

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization

800 County Road E East, Vadnais Heights, 55127 651-204-6070 Website: www.vlawmo.org; Email: office@vlawmo.org

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS - FEBRUARY 26, 2025, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Attendance		Present	Absent
Jim Lindner, Chair	City of Gem Lake	X	
Rob Rafferty	City of Lino Lakes	X	
Sara Shah	City of North Oaks	Х	
Ed Prudhon	White Bear Township	Х	
Andrea West	City of White Bear Lake	X	
Katherine Doll Kanne	City of Vadnais Heights	Х	
Phil Belfiori	Administrator	X	
Dawn Tanner	Program Development Coord.	Х	
Brian Corcoran	Water Resources Mgr.	X	
Lauren Sampedro	Watershed Tech & Program Coord.	X	
Angela Hugunin	Communication & Outreach Coord.	Х	

^{*=} with prior notice

Others in attendance: Susan Miller (TEC).

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Lindner.

II. Approval of Agenda 🥸

The agenda for the February 26, 2025, Board meeting was presented for approval. Administrator Belfiori requested VI.B.1 be removed due to additional time needed to work through the quote/bid process with potential contractors.

A motion was made by Director West and seconded by Director Doll Kanne to approve the February Board meeting agenda as amended. Vote: all: aye. Motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes 🥸

The minutes from the December 11, 2024 Board meeting were placed on the agenda for approval, as presented. No comments from the Directors.

A motion was made by Director Doll Kanne and seconded by Director West to approve the December 11, 2024, minutes. Vote: Doll Kanne: aye; Lindner: aye; Prudhon: abstain: Rafferty: aye; Shah: aye; West: aye. Motion passed.

IV. Visitors and Presentations

A. TEC Report to the Board for February & Finance Report

Commissioner Susan Miller introduced herself and provided an overview of the February TEC Report to the Board. She highlighted action items from the meeting including approval of the February financial report, approval of two Soil Health Grant applications, recommended approval to the Board of sections 1 and 2 of the Watershed Management Plan (WMP).

^{**=} alternate

Director Shah asked if sections 1 and 2 of the WMP are the same document as VLAWMO's long-range plan. Administrator Belfiori confirmed and clarified the draft long-range project partnership table is in the draft of section 4 of the WMP.

Commissioner Miller described other February TEC actions including recommendations to the Board to proceed with phase 2 of the Tamarack alum project, approve phase 3 of the Rotary Park wetland restoration project, and approve the 2024 Carp Solutions report.

B. Oath of Office - Welcome Director Sara Shah

Director Shah took the oath of office to assume her new role as VLAWMO Director.

C. Public Visitors - Non-agenda items

None.

V. Consent Agenda 🥸

Chair Lindner asked if any Board members wished to take items off of the consent agenda for discussion. Director Doll Kane requested item B be removed for further discussion.

Consent items on the agenda and included in the February Board packet were as follows:

- A. Consider Designation of Legal Publication Press Publications and VLAWMO Website
- B. Consider 2025 Board Meeting Dates (per Board action removed from consent agenda and placed under agenda item VI. A. 2.)
- C. Consider 2025 Public Drainage Ditch Inspection Report
- D. Consider Contracts and Agreements for 2025 (6 total)
- E. Consider HEI Scope of Work for VLAWMO Regulatory Policy Update
- F. Consider Amendment to Tamarack Alum Agreement with Lake Restoration, Inc. for Phase 2
- G. Consider Wilkinson Deep-water Wetland Monitoring Report
- H. Consider Memo on Possible Wilkinson Lake Area Meander
- I. Consider Landscape Level 2 2024-02 Elmwood Park Grant Agreement Amendment
- J. Consider WCA Replacement Plan for CR J Reconstruction Project
- K. Consider 2024-2025 RCSWCD Professional Services Agreement Amendment
- L. Consider Ramsey County MOU to Cost Share on Koehler Road Gully Repair
- M. Consider Letter of Support for LCCMR City of Vadnais Heights Grant Application
- N. Consider Letter of Support for LCCMR White Bear Township Grant Application
- O. Consider 2024 Carp Removal Program Annual Report

A motion was made by Director Rafferty and seconded by Director West to approve the consent agenda except for item B. Vote: all: aye. Motion passed.

