

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
Technical Commission Minutes  
April 8, 2016  
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room**

**Commission Members Present:**

Paul Peterson	White Bear Township (WBT)
Jim Grisim	White Bear Lake (WBL)
Mark Graham	Vadnais Heights (VH)
Jim Lindner	Gem Lake (GL)
Chris Mann	North Oaks (NO)

**Commission Members Absent:** Marty Asleson (City of Lino Lakes)

**Others in attendance:** Kristine Jenson, Brian Corcoran, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO); Diane Gorder (NO Natural Resource Commission); Kimberly Murray (NO Homeowners Association); Bob Larson (NO alternate) Justine Roe (SPRWS)

- I. **Call to Order** Chair Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:28am.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**  
It was moved by Lindner and seconded by Grisim to approve the April 8, 2016 agenda as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**  
It was moved by Graham and seconded by Lindner to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2016 Meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
  - A. **Election of Officers**

We must establish our TEC Officers on an annual basis. The current slate of officers are Paul Peterson as Chair, Mark Graham as Vice Chair and Jim Lindner as Financial Officer. The position of Chair is recommended by the TEC and brought to the Board for ratification.

Peterson said he would continue as Chair. There were no other volunteers to fill the role.

It was moved by Graham & seconded by Mann to recommend to the Board that Peterson serve as TEC Chair for 2016. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Graham stated he would continue as Vice Chair

It was moved by Grisim & seconded by Lindner to elect Graham as TEC Vice Chair for 2016. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Lindner stated he would continue as Finance Officer.

It was moved by Graham & seconded by Grisim to elect Lindner as TEC Finance Officer for 2016. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
  - B. **Water Plan Comment Deadline**

Kristine reported that the 60 day comment period for the Draft Water Plan is expiring on April 26<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to submit formal comments, please do so by then.
  - C. **Joint Powers/Ditch Authority**

A number of updates to the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) have been proposed and VLAWMO legal counsel, Troy Gilchrist has been revising it. Gilchrist also communicated with the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) regarding if VLAWMO is the ditch authority for County Ditches 13 & 14 (aka Dillon Ditch and Lambert Creek). BWSR has verbally agreed that VLAWMO is the ditch authority based

on the 1986 County resolution. More questions remain regarding what our activities as ditch authority should be and if what is the best legal framework for management. We could petition to change our management of them from ditch law (103E in statutes) or under watershed law (103B). We will come back with more information as we gather it.

**V. Projects**

**A. Project Updates**

**1. Sucker Channel Update**

Kristine has been attempting to come to a resolution with Ramsey County Parks regarding this project. They continue to stand by their judgement that further engineering and design is needed in order to meet their expectations and approval. Kristine proposed an alternative whereby VLAWMO moves forward with the native buffer portion of the project and allows Parks to use their funds to better engineer the design for the parts of the project that they benefit from – namely the fishing nodes, pathways, seawall and associated picnic and bench features. Kristine spoke with SPRWS regarding this and they were supportive of this direction. The City of Vadnais Heights is also supportive. As of right now, Parks has requested a sit down meeting to go over my proposal and that is scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup>. Kristine will report back regarding the project at the May TEC meeting.

**2. Whitaker Treatment Wetlands**

Brian explained we have White Bear Township board approval to use the southern end of Columbia Park for the wetland treatment system pilot project contingent on approved grant funds and contractor bids. VLAWMO will work with the Township attorney on a contract.

**3. 2016 E.coli wet weather proposal**

A proposal has been received from Burns & McDonnell to continue to assist staff with an E.coli monitoring study in 2016. The total for their proposal is up to \$30,760 and we have money in the budget for this. The number of samples and complexity of the 2016 program is a bit unknown due to starting the wet weather tracking. The TEC is being asked to make a recommendation to the Board. The continued goal of this project is to identify sources of indicator bacteria in the Lambert Creek Watershed which can be used to develop and implement BMPs to meet the requirements of the bacteria TMDL. We will be concentrating on the Oakmede and Cty Rd F sub-drainages.

**Burns & McDonnell 2016 Proposal**

Task #	Task Description	Cost
Task 1	Update Monitoring Plan	\$6,240
Task 2	Molecular Analyses	\$10,000
Task 3	Data Analysis and Report Preparation	\$10,848
Task 4	Report Presentation	\$3,672
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30,760</b>

Task 2- Molecular analyses are up to \$10,000. Depending on the culture results it is very possible we may not need all \$10,000 for the tests.

Task 4- Report Presentation is \$3,672, it will be up to the TEC and BOD whether or not they would like Steve to present the findings. Staff recommends having Steve present all finding of both dry and wet weather results at the completion of the wet weather studies.

The monitoring should be similar to the last few years except that we will monitoring wet weather conditions.

