and

WHEREAS, VLAWMO responded to all received comments; and

WHEREAS, VLAWMO held a public hearing on the Plan to discuss the Plan on February 25, 2026, and receive additional comment, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 103B.231 Subd. 7 (c); and

WHEREAS, VLAWMO has completed the Plan update and prepared a 90-day review and approval copy, dated February 5, 2026, according to Minnesota Statutes 103 B.231 Subd. 9; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources completed its review of VLAWMO's Watershed Management Plan and all relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources approved VLAWMO's Watershed Management Plan on April 22, 2026, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 103B.201 to 103B.251; and

WHEREAS, VLAWMO shall adopt and implement its plan within 120 days, according to Minnesota Statutes 103B.231 Subd. 10.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the VLA WMO Board of Managers adopts the VLA WMO Watershed Management Plan.

The question was on the adoption of the resolution and there were 6 yeas and 0 nays as follows:

	Yea	Nay	Absent
Andrea West	☒	☐	☐
Ed Prudhon	☒	☐	☐
Rob Rafferty	☒	☐	☐
Sara Shah	☒	☐	☐
Katherine Doll	☒	☐	☐
Kanne <u>Terry</u>	☒	☐	☐
Jim Lindner <u>Moynagh</u>	☒	☐	☐

Adopted this 17th day of June 2026.

BY THE VLA WMO BOARD

Chairperson

Attest:

Administrator