



The Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
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Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
December 11, 2020

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)
Terry Huntrods	White Bear Lake (WBL)

Commission Members Absent: none.

Others in attendance: Phil Belfiori, Brian Corcoran, Dawn Tanner, Nick Voss, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO); Justine Roe (SPRWS); Kara Ries, Diane Gorder (North Oaks); Sierra Weirens (MN Water Steward); Ann WhiteEagle (RCSWCD); Connie Tailon (City of White Bear Lake); Ed Shapland (VLAWMO MN Water Steward).

- 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 December 11, 2020 Technical Commission Meeting was presented for approval. It was moved by Larson and seconded by Huntrods to approve the December 11, 2020 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 Duxbury and seconded by Larson to approve the November 13, 2020 meeting minutes, as presented. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
 - A. **Financial Report for December & Authorization for Payment**
Belfiori presented the December Financial Report for review and authorization of payments. The budget continues to be on-track for what was budgeted for the remainder of 2020.
It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Duxbury to approve the December Treasurer's Report and authorization of payments. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.
 - B. **2021 Board-Approved Working Budget – Update from Dec. 9 Board meeting**
Belfiori presented the 12/9/20 Board-approved fund balance & carryover working budget for 2021 and the various sub-budgets.
- V. **Programs**
 - A. **Education & Outreach**
 1. **2021 EOP/2020 Survey Results**
Voss presented a 2020 EOP summary that was still able to accomplish the majority of Program goals despite the complications of the COVID-19 pandemic. 2020 survey results, along with 2021 goals were overviewed.

2. MN Water Stewards

Voss introduced the 2021 Water Steward nominees, Sierra Weirens and Gary Ellis. Staff is recommending TEC approval of the 2021 Water Stewards Sierra Weirens and Gary Ellis.

It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Larson to approve Gary Ellis and Sierra Weirens into the MN Water Stewards Program for 2021. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Huntrods: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

3. Awardee Photos

Voss presented and shared photos of VLAWMO's 2020 Watershed Steward Awardee, Ceci Shapland, and Watershed Partner Awardee, Connie Tailon.

VI. Projects

A. Lambert Lake Update

Tanner reported that the preconstruction meeting has taken place for the sheetpile replacement and meander construction. Though the weather has been warming, construction will be continuing as temps continue to lower. The Board approved a loan disbursement request for additional loan funds, if needed, for the continuity of construction. UMN researchers are continuing to work on biochar design.

B. Amelia Lake Surveys

After VLAWMO staff requested a quote for bathymetry, macrophyte, and invasive species delineation, RCSWCD has quoted \$5,750 for 2021 surveys. Staff is requesting a recommendation to the Board for Amelia Lake surveys in 2021 for \$5,750.

It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Farrell to recommend approval to the VLAWMO Board for the funding of Amelia Lake surveys in 2021 in the amount of \$5,750. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Huntrods: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

C. Great River Greening

Tanner updated that the Great River Greening grant for Vadnais-Sucker Park habitat restoration is fully authorized and signed, and work will begin in early 2021. Staff will be meeting with GRG staff in the near future to further coordinate.

D. Pleasant Lake Carp Solutions Report

Tanner updated that Carp Solutions has completed and provided an interim report on the carp project in Pleasant Lake, and carp movement within the North Oaks chain of lakes. Carp movement tracking will resume in spring 2021.

E. Birch Lake Animal Hospital Variance Request

Corcoran presented that staff had originally brought this variance request to the VLAWMO Board at their October meeting, but was asked for TEC recommendation for approval before final Board approval. Corcoran updated that the request is a variance to VLAWMO's wetland buffer rules for the expansion of a current parking lot. As part of the variance request, an infiltration basin will be constructed for parking lot stormwater runoff capture and treatment, which currently does not exist. The wetland is a VLAWMO Manage 2 wetland, requiring a 30 foot average, or 24 foot minimum development buffer distance from a wetland. Staff is recommending a TEC recommendation for approval to the Board for a VLAWMO Buffer Variance, with the contingency on the installation of an infiltration basin as part of the project.

Discussion: Duxbury asked about the current drainage of the site, and neighboring property drainage. Corcoran responded that current parking lot drainage goes to White Bear Pkwy. Farrell asked about increasing the buffer of the on-site wetland with no mowing. Tessier asked about the current parking situation, and Corcoran responded that business parking is spilling onto White Bear Parkway and to the neighboring property. The TEC noted that the

addition of a buffer monument and native planting should be made a contingency for the approval of a VLAWMO wetland buffer variance for the project.

It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Larson to recommend approval to the VLAWMO Board of wetland buffer variance request for the parking stall addition, contingent on installation of an infiltration basin, buffer monument, and native planting buffer. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Huntrods: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

F. Lower Lambert Ditch #14 Maintenance

Corcoran presented the results of the recent conclusion of the lower Lambert Creek/Ditch 14 dredging and maintenance.

G. Update on 12/1 East Goose Lake Neighborhood Conversation kickoff meeting

Belfiori spoke on the December 1st neighborhood conversation kickoff for introductory and comments and input on East Goose Lake management.

VII. Commissioner Reports:

None.

VIII. NOHOA

Gorder congratulated both Weirens & Ellis for joining the MN Watershed Stewards with VLAWMO, and John Cotner is a new NOHOA Board member who is working on North Oaks and likely to join in 2021 VLAWMO TEC meetings.

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

WhiteEagle thanked VLAWMO for working together on on-going projects and for continuing on with lake survey services.

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

Roe noted that the SPRWS plant upgrade is moving forward with a contractor selected.

XI. Public Comment

Kara Ries noted that Tom Watson will be joining the January VLAWMO TEC meeting in 2021.

XII. Next Meetings

TEC: January 8th, 2021; Board: February 24th, 2021

XII. Adjourn

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Huntrods to adjourn at 8:49 am. Vote: Tessier: aye Farrell: aye Larson: aye Duxbury: aye Nelson: aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.