



The Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
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Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission Minutes
March 13, 2020
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room

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)
Terry Huntrods	White Bear Lake (WBL)
Andy Nelson	Lino Lakes (LL)

Commission Members Absent: none.

Others in attendance: Stephanie McNamara, Brian Corcoran, Dawn Tanner, Tyler Thompson (VLAWMO); Jeremy Erickson (SPRWS); Brandon Block (RCSWCD); Connie Tailon (WBL); Kara Ries, Diane Gorder (NO); Katherine Kanne, Ed Shapland (CAC); Paul Gartzke (WBL resident); Melissa King (BWSR)

- I. **Call to Order** Chair Tessier called the meeting to order at 7:29 am.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
The agenda for the March 13, 2020 Technical Commission Meeting was presented for approval, as amended to include V. A. 2. Community Blue grant request.
It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Larson to approve the March 13, 2020 TEC agenda, as amended. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Larson to approve the February 14, 2020 meeting minutes, as presented. Vote: all aye; Motion passed.
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
 - A. **Financial Report for March & Authorization for Payment**
McNamara presented the March 2020 Financial Report for review and authorization of payments.
It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Larson to approve the March Treasurer's Report and authorization of payments. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
 - B. **Admin Update**
McNamara updated that the selection committee is proceeding with the second round of interviews on March 14th, where three finalists will meet the Board search committee. It is hoped they will be able to bring a recommendation for Board approval at the Special Board Meeting on March 25th. Voss announced McNamara's retirement party March 26th.
- V. **Programs**
 - A. **Education & Outreach**
 1. Voss outlined a partial Community Blue application for rain barrels. Katherine Kanne explained that there is an opportunity to buy 15 recycled rain barrels and hold a workshop for implementation, drawing from her own installation experience, and water conservation that would give out the rain barrels, and ensure proper installation. Kanne & Voss are asking permission to purchase these 15 rain barrels, as quantities will not last. Voss is asking for a maximum of \$2,000 to make the rain barrel purchase, coming from the Community Blue grant program, and with any remaining funds, after purchase, going back into the CB grant fund. Voss noted the

application will be scored to the full extent, through the full Community Blue scoring chart.

It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Farrell to approve up to \$2,000 for purchasing of rain barrels for implementation. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

2. Citizen Advisory, Master Water Steward, and Volunteer activities

Voss presented upcoming 2020 events beginning this spring and going through this summer. Videos for carp management and an example of stream re-meanders were shown.

B. SLMP – Birch Lake Update

Staff has been integrating survey data completed in 2019 to update the Birch Lake Sustainable Lake Management Plan (SLMP), and should be completed in March 2020, ahead of its 2021 planned completion. Tanner presented the draft SLMP at the meeting.

C. Monitoring – Frogs and Toads Story Map

Tanner presented the Frogs and Toads Story Map, utilizing data and photos collected on amphibians collected in VLAWMO in 2019. A service-learning student is assisting Tanner with final testing, review, and additional elements. Work on a remote camera Story Map has begun and will be available soon. Voss added that that this will be found on the website under the Projects page.

D. WCA – Weston Woods Mitigation & Escrow Return

The Weston Woods townhome development, built in 2001, paid an escrow amount of \$8,622 to ensure the original wetland replacement plan and monitoring report. A monitoring report was never received, so the escrow was held. The developer asked for the escrow return in 2019, and VLAWMO hired Kjolhaug Environmental to complete a final completion report, determining that replacement requirements had met the 2001 standards. The developer is requesting the return of escrow funds, less the cost of the final report, totaling \$5,987.

E. Cost Share – Landscape Level 1 2020-03: Biese Low-Grow Fescue & Filtration

A Landscape Level 1 grant application was received from a homeowner in North Oaks that has been in consultation with staff for a project featuring grading, filtration and replacement of turf with a low grow fescue mix, for a total replanting area of 9,800 square feet. The proposed project property is on Teal Pond in North Oaks and is directly removing 109,000 gallons per year, .273 lbs TP, and 49.6 lbs of TSS annually, as estimated by MIDs modeling. The total applicable project cost towards grant funding is \$2885, and the applicant is requesting \$2,000.00 in LL1 grant funding. **Staff recommends approval of application LL1 2020-03 in the amount of \$2,000.00.**

It was moved by Huntrods and seconded by Larson for approval of application and funding in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the LL1 2020- 03 grant application. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VI. Projects

A. Goose Lake

1. WBF Subwatershed BMP Implementation Options

Barr Engineering has completed feasibility and proposed now 5 projects for an implementation BMP, as part of Watershed Based Funding (WBF) grant funds. The BMP chosen for implementation must achieve 3-6 lbs of TP reduction, annually, as identified in the grant work plan. Barr delivered the fifth BMP option, an iron-enhanced sand filter treating stormwater southwest of East Goose Lake. The cost of the first 4 BMPs exceeded VLAWMO's funding availability in the Goose Lake budget, but the new 5th option may be feasible, funding-wise, and will meet the TP removal criteria of the grant. Staff is asking the TEC to discuss and give direction on an implementation BMP.

