



Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
May 8, 2020
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room

Commission Members Present:

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

Commission Members Absent: none.

Others in attendance: Phil Belfiori, Brian Corcoran, Dawn Tanner, Nick Voss, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO); Jeremy Erickson (SPRWS); Connie Tailon (WBL); Diane Gorder (NO); Katherine Kanne, Ed Shapland (CAC); Patricia Youker (VLAWMO Board Director).

- I. **Call to Order** Chair Tessier called the meeting to order at 7:31 am. A roll call was made for attending Commissioners of the electronic meeting: Farrell: present Larson: present Duxbury: present Huntrods: present Nelson: present Tessier: present.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
The agenda for the May 8, 2020 Technical Commission Meeting was presented for approval, as presented.
It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Larson to approve the May 8, 2020 TEC agenda, as presented. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Huntrods: aye Nelson: aye Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Huntrods to approve the April 10, 2020 meeting minutes, as presented. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: abstain Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Huntrods: abstain Nelson: aye Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
 - A. **Financial Report for May & Authorization for Payment**
Belfiori presented the May 2020 Financial Report for review and authorization of payments.
It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Larson to approve the May Treasurer's Report and authorization of payments. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Huntrods: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.
- V. **Programs**
 - A. **Education & Outreach**
 1. **Lambert Meander Online Info-session**
Voss noted that an online webinar open house for the project on May 20th at 6:00 pm with SEH and VLAWMO staff will be held for presentation and discussion of the project. Belfiori thanked Farrell for his involvement and partnership of the City. He noted the multiple benefits in drainage relief and water quality benefits this project contains. Tanner updated that the EAW is still moving towards the final draft and the final draft is scheduled to be sent out the week of the 11th. SEH is working to submit the DNR and USACE permits. Updated plans were received on May 7th for the project, with plans to be included in the June TEC packet.

2. Community Blue scoring chart review

Voss updated that the revised CB scoring chart is ready for implementation for future incoming Community Blue grant applications. Voss noted that this new application will be more flexible for the varying types of grant proposals the program sees.

B. Cost Share

Thompson proposed that due to the high volume of LL1 cost share grant applications this month, the TEC could elect to hear their presentation, ask questions, and then vote to approve all in one motion, if all projects were agreed for approval. The TEC Commissioners agreed to one motion for the approval of the 4 Landscape Level 1 applications.

1. Landscape Level 1: 2020-05 Shapland Turf to Native Restoration, VH

A LL1 application was received for replacing 390 square feet of yard turf with native plants, and is an expansion of the Shapland's raingarden project from 2019. Though the project is not an infiltration basin, it will be receiving 880 square feet of pervious drainage area. The project design has been completed by Greenspace LLC, and project installation, labor and management would be completed by the same contractor. The total project cost has been quoted at \$3,421.81, and the applicants are requesting \$2,000 in LL1 cost share funding. **Staff recommends approval of application LL1 2020-05 in the amount of \$2,000.00.**

Discussion: Farrell noted that the restoration area looked to be on the neighbor's property and asked to have a simple agreement signed by the neighbor agreeing to the project, and then attaching this to the grant agreement. Ed Shapland agreed to this and Thompson noted the agreement will be attached to the LL1 grant agreement.

2. Landscape Level 1: 2020-06 Schmidt Native Restoration, VH

An application was received for a backyard native restoration next to the applicant's pond, and extending along their property line, providing understory revegetation totaling 600 square feet of restoration for habitat. The proposed project was designed and would be installed by Ecoscapes, for a total project cost of \$4,200, of which, the applicants are requesting \$2,000 in LL1 funding. The Schmidts are past LL1 grant recipients and have been good stewards of maintenance with their past projects (front yard infiltration basin and creek bed, combined with a native planting), as well as partners for past Landscape workshops.

Staff recommends approval of application LL1 2020-06 in the amount of \$2,000.00.

3. Landscape Level 1: 2020-07 Ribeiro Native Planting, WBL

Staff was approached by Vici Ribeiro for interest in a native pollinator planting, and has quickly worked to submit an application for a LL1 grant. The applicant's proposed project is comprised of a 50 square foot pollinator garden with 11 species of wildflowers & grasses along with the dispersed planting of pollinator serviceberries, Redbud, and Hawthorn pollinator trees. Vici will be completing the native planting herself, but would be contracting the labor and delivery of the serviceberries and pollinator trees. The total estimated project cost is \$1,356.71, and the applicant is requesting \$1,017.43 in LL1 grant funding.

Staff recommends approval of application LL1 2020-07 in the amount of \$1,017.43.

