

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission (TEC) Minutes
July 8, 2026
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Council Chambers
800 County Road E East, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127**

Commission Members Present:

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

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

I. Call to Order

Chair Ousky called the meeting to order at 8:14 am.

II. Approval of Agenda

Hugunin passed out a proposed revised meeting agenda. It contained one new agenda item under V. Programs: CB 2026-01 Minnesota Water Stewards Josie & Caden Hill Community Engagement Application.

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

III. Approval of Minutes (June 10, 2026)

It was moved by Commissioner Tessier and seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve the June 10, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IV. Administration & Operations

A. July Financial Report and Consider Authorization for Payment

Administrator Belfiori summarized the July financial statement as included in the TEC packet. He highlighted expenses from the previous month including those related to lakes and creek monitoring, the carp management program, and consultant work to make the watershed management plan an accessible document.

Administrator Belfiori recommended approval of the July financial report and payment of the bills.

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

V. Programs

A. Update on Neighborhood Garden Tours

Hugunin gave an update on the first round of the neighborhood garden tours. She noted the first tour took place on June 30th and had a strong turnout of about 12 attendees, with many positive interactions. She provided an overview of the project sites from the tour. Hugunin stated that a second round of garden tours will occur on August 25th from 6-7:30pm.

B. Update on New General VLAWMO Resource

Hugunin shared that staff developed a new resource for community events to increase public awareness of the work that VLAWMO does and respond to common questions received at events. The new resource provides examples of the types of work that VLAWMO does, stewardship actions community members can take, and information regarding who we are and which communities our boundary includes. Hugunin said staff can share copies of this resource if TEC members would like it for sharing in their communities.

C. CB 2026-01 Minnesota Water Stewards Josie & Caden Hill Community Engagement Application

Hugunin presented a Community Blue Grant application from two Minnesota Water Stewards for the development of event invitations and materials to support two community events including a neighborhood storm drain and water learning event in August/September and a storm drain cleanup event later in fall. The applicants are requesting \$700 for the activities and staff support for promoting the event. The proposed outcomes are that their neighbors will better understand the harmful effects of debris getting into storm drains and that more storm drains will be cleaned in the neighborhood. Staff recommend approval of the application in the amount of \$700.

Chair Ousky said he is in favor of VLAWMO being present at the events and providing assistance with resident events in general.

Commissioner Hoffman asked if storm drain stenciling has been considered with this application. He offered that he could provide some of the applicants' materials like the dog poop bags and garbage collection materials to help reduce the costs. He also suggested reaching out to the City of White Bear Lake to see if they can waive the rental fee for the pavilion for the proposed neighborhood event.

Hugunin thanked Chair Ousky and Commissioner Hoffman and responded that she will bring up the stenciling idea to the applicants to incorporate it in their application.

Chair Ousky asked Commissioner Hoffman if he wanted to suggest reducing the recommended grant funding with the material changes. Commissioner Hoffman responded that the

recommended grant award of \$700 can remain the same, but more of the funding could go towards education and outreach and the participation incentives instead of for storm drain clean up materials.

It was moved by Commissioner Huntrods and seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve CB 2026-01 in the amount of \$700. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VI. Projects

A. Highlights from the City of Vadnais Heights' Whole-City Resiliency Study

Sampedro provided an update that the City of Vadnais Heights' resiliency study report has been completed, which covers the whole city, building on the previous East Vadnais Lake Subwatershed Resiliency Study. She provided highlights from the report and discussed that more tasks are being completed beyond the study to prepare for potential future implementation of projects recommended in the study.

Sampedro described this study's focus on flood risk and resiliency to climate change, improving water quality, and identifying project opportunities. Sampedro outlined the community engagement campaign that accompanied this study, noting the importance of resident feedback to informing these efforts. VLAWMO and the City of Vadnais Heights staff attended numerous events to generate feedback on the map, and the comments received helped guide further study work. Five project opportunities were recommended through the study. Two possible project areas were identified within the VLAWMO boundary.

B. Update on 319/Phase 2 Project: Tree Survey and Soil Sampling

Tanner presented that staff have been working with Houston Engineering to complete a tree survey for the Phase 2 project and Terracon recently completed soil sampling for the project. She said Houston Engineering has incorporated the tree survey information into the design iteration that is currently underway. She noted the soil sampling results are not ready yet, but when they are, they will be incorporated into the design as well and shared with the TEC.

C. AIS Watershed Notifications from DNR

- a. Amelia delisting for flowering rush
- b. East Vadnais listing for faucet snails

Tanner shared staff have worked with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to delist Amelia Lake for flowering rush. She described the five years of monitoring that has occurred, which is required for delisting a lake. She said the DNR asked for one more year of monitoring. A total of six years of monitoring has been completed. The DNR notified staff on June 2nd that they delisted Amelia Lake for flowering rush. The Ramsey County Soil and Water Conservation Division will be continuing to check the shoreline of Amelia Lake and a nearby wetland area for the presence of flowering rush.

Tanner shared that VLAWMO was also notified by the DNR that the invasive faucet snails were found in East Vadnais Lake. She noted the full infestation report can be found in the TEC packet.

D. Carp Barrier Removal Plans

Tanner stated the carp barrier removal work has been completed of the temporary carp barrier that was in place for the carp management program. She said antenna systems will be installed next year for continued carp monitoring. She noted that if carp are found in the future, trap netting can be done to remove the carp.

Commissioner Miller asked how many tagged carp are still in Pleasant Lake. Tanner responded that staff have only estimates since there are sometimes tag losses, but the annual report from Carp Solutions will have that information.

VII. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Phillip shared that the Township is turning three areas into new pollinator gardens. Chair Ousky asked if the Township has any existing pollinator areas. Commissioner Phillip responded that these areas will be the first.

No other reports.

VIII. NOHOA

None.

IX. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division (RCSWCD)

None.

X. St. Paul Regional Water Services

Jeremy Erickson said other St. Paul Regional Water Services staff will represent SPRWS at future TEC meetings.

XI. Public Comment

None.

XII. Next Meetings

TEC meeting: August 12, 2026 at 8:15 am; Board meeting: August 26, 2026.

XIII. Adjourn

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