

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
Technical Commission Minutes  
August 8, 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)
<i>Absent</i>	Lino Lakes (LL)
<i>Absent</i>	Gem Lake (GL)
Chris Mann	North Oaks (NO)

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

**I. Call to Order** Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:32am.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

An addition to the agenda is requested – V.C. Birch Lake 2014 shoreline restoration maintenance.

It was moved and seconded by Mann & Graham to approve the July 11, 2014 as amended agenda. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Larson noted a small typo in the Minutes section IV “role is issues” should be “role in issues.”

It was moved and seconded by Graham & Mann to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2014 Meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission as amended. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**IV. Administration & Operations**

**A. Minor Water Plan amendment**

Stephanie explained VLAWMO has been reminded by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) that in order to be compliant with watershed law and in a better position to receive grants, our recently adopted Strategic Work Plan must be officially added to the 2007 VLAWMO Water Plan through the Amendment process. So at the direction of the Board Chair, VLAWMO staff has been initiating that process. To keep it as simple as possible we are striking some language in the Capital Improvement portion of the 2007 Water Plan and adding one new sentence which will reference the Strategic Work Plan as a new Appendix G. This will be a replacement page 134, attached. Peterson asked if this was an action item. Stephanie stated that it was not. It is just an informational update.

**B. TMDL Implementation Plan**

Vanessa informed the TEC that the VLAWMO Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Report and TMDL Implementation Plan were now complete. This 2 part project began in 2009. The TMDL Report, which determined the sources and quantities of pollution for each of the impaired water bodies, was completed by Wenck Associates and approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on April 3, 2014. The Implementation Plan, which prioritizes strategies for improving our impaired resources, was approved by the MPCA on August 4, 2014. On behalf of VLAWMO staff, Vanessa thanked everyone for all the time and assistance they

contributed towards completing both the TMDL Report and the Implementation Plan. The MPCA has designated a page on their website summarizing the project and posted both the TMDL Report, and TMDL Implementation Plan. It can also be found on the VLAWMO website.

**V. Projects**

**A.1. Sucker channel restoration.**

VLAWMO staff met with partners from Ramsey County Parks and Ramsey Conservation District (RCD). Stephanie updated the TEC with initial plan ideas and layout, including the addition of fishing nodes, educational signage, and ADA compliance requirements.

**A.2. Deep Lake channel restoration.**

A field review of the Deep Lake channel site was done by RCD & VLAWMO staff along with John Murphy, (NOHOA) and Bob Larson, (Natural Resource Commission, North Oaks). A preliminary plan for the stabilization of this area was done 2010 and has been used in planning. Now the plan will need to be updated and construction documents developed. Joe Lochner, RCD would be able to update the plan and produce the necessary construction documents.

It was moved and seconded by Mann and Graham for approval of a professional services agreement with RCD to provide an updated design, construction documents and project management for \$1540, and not to exceed a limit of \$2000 for this project. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**B. Macrophyte Surveys**

Kristine went out with RCD staff on 7/24 to do the Black Lake survey. Initial findings are that the lake has a lot of coontail in the water, along with white and yellow lilies. The wetland area surrounding the lake is thick with cattails but also had jewelweed, marsh milkweed, ferns, arrowhead, sedge, and bulrush. Reed Canary Grass and Purple Loosestrife is also there. There was discussion about the location, ecology, and water quality of the lake. Brian confirmed the presence of wild rice and native cattail.

**C. Birch Lake 2014 shoreline restoration maintenance.**

Stephanie explained that maintenance has not been done on the shoreline this year but it has been discussed with the other partners, the Birch Lake Improvement District (BLID) and the City of White Bear Lake. A steep section North and East of the bench access is undercutting in the high waters of early summer. Last year a silver maple was girdled in a partially successful effort to open the canopy. This would allow grass & wildflower growth on the shoreline. Graham asked if the quote was from Natural Shores. Stephanie confirmed that it was. Peterson and Graham discussed increasing the authorized cost in case it ends up costing more.