The Board agreed to place removed consent agenda item B under agenda item VI. A.2.

VI. Business

A. Administration and Projects

1. Consider Election of Board, Subcommittee Officers, and TEC Appointments
Chair Lindner presented the 2025 appointment needs.

Discussion:

Chair:

Director Prudhon stated he would like to nominate Director Lindner to continue as Board Chair.

A motion was made by Director Prudhon and seconded by Director Doll Kanne to nominate Director Lindner as Board Chair. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Vice Chair:

Chair Lindner asked who is in the role now and Administrator Belfiori responded that it is vacant. Director West nominated to be Vice Chair.

A motion was made by Director Doll Kanne and seconded by Directors Rafferty and Shah to nominate Director West as Vice Chair. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Secretary-Treasurer:

Director Rafferty nominated Director Doll Kanne to be Secretary-Treasurer.

A motion was made by Director Rafferty and seconded by Director West to nominate Director Doll Kanne as Secretary-Treasurer. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Subcommittee:

Chair Lindner discussed the role of the Subcommittee. Chair Lindner and Director Doll Kanne stated they would like to be on the Subcommittee. Director West stated she would join as well.

A motion was made by Director Rafferty and seconded by Director Doll Kanne to nominate Chair Lindner, Director Doll Kanne, and Director West for the Subcommittee. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

TEC Chair and Officers:

Phil described the TEC's officer recommendations including Nick Ousky as TEC Chair, Gloria Tessier as Vice Chair, Terry Huntrods as Treasurer, and Susan Miller as the Board Liaison.

A motion was made by Director Rafferty and seconded by Director West to confirm the recommended 2025 TEC appointments. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

2. Moved Consent Agenda Item B: Consider 2025 Board Meeting Dates

Administrator Belfiori presented the Board is required to set its meeting schedule each year. He said meetings have been historically held on the fourth Wednesday every other month, except for December, which is on the second Wednesday of the month. Belfiori noted that Director Doll Kanne identified June 25th as a conflict for Vadnais Heights because of the League of Minnesota Cities Annual Conference.

Director Doll Kanne asked if the June 25th meeting could be moved to the weeks before or after. Chair Lindner suggested keeping the meeting on a Wednesday and moving the meeting to the week before on June 18th since the week after is the week of July 4th.

Director Doll Kanne asked if there is a VLAWMO conflict to move the meeting to June 18th. Administrator Belfiori responded the June 25th meeting is the planned meeting for consideration of the updated WMP, and an earlier meeting could set back the plan timeline. Director Doll Kanne stated the majority of the City of Vadnais Heights Commissioners would be attending the League of Minnesota Cities Annual Conference and will not be available to attend a June 25th Board meeting. Director Rafferty asked if the meeting could be moved to June 18th. Directors West and Shah stated they are not available on June 18th.

After further discussion, Director Doll Kanne motioned and Director Rafferty seconded to maintaining June 25th as the June VLAWMO meeting date and maintaining the 2025 Board meeting dates as presented in the Board meeting packet. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. Projects and Programming

1. Consider First Two Draft Chapters of WMP

Tanner presented drafts of sections 1 and 2 of the 2027-2036 Watershed Management Plan that are ready for an initial review. Staff have worked closely with Houston Engineering, Inc., the TEC, and the TEC+ on updating the plan. The full, first draft of the WMP will be presented for consideration at the June 25th meeting, which will start the required 60-day review period. Tanner provided an overview of the update process and highlighted that the TEC is the advisory body for the WMP. She stated that the TEC+ meetings are not a required part of the update process, but staff wanted to include agencies earlier in the process for more regular feedback. She noted the feedback received thus far has been formative for the process.

Tanner summarized the content of draft sections 1 and 2 as included in the packet. She noted these drafts incorporate staff and agency comments. She discussed that staff are currently working with Houston Engineering, Inc. on sections 3 and 4 of the WMP, with the goal of completing an initial draft of section 4 for review at the next TEC+ meeting in April.

A motion was made by Director Prudhon and seconded by Director Shah to approve the draft of Sections 1 and 2 of the Watershed Management Plan and include these documents (with necessary revisions) into the next version of the draft Plan. Vote: all: aye. Motion passed.

