

SECTION 5. PLAN ADMINISTRATION

5.1 Implementation Budget and Funding Sources

The VLAWMO Implementation Table (Table 4-6) includes an estimated annual cost for each program, technical work activity, or project. Administration (100), VLAWMO Implementation Programs (200), Project Technical Work (300) and Capital Improvement Projects (400) make up the VLAWMO budget.

VLAWMO's Joint Powers Agreement allows for a variety of funding mechanisms. The chief funding method that will continue to be used is the Storm Sewer Utility (SSU) fee. The SSU Rule is included in Appendix X of this Plan. It was adopted by the Board in 2007 and provides a funding mechanism based on land use classification. Fees are collected by the counties through the property tax collection system. The SSU provides a stable source of funding for the watershed.



Sucker Lake channel restoration

Many of the projects VLAWMO implements are funded fully or in part through grants, including grants awarded directly to VLAWMO or grants received by partnering organizations. Examples of these grants include:

- 💧 BWSR: Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF), Clean Water Fund Projects and Practices
- 💧 EPA/MPCA: Section 319 of the Clean Water Act

These examples are not intended to be all-inclusive.

5.2 Roles and Responsibilities

The Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act defines specific authorities and requirements for different types of watershed management organizations. As a joint powers watershed management organization (WMO), Table 5-1 identifies those responsibilities as mandatory (M) or discretionary (D) and the role VLAWMO will assume in each case.

This plan serves as a guide to identify issues, set goals, and plan activities that will occur in the watershed. Separately from this plan, VLAWMO's Water Management Policy outlines requirements



within the watershed that are provided by VLAWMO for adoption and enforcement by the member communities.

Table 5-1. VLAWMO mandatory and discretionary responsibilities.

Duties and Responsibilities	Joint Powers WMO	Vadnais Lakes Area WMO
Adopt a Watershed Management Plan	M	Adopts a Watershed Management Plan
Prepare an Annual Report and Monitoring Report	M	Prepares an Annual Report and Annual Monitoring Report (see 5.3.2)
Appoint an advisory committee	M	Appoints a TEC
Manage transferred drainage system	D	VLAWMO manages drainage authority over RCD 14 per 103B and develops annual inspection report
Adopt water management regulations	D	Water management standards for member communities have been adopted in its Water Management Policy
Hire employees	D	Hires employees
Enter into contracts & agreements	D	Enters into contracts and agreements
Administer the Wetland Conservation Act	D	Yes, as WCA Local Government Unit
Initiate capital improvement projects	D	Initiates capital improvement projects with partners / member communities
Review and approve local water management plans	M	Reviews and approves local water management plans
Finance Authority	D	Establishes an annual storm sewer utility fee
Publish Annual Newsletter	M	Prepares and distributes newsletter at least annually

VLAWMO does not exercise land use or permitting authority. A member community must adopt the standards identified in the VLAWMO Water Management Policy into its official controls. VLAWMO may provide “advisory” comments upon request from a member community.

5.2.1 Local Water Management Plans

All municipalities within VLAWMO are required to complete and adopt a local water management plan that conforms to Minnesota Statutes 103B.235 and Minnesota Rules 8410.0160 (Table 5-2). Local water management plans must be approved by VLAWMO before they can be locally adopted and implemented. Municipalities have land use and regulatory responsibilities that impact water quality, and these responsibilities need to align with the current VLAWMO Water Management Policy. Local water management plans need to be reviewed (and updated if necessary) for consistency with this plan. Table 5-2 provides a summary of the status of local water management plan adoption and implementation of activities per Minnesota Rules 8410.0150.



Table 5-2. Local Water Management Plans

Community	Plan Last Updated
Gem Lake	2018
Lino Lakes	2018
North Oaks	2008
Vadnais Heights	2018
White Bear Lake	2021
White Bear Township	2019

5.2.2 MS4 Responsibilities

Each of the MS4s in VLAWMO are responsible for ensuring local activities meet NPDES and MS4 standards. Waste load allocations are assigned to MS4s within VLAWMO for five lakes with nutrient impairments and Lambert Creek with a bacteria impairment (note that Gem Lake has since been delisted). While VLAWMO protects water quality through plan actions, VLAWMO is not the entity responsible for TMDL compliance. MS4s have waste load allocations applicable to each TMDL and they are responsible for achieving and reporting to the MPCA.

