

VLAWMO TECHNICAL COMMISSION MEETING
8:00 AM January 11th, 2023

Vadnais Heights City Hall, Council Chambers, 800 County Road E East, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

Action items: ✈

- I. **Call to Order – 8:00am –Chair Jesse Farrell**
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
- III. **Approval of Minutes (December 14th, 2022) Pg. 2**
- IV. **Administration & Operations**
 - A. Bob Larson recognition
 - B. Financial Report for January & authorization for Payment – Phil ✈ Pg. 6
 - C. 2023 Technical Commission Officer Appointments – Phil ✈ Pg. 13
 - D. Confirmation of 2023 TEC Meeting Dates- Phil ✈ Pg. 13
 - E. 2023 Working Budget Overview- Phil Pg. 13
- V. **Programs**
 - A. Drone stream /ditch inspection overview video – Brian Pg. 14
 - B. VLAWMO Elevator Speech discussion- Nick Pg. 17
 - C. VLAWMO 40th Anniversary campaign planning- Nick Pg. 20
- VI. **Projects**
 - A. Wilkinson BMP Update -Dawn Pg. 14
 - B. Update on MPCA Community Planning Grant for Stormwater Resiliency Application -Lauren Pg. 15
 - C. Vadnais-Sucker Lakes Regional Park Restoration Update -Lauren Pg. 16
 - D. 2023-2025 BWSR WBIF Grant Update -Lauren Pg. 16
- VII. **Commissioner Reports**
- VIII. **NOHOA**
- IX. **Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division**
- X. **St. Paul Regional Water Services**
- XI. **Public Comment**
- XII. **Next Meetings:** TEC: February 8th, Board Meeting: February 22, 2023
- XIII. **Adjourn**

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission (TEC) Minutes
December 14, 2022
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Council Chambers
800 County Road E East, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127**

Commission Members Present:

Nolan Wall	Chair, Vadnais Heights (VH) Alternate
Gloria Tessier	Vice Chair, Gem Lake (GL)
Andy Nelson	White Bear Township (WBT)
Terry Huntrods	White Bear Lake (WBL)

Absent: Patricia Orud North Oaks (NO) Alternate

Others in attendance: Phil Belfiori, Dawn Tanner, Brian Corcoran, Lauren Sampedro, Nick Voss (VLAWMO staff), Jeremy Erickson (SPRWS)

I. Call to Order

Vice Chair Tessier called the meeting to order at 8:08 am.

II. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Nelson and seconded by Commissioner Huntrods to approve the December 14, 2022 TEC agenda Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes (November 11th, 2022)

It was moved by Commissioner Huntrods and seconded by Commissioner Nelson to approve the November 11th meeting minutes as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IV. Administration & Operations

A. Financial Report for Payment

Administrator Belfiori summarized the financial report as included in the TEC packet. He highlighted some of the main expense items including the payment allotments from Ramsey and Anoka County, the Whitaker Pond biochar project, Wilkinson BMP project, and remaining carp management payments. Belfiori recommended approval of the financial report.

It was moved by Commissioner Huntrods and seconded by Commissioner Wall to approve the December financial report for payment. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. December TEC Report to the Board

Administrator Belfiori outlined the TEC report to BOD as outlined in the December packet. Highlights include a drone footage effort for aerial views of Lambert Creek and a 2023 quote for Pleasant Lake carp management.

It was moved by Commissioner Wall and seconded by Commissioner Huntrods to approve the December TEC Report to the Board. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

V. Programs

A. Awards and Outreach

1. Presentation of Watershed Awards

Voss presented the 2022 watershed award recipients as included in the TEC packet. He discussed the recipients' accomplishments and thanked TEC members for their participation in the award process.

2. Update on Education and Outreach 2022 results and 2023 plan

Voss presented a summary of the 2022 Education and Outreach results combined with an outlook for outreach goals in 2023. He highlighted some of the successful events and partnerships from 2022 and how VLAWMO works with communities to meet their education and outreach needs. Voss directed TEC members to the links and information in the packet for more detail.

Commissioner Nelson stated that the materials he receives from VLAWMO are some of the best he has seen. He highlighted that the Good Neighbor Guide in particular is a great "one stop shop" for residents. He thanked Nick for his work with the City of Lino Lakes.

