



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS – MARCH 2020 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
 March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Attendance		Present	Absent
Jim Lindner, Chair	City of Gem Lake	X	
Marty Long	City of North Oaks	X	
Rob Rafferty, Secretary-Treasurer	City of Lino Lakes	X	
Ed Prudhon	White Bear Township		X
Dan Jones	City of White Bear Lake	X	
Patricia Youker	City of Vadnais Heights	X	
Stephanie McNamara	Administrator	X	
Brian Corcoran	Water Resources Mgr.	X	
Dawn Tanner	Program Development Coord.	X	
Nick Voss	Education & Outreach Coord.	X	
Tyler Thompson	GIS Watershed Tech.	X	

**Others in attendance:** Paul Duxbury (VLAWMO TEC commissioner & rep.); Melissa King, Barb Peichel (BWSR); Connie Tailon (City of White Bear Lake); Rick Johnson (WBL EAC); Phil Belfiori.

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Lindner, and a roll call was made for the Board Directors for the electronic video conferencing meeting, also available by telephone call-in. Chair Linder read aloud the electronic meeting statute protocol.

Roll call: Lindner: **present** Long: **present** Rafferty: **present** Jones: **present** Prudhon: **not present**  
 Youker: **present**

**II. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda for the Special March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting was presented for approval. Lindner noted a date correction for the February Board minutes on the agenda to 2020 from 2019.

A motion was made by Jones and seconded by Long to approve the Special March meeting agenda, as amended. Vote: Lindner: aye Long: aye Rafferty: aye Jones: aye Youker: aye. Motion passed.

**III. Visitors and Presentations**

A. None.

**IV. Consent Agenda**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the February 26, 2020 Board meeting are placed on the consent agenda for approval, as presented.

A motion was made by Rafferty and seconded by Lindner to approve the February Board meeting minutes, as presented. Vote: Lindner: aye Long: aye Rafferty: aye Jones: abstain Youker: aye. Motion passed.

**V. Business**

**A. Administration**

**1. Consideration of Administrator hiring**

After interviewing 3 candidates, the Search Committee has selected a first choice candidate for the administrator position. The candidate (Candidate 1) had been offered the same salary and benefits package as the current Administrator, though negotiations had been on-going for salary and benefits for the Administrator position. The majority of the Search Committee has reached a recommendation for hiring Candidate 1 under agreed upon terms and

conditions that were negotiated with Candidate 1 and provided to the Board on March 24, 2020.

**Discussion:** Jones noted that if candidate 1 did not accept offer, to consider candidate 2 for immediate offering. Rafferty noted that extensive discussion had taken place for all candidates, and that all candidates would have been excellent choices for the Administrator position and it was not an easy decision to make.

A motion was made by Rafferty and seconded by Jones to select Candidate 1 for the VLAWMO Administrator position and approve the terms and conditions in the document provided to the Board on March 24. Vote: Lindner: aye Long: aye Rafferty: aye Jones: aye Youker: aye. Motion passed.

## **B. Goose Lake**

### **1. Alum treatment grant consideration and decision**

After the Goose Lake Clean Water Fund grant application was officially approved by the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) in February, BWSR staff had issued concerns on project assurances, based on changes to the project since the grant application had been written. These changes were: increase in bullhead (rough fish) population, no boating restrictions would be implemented, and stakeholder pushback to an alum treatment and aquatic vegetation regrowth. After multiple meetings with BWSR staff and working with Barr Engineering to update models to reflect nutrient reductions without boating restriction. , Consistent with the March 10 technical memo from Barr Engineering (included in the Board packet) the Project engineering has identified that annual reduction consistent with the proposed measurable outcomes as identified in the grant applicant are still possible, depending on nutrient loading in the given year. Three options for Board consideration were laid out in the staff memo dated March 18 (as revised and sent to the Board on March 24). Staff summarized each of the three options for the Board. Option 1 is to negotiate with BWSR to release grant funding with an assurance agreement that is based on the grant application. The Assurance agreement VLAWMO will sign with BWSR will address all of the project elements above. Issues addressed in the BWSR letter of concern dated 2/24/20 will be addressed using practical options. If within the 10 – 15 year life span of the alum treatment, adequate results are not being seen, the VLAWMO Board understands that additional efforts such as another treatment may be necessary. Additional expense incurred would be VLAWMO's responsibility. The second option would be to decline accepting grant funds, complete the preparation tasks, and a new grant application be submitted with updated information. The third option would be to not accept the grant. Then conduct facilitated stakeholder discussions as described in option 2. Conduct fish removal as described in option 2 and work with the City of White Bear Lake to construct boat landing. If VLAWMO cannot demonstrate support for an alum treatment, we would not reapply for funds in the next round of Clean Water Funding. The third option as identified in the March 18 staff memo would also include a systematic engagement approach with the 58 landowners in the area in an effort to gauge support for the alum treatment. McNamara described the project tasks that are at hand, and specifically identified the list of complementary work that VLAWMO would be responsible for if the Board selected option 1 and decides to go ahead with accepting the grant.