The TMDL and Protection study is available here: [Vadnais Lake Area WMO Total Maximum Daily Load \(TMDL\) and Protection Study](#).

Table 5-3. Total Phosphorus (TP) Wasteload Allocations (WLAs) for MS4s* in the 2014 TMDL

	WLA (lbs/year TP) for lakes			
	East Goose	West Goose	Gilfillan	Wilkinson
M-Foods Dairy		24.7		
Anoka County				0.1
City of Gem Lake	2.2	2.8		
City of Lino Lakes				1.2
MnDOT	7.9	3.6		47.2
City of North Oaks			14.7	26.4
Ramsey County	3.9	1.6	0.5	1.8
City of Vadnais Heights			0.1	
City of White Bear Lake	64.7	7.3		35.1
White Bear Township			1.7	67.6
Total WLA by waterbody	78.7	40.0	17.0	179.4
Total TMDL by waterbody**	187.9	224.2	164.7	321.8

*See MPCA for current MS4 status

**WLA in addition to load allocation and margin of safety



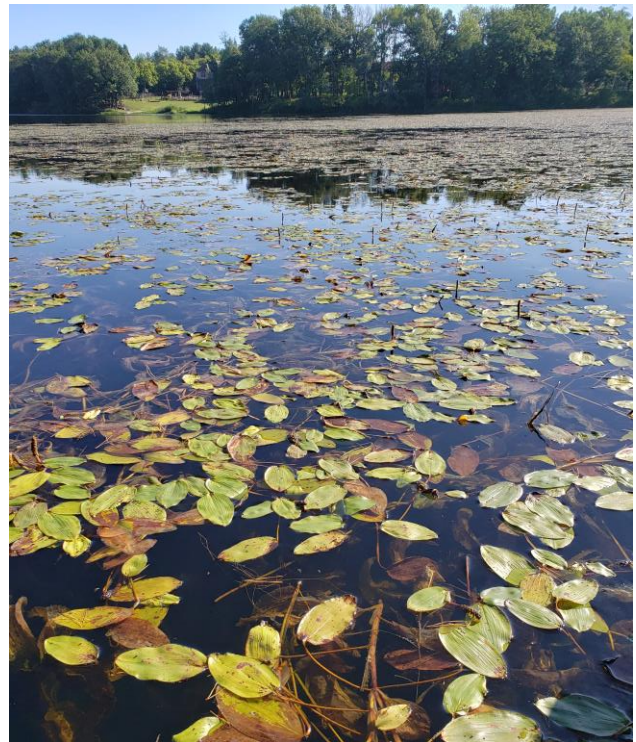
Table 5-4. Bacteria WLA for Lambert Creek.

	WLA (billions of organisms per day) under flow conditions				
	Low Flow	Dry	Mid-Range	Wet	High Flow
City of Gem Lake	0.00	0.04	0.10	0.21	0.68
MnDOT	0.00	0.06	0.17	0.36	1.17
Ramsey County	0.00	0.03	0.08	0.17	0.56
City of Vadnais Heights	0.00	0.45	1.28	2.73	8.78
City of White Bear Lake	0.00	0.19	0.55	1.16	3.74
White Bear Township	0.00	0.02	0.07	0.15	0.45
Total WLA by flow condition	0.00	0.79	2.25	4.78	15.38
Total TMDL in flow condition*	0.00	1.08	3.08	6.54	21.04

*WLA in addition to load allocation and margin of safety

5.2.3 Enforcement and Regulation

MPCA is responsible for ensuring MS4 permit and TMDL compliance. Member communities are responsible for enforcement of the VLAWMO Water Management Policy as adopted in the communities' local water management plans. VLAWMO does not conduct enforcement for MS4 permits and TMDL compliance. If standards are not met, VLAWMO defers enforcement to the appropriate state agency. If a member community fails to implement the VLAWMO water management standards within its local water management plan, VLAWMO reserves the right to rescind plan approval and administer its Water Management Policy.



Gem Lake



5.3 Annual Work Planning and Adaptive Management

The Implementation Table (Table 4-6) includes programs, technical work, and projects planned over the next ten years. During this time, new information may evolve, priorities may shift, and funding resources may change, all of which may impact the activities planned. VLAWMO collaborates annually with local partners on the long range project partnership table and annual budgeting process. VLAWMO will evaluate, report on, and adapt its implementation plan to reflect changing conditions through annual work planning, the Annual Report, and assessments (Figure 5-1).

