



Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
January 11, 2019
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room

Commission Members Present:

Jim Grisim	Chair, White Bear Lake (WBL)
Gloria Tessier	Vice Chair, Gem Lake (GL)
Bob Larson	Treasurer, North Oaks (NO)
Paul Duxbury	White Bear Township (WBT)

Commission Members Absent: Jesse Farrell (VH), Marty Asleson (LL)

Others in attendance: Stephanie McNamara, Brian Corcoran, Dawn Tanner, Nick Voss, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO); Justine Roe (St. Paul Regional Water Service – SPRWS); Justin Townsend (Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division); Connie Taillon (City of White Bear Lake), Diane Gorder & Kate Winsor (North Oaks)

I. **Call to Order** Chair Grisim called the meeting to order at 7:30 am.

II. **Approval of Agenda**

McNamara proposed amending the agenda to include item IV. C: Grass Lake Discussion.

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Tessier to approve the January 11, 2019 agenda as amended to include item IV. C: Grass Lake Discussion. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. **Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Grisim to approve the December 14, 2018 meeting minutes, with amended changes. Vote: all aye, Tessier abstained. Motion passed.

IV. **Administration & Operations**

A. **Election of TEC Officers**

McNamara presented it is once again the time of year to appoint TEC officers. The Board is responsible for appointing the TEC Chair, but the Commissioners look for recommendations from the TEC for the rest of the Officer roles: Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Liaison to the Board. **Discussion:** Grisim asked if other Technical Commissioners were interested in becoming Chair. The general consensus of the TEC was to keep officer roles the same as 2018.

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Grisim to approve and recommend to the Board for approval the 2019 Technical Commission officer positions as: Jim Grisim, Chair; Gloria Tessier, Vice Chair; Bob Larson, Treasurer; Paul Duxbury, TEC Liaison to the Board. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. **General engineering request for proposal**

At the December 2018 Board meeting, it was approved to move ahead with an RFP to hire a consulting engineering firm to have on retainer for smaller scoping of projects and to be able to query for miscellaneous questions. This would be for smaller projects valued at \$10,000 or under, and with an annual cap budget of \$30,000. McNamara reported the duties and activities an Engineer on contract would assist with.

Discussion: Grisim asked if this would reduce costs for other projects. McNamara answered potentially, but for larger projects they would still need to be bid, but this would allow for streamlined early concept planning. Grisim asked what gap this would fill. McNamara responded this will help with scoping and assistance with the beginning of projects to figure

out advice for the best direction to hasten project advancement and preparation. Tanner asked if getting familiar with VLAWMO and its activities would be necessary. McNamara responded yes, there is wording for this in the RFP. Duxbury asked about the \$30,000 budget and if this would be sufficient to be effective. McNamara responded this first year will give us an idea for budgeting in years to come. Duxbury asked if this would be retainer, or as-needed. McNamara responded as-needed. Duxbury raised the question of what our priority would be, or how quick the turn-around time would be. McNamara answered it would depend upon the agreement and understanding that is struck with the chosen firm, but staff concern is limited.

It was moved by Grisim and seconded by Tessier to approve the posting of an RFP to seek bids for an engineering firm on retainer for smaller projects under \$10,000 with an annual cap of \$30,000. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

C. Grass Lake Discussion – Ramsey Washington Metro WD

McNamara outlined the Grass Lake flooding mitigation plan the Ramsey Washington Metro WD has been working on the last few years, and its status. Tina Carstens, RWMWD Administrator, and their Project Manager from Barr Engineering will be in attendance at the February TEC meeting to expand on future plans for the Grass Lake area, going forward.

Discussion: Grisim asked how long these flooding issues have been occurring in the area, and McNamara responded she had not heard of issues prior issues in years past since this recent occurrence, but also mentioned the Grass Lake WMO was dissolved and absorbed by the RWMWD roughly 5 years ago, and was unsure of what institutional knowledge was passed down in that transition. Corcoran discussed possible WCA ramifications of RWMWD's proposed plan of reducing West Vadnais' ordinary water level by .8 feet. A short video was shown on Environmental Assessment Worksheets (EAWs), and it was mentioned this may be an appropriate avenue to require for understanding possible wetland afflictions. Grisim stated he would like to see staff comments and concerns in the February TEC Staff Memo.