B. Cost Share Program Updates

Sampedro presented the updated cost share policy and application forms.

Sampedro specified that a new policy adjustment is being presented today, which is a recommendation follow-up from the Board subcommittee. The subcommittee recommended the previously proposed \$20/hr in-kind labor hours to be swapped with an increase in the overall grant funds available per applicant for the Soil Health Grant Program. Sampedro stated that staff support the subcommittee's feedback and recommend the maximum Soil Health Grant award amounts increase to \$1,000 and \$1,250 for projects in priority areas. Sampedro recommended approval of the cost share program policy and materials changes.

Vice chair Tessier noted that the new documents appear clear and aid in understanding of the programs.

It was moved by Commissioner Wall and seconded by Commissioner Huntrods to approve the 2023 grant program changes to the Board of Directors. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

VI. Projects

A. Consider Contracts/quotes for 2023

Tanner presented the batch of upcoming contracts, which she noted are also being presented to the December Board meeting.

Commissioner Wall inquired about what is done with the harvested carp. Tanner provided that they are used as fertilizer on agricultural fields.

It was moved by Commissioner Wall and seconded by Commissioner Tessier to approve the 2023 contracts for work in 2023. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. Wilkinson BMP Project Update

Tanner presented the early preliminary design memo (included in the packet) from Houston Engineering on the Wilkinson BMP project. The wetland delineation has been completed and the notice of decision/boundary approval was received in November. . Meetings with partners are ongoing and permitting discussions are underway.

Tanner discussed an Excel tracking tool for use in major projects. The Excel tool includes a dashboard that summarizes the project to date. A snapshot of the dashboard will be presented regularly to TEC and Board.

C. Spent Lime Grant Submission Authorization

Tanner described the background of the spent lime treatment in Oak Knoll pond, starting from smaller pond trials prior to the Oak Knoll Pond. Staff requested authorization for Barr Engineering to submit a grant proposal for this project on behalf of VLAWMO.

Commissioner Nelson inquired about the results of the smaller ponds. Tanner provided that immediate results for water clarity were positive. Buffering capacity remains a focus in continued research, with investigation of how much needs to be applied over time.

It was moved by Commissioner Huntrods and seconded by Commissioner Wall to recommend approval of grant submission to the Board. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

D. MAWD Annual Meeting/Carp Project Presentation

Tanner summarized the carp presentation that was provided at the 2022 MAWD conference and mentioned that a presentation in North Oaks to the community is currently planned for winter.

E. Update on 2023-2025 BWSR WBIF Grant

Sampedro presented an update on the BWSR Watershed-based Implementation Funding grant program for implementation in 2023-2025. She summarized that a convene meeting was held in the summer and staff worked with partners to submit a budget request and draft workplan to BWSR to secure the \$75,000 in available grant funding.

Sampedro stated BWSR has approved the budget request and workplan and the only remaining steps are Board approval of the workplan and execution of the grant agreement. If grant funds are executed they will support at least one project in the Landscape Level 2 grant program.

I. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Wall shared a construction project has begun on the southwest shore of West Vadnais Lake and construction will occur over the next 18 months.

II. NOHOA

None

III. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division

None

IV. St. Paul Regional Water Services

None

V. Public Comment

None

VI. Next Meetings:

Next TEC meeting January 11th. Next BOD meeting February 22nd.

XIII. Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner Wall and seconded by Commissioner Huntrods to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 am. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

Minutes compiled by Nick Voss.

