



The Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
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Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
July 10, 2020

Zoom Teleconference Open Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83828772829?pwd=RzhmTEFRSGdkYnh6ZHd4cW9vNDc3Zz09>

Join by phone: +1-312-626-6799; meeting ID: 838 2877 2829; password: 234257

Commission Members Present:

Gloria Tessier	Chair, Gem Lake (GL)
Jesse Farrell	Vice Chair, Vadnais Heights (VH)
Bob Larson	Treasurer, North Oaks (NO)
Paul Duxbury	White Bear Township (WBT)
Terry Huntrods	White Bear Lake (WBL)
Andy Nelson	Lino Lakes (LL)

Commission Members Absent: none.

Others in attendance: Phil Belfiori, Brian Corcoran, Dawn Tanner, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO); Patricia Orud, Kate Winsor (North Oaks resident); Justine Roe (SPRWS).

- I. **Call to Order** Chair Tessier called the meeting to order at 7:30 am. A roll call was made for attending Commissioners of the electronic meeting: Farrell: present Larson: present Duxbury: present Huntrods: present Nelson: present Tessier: present.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
The agenda for the June 12, 2020 Technical Commission Meeting was presented for approval. Thompson asked for an addition to the agenda under V. B. Cost Share to include item V. B. 2. Landscape Level 1: 2020-13 & item V. B. 3. Landscape Level 1: 2020-14.
It was moved by Larson and seconded by Huntrods to approve the July 10, 2020 TEC agenda, as amended. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Huntrods: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Farrell to approve the June 12, 2020 meeting minutes, as presented. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Huntrods: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
 - A. **Financial Report for July & Authorization for Payment**
Belfiori presented the July Financial Report for review and authorization of payments. Highlighted page 6 that the budget is tracking at 48% which is about where you would expect for this point in the fiscal year and CIP budget is at 28% but those project invoices will be coming in soon.
Discussion:
It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Larson to approve the July Treasurer's Report and authorization of payments. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Huntrods: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.
 - B. **TEC format meeting discussion**
Tessier provided discussion that she is comfortable continuing with remote meetings. Larson and Duxbury concurred. After brief discussion, the TEC Commissioners verbally agreed to continue meeting virtually and plan on revisiting the meeting format for discussion in October.

C. Budget Discussion

Belfiori provided an overview of the approved 2021 budget which was considered at the June Board meeting. He noted that after extensive discussion at the June meeting, the VLAWMO Board voted to approve a 2021 budget which included total revenue of \$2,029,059 of which \$935,340 is from the VLAWMO Storm Sewer Utility (5% increase in the VLAWMO Storm Sewer Utility from 2020) and the remainder of the revenue being from a MPCA Loan for the Lambert Pond Project, a MPCA 319 Lambert Project Grant, Fund balance carryover from 2020, BWSR Watershed Based Fund grant, local partnership revenue, and fees/investment income. He also noted that the total expenditures for 2021 is projected at \$2,029,059 which will be paid utilizing: 1) \$1,134,380 of VLAWMO funds/ carry over funds from 2020, and 2) \$894,679 of loans, grants and partnerships funds. Belfiori indicated that the 5% budget increase was targeted by the Board for a maintenance project on Ramsey County Ditch 14. He stated that at the August 2020 Board meeting the Board will be considering 2021 SSU fee rates, based on the approved 2021 budget.

V. Programs

A. Education & Outreach

1. Floodplain Friday series

Belfiori overviewed a new video series that Voss has begun to highlight the Lambert Lake and Meander project by expanding on the topic of floodplains, wetlands, and water storage.

2. General update: July-August projects

Voss provided an overview in the TEC packet of VLAWMO's summer Education & Outreach programs and events from July going into August, while continuing to adapt to COVID-19 precautions.

B. Cost Share

Thompson updated that at their June meeting, the Board had some discussion on the Cost Share program, its effectiveness, and the possibility of program budget cuts in the future. Staff is looking to organize a subcommittee comprising of interested and willing TEC and Board members to review the program's funding structure after the August TEC and Board meetings. The subcommittee would likely meet sometime in September and provide input and recommend possible policy changes that would be brought to the October TEC and Board meetings.

Discussion: Tessier and Farrell both expressed interest in joining the anticipated Cost Share Program Subcommittee.

1. Landscape Level 1: 2020-12 Easton Native Restoration, NO

After a staff site visit out to the applicant's property, they had 2 estimates completed for a project that would stabilize the hillside along their driveway with a native planting. The native planting would cover 800 square feet, plant 180 plugs, have a mulch depth of 4 inches, and is roughly 60 feet away from Teal Pond in North Oaks. The applicant has chosen Prairie Restorations Inc. as their contractor for a total project cost of \$2,780, and is requesting \$2,000 in Landscape Level 1 grant funding.

Staff is recommending approval of LL1 2020-12 for funding in the amount of \$2,000.00

Discussion: Farrell asked whether the restoration would be more worthy downstream of the proposed project location. Thompson answered the current location provides upstream stabilization and the applicant is implementing no-mow buffers on the downstream shoreline of Teal Pond.

