



The Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
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Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
December 14, 2018
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room

Commission Members Present:

Jim Grisim Chair, White Bear Lake (WBL)
Bob Larson Treasurer, North Oaks (NO)
Paul Duxbury White Bear Township (WBT)
Jesse Farrell Vadnais Heights (VH)

Commission Members Absent: Gloria Tessier, Vice Chair (GL); Marty Asleson (LL)

Others in attendance: Brian Corcoran, Dawn Tanner, Nick Voss, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO); Jeremy Erickson, Justine Roe (St. Paul Regional Water Service – SPRWS); Ann White Eagle (Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division); Connie Taillon (City of White Bear Lake); Heidi Ferris (Growing Green Hearts).

- I. **Call to Order** Chair Grisim called the meeting to order at 7:30 am.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
It was moved by Larson and seconded by Duxbury to approve the December 14, 2018 agenda. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Larson to approve the November 9, 2018 meeting minutes, with amended changes. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
Though Stephanie was not able to attend the meeting, she sends her regards, happy holidays wishes to everyone, and looks forward to seeing everyone in 2019!
- V. **Reports**
 - A. **Financial Report for December & authorization for payment of checks.**
Expenses for this month were presented for review.
It was moved by Grisim and seconded by Larson to approve the December Treasurer's report and payment of checks. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- VI. **Programs**
 - A. **Education & Outreach**
 1. **Community Blue Amendment Policy**
Voss presented Community Blue grant program draft language for amending approved grants. This is not an option staff would like to use often, but presents flexibility when unforeseen circumstances or beneficial growth presents itself, as it has happened in the past.
Discussion: TEC members discussed that this would help with the flexibility of the program and would like any and all Community Blue amendments to be brought before them for approval. TEC will further review the language and rationale for amendments. Amendments requesting more than \$1,000 will be brought to the TEC as well as the Board for approval.
 2. **Community Blue maximum grant amount**
Voss explained the \$5,000 cap for Community Blue grants was set in place to keep a single grant from dominating the pool of funding. However, circumstances have come up where excellent and effective grants are expanding and would like to apply for more money to

enable that expansion. Staff is recommending expanding the grant application ceiling to \$10,000 to allow for this.

Discussion: TEC representatives will further review this proposed amendment for future action and approval.

3. Community Blue Amendment: Connect the Drops

Voss discussed that the scope of community involvement has grown and a larger space for a kickoff meeting that includes not only a number of different churches and denominations, but a space that is open and advertised for the community residents and businesses as a whole. The Vadnais Heights Commons has a discounted rate for \$200 that drops rental the proposed grant supplement to \$425. Heidi Ferris explained that there is a kickoff event that will involve all church communities, but wanted a common ground where non-denomination members can feel welcome, so this would serve as a space to invite the community at large to involve all of the community, to also involve businesses. She mentioned local businesses have also offered to help donate supplies for this event. **Staff recommends TEC approval for an additional \$425 of funding to the Growing Green Hearts Community Blue grant to provide funding and services for a larger kickoff meeting venue.**

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Grisim to grant a supplement of \$425 for the Growing Green Hearts Community Blue grant. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

4. Remote camera initiative

Tanner discussed the current remote camera program to study and catalogue wildlife diversity in the Watershed to make a connection for healthy habitats that good water quality provides. The Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation department at the U of M have graciously loaned professional-grade cameras for staff use to monitor and quantify species diversity. Efforts have been carried out at Tamarack Nature Center and Vadnais-Sucker Park, and Tanner is working to obtain permission in North Oaks for camera use.

Discussion: Tailon asked about the wetland inventorying project progress. Tanner noted that it is still in the planning stage. Grisim asked about the practicality of VLAWMO getting our own cameras. Tanner reported it has not been discussed yet, but the research grade cameras are quite expensive (\$500-\$700 range) and are much more sensitive, and capture quality is much better than the store-quality cameras.

B. Sustainable Lake Management Plans – Pleasant-Charley-Deep Lakes

Tanner presented that the Charley and Deep Lakes SLMPs are finished, need final format review and will be posted today or early next week. She also mentioned moving Pleasant up on the chain of SLMP lakes for 2019 as to fit in the tri-lake effort of focusing on Pleasant-Charley-Deep.