VLAWMO Finance Summary: January 2023

Jan-23		Actual 1/1/23	Actual to Date	2022 Budget	2021 carry over/Grants	Remaining in Budget	2022 Available	Act vs. Budget
BUDGET #	INCOME							
5.11	Storm Water Utility	\$0	\$1,040,309	\$1,019,521	\$0	(\$20,788)	\$1,019,521	102%
5.12	Service Fees	\$0	\$300	\$200	\$0	(\$100)	\$200	150%
5.13	Interest + mitigation acct	\$4,161	\$15,371	\$1,500	\$0	(\$13,871)	\$1,500	1025%
5.14	Misc. income - WCA admin & other	\$10,202	\$12,400	\$3,000	\$0	(\$9,400)	\$3,000	413%
5.15	Other Income Grants/loan	\$52,360	\$194,282	\$324,500	\$0	\$130,218	\$324,500	60%
5.16	Transfer from reserves	\$0	\$0	\$192,367	\$133,751	\$326,118	\$326,118	0%
	TOTAL	\$66,723	\$1,262,662	\$1,541,088	\$133,751	\$412,177	\$1,674,839	82%
EXPENSES								
3.1	Operations & Administration							
3.110	Office - rent, copies, post tel supplies	\$2,116	\$27,316	\$27,097	\$0	(\$219)	\$27,097	101%
3.120	Information Systems	\$1,300	\$22,134	\$25,865	\$0	\$3,731	\$25,865	86%
3.130	Insurance	\$0	\$9,136	\$7,210	\$0	(\$1,926)	\$7,210	127%
3.141	Consulting - Audit	\$0	\$7,896	\$8,191	\$0	\$295	\$8,191	96%
3.142	Consulting - Bookkeeping	\$0	\$0	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	0%
3.143	Consulting - Legal	\$41	\$858	\$5,000	\$0	\$4,142	\$5,000	17%
3.144	Consulting - Eng. & Tech.	\$0	\$20,453	\$30,000	\$14,000	\$23,547	\$44,000	46%
3.150	Storm Sewer Utility	\$1,040	\$12,262	\$14,000	\$0	\$1,738	\$14,000	88%
3.160	Training (staff/board)	\$8,440	\$17,371	\$12,500	\$0	(\$4,871)	\$12,500	139%
3.170	Misc. & mileage	\$149	\$3,307	\$6,300	\$0	\$2,993	\$6,300	52%
3.191	Administration - staff	\$30,144	\$418,923	\$391,400	\$0	(\$27,523)	\$391,400	107%
3.192	Employer Liability	\$9,313	\$124,075	\$114,425	\$0	(\$9,650)	\$114,425	108%
3.2	Monitoring and Studies							
3.210	Lake and Creek lab analysis	\$0	\$10,567	\$18,000	\$0	\$7,433	\$18,000	59%
3.220	Equipment	\$118	\$719	\$3,000	\$0	\$2,281	\$3,000	24%
3.230	Wetland assessment & management	\$0	\$0	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000	0%
3.240	Watershed Plan Amendment	\$0	\$111	\$15,000	\$0	\$14,889	\$15,000	1%
3.3	Education and Outreach							
3.310	Public Education	\$0	\$2,074	\$6,000	\$0	\$3,926	\$6,000	35%
3.320	Marketing	\$0	\$5,932	\$17,500	\$0	\$11,568	\$17,500	34%
3.330	Community Blue Ed Grant	\$0	\$2,373	\$2,000	\$0	(\$373)	\$2,000	119%
<i>Total Core functions: Ops, Monitoring, Education</i>		<i>\$52,662</i>	<i>\$685,507</i>	<i>\$719,988</i>	<i>\$14,000</i>	<i>\$48,481</i>	<i>\$733,988</i>	<i>93%</i>
Capital Improvement Projects and Programs								

3.4	Subwatershed Activity							
3.410	Gem Lake	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	
3.420	Lambert Creek	\$1,515	\$166,071	\$44,432	\$70,000	(\$51,639)	\$114,432	145%
3.421	Lambert Lake Loan	\$0	\$38,568	\$38,568	\$0	\$0	\$38,568	100%
3.425	Goose Lake	\$4,585	\$28,928	\$70,000	\$10,000	\$51,072	\$80,000	36%
3.430	Birch Lake	\$0	\$6,057	\$10,000	\$0	\$3,943	\$10,000	61%
3.440	Gilf Black Tam Wilk Amelia	\$4,279	\$88,817	\$93,500	\$12,000	\$16,683	\$105,500	84%
3.450	Pleasant Charley Deep	\$0	\$35,823	\$35,000	\$10,000	\$9,177	\$45,000	80%
3.460	Sucker Vadnais	\$0	\$7,138	\$41,500	\$0	\$34,362	\$41,500	17%
3.48	Programs							
3.480	Soil Health Grant	\$0	\$6,415	\$5,000	\$0	(\$1,415)	\$5,000	128%
3.481	Landscape 1	\$0	\$10,676	\$16,000	\$0	\$5,324	\$16,000	67%
3.482	Landscape 2/BWSR WBF	\$0	\$32,629	\$28,000	\$17,751	\$13,122	\$45,751	71%
3.483	Project Research & feasibility	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!
3.485	Facilities Maintenance	\$354	\$55,505	\$102,600	\$0	\$47,095	\$102,600	54%
3.5	Regulatory							
3.510	Engineer Plan review	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	0%
	Total CIP & Program	\$10,732	\$476,627	\$496,600	\$119,751	\$139,724	\$616,351	77%
	Total of Core Operations & CIP	\$63,394	\$1,162,134	\$1,216,588	\$133,751	\$188,205	\$1,350,339	86%