2. Consider Grant Agreement & Work Plan for '25-27 BWSR WBIF Grant - Res. 02-2025

Sampedro presented a BWSR Watershed-Based Implementation Funding Program grant agreement and work plan, and resolution 02-2025 for consideration.

Sampedro explained the background of the grant program, noting that VLAWMO has served as the grantee for three past program cycles. She stated \$147,921 is available for the VLAWMO watershed planning area for the current funding cycle.

Sampedro summarized the completed application steps for the current funding cycle. Partners chose VLAWMO to continue serving as the grantee and for the funds to be allocated towards supplementing VLAWMO's Landscape Level 2 (LL2) grant program. She outlined the

remaining steps to receive the allocated funds, including execution of a grant agreement with BWSR, approval of the grant work plan, and submittal of the work plan to BWSR. She recommended the proposed motion included in the Board packet.

Director Rafferty asked for a rough cost estimate of the Elmwood Park curb cut raingarden project completed through the grant program. Sampedro replied that the final cost is approximately \$38,000. Director Rafferty clarified if it was a 10%. Sampedro confirmed.

A motion was made by Director West and seconded by Director Doll Kanne to approve the C25-0275 grant agreement and work plan and authorize the Board Chair to execute the grant agreement with the adoption of Resolution 02-2025, with any final non-material changes and on advice of counsel.

RESOLUTION NO. 02-2025 of the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO)

A RESOLUTION APPROVING the FY 24-25 BWSR WATERSHED-BASED IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING GRANT AGREEMENT AND WORK PLAN (C25-0275).

Resolution 02-2025 was moved by Director West and seconded by Director Doll Kanne

WHEREAS, on August 24, 2023 the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) approved the Watershed-based Implementation Funding (WBIF) watershed allocations for the 2024-2025 biennium; and

WHEREAS, funds have been allocated based on watershed planning areas, and VLAWMO is part of the Vadnais Lake Area Watershed Planning Area (Partnership) to which BWSR has allocated \$147,921 for implementation in 2025-2027; and

WHEREAS, VLAWMO submitted a funding request on behalf of the Partnership for the Watershed-Based Implementation Funding grant to BWSR to improve water quality within the Lambert Creek, Birch Lake, Gilfillan-Tamarack-Black-Wilkinson-Amelia Lakes, and Sucker-Vadnais subwatersheds; and

WHEREAS, components of the grant proposal include VLAWMO Grant Program implementation within the counties of Anoka and Ramsey, Minnesota; and WHEREAS, VLAWMO will work with the Partnership and other landowners to pursue project opportunities for implementation of the grant, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the VLAWMO Board of Directors hereby approves the C25-0275 grant agreement and work plan, and authorizes the WMO Board Chair to execute the grant agreement and submit to BWSR, with any final non-material changes and on advice of counsel.

The question w	as on the	adoption (of the	resolution	and th	iere were	_6_	yeas and	_0_	nays as
follows:										

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>		
Andrea West	X				
Fd Prudhon	X				

Jim Lindner Χ Χ Katherine Doll Kanne Rob Rafferty Χ Sara Shah Χ Upon vote, the Chair declared the Resolution adopted on this 26th day of February 2025. Board Chair Dated: February 26 ,2025 Attest Dated: February 26 ,2025

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VII. Discussion

VIII. Administration Communication- Discussion on Scheduling Board Subcommittee Meeting (3/31, 4/1, 4/2, or 4/3)

Administrator Belfiori asked which Subcommittee meeting dates would work for the new subcommittee members. He noted the meeting would likely be at 6:30 pm in the Lakes Room at Vadnais Heights City Hall. Director Doll Kanne responded the first Tuesday in April, April 1st, may be a Vadnais Heights City Council meeting, but the other dates should work. Director West stated she will make any of those dates work. Director Doll Kanne suggested Thursday, April 3rd. Chair Lindner stated that date works for him.

Administrator Belfiori responded he will provide an email to the Subcommittee members to finalize the meeting date.

XI. Adjourn

A motion was made by Director Rafferty and seconded by Director West to adjourn at 7:44 pm. Vote: all: aye. Motion passed.