

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
November 14, 2014
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room**

Attending:

Paul Peterson	White Bear Township (WBT), Chair
Jim Grisim	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: Kristine Jenson, Brian Corcoran, Vanessa Strong, Stephanie McNamara (VLAWMO); Margaret Behrens (Ramsey Conservation District - RCD); Bob Larson (NO Natural Resources Commission Chair); John Murphy & Diane Gorder (North Oaks Homeowners Association - NOHOA); Justine Roe (St. Paul Regional Water Service - SPRWS)

- I. **Call to Order** Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:31am.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
It was moved and seconded by Lindner & Grisim to approve the November 14, 2014 agenda. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
It was moved and seconded by Graham & Mann to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2014 Meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
 - A. **Staff Presentation at State Conferences**

Kristine spoke in a session at the BWSR Academy at the end of October. She was asked to be on a panel to discuss going through the BWSR Audit process. Brian will be speaking at the MAWD conference at the beginning of December with Steve Gruber to talk about the E. coli work they are doing along Lambert Creek. Vanessa said the University of Minnesota contacted her to talk about the dragonfly specimens we have collected and wanted our input on how to store and preserve them. Vanessa also attended a Pollinators workshop and shared some of the presentation.
- V. **Projects**
 - A. **Project Updates**
 1. **Sucker Channel**

Kristine is still working on plans for the Sucker Lake channel. Zebra mussel shells were removed. The goal was to remove about 300 yards of shells which would take 30 dump trucks. They vacuum the shells out of the channel and then the shells are pulverized and used as fertilizer. We met with Jim Bode from SPRWS to talk about the channel restoration and he was very supportive of the project. He said he would go back to SPRWS and start discussions about whether they could tie in doing work on the structure under Highway 96 with our restoration work. If so, it may postpone when we do the project so that all partners could be prepared to do the work and include it in their budget. In the meantime, VLAWMO has asked Shawn Tracy at HDR to review the plan design for the northern, higher velocity end of the project to ensure that the design and materials are adequate for the water

flow. Kristine will keep the TEC and Board up to date on the progress of this project.

2. Community Blue Projects

All of the projects are now installed. Vanessa has been working with the sign company to install the bases for the signs. Kristine will get the information entered into the State reporting system so the grant can be closed out.

VI. Programs

A. Monitoring

1. Well Installation Update

Brian stated permits need to be submitted to the State to put in the 3 monitoring wells. The City of White Bear has approved the sites. They hope to install them this winter but if the snow pack is too high, it would be done in early spring.

2. 2014 EQuIS Submission & Monitoring Report Highlights

Brian stated that this year's monitoring data has been submitted to the State (EQuIS). He gave a presentation on some of this year's findings.

Highlights include:

- Gem Lake's chemistry has improved over the last 3 years which may coincide with the work that was done on Highway 61 and the reconstructed grass swales flowing into the lake. There is the possibility the lake may be removed from the State Impaired Waters List. This is the first year in recent memory that there was no large algae bloom during the summer as well.
- Gilfillan is another lake that has been on the Impaired List. Since the augmentation system went in to raise the water level, the water quality has improved (most likely due to dilution). We have been told that no augmentation has occurred the last two years so it has been maintaining its level on its own.
- East Goose has some improved trends the last couple of years but it is still way above State standards. VLAWMO removed the bullheads and the roads have recently been reconstructed which may help with water quality.
- West Goose is still high as well. West Goose's phosphorus levels were almost identical to East Goose. Normally West Goose levels are much lower.
- Wilkinson's phosphorus is over standards but this year the Chlorophyll A is below or at standard. Wilkinson acts more like a wetland and therefore what goes on in the watershed has a greater effect on the chemistry.
- Tamarack's numbers are still high. The floating wetland has not shown any effect as of yet. This is the first full year of monitoring. There were samples taken right next to the island and compared it to samples taken off the dock. There is no difference between the two spots. So far the water chemistry is similar to what was seen in the past. Monitoring will continue. The floating island currently provides good habitat and educational opportunities and will hopefully help improve water quality over the next few years.
- The other lakes are doing well overall. The report will be completed and will be on the website the end of December.
- Lambert Creek phosphorus numbers are still high but the samples at Whitaker were lower than they were in the past. The effect of rainfall can

greatly affect results. We sample every 2 weeks with the hope that getting this many samples helps to create a defensible average.

- The two cell system at Whitaker continues to export phosphorus. However the pond and forebay has shown a positive effect on suspended solids.
- Chloride levels overall were slightly lower than last year. We have been sampling for 5 years and there have been no significant changes within the lakes. Black Lake has the lowest levels. Birch Lake and East Goose are the highest which makes sense due to the proximity to major roads. All of the lakes are below the current State standards. The creek samples are difficult to catch because it has to be done when water is flowing. The sample at the White Bear Lake storm sewer, just above Whitaker Pond, was extremely high compared to last year's sample.
- Overall precipitation wasn't that different from last year. The levels were pretty much the same, except that we got more rain in August this year as compared to 2013.
- E. coli levels showed that the flow in the creek has a correlation to the amount of E. coli in the samples.

B. Education & Outreach

1. 12/3 E.coli workshop with Brian Corcoran & Steve Gruber

Brian stated that there will be a workshop on 12/3 at 3pm at the Fire Station training room. We want the MS4 folks there and would like to see all of the TEC there as well.

2. Media

Look for the winter edition of the E-newsletter. Door hangers were ordered for all the Cities to allow their staff to give out to homeowners to inform them when they do things like leave grass clippings in the street.

3. Website

Vanessa stated that she is working on adding projects to the website and updating content.

C. Annual Report

Planning for the 2014 Annual Report has begun. We plan to have a one page executive summary of the overall report which can be easily handed out.

D. Wetland Conservation Act

There is a fill site by Perkins in Vadnais Heights and there may be a violation. The site was checked and no violation was found. Brian instructed the contractors about what to do to make sure no violations occur.

VII. Reports

A. Financial Report for November 2014 & Authorization for Payment

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

IX. Commissioner Reports

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

XI. Ramsey Conservation District (RCD) Report

Behrens stated that one new member Paul Gardner was elected to the RCD Board.

XII. Public Comment

XIII. Next Meetings

TEC: December 12; Board: December 10

XIV. Adjourn

It was moved and seconded by Grisim & Mann to adjourn at 8:47. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Technical Commission – November 14, 2014

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Jenson.