



The Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
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Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
March 12, 2021

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)
Andy Nelson	Lino Lakes (LL)

Commission Members Absent: Terry Huntrods (WBL)

Others in attendance: Phil Belfiori, Brian Corcoran, Dawn Tanner, Nick Voss, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO); Patricia Orud (NOHOA); Barb Spears; Katherine Doll Kanne, Ed Shapland; Jon Cotner; Tom Watson; Justine Roe

- I. **Call to Order** Chair Tessier called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 March 12, 2021 Technical Commission Meeting was presented for approval. Agenda approved, as presented.
It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Larson to approve the March 12, 2021 TEC agenda, as presented. Vote: Tessier: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye Huntrods: aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Larson to approve the February 12, 2021 meeting minutes, as presented. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
 - A. **Financial Report for March & Authorization for Payment**
Belfiori overviewed highlights of the March Finance Report and bills. Belfiori and Larson had the opportunity to review and confer on the March bills and are recommending approval.

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Farrell to approve the March Treasurer's Report and authorization of payments. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.
 - B. **Update on Legal Counsel Services**
Belfiori discussed that the 2021 Request For Proposal (RFP) for VLAWMO engineering services was issued in February, soliciting bids for legal counsel services for 2021 & 2022, pursuant to MN Statute 103B.227. An official notice was posted on the MN League of Cities website, within the VH & WBL Press Publications January 6 & 13th editions, on the VLAWMO website, and on the VLAWMO office door. Three proposals were received, and staff is in the process of reviewing and auditing each proposal for content, and will bring their recommendation to the April 28th Board meeting.

V. **Programs**

A. **Education & Outreach**

1. Community Blue updates: Rainbarrel, “Upstream”

Voss presented updates on 2020 Community Blue grants, prior grants that had been approved, rain barrels left over will be used in 2021. Voss overviewed calendar and events coming up, as well as volunteer days.

B. **Cost Share Program**

Barb Spear introduced herself, and she was brought on as a consultant for environmental aspects and planning for NOHOA.

1. Soil Health Grant: Smith SHG 2021-02

Staff has received its second Cost Share grant application for 2021 for a Soil Health Grant (attached in ePacket). The applicant had Tyler out for a site visit in 2020 for planning and interest in a prairie restoration on their 2 acre property, on the border of the Sucker-Vadnais wetland, also adjacent to the Targeted Habitat Priority Zone. The Tessems are proposing restoration of 10,000 square feet of native prairie with Pollinator Grass & Wildflower Mix. This will also have the benefit of filtering and reducing runoff to a storm drain outlet that’s tributary to the wetland. The applicant will be hiring a contractor for skid steer work, but will be completing the rest of the labor themselves. Their total estimated project cost is \$1,750, and they are requesting \$1,000 in Soil Health Grant funds (requests up to \$1,000 are allowable for Targeted Priority Zones). Staff recognizes that although the property is just outside of the THPZ, this is a worthy opportunity to fund and support efforts where VLAWMO is also partnering on improvements with the Great River Greening grant. **Staff has reviewed the Soil Health Grant application, with no recommended revisions and is recommending approval of SHG 2021-02 in the amount of \$1,000.00.**

Discussion: Duxbury noted he’s used vinegar and water before for broadleaf weeds, and Tanner is interested in how this works.

It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Larson to approve Soil Health Grant 2021-02 for approval and funding in the amount of \$1,000.00. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

VI. **Projects**

A. **Lambert Lake Update**

Tanner noted that the project construction had gone well and is complete, spare for the vegetation restoration will be completed this spring, dependent upon site conditions. For the biochar, the contract with the UMN has been terminated, and VLAWMO will be moving ahead with the project and planning, on its own.

B. **319 update**

The Nine Key Element Plan has been approved by the PCA and is going to the EPA for review. The first suite of projects will be working with Barr Engineering, targeting Wilkinson Lake and development of BMPs within the Lake’s subwatershed.

C. **Community-Engaged Learning Spring Semester**

Tanner noted that volunteer and interest has been strong this year, and thanked Bob Larson & Patricia Orud, as well as Farrell and Ken LaCasse from the City of VH for their help in chipping and removal of buckthorn piles from last year. Tanner noted that the crew will be

working on a small section of park on East Vadnais today for removing buckthorn piles that another volunteer has cut. VH Public Works will be assisting with chipping today.

D. Pleasant Lake planning for 2021

Planning is going well for carp control, the contract is soon to be signed with WSB, and coordination is underway with the commercial fisherman. Curly leaf pondweed treatment is anticipated in late April, early May. Staff is still awaiting word from SPRWS if funding assistance is possible.

E. Swan Update at Sucker Channel

Swan deaths continued to occur this winter, with 6 swans brought into the UMN lab, with 22 total brought in for testing since 2018. Staff has installed lead use warning signs at Sucker Channel and in North Oaks. The MN house is including the lead ban bill in legislation and it is moving forward.

F. Update on East Goose Adaptive Lake Management (ALM) Engagement process

Belfiori updated that the community wide survey will be complete at the end of March, along with the release of a web hub for project information and updates.

VII. Commissioner Reports:

Farrell updated that the City of Vadnais Heights is exploring maintenance of Branch Ditch #3, possibly as soon as 2022 to attempt to address some of the nuisance flooding issues over the last few years. Belfiori updated on possible upcoming Ditch 14 main stem maintenance downstream of the recently completed meander project. Farrell noted that there was an alternative plan by SEH to implement BMPs as part of the possible project. Watson noted the City of North Oaks has hired a new City Engineer. Chair Tessier noted that she will be leaving the City of Gem Lake, effective the end of March.

VIII. NOHOA

Orud noted they are excited to have Barb Spears working with them, along with Tanner. Orud noted that a goose management plan is being composed by Spears. Orud noted that she appreciates everything VLAWMO staff assists in working on together.

IX. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division (RCSWCD) Report

Tanner updated that staff has been working with RCSWCD to purchase and place seed and plant orders, preparing for the restoration of Teal Pond, as parts of the 2020 LL2 grant. There is also a County-wide stormwater reuse feasibility project that has begun and is moving forward, with VLAWMO staff involved.

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

Roe commented that upper management at SPRWS has confirmed financial assistance for management efforts in Pleasant Lake, though a JPA or another agreement may be needed.

XI. Public Comment

Doll Kanne asked for more information on the possible upcoming Ditch 14 maintenance.

XII. Next Meetings

TEC: April 9th, 2021; Board: April 28th, 2021

XII. Adjourn

It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Larson to adjourn at 8:18 am. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.