

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
Technical Commission Minutes  
March 14, 2014  
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Lakes Room**

**Attending:**

Paul Peterson	White Bear Township (WBT), Chair
Jim Grisim	White Bear Lake (WBL)
Kevin Watson	Vadnais Heights (VH), alternate
<i>Absent</i>	Lino Lakes (LL)
Jim Lindner	Gem Lake (GL)
John Murphy (alternate)	North Oaks (NO)

Others in attendance: Stephanie McNamara, Kristine Jenson, Brian Corcoran, (VLAWMO); Margaret Behrens (Ramsey Conservation District); Bob Larson (NO Natural Resources Commission Chair); Peter Fisher (State Representative 43A – Vice Chair of the Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee); Justine Roe (St. Paul Water Regional Service)

- I. Call to Order** Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:30am.
- II. Approval of Agenda**  
It was moved and seconded by Lindner & Murphy to approve the March 14, 2014 agenda. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- III. Approval of Minutes**  
It was moved and seconded by Grisim & Lindner to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2014 Meeting of the VLAWMO Technical Commission. Vote: 3 aye. 1 abstain (Murphy). Motion passed.
- IV. Administration & Operations**
  - A. 2014 Committee Appointments – Finance and Policy & Personnel**

Jim Lindner said that he would be on the Finance Committee. Graham has been on Policy & Personnel Committee and consensus was that he should continue his role. It was moved and seconded by Lindner & Murphy to appoint Jim Linder to the Finance Committee and Mark Graham to the Policy & Personnel Committee. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.
- VI. Projects**
  - A. Facilities Maintenance: Whitaker**

Whitaker Pond was planned to be dredged by Ramsey County in the beginning of March. But they now feel it would be better to wait until summer. Stephanie said we would keep pressing them to get this job done since it is in the maintenance is in an agreement between the partners on this project.
  - B. Strategic Planning – Update and Timeline**

VLAWMO Comprehensive Water Mgmt. Plan identifies goals, programs, projects and estimated costs from 2007-2016. Further identification of projects is anticipated during the last years of a 10-year plan. The VLAWMO performance review (PRAP) by BWSR recommended that VLAWMO consider a strategic plan

through 2016 before we re-do our next 10 year plan. We have done geographically focused Sustainable Lake Water Plans, Retrofit Studies, and are working on the Implementation Plan for our impaired lakes. Each of these is important but limited in scope. Staff will be meeting with Della Young from Burns & McDonnell after the TEC meeting to kick off the strategic planning effort. A workshop will be held on Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm (prior to the regular Board Meeting) to work on the strategic plan. All TEC members are encouraged to attend. The draft strategic work plan will need to be done by the end of May for 2015 projects to be funded in the 2015 budget.

A list of proposed projects will be prioritized in developing the strategic plan. Other ideas can be brought to the workshop. Stephanie said that even without any grant funding, we could likely do one of the projects already listed on the spreadsheet this year. Peterson said based on pollutant reduction, the Goose Lake shoreline restoration would be a top choice and hopefully we could work with the Ski Otters on it. Murphy said that the Deep Lake Channel project should be considered and perhaps the SPRWS could help pay for it. Behrens asked if RCD could do anything to help. Peterson asked what we could do to move forward on a project. Stephanie said we are in an awkward stage right now where we are about to start strategic planning so do we wait until we get going on that process? The strategic plan would include projects for this year. Lindner said noted that some of proposals will need more accurate cost estimates before moving ahead.

It was moved and seconded by Peterson & Lindner to pursue grant funding from the St. Paul Regional Water Service at the earliest opportunity. Vote: all aye.

Motion passed.

## **VII. Programs**

### **A. E.coli sourcing/monitoring**

We are waiting for the snow to melt and will be working with Burns & McDonnell to determine our next steps once the weather warms. We should have more information by the next TEC meeting.

### **B. Cost Share**

#### **1. Program Name Change**

In an effort to have program names that are easily understood, we have changed the names of our cost share programs. The former BMP Cost Share Program is now called the Landscape Level 1 Cost Share Program. The former CIP Cost Share Program is now called the Landscape Level 2 Cost Share Program. The names are simpler since they don't have acronyms that the general public may not know or understand.

#### **2. White Bear Montessori Application**

We have received a Landscape Level 2 Cost Share Application from White Bear Montessori to assist them with implementing a large native planting at their school. WBMS received a Community Blue Grant from us last year and put in a raingarden. They have been very good partners to work with on this program. This new project, titled Field of Dreams, would restore an overgrown invasive scrub tree/weedy field into a native prairie and hardwoods transition area. It will include walking paths, gathering spots, and observation stations to be used both by the school and

the community. The area is about 1 acre in size and receives some roof runoff. WBMS is working with Metro Blooms and the Conservation Corps of MN on this project. WBMS is requesting a \$5,000 grant which they will match via school funding and a fundraiser held this spring. Staff recommends approval of Grant L2-2014-01, White Bear Montessori “Field of Dreams” in the amount of \$5,000.

It was moved and seconded by Lindner & Grisim to approve Grant L2-2014-01 for \$5,000. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**C. Outreach**

**1. Shallow Lakes Forum – April 12**

A flyer was handed out for the upcoming Shallow Lakes Forum that she has been helping to organize. This forum will have information that benefits our watershed since most of our lakes are shallow. A couple of representatives from the Birch Lake Improvement District will be there as part of a homeowners panel discussion. Stephanie will send it out electronically to the TEC and RCD for further distribution

**Press Publications, VH Rotary Interview**

Vanessa has submitted an article to Press Publications which should show up in the newest edition of newspapers. Vanessa also did an interview for the Vadnais Heights Rotary.

**3. Workshops for Staff**

Kristine attended the Izaak Walton League’s Watershed Summit and a Metro Blooms Raingarden “Train the Trainer” workshop Vanessa and Kristine also attended a workshop called “More than a Message” which was taught by Eric Eckl from Water Words that Work. This workshop teaches people about how to reach your target audiences and how to be more effective about getting your message across.

**D. TMDL**

Implementation meeting dates – The North Oaks meeting will likely be the first week of April. Stephanie will work with Lindner to pick a date for the Gem Lake meeting by the end of April.

**VIII. Reports**

**A. Financial Report for March 2014 & Authorization for Payment**

It was moved and seconded by Murphy & Lindner to approve the March Financial Report and approve payment of checks. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**IX. Commissioner Reports**

Lindner said that the Audubon Society is hosting a workshop called “Bad for Bees” to discuss the decline in the bee population and its effects. Linder also stated he won’t be at the next TEC meeting.

Larson stated that Chris Mann will be back at the end of the month so should be at the next TEC meeting.

Peterson showed pictures from his trip last month in Florida Keys.

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

Stephanie mentioned that an educational sign is going to be put in at Vadnais trail project permeable pavers were installed as part of the trail reconstruction last year and Ramsey County Parks wanted to check with SPRWS if they would like

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

A new urban resource specialist was recently hired to replace Ryan Johnson and will start soon. They will also have their day at the Capitol soon and are planning events as well. RCD is also going through a BWSR grant review (so is VLAWMO). Behrens is also working with RWMWD to work on their strategic plan.

**XII. Public Comment**

**XIII. Next Meetings**

TEC: April 11

Board: April 23 – TEC & Board Workshop begins at 6pm.

**XIV. Adjourn**

It was moved and seconded by Grisim & Murphy to adjourn at am. Vote: All aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Kristine Jenson.