



The Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
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Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
September 13, 2019
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room

Commission Members Present:

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

Commission Members Absent: Lino Lakes (vacant)

Others in attendance: Stephanie McNamara, Brian Corcoran, Dawn Tanner, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO); Diane Gorder (NOHOA); Kate Winsor (North Oaks); Jeremy Erickson (SPRWS); Brian Olsen (RSWCD); Ed Shapland; Katherine Kanne.

- I. **Call to Order** Chair Tessier called the meeting to order at 7:27 am.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
It was moved by Larson and seconded by Huntrods to approve the September 13, 2019 agenda as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Duxbury to approve the August 9, 2019 meeting minutes, as presented. Vote: all aye, Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
 - A. **Financial Report for September & authorization for payment of checks.**
McNamara presented the September 2019 Financial Report for review and authorization of payments.
It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Larson to approve the August Treasurer's Report. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
 - B. **West Vadnais EAW Update**
McNamara updated that VLAWMO's comments on the draft EAW were returned to RWMWD. There are still attachment elements that should be included with the final version, such as the MNRAM and delineation reports. The EAW requires a public meeting, after a 30-day notice period, and will likely take place at VLAWMO's October 23rd Board meeting. If the EAW findings are accepted, RWMWD has funding allocated to the project in 2020 for implementation.
Discussion: Farrell had questions and comments regarding if it would be just as, or, more effective to lower multiple lake elevations on other lakes in the Chain, as well as West Vadnais, and whether lowering only West Vadnais would make much of a difference. Farrell also asked to have EAW outreach and access extended to the public.
- V. **Programs**
 - A. **Education & Outreach**
 1. **Guide to Watershed Acronyms**
Voss has created a watershed acronyms guide for non-staff and citizen use. The document is up on VLAWMO's website for reference and use.

2. Recent and upcoming events

Voss outlined the past recent events of the Neighborhood plant & garden tour, the Raingardens 101 workshop, and the new neighborhood spotlight articles. Upcoming events for September through October were also overviewed.

3. Water Resources Conference, Girl Scouts, and UMN Service Learning

The annual Water Resources Conference will be taking place on October 15th & 16th this year, and Tanner will be presenting a poster about the swan deaths event that occurred in winter 2018-2019. A Girl Scout troop working with Tanner on a project about lead sinkers and wildlife will be joining her for the poster reception and presenting with her. Tanner visited the Ethics in Natural Resources class on Sept. 10th and is participating in the service-learning project again this fall where students may join staff on specific projects or buckthorn removal.

B. Wetlands updates

1. Otter project update and scat samples

The Board approved staff being a partner to the otter project presented at the August meeting, and will begin soon. Tanner is also interested in telemetry equipment and more will be presented on that at the October TEC meeting.

2. Species of concern data layers update

The species of concern data layer has already been of use for updating Water-willow distribution, and staff has made a request for a sub-license for use by Thompson for GIS and WCA purposes.

C. Cost Share – LL1 2019-07 – VH Native Planting

Thompson presented an application that was received for a landscape level 1 grant request for a native planting in Vadnais Heights. Greg & Judy Lissick submitted their application for restoration of 12,600 sq ft of their backyard in Vadnais Heights that borders the Basswood Lake wetland. They have spent the past 5 years removing buckthorn and have a bid from Landbridge Ecological LLC to finish site prep and conduct the 1st phase of a 2-phase site plan for native restoration. **The applicants are requesting \$2,000 in funding and staff is recommending their application for approval by the TEC.**

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Farrell for approval and funding in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the LL1 2019-07 grant application. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VI. Projects

A. Lambert Creek

SEH is finalizing info to go out for bid this winter for the Lambert Lake project. A pre-meeting has been arranged with the USACE and dredging is not being recommended as part of the project, as basin volume has been calculated to be over design volume. The loan agreement that was approved at the August Board meeting has been returned to the MPCA, and a meeting to update on project changes will be scheduled.

B. 319 Small Watershed Funding: We were selected!

Staff received the news that VLAMWO was selected for funding as part of the small watershed funding grant program, and will begin in 2021. The program runs for 16 years and funding is on a 4-year rotational basis. Staff thanks all of the partners that participated in the interview to make this a reality.

C. Carp Project update and Presentation Nov. 6th at 6:30 pm (in NO)

The Board approved adding a 4th survey run to the carp study in hopes to achieve the 100 tagged carp goal. So far we are at 79 tagged carp and the final run will take place later this fall.

D. Goose Lake

The Board approved the VLAWMO memo to the City of White Bear Lake advising them on motorized boating restrictions on East Goose Lake following a possible alum treatment. Staff submitted the application for a Clean Water Funds grant for alum treatment, and staff will get word on funding in January.

E. Birch Lake: 4th & Otter Project Update

Thompson reported that the first round of bids for construction of the project Tanner also gave an update on the Eurasian Watermilfoil survey conducted by the RSWCD. The amount of coverage on Birch increased from 8% on the last survey, to 11% on the 2019 survey. Birch is a one of our best lakes, so this will be something to watch closely to assess if any management is necessary.

F. City Hall: Buckthorn workdays, prairie burn, and reseeded

Tanner announced the buckthorn workdays at the Vadnais Heights City Hall, and that the VH fire department will assist and perform a prairie burn. Interseeding will take place, as well as plugs planted in spring 2020. Buckthorn Friday work days will go up until October 11th, preliminarily, but may continue based on progress and weather.

VII. Commissioner Reports

None.

VIII. NOHOA

Gorder updated that Tanner held an aquatic plant workshop on September 12th and that NOHOA has found funding for maintenance on Charley Channel for a past restoration.

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

Erickson gave a reminder that the Highland water tower open house is on October 12th

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

Olsen updated that the Lake surveys are complete for the year, the last one being on Birch Lake.

XI. Public Comment

Winsor gave an update the Global Climate Strike Day is coming up on September 20th.

XII. Next Meetings

TEC: October 11th; Board: October 23rd

XIII. Adjourn

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Duxbury to adjourn at 8:33 am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.