

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
December 9, 2016
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room**

Commission Members Present:

Mark Graham	Vadnais Heights (VH)
Jim Grisim	White Bear Lake (WBL)
Chris Mann	North Oaks (NO)
Marty Asleson	Lino Lakes (LL)

Commission Members Absent:

Paul Peterson	White Bear Township (WBT)
Jim Lindner	Gem Lake (GL)

Others in attendance: Stephanie McNamara, Kristine Jenson, Brian Corcoran, Tyler Thompson, Nick Voss (VLAWMO); Margaret Behrens (Ramsey Conservation District – RCD); Bob Larson, Diane Gorder (NO Natural Resources Commission, WAV member); Justine Roe (SPRWS); Marty Long (VLAWMO Board Member); Pearl Crandall (MN Mulch & Soil – guest of Marty Long)

- I. **Call to Order** Vice Chair Graham called the meeting to order at 7:37am.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
It was moved by Grisim and seconded by Graham to approve the December 9, 2016 agenda as amended. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
It was moved by Grisim and seconded by Mann to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2016 Meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
 - A. **Board/TEC Retirement Celebration – Dec 14th - 6pm**

We will be hosting a reception at 6pm on December 14th (prior to the scheduled Board meeting) to honor and celebrate Marc Johannsen and Paul Peterson who are both stepping down from their roles on the VLAWMO Board and TEC, respectively. We hope you can make it to this event.

Graham asked about who will serve as Chair and who on the TEC should be the representative at Board meetings. Graham said he would come to the December 14th meeting but maybe it could be a rotating job among the TEC. Graham stated that he would be willing to serve as Chair but is more than willing to let someone else do it. This will be determined in the first couple of months of 2017.

Marty Long stated that in the past he served as a TEC liaison to the Board.
- V. **Projects**
 - A. **Project Updates**
 1. **Kohler Streambank Restoration**

Brian reported that tree removal and grubbing has been done about 125 feet down the stream. The contractor will be working with the City of VH to do more clearing further downstream. All the buckthorn was removed and treated. The drop structure has been installed as well. Soil lifts were installed with erosion blanket. Now that the ground has frozen, the project is paused until spring. Mann asked about what plants will be installed. Brian stated the majority will be willow and dogwood stakes, some seed and some plant plugs. Long asked if the neighbors are happy with the project. Brian stated that for

the most part, people are happy. One homeowner is concerned about his foundation being exposed and another is concerned that their privacy has been compromised.

2. Whitaker Treatment Wetlands

Brian reported that the contract with Burns & McDonnell is still being worked out. Our lawyer informed us that there were constraints and issues that needed to be addressed given the specifics of this project. At this point, it is just a matter of getting the paperwork put together in a way that appeases all the rules for this type of project.

3. Wilkinson & Goose Lakes RFP

We received 4 proposals from consultants for the Wilkinson-Goose project feasibility RFP. Proposals came from Wenck, Barr (in partnership with Young Environmental Consulting Group), WSB, and HR Green. As a review, the goal of this project is to have a feasibility report outlining the best projects for nutrient reduction in Wilkinson and Goose Lakes. The hope is that the consultant would pull together all the information we have already compiled and review all the existing studies and reports and provide recommended projects or programs with estimated effectiveness and costs. The product should allow VLAWMO to work with partners to implement effective best management practices.

Based on the proposals we received, all 4 consultants would be able to perform the work requested and all have experience working on projects in the metro area. However, we were most impressed with the methods and plan proposed by Barr-Young.