4. Landscape Level 1: 2020-08 Piper Native Restoration, WBT

An application for a LL1 grant was received by Sonja Piper to complete a native restoration and pollinator planting area where the power company had cut down several large pine trees on her front sideyard, several years ago. The total restoration area is 1,345 square feet and would revegetate a ditch that is tributary and partially drains to Rice Lake. The applicant would be completing the project herself with the total project estimated cost at \$1,782, she is requesting a 75% cost share of the project at \$1,337 for a LL1 grant. This is an excellent and visible location for educational purposes of native restorations.

Staff recommends approval of application LL1 2020-08 in the amount of \$1,337.00.

It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Larson for approval of application and funding in the amount of \$2,000.00 for LL1 2020-05, as amended; \$2,000.00 for LL1 2020-06; \$1,017.43 for LL1 2020-07; and \$1,337.00 for LL1 2020- 08. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Huntrods: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

5. **Landscape Level 2: 2020-04 Monda Lambert Creek Koehler Restoration Extension, VH**
Tony Monda, property owner where the last Lambert Creek, Koehler restoration was completed in 2017, contacted staff with an interest on extending that restoration further down his property. The applicant contacted Outdoor Lab, the contractor that completed the last restoration, to use existing designs to extend the restoration approximately 60 linear feet down the creek bank on his property, and stabilize 800 square feet of the slope. This section of Lower Lambert Creek has very steep banks and is considered ideal and critical for restoration and stabilization.

Staff recommends TEC recommendation to the Board for approval of application LL2 2020-04 in the amount of \$4,416.30.

Discussion: Farrell asked if the boulder hard armoring at the top of the bank was necessary for the project. Thompson addressed that the hard armoring is an important element of the project for permanent stabilization of the bank and has his recommendation.

It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Larson for recommendation to the Board for approval of application and funding in the amount of \$4,416.30 for the LL2 2020- 04 grant application. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Huntrods: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

VI. Projects

A. East Goose Alum Grant Update

Belfiori noted that staff briefed the Board at their last April meeting on the progress and options for the East Goose Lake alum grant. Staff is in continuing conversations with BWSR on Barr's proposed assurance standards and metrics. BWSR has identified some level of concerns with the proposed assurances and metrics to date. The Board voted to move ahead and incur costs for supporting lake management projects including work on a boat launch and fish management. Staff has asked BWSR for an extension of the grant workplan deadline. The Board also voted to appoint Board members Lindner and Jones to a special "subcommittee" to hear and discuss the BWSR proposed project/grant assurances and discuss options, moving forward. The Board then authorized a Special May 27th meeting, to consider the recommendations related to the grant assurance agreement and workplan.

Discussion: none.

B. Lambert Lake Update

Tanner noted this update was covered in agenda item V. A. 1.

C. Carp Project West Vadnais Lake Update

Tanner updated that Carp Solutions is moving ahead with carp tracking, as they are now able to work on projects. The fish barrier in place on west Vadnais will be temporarily removed for work on the outlet, but will soon be put back in place after the project is completed.

D. Watershed Base Funding, Goose Subwatershed BMP

Thompson reported that the Board assigned Tyler to begin work to pursue BMP 14 for project selection at their April meeting, though staff is also keeping the possibility of other projects open for implementation, due to several complexities including the timing of the rush line construction, private property interests and budget factors. . There is another possible project location at Community of Grace Lutheran Church in White Bear Lake where the project parameters could be met.

Discussion: Tessier noted the issue of a basin flooding on County Road F and Hoffman Road. Staff will work with the County to pursue high water issues for this site.

E. Birch Lake 4th & Otter Update

Thompson updated that the 4th & Otter iron-enhanced sand filter project is moving along, as scheduled, and the limited precipitation thus far this spring has been fortunate for the project. Thompson anticipates the project will be nearly completed by the June TEC meeting and will update then.

VII. Commissioner Reports

Farrell thanked Tanner for her work on stabilization and planting plans for the Oak Creek Drive culvert rehabilitation in Vadnais Heights.

VII. NOHOA

Gorder noted that it's reassuring that carp solutions project is moving forward with their carp tracking project.

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

None.

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

None.

XI. Public Comment

Tailon noted that the Polar Chevrolet phase 1 project is underway, including shoreline restoration. The County Rd F raingarden reconstruction will begin Monday, May 11th.

XII. Next Meetings

TEC: June 12th, 2020; Board: June 24th, 2020

XII. Adjourn

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Duxbury to adjourn at 8:45 am. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Huntrods: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.