

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
September 12, 2014
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room**

Attending:

Paul Peterson	White Bear Township (WBT), Chair
<i>Absent</i>	White Bear Lake (WBL)
Mark Graham	Vadnais Heights (VH)
Marty Asleson	Lino Lakes (LL)
Jim Lindner	Gem Lake (GL)
Chris Mann	North Oaks (NO)

Others in attendance: Stephanie McNamara, Kristine Jenson, Brian Corcoran, Vanessa Strong, (VLAWMO); Margaret Behrens (Ramsey Conservation District); Bob Larson (NO Natural Resources Commission Chair); Kimberly Murray, John Murphy (NOHOA); Justine Roe (St. Paul Regional Water Service)

- I. **Call to Order** Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:30am.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
An addition to the agenda is requested – VI. Programs, D. Cost Share Program
It was moved and seconded by Lindner & Mann to approve the September 12, 2014 agenda as amended. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
It was moved and seconded by Graham & Mann to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2014 Meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
 - A. **Updates**
Stephanie stated that the Plan Amendment which attaches the Strategic Work Plan 2014-2016 to the VLAWMO Water Management Plan was approved by the Board at their August meeting contingent on no significant comments by the end of the official 45 day comment period (September 12). We received one comment from the DNR with a minor change request to adjust the order the projects are listed in a table so that it is consistent with other parts of the plan. The plan amendment is now official and will be sent out by Monday. The Board also approved the Data Practices Policy which completes the last action item from our BWSR Performance Review (PRAP). The Board approved the Storm Sewer Utility Rate for 2015 which will be \$28.20 for a single family home. This is a \$0.16/month increase. VLAWMO has officially joined the Ramsey County League of Local Governments (RCLLG). Stephanie also noted that she will be out of town Oct 6 – 20 to go to Boston and meet her new grandson.
- V. **Projects**
 - A. **Project Updates**
 1. **Sucker Channel**
Kristine reported that we have been meeting with RCD and Scott Yonke at Ramsey County Parks to develop the design for Sucker Lake Channel. Mark Graham has been offering his insight and assistance as well. The design is coming along and due to increased costs, it may be a phased project. Kristine is also pursuing grant opportunities to help fund this project.
 2. **Deep Lake Channel**

RCD has submitted a concept design for Deep. Once details are figured out for Sucker Lake, Kristine will start moving ahead with the process for Deep.

3. Community Blue Projects

Kristine stated that the remaining 3 Community Blue projects are being worked on currently. Lakeaires has the basin for the raingarden dug out but it still needs to be planted. Fox Meadow has been surveyed and is planned to be worked on next week. Heritage Estates has a revised design and have been informed that they need to get it in the ground by the end of this month.

B. Grant Requests

The Board gave the go ahead at their last meeting to pursue grants for our upcoming projects.

VII. Programs

A. Monitoring

1. E coli sourcing/monitoring

Brian stated they will be finishing up monitoring this month. The ecoli monitoring is in the process of being collected this month.

Peterson asked about the floating wetland at tamarack and if we will see any results soon. Brian stated that so far, there isn't any change noted. There is debate about the effectiveness of these islands and we are one of the few places that is monitoring to see their effect. Brian stated that Tamarack Nature Center has said that they use the monitoring data and reports which is a nice thing to hear.

B. Events

1. MECA stormwater MS4 training report

Vanessa stated we hosted a workshop on August 14th. There were 60 participants which is one of their biggest workshops of the year.

2. Soggy Yard Solutions – September 17, 7-9pm

This workshop will be held at North Oaks City Hall. Speakers from a company called reGEN will talk about landscape design and how it affects water quality. Kristine will speak about landscaping when you have a wetland on your property and the cost share program. The program is being tailored for the residents of North Oaks (large properties that are often quite shady and wet).

C. Outreach

1. WAV – the WAV met recently and discussed the Photo Contest that is currently underway. Photos can be submitted via email through the end of this year.

2. E newsletter - the e-newsletter went out this week with lots of good information about what is going on in the watershed. Some interesting stats. Since we have started doing this in 2011, we have an open rate of 30-40% which is about double the industry average. The links to pages within the VLAWMO website are also higher than averages. Our first enews went to 117 people and now it is up to 280 so people are signing up to receive the enews.

D. Cost Share Program

Kristine received a request from a current cost share recipient (Cost Share Grant #2014-08 – Michael and Gina Schmidt) to increase their grant. They were approved for a grant in June for \$1200. The costs for their project are larger than they anticipated and would like to increase their grant to help offset the costs. The cost share program has \$208.81 left for the year. Kristine is recommending the TEC approve an increase of \$208.81 for Grant #2014-08, which will exhaust the Cost Share funds for 2014.

It was moved and seconded by Mann & Lindner to approve a \$208.81 increase to Grant #2014-08. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VIII. Reports

A. Financial Report for September 2014 & Authorization for Payment

Stephanie stated that there is an error in the Treasurer's Report this month. The total spent in CIP in September should say \$45,108 instead of \$45,103.

It was moved & seconded by Graham & Mann to adjust the treasurer's report as described above. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

It was moved and seconded by Graham & Mann to approve the September payment of checks. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IX. Commissioner Reports

Graham stated that he will be coming to Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District's Technical Commission meetings which will be made up of City Engineers. It's a new group that has begun meeting.

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

Vanessa asked Justine about the accumulation of zebra mussel shells at the channel going into Sucker Lake and whether the SPRWS would ever excavate them. She said they may have to and that they are dealing with zebra mussel issues throughout the chain of lakes.

XI. Ramsey Conservation District (RCD) Report

Behrens stated that they are looking at redistricting and it will take until the end of the year and in 2016, the entire board will be up for reelection. There will be a State of Water event on September 25th and if anyone wants to come, please RSVP. Perry Jones and Paul Bolstad will be there as well as a rep from the DNR to discuss the northeast metro area water management plan in response to the lake levels in White Bear Lake.

XII. Public Comment

Murphy stated that he felt the MECA conference was great and well done.

XIII. Next Meetings

TEC: October 10

Board: October 22

XIV. Adjourn

It was moved and seconded by Mann & Graham to adjourn at 8:05am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Jenson.