Staff recommends the TEC recommend approval by the Board of this proposal

It was moved by Graham & seconded by Mann to recommend the VLAWMO Board approve the Burns & McDonnell 2016 proposal for E. Coli monitoring, analysis and reporting as outlined below. The recommended funding source would be from 6.4.1.1, Lambert Creek Restoration. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

## VI. Programs

### A. Grants

#### 1. Landscape Level 1 Application

Grant 2016-03 would be for two gardens on a property in Vadnais Heights. The owners received a grant in 2011 for a large raingarden and have been excellent caretakers. This current project would be for a 385 square foot raingarden and a 360 square foot native pollinator garden. They are working with the designer who did their last raingarden. The raingarden will capture runoff from part of their roof and will designed to handle a 2” rainfall. The total project is estimated to be over \$11,000 and they are asking for \$2,000. Staff recommends approval of the grant. It was moved by Graham & seconded by Mann to approve Grant 2016-03 for \$2,000. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

#### 2. Landscape Level 2 Application

Grant L2-2016-01 would be for an additional project at White Bear Montessori. Kristine discussed this project a couple months ago. The project has been adjusted a bit since it was last discussed. Funding from this grant would go towards two raingardens that would capture runoff from part of the building’s roof and a large portion of the existing yard. It would essentially capture all runoff from the western side of the property. Overflow would be sent to the existing raingarden in the parking lot. They will be doing a pollinator education project as part of this. Installation would occur in June. The project costs for the applicable parts of the program are over \$43,250. The total project costs are over \$132,000. They have received a \$12,000 grant from RCD for parts of the project. Staff recommends approval of this grant for an amount between \$15,000-\$20,000. TEC can determine the final amount and recommend approval to the Board for their April 27 meeting. TEC Discussion: Lindner stated grant amount should be \$20,000, Mann asked if there are any other Level 2 applications in the works and if not it is already April and the money in the budget should be spent and agrees with a grant amount of \$20,000 for White Bear Montessori.

It was moved by Lindner and seconded by Mann to recommend approval by the Board of Grant L2-2016-01 in the amount of \$20,000. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

#### 3. Community Blue

Tyler gave an update on the Rice Lake Purple Loosestrife project.

### B. Education

#### 1. Education & Outreach Position

We received 24 resumes for the position and in the first round of interviews, we met with 8 candidates. We narrowed it down to 2 and brought them both in for a tour of the watershed and to mingle with all the staff in the hopes of

finding someone who can not only do a great job but who also feels like a good fit for us. We have offered the job to Nicholas Voss. He has a Master's degree in environmental education and brings a lot of great experience and skills to the job. He will be starting by the end of the month and we look forward to having him join the team.

**2. Raingarden Workshops**

In order to be consistent with last year's successful raingarden class, Kristine has adjusted the workshop offerings since discussed at the last TEC meeting. She will hold 2 opportunities for the same workshop which encompasses all three of our workshops into one. There will be a small amount of time dedicated to what raingardens are and then most of the class will go into the design and installation process. A few minutes at the end will go over maintenance basics. The classes are still on May 3 and May 11 but will be the same class – just offered twice. Based on the responses we get, and input from our new EO staff, we will adjust course as necessary.

**3. Partner Event Dates**

We will have a table at the White Bear Lake Water Fair on May 7 and may offer assistance at the Landscape Revival on June 4. White Bear Lake Marketfest will be on July 28 this year.

**C. Monitoring**

**1. Spring Sampling**

Brian stated that chloride sampling has been completed for the spring, property accesses are approved for 2016 and most volunteer samplers are ready to go for the season. Regular sampling will start in May.

**2. Automated Sampler**

In December staff brought estimates to you for the purchase of an automated sampler for use at Wilkinson Lake. The estimates ranged from roughly \$6000.00 for the basic setup (just the sampler) to the "Cadillac" setup estimated at roughly \$18,000.00 (includes flow meter and wifi access) TEC approved the purchase of the basic setup at an estimated cost of \$6,000.00.

Staff was in the process of ordering the basic setup and has run into an issue with the effectiveness of using the basic setup. Staff was under the impression the basic setup included a flow base sampler triggering system, that unfortunately is not the case. The basic system can only be triggered based on level of water at a sampling site. This will be an issue for our application. Staff will explain more at the TEC meeting. In order to have flow based triggering (which staff recommends) the automated sampler cost will double to \$12,500.

Staff would like discussion and direction on how the TEC would like staff to move forward.

Discussion: Grisim would like staff to look into competitor samplers of equal capacity to compare costs. If costs are similar to go with current proposal. It was moved by Graham & seconded by Grisim to spend up to an additional \$7,000 on top of the approved \$6,000 in December for a total amount of \$13,000 for an automated sampler contingent on costs of competitor samplers of equal capacity.

**D. GIS**

**1. VLAWMO Annual Report**

Tyler updated the TEC on the status of the 2015 annual report. Stated it is nearly complete and staff is just finishing up the 2016 projects section.

**E. WCA – Meadowlands enforcement, Goodwill preliminary**

Brian stated that a restoration order was delivered in person via the DNR to the property owner at 1011 Meadowlands Dr. in White Bear Township for wetland fill that needs to be removed. Fill was from reconstruction of a retaining wall near the wetland. Brian also stated that the TEC will be seeing a wetland banking/mitigation plan for a proposed Goodwill that will be built on a vacant property in White Bear Lake near Hwy96 and Centerville road.

**VII. Reports**

**A. Financial Report for April 2016 & Authorization for Payment**

It was moved by Lindner & seconded by Grisim to approve the treasurer’s report and April payment of checks. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**VIII. Commissioner Reports**

Peterson shared photos from his recent trip to Liberia where he helped build wells to provide clean water.

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

Justine talked about what the SPRWS is and has been doing to address the lead concerns in the drinking water system

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

Kristine stated RCD is hosting a workshop about Urban Pollinators on April 21 from 2-4pm and all are welcome.

**XI. Public Comment**

None.

**XII. Next Meetings**

TEC: May 13; Board: April 27

**XIV. Adjourn**

It was moved by Lindner and seconded by Mann to adjourn at 8:36am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Brian Corcoran.