2. East Goose Alum Grant Update & Recommendation for Next Steps

After receiving news that the BWSR Board had scored the East Goose Lake alum grant application the highest of any implementation project, BWSR staff had met with VLAWMO staff to outline newly developed concerns about accepting grant funding for an alum treatment. These concerns have arisen since the latest fish survey in 2019 revealed a dramatic increase in bullhead population, lack of boating restrictions moving forward on the Lake, and lack of community support for an alum treatment, among some homeowners on East Goose Lake. VLAWMO staff asked Barr Engineering to review modeling and provide a Technical Memo to reassess if an alum treatment was still likely to meet grant assurances that would need to be met, otherwise VLAWMO would be financially liable for meeting these assurances. Barr delivered the Technical Memo the week of the March TEC meeting, giving clarification that an alum treatment will meet grant assurances.

Discussion: King overviewed the review committee and how the Goose Alum grant application was reviewed, and cannot consider any content outside the application. She also explained that the management outlook situation for East Goose Lake had changed since the application was written and submitted, including lack of boating restrictions and rough fish population. She outlined that the Board must be willing to sign-on for lake management. The last concern was ill-will of some landowners that make up the stakeholders that make up the Goose Lake area. McNamara stated that the conversation is now determining and having the conversation to figure if the assurances will be able to be met, based on the most recent modeling and technical memorandum provided by Barr Engineering. Farrell asked King if she could speculate on how the application would have ranked if the items that have changed would have been left out of the application. King addressed that it's speculation and about how the project would have scored, as there's no way to know how the application would have looked if submitted differently. She also addressed that grant applications are scored at face value. King outlined that if VLAWMO and its Board are going to choose to go forward with grant funding it will need to be ready to address these issues before a work plan is created. Erickson asked if it has happened in the past that a grantee has not been successful in meeting application goals. King explained that BWSR is concerned with grant funds achieving the goals approved applications have set and auditing requirements showing that CWF monies are achieving these goals. Duxbury asked if Barr will attend the meeting with BWSR to discuss new assurances, and McNamara confirmed this.

B. Lambert Lake Update

Staff continues to work with SEH and the UMN on design components of the meander and biochar treatment cells. In a meeting with the DNR, it has been determined that an EAW (environmental assessment worksheet) will be required for the meander, but the sheet pile replacement is exempt from the EAW. Staff is beginning work on the EAW and coordinating with SEH.

C. Carp Project West Vadnais Lake

Staff is working with the Ramsey Washington Metro WD (RWMWD) and Carp Solutions to collaborate on carp management in West Vadnais Lake. This is part of a larger, holistic effort already underway, giving VLAWMO the opportunity to partner with RWMWD without overextending our current budget, and future Watershed Based Funding grant funds may be applicable for funding management efforts. **Staff is requesting a recommendation from the TEC to the VLAWMO Board for funding support in the amount of \$12,500 for carp monitoring, removal, and contribution of a low-voltage fish barrier at the outlet of West Vadnais Lake.** It was moved by Duxbury and seconded by Huntrods for recommendation of the TEC to the VLAWMO Board for funding in the amount of \$12,500.00 for cooperative carp management on West Vadnais Lake. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

D. Birch Lake 4th & Otter Update

The VLAWMO Board selected and approved the low-bid contractor, Blackstone, LLC, for construction of the Birch Lake iron-enhanced sand filter at their February meeting. Contract documents have been signed, a Notice to Proceed has been issued, and a pre-construction meeting is being scheduled to begin the project.

VII. Commissioner Reports

Farrell mentioned the flooding meeting on March 12th was cancelled and that he is proposing to the VH city council that the box culvert under Oak Crest Drive is replaced. Farrell also thanked Stephanie for her 30 years of service.

VII. NOHOA

Gorder thanked Tanner for her frog & toad work, story map, and for her education efforts.

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

Erickson reported that with conventional water treatment implemented at SPRWS, staff is confident their processes are effective in neutralizing COVID-19.

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

Block announced that the office has moved, the March Aquatic invasive species meeting has been cancelled, but the May training is still on. Tanner added that her and Justin Townsend have been working on invasive species ordinances.

XI. Public Comment

Tailon mentioned that the MS4 workshop on March 12th was a great event and had a good turnout.

XII. Next Meetings

TEC: April 10th, 2020; Board: March 25th, 2020

XII. Adjourn

It was moved by Farrell and seconded by Huntrods to adjourn at 9:06 am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Tyler Thompson.