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Huntrods for approval of application and funding in the amount of \$2,000.00 for LL1 2020-12, as presented. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Huntrods: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

2. Landscape Level 1: 2020-13 Welsch Native Planting, VH

After completion and closeout of their 2019 LL1 phase 1 & 2 native planting project in June 2020, Mr. Welsch has submitted a Landscape Level 1 grant application for 2020 to complete a phase 3 native planting on his property. For phase 3 of the project included on the grant application, the applicant is proposing a 2,000 square foot area planted with 270 native plugs and a pollinator garden seed mix, all to have a hardwood mulch groundcover. The total project cost is estimated at \$1,081.82, and the applicant is requesting \$750.00 in Landscape Level 1 funding.

Staff is recommending approval of LL1 2020-13 for funding in the amount of \$750.00.

It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Larson for approval of application and funding in the amount of \$1,667.25 for LL1 2020-10, as presented. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

3. Landscape Level 1: 2020-14 Wills Infiltration Train & Hillside Native Planting, VH

An application was received for a request to fund a larger-scale native restoration, and rerouting 2/3 of the property's drainage to 3 in-line raingardens, as part of a backyard landscaping overhaul. The Wills recently bought their home in Vadnais Heights and have prior experience with native planting and raingardens at their previous house, and are looking to do the same project with their new home. A quote has been received by a contractor to regrade the backyard hillside that currently drains to their neighbor's property to the west, and route runoff into 3 connected raingardens, totaling 150 square feet. After reviewing the project for stormwater and nutrient removals, the results are meager, but what is expected for a residential raingarden: 48,812 gallons of runoff, .122 lbs TP, and 22.2 lbs of total suspended solids removed, annually. The total estimated applicable project cost is \$16,500 and the applicants are requesting \$2,000 in Landscape Level 1 funding.

Staff is recommending approval of LL1 2020-14 for funding in the amount of \$2,000.00.

It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Larson for approval of application and funding in the amount of \$2,000.00 for LL1 2020-11, as presented. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

Discussion: Tessier proposed a vote to approve the 3 Landscape Level 1 applications in one motion. Larson suggested moving individually. The following 4 TEC Commissioners agreed separate motions per application would suffice.

VI. Projects

A. Lambert Lake Update

Tanner reported that the EAW window has closed, and the finding of fact resolution passed at June Board meeting and has been published in EQB Monitor. DNR permitting is moving forward, and the USACE has no comments with one more step to complete with the MPCA. Project is looking to move forward for bid in August.

B. Yellow Iris Removal and Press

Tanner noted that while staff and volunteers are documenting yellow iris locations, they are also targeting and keeping track of removal numbers. Over 300 lbs was removed on Deep Lake. A permit for removal will be renewed for 2021.

C. Aquatic Veg Surveys with RCSWCD

Lake surveys and reports will be completed this year on East Vadnais & Sucker Lakes to be used for completion of corresponding SLMPs for both lakes. Nearly all of the SLMPs, new and updated, are complete, with only Amelia Lake to be completed in 2021.

D. Wilkinson Feasibility Study Update

Tanner noted that the subwatershed study for potential projects to increase water quality on Wilkinson Lake is moving forward. Two sites were selected by staff for further investigation into possible project design and implementation by SEH.

E. Girl Scouts Silver Award

Tanner has been working with the Girl Scouts on expanding public education for lead sinkers and lead in the environment. The Girl Scouts have submitted their final project report and are awaiting news on receiving the Silver Award.

F. ENRTF/Vadnais-Sucker Park Update

Tanner updated that while not passing in the first session, both the MN House & Senate expressed support for ENRTF program funding, which would include a 45 acre restoration in Sucker Vadnais Lake. More will be known regarding funding once legislation from the Special Session takes place.

G. Frog and Toad Story Map Update

Tanner noted that the Frog and Toad second year of monitoring and surveying has been completed and this information has helped update and complete the Frog & Toad online story map.

H. Remote-camera Story Map

A story map has also been created for a summary of all the remote-camera wildlife survey work that has been completed in the Watershed over the past two years and is available on vlawmo.org.

I. East Goose Boat Access Update

Corcoran reported that the VLAWMO Board approved the memorandum of agreement on the East Goose Lake boat access at their June meeting. The project will include light tree removal, along with grading work. If the Memorandum is approved by the City of White Bear Lake at their July 14 Council meeting, work is anticipated to be completed by the end of July.

VII. Commissioner Reports

None.

VII. NOHOA

None.

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

Roe announced that their contribution to the sedimentation study has been included in the 2021 SPRWS budget, and is pending approval.

X. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division (RCSWCD) Report

None.

XI. Public Comment

Kate Winsor greeted everyone.

XII. Next Meetings

TEC: August 14th, 2020; Board: August 24th, 2020

XII. Adjourn

It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Duxbury to adjourn at 8:24 am. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.