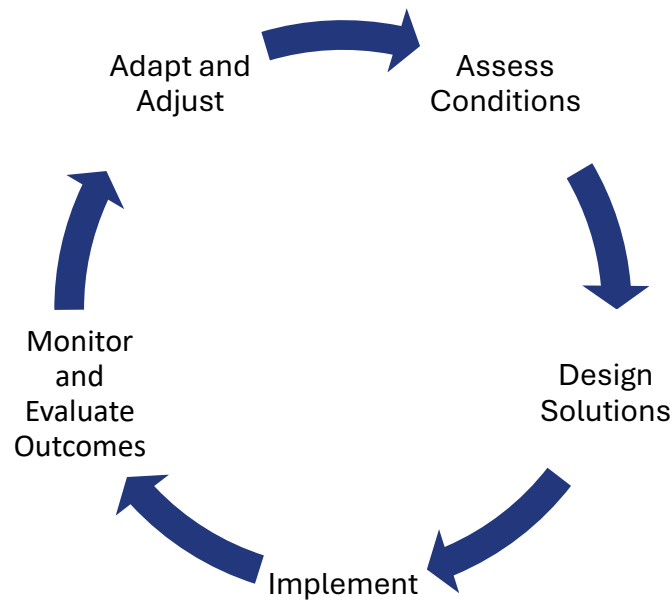


Figure 5-1. Adaptive Management Approach

5.3.1 Annual Work Planning

Annual work planning will be undertaken each year to outline planned programs, technical work, and projects over the next year with given data, priorities, and funding.

The Implementation Table will serve as a guide for development of the annual work plan; however, the annual work plan can adjust projects and programs listed in the Implementation Table based on changing factors. Factors that VLAWMO will consider during the development of the annual work plan include, but are not limited to:

- 💧 the findings of feasibility studies or new data,
- 💧 partner priorities and funding,
- 💧 available grants,



- the annual budget, and
- input from the TEC and Board.

Ultimately, the Implementation Table will be used as a statement of intent, given information known at the time of plan writing. Final decisions on implementation activities rest with the Board to budget for and authorize via the annual work plan.

5.3.2 Annual Report

Within the first 120 days of the calendar year, VLAWMO will submit to BWSR and activity report for the previous calendar year, per Minnesota Rules 8410.0150. Information required in the activity report will stem from VLAWMO's Annual Report.

VLAWMO's Annual Report reviews programs, technical work, and projects completed in the past year and sets the work plan for the following year. The report is generated with the intent to be used as an outreach and communication tool, as it provides an overview of what VLAWMO does and how community members can get involved. An overview of the content included in the Annual Report is shown in Figure 5-2.