Fund Balance	12/1/2022	1/1/2023
4M Account	\$582,228	\$1,008,705
4M Plus Savings	\$227,660	\$228,418
Total	\$809,888	\$1,237,123

Restricted funds	1/1/2023
Mitigation Savings	\$21,014
Term Series	\$0

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Check Detail

12:30 PM

01/03/2023

December 15, 2022 through January 11, 2023

Type	Num	Date	Name	Item	Account	Paid Amount	Original Amount
Check	eft	12/19/2022	Reliance Standard		Checking - 1987		-303.62
				Insurance Benefit		-91.50	91.50
				Insurance Benefit		-212.12	212.12
TOTAL						-303.62	303.62
Check	eft	12/29/2022	US Bank		Checking - 1987		-10.00
				3.170 · Misc. & mileage		-10.00	10.00
TOTAL						-10.00	10.00
Check	5490	01/11/2023	City Of Roseville		Checking - 1987		-1,300.19
				IT Support		-1,300.19	1,300.19
TOTAL						-1,300.19	1,300.19
Check	5491	01/11/2023	Barr Engineering Co		Checking - 1987		-3,296.50
				Oak Knoll		-3,296.50	3,296.50
TOTAL						-3,296.50	3,296.50
Check	5492	01/11/2023	MAWD		Checking - 1987		-7,500.00
				3.160 · Training (staff/board)		-7,500.00	7,500.00
TOTAL						-7,500.00	7,500.00
Check	5493	01/11/2023	Ehlers & Associates, Inc.		Checking - 1987		-1,040.00
				3.150 · Storm Sewer Utility		-1,040.00	1,040.00
TOTAL						-1,040.00	1,040.00
Check	5494	01/11/2023	Houston Engineering, Inc		Checking - 1987		-4,632.50
				3.485 · Facilities & Maintenance		-353.50	353.50
				Wilkinson 319 grant 320705.50		-4,279.00	4,279.00
TOTAL						-4,632.50	4,632.50
Check	5495	01/11/2023	Barr Engineering Co		Checking - 1987		-1,288.50
				Oak Knoll		-936.00	936.00
				3.425 · Goose Lake		-352.50	352.50
TOTAL						-1,288.50	1,288.50
Check	5496	01/11/2023	SEH		Checking - 1987		-1,514.56
				LL VLAWMO cash match		-1,514.56	1,514.56

TOTAL					-1,514.56	1,514.56
Check	5497	01/11/2023 City of Vadnais Heights	Checking - 1987		-2,115.66	
			Rent		-1,715.00	1,715.00
			Phone/Internet/Machine Overhead		-305.00	305.00
			Postage		-15.57	15.57
			Copies		-80.09	80.09
TOTAL					<u>-2,115.66</u>	<u>2,115.66</u>
Check	5498	01/11/2023 City of White Bear Lake	Checking - 1987		-39,153.80	
			Payroll		-30,144.02	30,144.02
			Administration FICA		-2,186.85	2,186.85
			Administration PERA		-2,260.81	2,260.81
			Insurance Benefit		-4,517.20	4,517.20
			Admin payroll processing		-44.92	44.92
TOTAL					<u>-39,153.80</u>	<u>39,153.80</u>
Check	5499	01/11/2023 Kennedy & Graven, Chartered	Checking - 1987		-41.40	
			3.143 · Legal		-41.40	41.40
TOTAL					<u>-41.40</u>	<u>41.40</u>
Check	5500	01/11/2023 Nicholas Voss	Checking - 1987		-40.63	
			3.170 · Misc. & mileage		-40.63	40.63
TOTAL					<u>-40.63</u>	<u>40.63</u>
Check	5501	01/11/2023 Dawn Tanner	Checking - 1987		-98.75	
			3.170 · Misc. & mileage		-98.75	98.75
TOTAL					<u>-98.75</u>	<u>98.75</u>

