

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission (TEC) Minutes
August 10, 2022
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Council Chambers
800 County Road E East, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127**

Commission Members Present:

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

Absent: None

Others in attendance: Phil Belfiori, Dawn Tanner, Brian Corcoran, Lauren Sampedro, Nick Voss (VLAWMO staff), Patricia Orud (NOHOA), Jeremy Erickson (SPRWS), Ed Shapland (CAC).

I. Call to Order

Chair Jesse Farrell called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

II. Approval of Agenda

Administer Belfiori stated staff requests agenda item 5.B. be moved to 5.A.

It was moved by Commissioner Huntrods and seconded by Commissioner Larson to approve the August 10, 2022 TEC agenda with the adjustment of 5.B. switched to 5.A. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes (July 13, 2022)

It was moved by Commissioner Duxbury and seconded by Commissioner Larson to approve the July 13, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IV. Administration & Operations

A. Financial Report for Payment

Administrator Belfiori summarized the financial report as included in the TEC packet. He said revenues from the stormwater utility fee have been received. Project highlights include design work for the Wilkinson project and the creation of an aquatic plant management policy with consultants.

It was motioned by Commissioner Huntrods and seconded by Commissioner Larson to recommend approval of the August 2022 financial report for payment. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. TEC Report to the Board

Administrator Belfiori highlighted the proposed Biochar Project efforts and the recent work on the aquatic plant management policy. He also said the public drainage policy was completed earlier this summer and staff are assembling an annual drainage report to accompany the policy.

It was motioned by Commissioner Duxbury and seconded by Commissioner Larson to recommend approval of the August 2022 TEC report to BOD. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

V. Programs

A. Watershed Plan minor amendment

Tanner presented the materials included in the TEC packet. She stated staff have worked with BWSR on the proposed plan changes, who approved the draft amendment review process can follow the minor amendment procedure in State Statutes. She noted the specifics required by BWSR that determine how draft changes must be displayed in the plan; the materials in the packet specify what has been changed. Tanner said the next steps following a recommendation from the TEC include bringing the proposed minor amendment to the August Board meeting, soliciting review comments from agencies and local partners, notifying entities for public comment, and Board consideration of the amendment per comments received if BWSR approves. Tanner recommended approval of the proposed draft watershed management plan minor amendment for soliciting for review by agencies and local partners.

It was motioned by Commissioner Duxbury and seconded by Commissioner Tessier to recommend approval of the draft proposed Watershed Management Plan minor amendment for soliciting for review by agencies and local partners.
Vote: all aye. Motion carried.

B. Education & Outreach

1. Website update

Voss presented the current status of the proposed VLAWMO website renovation process. He highlighted the results from the 11 survey responses received, which will be used to guide website improvements going forward. He noted that staff are working on defining a

scope of work and cost estimate with the project consultant. The next steps include coordinating with staff on file management and shared file procedures based on file retention guidelines, and website redevelopment to the newest version of Concrete5 software. Voss inquired about final feedback from TEC and Chair Farrell asked about the potential for an organized photo library. Voss noted that it isn't included in the proposed website document library scope, but he will ask the web consultants about including photos in the library.

2. Good Neighbor Guide debut

Voss presented the Good Neighbor Guide that resulted from a 2022 Community Blue grant led by MN Water Stewards Ceci and Ed Shapland. He stated it will be dispersed to public places in communities like city halls. Voss encouraged partner Cities and Townships to help support the effort by printing additional copies and actively distributing to the public. Commissioner Nelson inquired whether the guide is applicable to requirements in the MS4 permit program and Voss confirmed. Voss thanked Ceci and Ed for their hard work and their volunteerism for this outstanding project. Chair Farrell noted that the City of Vadnais Heights is planning to have a house warming for new residents in the community and could disburse the guide there. He added the City would like to use the guide at the Vadnais Heights City Hall and would be glad to make additional copies as demand dictates.

VI. Projects

A. Birch Lake EWM treatment grant completed and closed out

Tanner stated the Birch Lake Eurasian watermilfoil treatment (EWM) grant went smoothly. She summarized the EWM management strategies; the EWM was more dispersed than previous years so a chemical application was not recommended by Ramsey County nor MN DNR. This meant switching contractors, with approval and permitting by MN DNR, to switch to hand pulling by a licensed contractor. The effort was completed successfully. Tanner noted survey maps included in the packet that show infested areas and a new discovery of an infestation of curly-leaf pondweed. The same grant that provided for this effort in 2022 has a 2-year duration, so curly-leaf pondweed treatment may be included in 2023.

B. Flowering rush on Amelia/RCSWCD check year two

Tanner explained that two points of flowering rush were reported in 1968 and one in 1995 on Amelia Lake, but this species has not been detected in recent years on survey by VLAWMO and Ramsey County SWCD. It was discovered on a private property near Amelia and the property owners as well as Ramsey and Anoka Counties are all willing to

work on treating and re-seeding the area. The new flowering rush infestation was reported in EddMaps by staff and is ~0.2-0.3 acres in extent.

Commissioner Nelson asked for more detail on Anoka County's assistance with the flowering rush treatment. Tanner responded that Anoka Conservation District is less experienced with infestations of the present size so Ramsey County SWCD is leading the effort. Commissioner Nelson stated there may be an Anoka County grant available for invasive species treatment.

C. Wilkinson BMP engineering underway

Tanner provided an update that staff had recent meetings with Houston Engineering (HEI) and visits to the Wilkinson project site. She noted current survey work is underway by HEI to begin preliminary design work for the project.

D. Carp project for spring/summer completed

Tanner summarized that ~21,000 lbs and close to 1,000 individual carp were removed by Carp Solutions as part of the spring/summer 2022 effort. She said this exceeded the targets set by WSB in their recent report from the winter removal attempt. Carp Solutions is conducting a revised biomass estimate and PIT tagging effort yet this summer to document what has been accomplished so far, with respect to the 100 kg/ha management goal, to establish removal goals for 2023.

I. Commissioner Reports

None

II. NOHOA

Patricia Orud provided an update that the NOHOA front entrance project is behind schedule, hopefully to begin at the end of August. She said NOHOA is pursuing a Pleasant Lake buckthorn removal effort by Natural Shore Technologies. After Pleasant Lake the effort will continue to Deep Lake. The "Buckthorn Busters Brigade" is also active at Mary Hill Park. Tanner added that yellow irises are currently being treated at Deep Lake.

III. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division

None

IV. St. Paul Regional Water Services

None

V. Public Comment

None

VI. Next Meetings:

Next TEC meeting September 14th , Next BOD meeting August 24th.

XIII. Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner Tessier and seconded by Commissioner Huntrods to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 am. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled by Nick Voss.