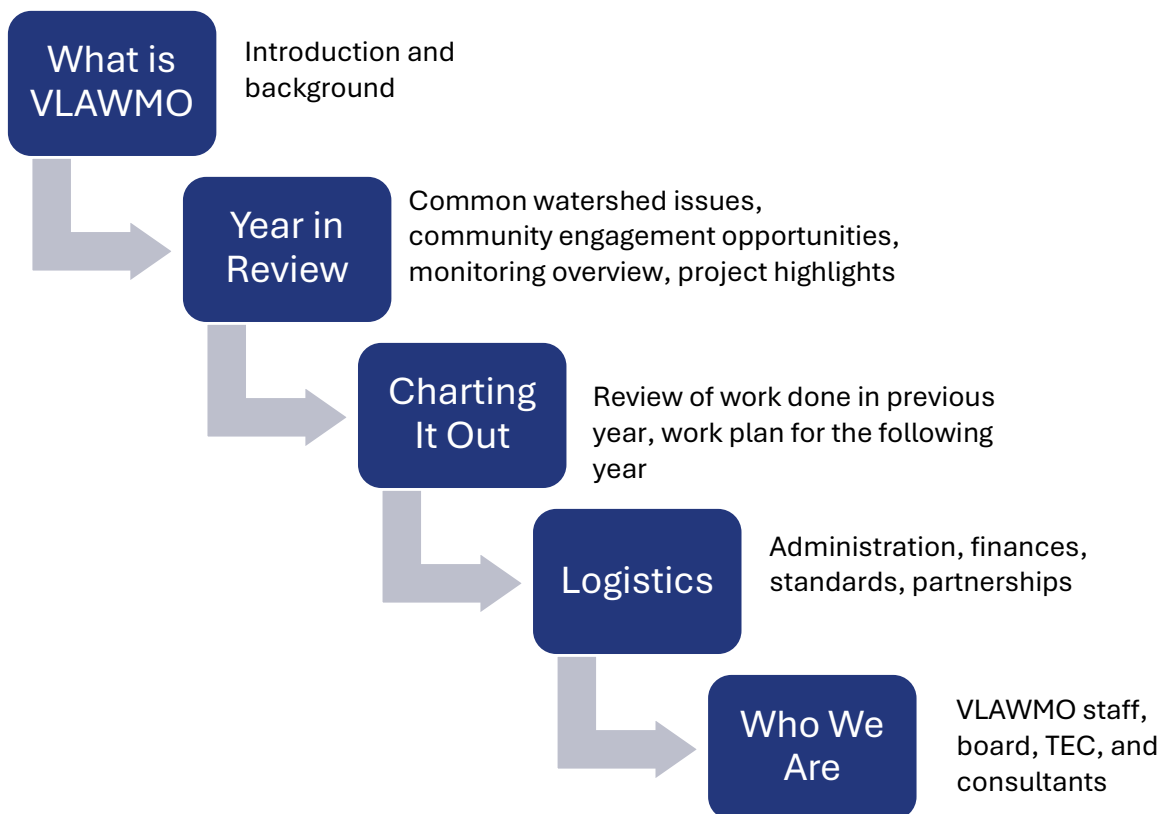


Figure 5-2. VLAWMO Annual Report content overview.

VLAWMO's Annual Report may be supplemented by additional, program-specific progress reports (e.g., monitoring report). Within 180 days of the calendar year, VLAWMO must submit an audit report of the preceding year's activities.



5.3.3 Progress Assessment

Biennially, VLAWMO will perform a more detailed evaluation to assess the level of progress achieved toward stated goals. This assessment will consider information gathered through the Annual Report, which also takes into consideration the annual water quality monitoring report and evaluation of the success of activities in the Implementation Table. This progress assessment will also build on feedback from local partners during the annual review of the long range project partnership table and annual budgeting process. Completed assessments will help inform annual work planning and will be useful in determining if plan adjustments or amendments are necessary (see Section 5.4).



Rain Garden in the City of North Oaks

5.4 Amendments to Plan

This plan is active from 2027-2036, after which the Board will adopt a new plan. During this time, VLAWMO may revise its plan through an amendment procedure, as needed. Amendments to this plan will follow the procedures described in this section and will proceed in accordance with the process provided in Minnesota Rules 8410.0140 and Minnesota Statutes 103B.231.

Plan amendments may be proposed by any person to the Board, but only the Board may initiate the formal amendment process. Recommended plan amendments must be submitted in writing with a statement of the problem and need, the rationale for the amendment, and an estimated cost.

VLAWMO anticipates that only significant changes or additions to goals, issues, administrative procedures, or implementation (i.e., programs, technical work, and capital improvements) will prompt an amendment, although final discretion resides with the Board. Minnesota Rules 8410.0140 subp.1a defines changes that do not require an amendment:

- 💧 reformatting/ reorganization of the plan,
- 💧 revision of a procedure meant to streamline administration of the plan,



- clarification of existing plan goals or policies,
- inclusion of additional data not requiring interpretation,
- expansion of public process, or
- adjustments to how VLAWMO will carry out program activities within its discretion.

Amendments to this plan are subject to the review process provided in Minnesota Statutes 103B.231 subd.11, except when the proposed amendments are determined to be minor-amendments according to the following provisions:

- A. BWSR has either agreed that the amendments are minor or failed to act within five working days of the end of the 30- day comment period specified in item B (unless an extension has been mutually agreed upon);
- B. VLAWMO has sent copies of the amendments to the plan review authorities for review and comment allowing at least 30 days for receipt of comments, has identified that the minor amendment procedure is being followed, and has directed that comments be sent to the Board;
- C. No county board has filed an objection to the amendments with VLAWMO and BWSR within the comment period specified in item B (unless an extension is mutually agreed upon);
- D. VLAWMO has held a public meeting to explain the amendments and published a legal notice of the meeting twice, at least seven days and 14 days before the date of the meeting; and
- E. The amendments are not necessary to make the plan consistent with an approved and adopted groundwater plan.

Draft and final amendments will be formatted and distributed consistent with the requirements of Minnesota Rules 8410.0140, subparts 4 and 5, respectively.