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organiz:
Profit & Loss
 December 15, 2022 through January 11, 2023

12:33 PM

01/03/2023

Cash Basis

Dec 15, '22 - Jan 11, 23

Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Misc.	10,201.80
5.1 · Income	
5.13 · Interest	4,161.37
5.15 · Other Income Grants/Loan	37,500.00
Total 5.1 · Income	<u>41,661.37</u>
6.6.6 · Grants	<u>14,860.00</u>
Total Income	<u>66,723.17</u>
Gross Profit	66,723.17
Expense	
3.1 · Administrative/Operations	
3.110 · Office	
Copies	80.09
Phone/Internet/Machine Overhead	305.00
Postage	15.57
Rent	1,715.00
Total 3.110 · Office	<u>2,115.66</u>
3.120 · Information Systems	
IT Support	1,300.19
Total 3.120 · Information Systems	<u>1,300.19</u>
3.143 · Legal	41.40
3.150 · Storm Sewer Utility	1,040.00
3.160 · Training (staff/board)	8,440.00
3.170 · Misc. & mileage	149.38
3.191 · Employee Payroll	
Payroll	30,144.02
Total 3.191 · Employee Payroll	30,144.02
3.192 · Employer Liabilities	
Admin payroll processing	44.92
Administration FICA	2,186.85
Administration PERA	2,260.81
Insurance Benefit	4,820.82
Total 3.192 · Employer Liabilities	<u>9,313.40</u>
Total 3.1 · Administrative/Operations	<u>52,544.05</u>
3.2 · Monitoring and Studies	
3.220 · Equipment	118.00
Total 3.2 · Monitoring and Studies	<u>118.00</u>
3.4 · Capital Imp. Projects/Programs	
3.420 · Lambert Creek Restoration	
LL VLAWMO cash match	1,514.56
Total 3.420 · Lambert Creek Restoration	<u>1,514.56</u>

3.425 · Goose Lake	
Oak Knoll	4,232.50
3.425 · Goose Lake - Other	352.50
Total 3.425 · Goose Lake	4,585.00
3.440 · Gilfillan Black Tamarack Wilkin	
Wilkinson 319 grant 320705.50	4,279.00
Total 3.440 · Gilfillan Black Tamarack Wilkin	4,279.00
Total 3.4 · Capital Imp. Projects/Programs	10,378.56
3.48 · Programs	
3.485 · Facilities & Maintenance	353.50
Total 3.48 · Programs	353.50
Total Expense	63,394.11
Net Ordinary Income	3,329.06
Net Income	3,329.06

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Custom Transaction Detail Report
 November 1, 2022 through January 1, 2023

12:28 PM

01/03/2023

Accrual Basis

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Account	Clr	Split	Amount	Balance
Nov 1, '22 - Jan 1, 23									
Credit Card Charge	11/01/2022		Google*SVCAPPS_VLAWM		US Bank CC	√	WEB	42.00	42.00
Credit Card Charge	11/02/2022		Google*SVCAPPS_VLAWM		US Bank CC	√	WEB	42.00	84.00
Credit Card Charge	11/04/2022		Fresh Thyme	CEL crew snacks	US Bank CC	√	3.170 · Misc. & mileage	23.96	107.96
Credit Card Charge	11/08/2022		adobe *photography plan		US Bank CC	√	Software	9.99	117.95
Credit Card Charge	11/15/2022		EDCO	engraved plate	US Bank CC	√	3.310 · Public Education	99.33	217.28
Credit Card Charge	11/16/2022		Arrowwood Resort	MAWD Phil	US Bank CC	√	3.160 · Training (staff/board)	246.36	463.64
Credit Card Charge	11/16/2022		Arrowwood Resort	MAWD Phil registration	US Bank CC	√	3.160 · Training (staff/board)	325.00	788.64
Credit Card Charge	11/16/2022		Arrowwood Resort	MAWD dawn registration	US Bank CC	√	3.160 · Training (staff/board)	300.00	1,088.64
Transfer	11/21/2022			Funds Transfer	US Bank CC	√	Checking - 1987	-349.94	738.70
Credit Card Charge	11/25/2022		Adobe *Creative Cloud		US Bank CC	√	Software	32.20	770.90
Credit Card Charge	11/28/2022		hologram	account refill	US Bank CC	√	Software	30.00	800.90
Credit Card Charge	12/03/2022		Arrowwood Resort	MAWD dawn hotel	US Bank CC	√	3.160 · Training (staff/board)	369.54	1,170.44
Credit Card Charge	12/13/2022		Vista Print	envelopes	US Bank CC		3.320 · Marketing	109.73	1,280.17
Credit Card Charge	12/13/2022		mn Department of Agriculture	renewal pest 2023 license	US Bank CC		3.160 · Training (staff/board)	10.22	1,290.39
Credit Card Charge	12/27/2022		University of Minnesota	Dawn PM training	US Bank CC		3.160 · Training (staff/board)	940.00	2,230.39
Credit Card Charge	12/27/2022		Prairie Moon Nursery	seed	US Bank CC		3.220 · Equipment	118.00	2,348.39
								2,348.39	2,348.39
Nov 1, '22 - Jan 1, 23									