Reasons for preferring Barr-Young:

- Have already invested time into reviewing data and reports and have suggested other aspects for analysis that we hadn't thought of and that the other consultants didn't include in their proposals. They have stated they want to analyze what the primary drivers are for the water impairments and set realistic expectations for each lake.
- Will use multiple experts (stormwater, aquatic plants, modeling, and fisheries) to analyze our existing data and reports and produce a list of potential projects.
- Appear to be willing to make suggestions for projects outside of what has already been discussed and won't be confined to what has already been considered.
- The proposal includes a meeting with staff, PCA and the DNR to go over the draft of the report which no other consultant suggested. Involvement from the State at this point in time would set us up for pursuing grant funding for projects.
- Della Young has a long history with VLAWMO and can provide the necessary background information for the Barr staff. She is also a skilled facilitator who has enabled multi-partner projects for VLAWMO in the past.
- Greg Wilson, Project Manager from Barr is highly respected in the watershed world and has led projects and studies for internal phosphorus load control for several lakes and ponds.
- They have set their budget at \$25,000 which seems low considering all they are planning to do for us but this may be looked at as an opportunity for them to work with a new watershed and this is an investment that could grow. It

looks like we would get a more comprehensive report from Barr than from any of the other consultants.

Wenck was technically the lowest bidder at \$17,568 but their budget had optional add-ons that would bring the total to \$25,280 if pursued. Based on their proposal, significant staff time would be required to complete the report and there wasn't an indication that they would come up with new projects for us.

Recommendation: Staff asks the TEC to recommend the acceptance of Barr-Young Goose Wilkinson feasibility proposal with a cost not to exceed \$25,000 for the Wilkinson-Goose Lakes Feasibility Report.

It was moved by Mann and seconded by Grisim to recommend that the Board accept the proposal from Barr-Young for the Wilkinson- Goose Lakes Feasibility Report at a cost not to exceed \$25,000. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VI. Programs

A. Education & Outreach

1. Cable and newspaper networking

Nick stated three of our videos are being played on local cable channel 16 on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sundays. They will continue to rotate them and will let us post new ones as we create them. The three videos currently being used are the zebra mussel video, Planning for Clean Water video, and our Introduction to VLAWMO's Drainage video. These videos and more are on the VLAWMO YouTube channel and we post them on our Facebook page.

2. WAV winter focus

Nick stated that over the winter, the WAV will learning more about training volunteers for things such as monitoring.

3. Website Update

Nick said that new content is going up on the web continually and there have been some font changes as well.

4. Salt cup program update

Nick said the program is going well. He said the communities have put up information and links to their websites about the program. Asleson said this was a good idea to pursue.

VII. Reports

A. Financial Report for December 2016 & Authorization for Payment

It was moved by Graham and seconded by Mann to approve the treasurer's report and December payment of checks. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Graham asked about carry over items. Stephanie said that she will be finalizing that list today and it will be addressed at the Board meeting on Wednesday.

B. TEC Report to the Board

It was moved by Graham and seconded by Grisim to approve the TEC Report to the Board. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VIII. Commissioner Reports

Mann stated she will be leaving for California again this winter and Bob Larson will be attending in her place.

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

Roe stated that they are doing a lot of winter cleanout of basins. They have been commended for having excellent water quality leaving their treatment plant. They will be looking at addressing the old water mains.

X. Ramsey Conservation District (RCD) Report

Behrens stated they are working on their comprehensive plan and it will go to BWSR at the end of this month. RCD got all their grant applications approved, including one for the Sucker Lake Channel project. The grant will be for native vegetation and will hopefully help to get this project moving. Behrens also stated that a new member of the RCD Board will be starting. The Ramsey County League of Local Governments met last night and David Schultz with Hamline University spoke and asked Behrens to pass along that if we have intern opportunities, he'd like to know and he'd also like watershed staff to come speak at his class.

XI. Public Comment

Gorder stated that NOHOA will be sending out a shoreline preservation information packet to homeowners adjacent to shorelines which will provide educational materials about shoreline preservation and ask if they are interested in being part of a NEST subgroup devoted to shoreline preservation. She also stated that they are working with new contractors for shoreline work in the City.

Gorder also stated that the bridge at the Deep Lake Channel will be needing repairs and they are working to determine what will be done.

Long stated that a homeowner on Pleasant Lake has done extensive shoreline work and they City is pursuing the creation of signs to promote the preservation work that they could move around the lake and encourage others to do restoration.

XII. Next Meetings

TEC: January 13; Board: December 14

XIII. Adjourn

It was moved by Asleson and seconded by Graham to adjourn at 8:32am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Jenson.