V. Reports

A. Financial Report for January & authorization for payment of checks.

Expenses for this month were presented for review.

It was moved by Grisim and seconded by Duxbury to approve the January Treasurer's report and payment of checks. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VI. Programs

A. Education & Outreach

1. Group education: National/state/local water organizations

Voss presented a new visual guide that illustrates and explains how all of the different agencies interact and deal in protecting water quality. Several upcoming meetings: Goose Lake Stakeholder meeting January 19th, Bearly Open on White Bear Lake February 2nd, Connect the Drops kickoff event February 10th at the Vadnais Heights Commons, and a CAC meeting on March 6th. Citizen Advisory Committee and volunteer meetings are being planned for February and early March. TEC members are encouraged to attend these meeting to provide background and perspectives. Voss mentioned an outgoing RFP for a consultant to present at two of the spring landscape workshops.

B. Sustainable Lake Management Plans – Pleasant-Charley-Deep Lakes

Tanner shared the Charley and Deep SLMPs are completed and posted on the VLAWMO website in the ‘Resources’ tab under ‘Lake Plans & Retrofit Studies.’ The Pleasant Lake SLMP will be posted today (Friday) or next week.

C. LimnoTech DIY automated monitoring system demo RSVP

Regarding the event email that was sent out for the LimnoTech demo session for automated samplers, interested partners are asked to RSVP to Dawn for the February 25th demonstration that is scheduled from 11 am to 1 pm.

D. GIS – GNSS Survey Equipment

Thompson presented information and details on the GNSS survey equipment purchase that was approved at the December 2018 Board meeting. This equipment allows staff to easily collect survey-grade data that will cut down on program and projects lead times and costs.

VII. Projects

A. 4th & Otter Project Update

1. Timeline Update

Thompson reported staff is expecting draft plans from Barr this month for the iron-enhanced sand filter and infrastructure implementation. A project schedule has been planned and is in line for a 2019 install and construction. Staff is continuing to work with Barr and partners on moving this project along. Annual grant reporting will be completed and submitted by the end of the month.

B. Lambert Creek Technical recommendations

1. Lambert Lake Project Scoping

Staff is continuing on working to develop plans and possibilities for projects and maintenance on Lambert Lake. We are waiting on a quote from Curt Peterson for possible maintenance costs for dredging accumulated sediment and repairing the sloughing fiberglass weir on the west shore. Staff met onsite with Joe Magner on January 3rd for possible design and funding avenues.

2. Whitaker forebay maintenance dredging

Maintenance on the Whitaker Forebay in the form of sediment dredging will take place sometime this winter, and has already been postponed several times due to temperature warm-ups. Dredging will bring the forebay back to its original design depth for proper sediment settling and fallout, and the maintenance will be performed by Ramsey County Public Works.

C. Goose Lake Feasibility

1. WBF Goose subwatershed study update

Barr Engineering will have the first draft of the Technical Memo, H&H modeling and engineering delivered in February, 2019 for TEC, Board, and partner review.

2. Stakeholder Meeting and Vegetation Management Plan Update

The January 16th Stakeholder meeting will begin at 4pm and go until 5:15pm at the Vadnais Heights City Hall in the council chambers.

3. Spent Lime Study on Oak Knoll

Barr’s submitted grant application for the spent lime study and application on Oak Knoll Pond in White Bear Lake was approved for 2019 and preliminary work will begin this winter, along with expected implementation this spring. Staff will be assisting heavily with monitoring efforts, and likely with implementation. Homeowners around the Pond will be kept informed on the happenings with the Project. Staff will move forward with homeowner outreach when a grant agreement is signed and executed.

VIII. WCA: 2018 Summary

Corcoran reported that the second half of the WCA sub-grant has been submitted to the RSWCD, and this reimburses for VLAWMO staff time spent on administering the Wetland Conservation Act.

IX. Commissioner Reports

None.

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

None.

XI. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division (RSWCD) Report

Townsend reported the Division is working on an updated Aquatic Invasive Species Plan and assessment for local lakes. February 11th 6-8pm is a stakeholder meeting for comments on the Plan.

XII. Public Comment

Tailon gave an update on the WBL Surface Water Management Plan, and is planning to have a draft ready for review in February.

XIII. Next Meetings

TEC: February 8; Board: February 27

XIV. Adjourn

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Tessier to adjourn at 8:59 am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.