

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
Technical Commission (TEC) Minutes  
November 13, 2024  
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Council Chambers  
800 County Road E East, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127**

**Commission Members Present:**

Gloria Tessier	Gem Lake (GL)
Nick Ousky	Vadnais Heights (VH)
Jami Philip	White Bear Township (WBT)
Susan Miller	North Oaks (NO)
Terry Huntrods	City of White Bear Lake (WBL)
Tom Hoffman	City of Lino Lakes (LL)

**Others in attendance:** Phil Belfiori, Dawn Tanner, Lauren Sampedro, Brian Corcoran (VLAWMO staff); Jeremy Erickson (SPRWS)

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Tessier called the meeting to order at 8:15 am.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

Chair Tessier added introductions to the agenda and the new Lino Lakes Commissioner Hoffman was introduced. Administrator Belfiori described the role of the TEC and meeting logistics.

It was moved by Chair Tessier and seconded by Commissioner Huntrods to approve the November 13, 2024, TEC agenda. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**III. Approval of Minutes (October 9, 2024)**

It was moved by Commissioner Ousky and seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve the October 9, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**IV. Administration & Operations**

**A. November Financial Report and Consider Authorization for Payment**

Administrator Belfiori summarized the November financial statement as included in the packet. Notable items included payments for year-end lake and creek monitoring, watershed management planning, the Lambert Creek sheet pile loan, the Tamarack Lake alum project, grant program reimbursements, and maintenance work for existing grant projects.

Staff recommended approval of the financial report and bills for November.

It was moved by Commissioner Huntrods and seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve the November Financial Report and authorize for payment. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**B. Consider Moving Regular TEC Meetings Start Time to 8:15 a.m. for All Upcoming TEC + Meeting Days**

Administrator Belfiori provided an update that Chair Tessier suggested an adjusted TEC meeting start time of 8:15 a.m. to reduce the gap between the TEC meeting and the TEC+ meeting that starts at 9:00 a.m. He recommended approval of the adjusted time for TEC+ meeting days and to continue starting the meetings at 8:00 a.m. for regular TEC meetings. Chair Tessier and Commissioner Miller suggested revising all of the TEC meeting start times to 8:15 a.m.

It was moved by Chair Tessier and seconded by Commissioner Miller to revise the TEC meeting start time to 8:15 am going forward. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

- C. Reminder – TEC + Meeting at 9 a.m. Today. TEC + Meeting Packet Information Sent in Separate Email on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>

Administrator Belfiori provided a reminder of the 9:00 a.m. TEC+ meeting held after the TEC meeting. He noted it will include plan review agencies with a presentation and group discussions. Written comments will be requested after the meeting. He added that there will be about three to five TEC+ meetings for the watershed management plan update process.

- D. Update on Communication and Outreach Coordinator Position

Administrator Belfiori provided an update that Angela Hugunin was hired for the Communication and Outreach Coordinator position. He stated she will be present at the next TEC meeting to meet TEC members.

## **V. Programs**

- A. Consideration of 2025 Proposed Grant Program Updates

Sampedro summarized the proposed grant program changes for the Soil Health, Landscape Level 1, and Landscape Level 2 grant programs. One of the main proposed changes was allowing funding to be shifted between any of the grant programs to be more efficient and flexible to meet public demand. Another proposed change for the Landscape Level 1 grant program was clarifying raingarden eligibility and that downspout raingardens are only eligible for the Soil Health grant program. She discussed one of the main proposed changes to the Landscape Level 2 grant program is clarifying that enhanced street sweeping technology is eligible under the program. She recommended approval of the changes to the Board of Directors.

Commissioner Miller stated she likes the added flexibility of the proposed changes. Commissioner Hoffman asked if calculating impervious surfaces should be completed to determine eligibility of raingardens for the Soil Health and Landscape Level 1 grant programs. Sampedro responded that distinguishing the raingardens by downspout raingardens and raingardens that capture runoff beyond roofs would simplify the application process.

Commissioner Hoffman asked if chloride reduction technology should also be added to the Landscape Level 2 grant program policy. Sampedro responded it could be eligible under the

existing policy, but it could be added directly if the TEC would like to highlight it, similar to the proposed street sweeping technology change. The Commissioners further discussed and reached consensus to add chloride reduction language to the proposed program revisions to make the program eligibility more explicit. Sampedro responded she will add chloride reduction language to the proposed changes for the Board of Directors.

It was moved by Commissioner Ousky and seconded by Commissioner Philip to approve the proposed 2025 grant program changes, including adding chloride reduction language as was discussed, to the Board of Directors. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

## **VI. Projects**

### **A. Update on MPCA Grant Application Partnerships with City of Vadnais Heights**

Sampedro provided background on two MPCA grant program opportunities that staff are partnering on with the City of Vadnais Heights; Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant (OSG) and Planning for Stormwater, Wastewater, and Community Resilience Grant. She noted that the grants are focusing on reducing localized flood risk or improving stormwater resiliency. She discussed staff are assisting the City with one OSG application for additional design work for a possible flood reduction and water quality project in the area behind City Hall. Staff are also assisting the City with a Planning for Stormwater Resilience grant application for a resiliency study focused on the remainder of the City that was not included in the completed East Vadnais Lake Subwatershed Resiliency Study.

### **B. Update on Gully Repair Outfalls Construction**

Corcoran presented an update on County Ditch 14 outfall repairs that address gully and erosion issues identified in a VLAWMO ditch report. He described the repair locations including near the Lambert Creek wetland on Edgerton Street and on the Ramsey County-owned section of Koehler Road further west. He noted the Edgerton Street repairs were completed with the City of Vadnais Heights' Koehler Road trail project. Commissioner Ousky noted the other repair is currently underway with Ramsey County's Koehler Road project.

Corcoran noted the Edgerton Street repair included extending an existing culvert under the road, adding a new drop structure, and installing stabilization methods on the banks of Lambert Creek. The Koehler Road repair will similarly include extending the existing culvert, install a new drop structure, and stabilizing the banks of Lambert Creek to address erosion concerns.

### **C. Update on Tamarack Lake Alum Project**

Tanner presented the first phase of the Tamarack Lake alum project that has been completed. She shared photos of the project and discussed some of the project logistics, including how the alum was applied. Tanner stated Lake Restorations, Inc., provided an invoice for this first phase and the Board authorized payment at its October meeting. She noted that 20,000 pounds of alum was applied out of the 78,580 total pounds for the project. Staff are working

on extending the temporary access agreement with Ramsey County Parks and Recreation to allow Lake Restorations, Inc., to start the next phase after ice out next year.

**D. Update on Oak Knoll Spent Lime Interim Report/Memo**

Tanner highlighted that the Oak Knoll spent lime project has been completed. Barr Engineering provided a report containing the initial results of the project. She shared that Barr Engineering determined the amount of phosphorus has been reduced by half, and the pond's transparency has improved. She noted that the total phosphorus reduction estimate is 16 pounds per year and monitoring of the project will continue into next year.

**VII. Commissioner Reports**

None

**VIII. NOHOA**

None

**IX. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division**

None

**X. St. Paul Regional Water Services**

None

**XI. Public Comment:**

None

**XII. Next Meetings:**

Next TEC meeting December 11, 2024 at 8:15 a.m. Board Subcommittee Meeting 6:00 p.m. on November 20, 2024, Special BOD Meeting 7:00 p.m. on November 20, 2024, and Regular BOD meeting December 11, 2024.

**XIII. Adjourn**

It was moved by Commissioner Philip and seconded by Commissioner Huntrods to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 am. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.