**Discussion:** Lindner asked what assurances Barr provided as part of this. Youker asked what other costs would be necessary for meeting grant assurances. McNamara answered that Barr has extensive prior experience with alum applications and had re-run the model for an alum treatment without boat restrictions and possible lake sediment resuspension. Also that VLAWMO may be responsible for a 3<sup>rd</sup> alum treatment, fully financed by VLAWMO if the first 2 alum treatments do not achieve water quality goals for the assurance period of 10-15 years. Youker asked what the chances for boating restrictions would happen. Jones answered that the boating restrictions on East Goose Lake will not go into effect any time soon. Jones also

identified that an alum treatment this is the most cost-effective way to increase the Lake's water quality. Jones stated he puts all his support behind the grant approval, and that the City of White Bear Lake is putting financial backing behind the project. Youker asked the match amount VLAWMO is responsible for the grant. McNamara answered VLAWMO's match for the grant is \$12,500, and the City of White Bear Lake is agreeing to provide \$35,000 for a total required local match of \$47,500.

A motion was made by Jones and seconded by Rafferty to accept option 1, as identified in the memo dated March 18,2020 (as revised and sent to the Board on March 24) as related to the BWSR Clean Water Funds for Goose Lake Alum Treatment 2020 (C20-6375). Vote: Lindner: aye Long: aye Rafferty: aye Jones: aye Youker: aye. Motion passed.

### C. Cost Share Program

#### 1. LL2 2020-03 Peterson Native Restoration

An application was received for LL2 cost share funding in the amount of \$9,024 for a .26 acre native restoration at a private residence in North Oaks. After clarifying with the applicant, only \$7,932 of the Project was eligible for applying for VLAWMO cost share funds. The February Board memo was unclear that the homeowners had seen a neighbor's native restoration and had heard about VLAWMO's cost share program through them, and had planned to do the same. The homeowner then had a proposal submitted from Prairie Restorations, Inc. for restoring their backyard hillside that was covered with buckthorn, to native vegetation. However, in this proposal, the cost to remove buckthorn was considerably high, so the applicants hired a cheaper contractor to perform the work last fall, and planned to have PRI carry out the rest of their proposal. Their application includes preparation of the planting site by herbicide of current invasive plants, then reseeding and planting with native plugs to restore the project area, totaling .26 acres. At the February meeting, the Board voted to table the approval of grant funding for members of the Board to view the site to verify the project. After this, staff is bringing this project back to the Special March 25<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, and is still requesting approval. **Staff has recommended a 50% match of the requested \$7,932 LL2 funding for the project, resulting in total recommended amount of \$4,000 for funding of LL2 2020-03. TEC concurs and is recommending Board approval.**

A motion was made by Rafferty and seconded by Youker to approve Landscape Level 2 grant LL2 2020-03 for funding in the amount of \$4,000. Vote: Lindner: aye Long: aye Rafferty: aye Jones: aye Youker: aye. Motion passed.

### D. Projects

#### 1. Partnership with RWMWD Carp effort in West Vadnais Lake

Staff has been working on coordinating with Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD) for carp management on West Vadnais Lake. For RWMWD, this is part of a larger effort for carp management on their chain of lakes, and West Vadnais Lake has been identified as a priority. VLAWMO has the opportunity to partner with RWMWD by contributing funds to their ongoing project that would directly contribute to carp management in West Vadnais by means of monitoring, removal, and installation of a fish barrier at the outlet of the Lake. **The cost of partnering for management in West Vadnais amounts to \$12,500 and is recommended by staff and Technical Commission for approval of funding.**

A motion was made by Youker and seconded by Jones to authorize funding in the amount of \$12,500.00 for contribution to RWMWD for carp management on West Vadnais Lake. Vote: Lindner: aye Long: aye Rafferty: aye Jones: aye Youker: aye. Motion passed.

**VIII. Discussion**

Jones noted that Neil Franey passed away and wanted to commend his efforts on the VLAWMO Technical Commission as well as his service in the community. He will be dearly missed.

**IX. Administration Communication**

None.

**X. Adjourn**

A motion was made by Rafferty and seconded by Jones to adjourn at 7:47 pm. Vote: Lindner: aye Long: aye Rafferty: aye Jones: aye Youker: aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.