TEC Staff Memo – January 11, 2023

IV. Administration & Operations

A. Bob Larson Recognition

B. Financial Report for December & authorization for Payment

Please find the January 2023 Finance Report attached in the ePacket for review and approval.

C. Election of 2023 TEC Officers Election of Officers

With January comes the need to elect or confirm a slate of officers for the Technical Commission. Per usual, the Board will officially appoint the TEC Chair but they look to the TEC to recommend who they want as Chair for the year.

Currently from 2022:

Jesse Farrell, Chair

Gloria Tessier, Vice Chair

Bob Larson, Financial officer (will not be on the TEC in 2023)

Paul Duxbury, Liaison to the Board (will not be on the TEC in 2023)

D. 2023 TEC Meeting Dates and Location

Requested confirmation from the TEC of 2023 meeting dates and location so this information can be shared with the Board of Directors and be included in the VLAWMO calendar.

E. 2023 Working Budget Overview

At their December 14, 2022 meeting the VLAWMO Board approved the fund balance carry over “working budget” for 2023. As approved, the final “working” budgeted expenditures for 2023 will be \$1,621,450.

To pay these expenditures the projected income within the approved working budget for 2023 is made up of: 1) \$1,095,087 from the SSU and some small fees and 2) up to 526,363 in 2022 fund balance carry over. It is also estimated that \$385,284 of grants/ other outside funding revenue sources (mostly MPCA 319 grant income /partnership for proposed Wilkinson Lk. and BWSR grant income for watershed based cost share) will be utilized to implement some of the important projects and programs in the 2023 budget. These outside funding revenue grant amounts are anticipated to be revised based on project board action and project timing constraints and or other variables.

Summary of some of the key 2023 approved Budget project highlights include:

1. Proposed MPCA grant 319 Wilkinson Lake project
2. Level 2 cost-share partnership projects and other cost share activities/programs
3. Pleasant Lake (carp management) program

4. Public drainage inspection and maintenance program
5. Proposed work in the E. Goose Lake subwatershed including proposed partnership on pilot demonstration project for spent lime pond application
6. Pilot demonstration groundwater conservation cost share program
7. Project communication and education/ outreach
8. Water quality monitoring
9. Lambert Pond project loan debt service

V. Programs

A. Drone Stream/Ditch inspection overview video

Staff coordinated with the City of Vadnais Heights to use their drone to inspect the hydraulics of the recently completed meander project to make sure flows and streambanks were in good shape. The drone flight also flew over the phase I & II ditch dredging projects to inspect conditions. Overall the ditch was in good shape with minor debris in a few areas. We appreciate the partnership from the City on this effort and would like to continue the drone flights as part of our overall inspection efforts going into the future. Staff will show a portion of the drone flight at the TEC meeting.

B. VLAWMO elevator speech discussion

Staff member Nick Voss will introduce a new elevator speech guide to aid in talking about VLAWMO outside of TEC meetings. The guide (included in the January TEC packet) is structured with options to choose from to create a custom elevator speech that is catered to the talking points of your choice. Voss will provide a powerpoint presentation at the meeting to summarize the packet materials and an overview of the guide. VLAWMO looks forward to the many opportunities coming up in 2023 and hopes that this guide can be an ongoing reference to support water related topics in your communities as well as help broaden and grow the network of watershed partners.