It was moved and seconded by Graham and Mann to authorize Natural Shores Technology to install the maintenance along the shoreline for a cost not to exceed \$1700. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**VII. Programs**

**A. Monitoring**

**1. Mid-summer check-in**

Josh gave a presentation of the water quality monitoring results as of mid-summer for the year. There was some discussion regarding the water quality trend for Tamarack Lake over the past several years, and the purpose of testing for Chlorophyll A. The TEC thanked Josh for his excellent report and work.

**2. Equipment Maintenance**

Stephanie and Brian explained the YSI meter which was purchased with grant money in 2008 and had warranty work in 2010 to fix the display, now needs new monitoring probes and display. Current work needed is no longer under warranty. New unit is over \$4,000, maintenance estimated to be around \$1000. Isco Flow meter was purchased in 2010 for around \$3,000, in July of 2014 it stopped communicating with the laptop for downloading of data. Staff worked over the phone with Isco tech support to try to solve issue, tech support determined unit would have to be sent in for diagnostics to determine issue. Estimated cost to fix unit is \$1,100. There was discussion and questions regarding the purpose and level of use the equipment received. Brian stated the flow meter is in place all the time. Mann commented that the equipment received considerable annual wear and tear. It was moved and seconded by Mann and Grisim to approve up to \$2,500 to cover maintenance costs on the YSI meter, and Isco Flow meter. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**B. Cost Share Program**

There is a grant up for consideration this month (Grant 2014-11). This grant request is for a raingarden at a home in Vadnais Heights. The property owners received a grant last year for a raingarden which was installed and has been maintained well. They would like to put in another raingarden on the other side of their front yard to mirror the one they already have installed. Staff recommends approval of this grant in the amount of \$1200.

As of today, there is \$607.10 left in the Cost Share program budget.

**Staff recommends approval of the grant as presented.**

Graham recommended each City site visit all proposed Cost Share Grants in their municipality. Graham has been able to avoid conflicts with Public Works by doing this. It does not take a lot of time and improves the success of the projects for everyone.

It was moved and seconded by Graham and Grisim to approve Grant 2014-11 as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**C. Events**

**1. Dragonfly Program**

Events' – 7/17, 7/26, 8/7, 8/23 – Tamarack Nature Center Kids Camps 7/23 for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders & 8/5 for 1<sup>st</sup> and second graders.

Vanessa summarized the very successful partnerships and activities of the Dragonfly Monitoring Program so far this year The 2014 Annual Dragonfly Report will be completed at the end of the year

**2. MECA stormwater**

Aug 19 – 9:00am-3:30pm VH Commons. For municipal staff and private contractors. There are already 55 people registered for the event with more still coming in.

**3. Soggy Yard Solutions**

Sept. 17 – 7-9pm with co-sponsors NRC & NOHOA

Topics include: Lakeshore Gardening, Healthy Yards, Clean Water

**D. Outreach**

**1. WAV**

Meeting coming up on August 28

**2. Community Events: Marketfest & Township Day**

Marketfest was once again a huge success. Community Blue grant recipients helped man the VLAWMO booth as part of their in-kind match efforts.

VLAWMO would still like to have handouts available at Township Day pending coordination with their liaison. .

**VIII. Reports**

**A. Financial Report for August 2014 & Authorization for Payment**

It was moved and seconded by Mann and Grisim to approve the August Financial Report and approve payment of checks. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**B. TEC Report to the Board**

It was moved and seconded by Mann and Graham to approve the August TEC Report to the Board. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**IX. Commissioner Reports**

Graham invited everyone to attend the upcoming Vadnais Heights Heritage Days

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

Justine stated they had just completed the SPRWS well study to determine if they could meet demand if surface water was not available. Back-up looks good. Users might notice an increase in sludge (hard water). Graham stated one of Vadnais Heights wells dropped 5 feet during the study. Justine also discussed the confirmed presence of zebra mussels in Pleasant Lake and the potential need to start copper treatment.

**XI. Ramsey Conservation District (RCD) Report**

Behrens stated they are getting ready for Monday's tour with the Ramsey County Board to show them projects RCD is working on. Behrens also invited everyone to attend their State of the Water part 2 workshop on September 25th.

**XII. Public Comment**

**XIII. Next Meetings**

TEC: September 12

Board: August 27

**XIV. Adjourn**

It was moved and seconded by Graham and Grisim to adjourn at 8:33am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Vanessa Strong.