Discussion: Larson mentioned it could be beneficial to open up surveys to all North Oaks residents by way of the City's email blast service. Tanner noted she will contact Mike Robertson about this. Grisim expressed his willingness to be present and share his experience and expertise with his time with the BLID at the stakeholder meeting that is TBA. Corcoran explained the process and technology that the RSWCD uses when they conduct depth and vegetation surveys on the lakes, as well as the benefit to collecting this information in uniform format that the RSWCD implements.

C. Cost Share Summary

Thompson presented a summary of the 2018 Cost Share Program showing photos and explaining the nutrient reductions that were estimated using MIDS for applicable projects. There were 8 total LL1 projects installed and closed out in 2018: 2 raingardens, 2 shoreline

restorations, 2 infiltration driveways, and 2 native plantings. One 20,000 ft² native planting LL2 project will be completed spring 2019.

D. Service learning partnership

Tanner presented that VLAWMO is now an approved Community Partner with the U of M and Tanner and Voss will be pitching 2 positions to students in the Ethics & Natural Resources course on January 24th. The course has a required service-learning component that requires 40 hours with an environmental organization. Depending on the amount of interest from students, staff will determine the amount of projects and involvement going towards VLAWMO's other volunteer programs.

E. LimnoTech DIY automated monitoring system demo invite

Tanner shared information of training staff has scheduled with LimnoTech, a company that sells DIY automated samplers for water quality monitoring. All TEC and Board members are invited, as well as any other interested partners. The training will take place in January at VLAWMO's office.

VII. Projects

A. 4th & Otter Project Update

1. Timeline Update

Barr began engineering and design on the Project in November, with deliverables slated for January. A partners meeting will be scheduled after delivery to review plans and provide comments. The MCC Grant is submitted and we will find if the grant is approved by the end of January.

B. Lambert Creek Technical recommendations

1. Lambert Lake Project Scoping

Corcoran presented the current state of the Lambert Lake weir. Capacity has been lost due to sediment filling and needs to be dredged to meet capacity as-designed. The fiberglass sheet piling on the west side of the weir has been heaving for a number of years and will need to be either fixed or replaced to prevent eventual weir failure. Tanner reported that along with potential repair and dredging, a native plant and habitat restoration will be pursued to improve vegetation diversity and habitat. Engineering students from the U of M will also be pursued to design a creek meander south of the weir, as an option for water quality and habitat improvement.

C. Goose Lake Feasibility

1. WBF Goose subwatershed study update

The work plan has been approved by BWSR and the grant agreement has been executed by BWSR, and the go-ahead for modeling and project engineering has been given to Barr. The first draft of a Technical Memorandum and possible projects is slated for delivery in February 2019.

2. Stakeholder meeting and vegetation management update in Goose Lake

Staff is building towards a stakeholder meeting on January 16th and invitations will be mailed to East Goose homeowners once the final agenda is set. Tanner announced that the aquatic veg transplanting will have to wait until an alum treatment is done and water clarity improves, but the permit should be approved shortly and is good for 2 years.

3. Grants Update

The East Goose Lake alum treatment was not on the list for approved grants for 2019 Clean Water Funds. Staff will resubmit an application for grant funding in 2019 when the window opens for 2020 grant funding.

VIII. WCA: 2018 Summary

Corcoran broke down the WCA incidents for the year: 3 exemptions (1 in Gem Lake, 1 in White Bear Lake, 1 in North Oaks); 2 no-loss, both in White Bear Lake; 5 boundary & type (2 in Vadnais Heights, 2 in North Oaks, and 1 in White Bear Lake). There were 3 wetland impact complaints: 2 were non-issue and 1 was fixed by the property owner without having to go through the enforcement process.

IX. Commissioner Reports

None reported.

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

None reported.

XI. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division (RSWCD) Report

Ann WhiteEagle announced the \$1,000,000 grant to restore Lillydale Park was approved.

XII. Public Comment

None.

XIII. Next Meetings

TEC: January 11; Board: February 27

XIV. Adjourn

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Duxbury to adjourn at 9:09 am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.