C. VLAWMO 40th Anniversary campaign planning

We're excited to announce that 2023 is VLAWMO's 40th anniversary! Staff member Nick Voss will introduce a draft 40th anniversary communications campaign for TEC feedback and input. Find the draft campaign included in the January TEC packet.

VI. Projects

A. Wilkinson BMP Project update: There are 3 main updates since the previous TEC meeting

- 1) In Dec., VLAWMO and NOC staff met with the Minnesota Land Trust to share the early preliminary design memo and discuss preferred process for review/changes by MLT as plans continue to advance. MLT will be providing written comments to

VLAWMO during Jan. on the early preliminary design memo.

2) VLAWMO received the sediment report from Braun and accompanying memo from HEI for the Wilkinson BMP Project on Jan. 3, 2023:

The Braun report identified that some of the arsenic samples are above the recently revised MPCA soil reference values; however, the report also noted that the “materials planned for dredging meet Dredge Management Level 1 criteria” and “planned re-use of the material as an earthen berm equates to long term storage and thereby, disposal, according to dredge management guidelines.”

The HEI memo dated Jan. 3 identifies that HEI determined that a MPCA Permit is not required for the dredging and on-site disposal of spoil materials.

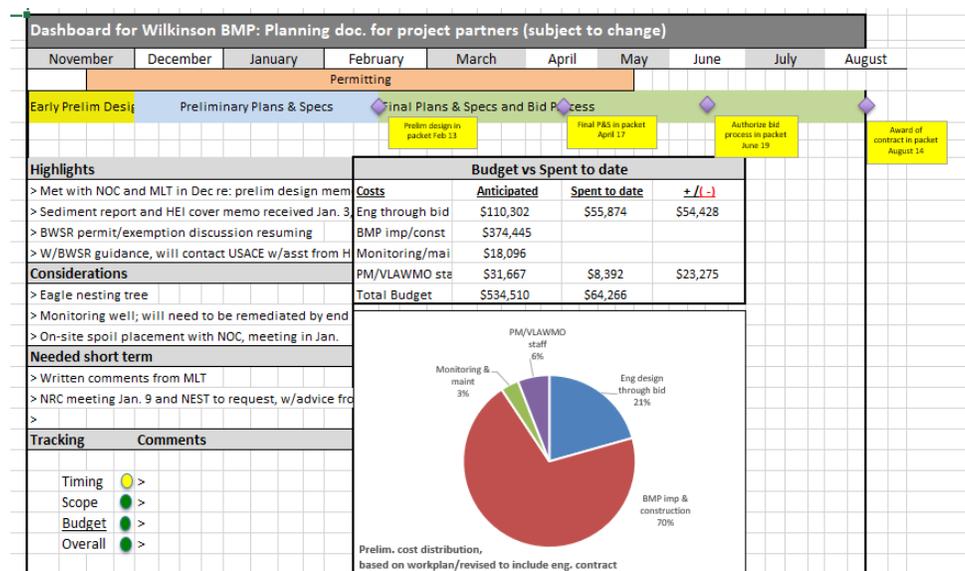
The sediment report from Braun and accompanying memo from HEI for the Wilkinson BMP Project are linked here:

www.vlawmo.org/index.php/download_file/4321/

With the sediment report and HEI memo completed, VLAWMO is resuming work on permitting with BWSR and is planning to set up a USACE meeting to follow.

3) VLAWMO staff are anticipating providing an update to the Natural Resources Commission in North Oaks on Jan. 9. The update was originally scheduled for Dec. 12 but was postponed when it was determined that a quorum was not going to be reached.

A snapshot of the dashboard shows project status to date:



B. Update on MPCA Community Planning Grant for Stormwater Resiliency Application

The MPCA is offering \$395,000 in grant dollars to support climate planning projects in Minnesota to improve community resilience to climate change effects. The funding focuses on three areas of improving stormwater resilience and reducing localized flood risk; improving the resilience of wastewater systems; and adapting community services, ordinances and public spaces. This funding will be distributed across the State, with grant applications due on January 12, 2023. Staff understands these funds are highly competitive with likely a large portion of the application submitted not being funded.

