



The Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
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Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
August 14, 2020

Zoom Teleconference Open Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83828772829?pwd=RzhmTEFRSGdkYnh6ZHd4cW9vNDc3Zz09>

Join by phone: +1-312-626-6799; meeting ID: 838 2877 2829; password: 234257

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:

Others in attendance: Phil Belfiori, Brian Corcoran, Dawn Tanner, Nick Voss, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO); Ed Shapland, Katherine Kanne (VLAWMO Master Water Steward); Jeremy Erickson (SPRWS); Diane Gorder, Patricia Orud (North Oaks).

- I. **Call to Order** Chair Tessier called the meeting to order at 7:32 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 August 14, 2020 Technical Commission Meeting was presented for approval. No new additions.
It was moved by Larson and seconded by Huntrods to approve the August 14, 2020 TEC agenda, as amended. Vote: Tessier: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Huntrods: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Larson to approve the July 10, 2020 meeting minutes, as presented. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Huntrods: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
 - A. **Financial Report for August & Authorization for Payment**
Belfiori presented the August Financial Report for review and authorization of payments and that we are about on-track for where we should be for the year budget-wise. It's expected for more project costs to come in.
Discussion:
It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Larson to approve the August Treasurer's Report and authorization of payments. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Huntrods: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.
 - B. **August TEC Report to the Board**
Belfiori presented the August Technical Commission Report to the Board for review and approval. The TEC Report to Board provides a summary of status on several of the projects and program currently being implemented. He noted that the Birch Lake IESF and Whitaker Wetland projects will be closed out at the August Board of Directors meeting. Staff is recommending approval of the August 2020 TEC Report to the Board.

It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Larson to approve the August TEC Report to the Board. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Huntrods: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

V. **Programs**

A. **Education & Outreach**

1. News: Sucker Channel DNR highlight, Blue-green algae, Floodplain Friday parts 3 & 4

Voss overviewed that the Sucker Channel Restoration project has been featured in a DNR newsletter. It was also presented that August is the most common time for blue-green algae blooms and these blooms may have been and are occurring within VLAWMO. The 3rd Floodplain Friday part is being released today on August 14th. Voss explained that these videos are to support the Lambert Lake Meander project, and Lambert Creek subwatershed work. Voss also mentioned the rainbarrel workshop that took place on August 13th.

2. Birch Sand-iron filter education sign preview

Voss presented the permanent proposed sign that will be placed and displayed for the Birch Lake 4th & Otter Iron-Enhance Sand Filter project, at the intersection of Otter Lake Road and 4th Street in White Bear Lake. The sign will explain how the filter works and the connection to stormwater and lake health.

3. Community Blue: Jr Watershed Explorer Program

Voss presented a Community Blue Grant application from VLAWMO's Master Water Stewards to establish and implement a children's program to explore watershed education and learning by introducing a booklet, which is the ultimate end product goal. Shapland addressed that the whole idea was to implement a fun way for kids to learn and inspire interaction with their watershed and how to protect it, aimed at elementary education and activities during COVID-19. There is also expressed interest from the Tamarack Nature Center for implementation. Staff is recommending the Community Blue grant for approval in the amount of \$960.00.

Discussion: Tessier asked how the product will be introduced to the public. Shapland answered that once the product is closer to finalization, more widespread outreach to elementary teachers and schools will begin. Tessier expressed interest in including the product in City & Township newsletters.

It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Larson to approve the Community Blue grant for the Jr Watershed Explorer Program in the amount of \$960.00. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Huntrods: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

B. **Cost Share**

Thompson overviewed that as was mentioned at the July TEC meeting, staff is seeking at least 2 Technical Commissioners and 2 Board Members to participate in a subcommittee meeting and set a date for a meeting in September. This meeting will be to review the current VLAWMO Landscape Grant Cost Share Program for efficiency and effectiveness, as well as allowing the subcommittee the opportunity to recommend program policy updates and changes for effectiveness of funded BMP reductions and removals. Any recommended changes and draft policy will be brought to the October TEC & Board meetings. Arrangements will be made for the meeting date and time once subcommittee members from the TEC & Board have committed.

Discussion: Farrell & Tessier both agreed this is a good chance to overview and review the program and they are both in for joining the Cost Share Program Subcommittee.

VI. **Projects**

A. **Lambert Lake Update**

Tanner updated that SEH is finalizing project specification and plans for bringing to the VLAWMO Board for approval to go out for project construction bid.

- B. 4th & Otter Restoration update/Japanese hedge-parsley reporting**
Tanner provided a brief update on the recent work to identify and remove this invasive species from the project site.
 - C. Carp projects update**
Tanner noted that the first catch was around a dozen fish, but after reworking, over 100 fish were caught.
 - D. Wilkinson Feasibility update**
Continuation and work with stakeholder partners is ongoing, Tanner also noted that staff was pursuing possible grant funding for projects coming out of this study.
 - E. 319 Priority Watershed process beginning**
Tanner reported that VLAWMO will be eligible to apply for the first round of 319 Priority Watershed grant funding in 2021. She also reported that work in underway to work with the MPCA to initiate development of grant application materials using the EPA planning templates.
 - F. Pursuing single maintenance contract for restorations**
Tanner noted that staff is working to coordinate and consolidation restoration / maintenance contracts going forward in the future.
 - G. Pleasant Lake sedimentation/internal loading results**
Tanner gave some background into the beginning of the project. There is a small hole where Charley Channel enters. The existing sandbar has been determined to be from a prior event 100-200 years ago and is not due to inflow water from the Mississippi. The internal loading cores are showing that the sediments are doing an effective job and storing phosphorus. An iron analysis of the sediment cores was recommended by Barr for further analysis and planning.
Discussion: Gorder questioned carp management and how this fits in. Tanner answered that carp are likely not make a big difference on sedimentation, but their population is above management thresholds, so future carp removal is anticipated to have an impact.
 - H. Deep Lake reporting to MN DNR and Purple loosestrife initiative results**
Tanner noted that after a Diane and Bob helped transplant beetles, they are still around and doing well.
 - VII. Commissioner Reports: Update request from BLID re: annual meeting & City of WBL updates**
Huntrods updated that the Birch Lake vegetation harvester has been scrapped and vegetation harvest is being contracted out for apx. \$16,000 per year.
 - VII. NOHOA**
Gorder updated that purple loosestrife beetles were released 2 years ago on Deep Lake, though there is more purple loosestrife in the area. They are looking for ways to track and find new stands. Tanner recommended EDDMaps and Thompson offered to survey Nearmap aerial imagery to help ID and mark locations. Tanner asked about the Pleasant Lake vegetation removal. Gorder mentioned that there is an active program on Pleasant.
 - IX. St. Paul Regional Water Service (SPRWS) Report**
Erickson noted nothing to report.
 - X. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division (RCSWCD) Report**
None.
 - XI. Public Comment**
None.
 - XII. Next Meetings**
TEC: September 11th, 2020; Board: August 26th, 2020
 - XII. Adjourn**
It was moved by Larson and seconded by Huntrods to adjourn at 8:36 am. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.
- Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.