VLAWMO is partnering with Barr Engineering and the City of Vadnais Heights, Ramsey County, Ramsey County Parks and Recreation-Soil and Water Conservation Division, and Saint Paul Regional Water Services to apply for this grant to expand on a Ramsey County study currently underway to reduce flooding at the intersection of Edgerton Street and Centerville Road in Vadnais Heights. Almost 300 acres contribute drainage to this intersection, which ultimately reaches East Vadnais Lake largely untreated. A map of the drainage area is attached in the TEC packet.

The goal of the MPCA application is to complete a study to evaluate upstream, multi-beneficial project opportunities that will further reduce chronic flooding in the study area and reduce stormwater volume for a more resilient community. The study is estimated to cost approximately \$67,810. VLAWMO and partners are requesting roughly 50% of the study cost in MPCA grant funds.

C. Vadnais-Sucker Lakes Regional Park Restoration Update

Great River Greening posted the RFP for the Vadnais-Sucker Lakes Regional Park restoration project in December. The bid was awarded to Minnesota Native Landscapes (MNL), which came in lower than the other bidders at \$55,165. Once staff receives notice of the anticipated start date of the buckthorn removal work from MNL or Great River Greening, we will coordinate the posting of signage for the public.

D. 2023-2025 BWSR WBIF Grant Update

At the last Board of Directors meeting on December 14th, the grant workplan was approved for the 2023-2025 BWSR Watershed-based Implementation Funding (WBIF) grant and the grant agreement was signed. BWSR fully executed the grant agreement and distributed 50% of the grant funds to VLAWMO of \$37,500. VLAWMO and partners can now focus on pursuing project opportunities to use the grant funds. Staff will also work on completing a brief progress report for BWSR, which is due at the beginning of February.

Crafting a VLAWMO Elevator Speech

Staff invite new and veteran TEC members to kick off 2023 with a refresher on VLAWMO's mission and role. Using the phrases and concepts below we invite TEC and affiliates to plan an elevator speech to describe VLAWMO and your role on the TEC in your own words. 2023 is also marks VLAWMO's 40th anniversary and creates unique opportunities for community engagement and networking.

Pick 1-2 points from each category to craft your elevator speech. Try practicing it aloud to make the most of on-the-spot or surprise opportunities.

Mission and scope: Pick 2

- VLAWMO's mission:
 - To protect and enhance the water resources in the watershed.
- What VLAWMO does:
 - Planning for water improvements and conservation, help community members such as residents and businesses be part of water solutions, and to tell people about it.
- 40th Anniversary
 - Since 1983 VLAWMO has been working with communities in the Northeast Metro to design and build a balanced watershed with clean water.
 - Watch vlawmo.org for 40th anniversary recaps.
- Watershed topics we work on:
 - Water quality, local flooding, stormwater, wetlands, aquatic invasive species, helping to build and live around wetlands and waterbodies, public drainage inspection.
 - Working closely with member communities to plan and fund water related projects and accomplish shared goals.

Organization nuts and bolts: Pick 1

- Joint Powers Association: VLAWMO is a JPA with 6 member communities. An elected official from each community sits on VLAWMO's Board of Directors (BOD) and an additional appointed representative from each community makes up the VLAWMO Technical Commission (TEC).
- Two-board structure: The BOD meets every other month, TEC meets once per month. The BOD has a big picture direction and policy focus while the TEC has a more day to day operations and financial focus.
- Water Management Organization (WMO): VLAWMO serves as a WMO and not a Watershed District (WD). The difference between these is largely permitting capacity – WD's facilitate permits and maintain regulations while WMO's create recommendations for member communities to adopt and enforce.

Help VLAWMO create a community of water leaders: Pick 1

1. Where to find more information about our work
 - a. E-newsletter – subscribe at the bottom of the VLAWMO homepage
 - b. Website: Start with project pages, waterbody pages, or the “residents” tab
 - c. Social media: Facebook and Instagram, YouTube (primary) LinkedIn, Twitter (Secondary), link to social media pages from the VLAWMO homepage
2. How to join the effort for watershed improvement:
 - a. Practice water-friendly yardcare: Look ahead to the next season, check the VLAWMO web calendar for tips.
 - b. Explore water-friendly landscaping: Check out VLAWMO’s examples and resources on the “grants” page or check the calendar for workshops and tours.
 - c. Adopt-a-drain (www.adopt-a-drain.org)
3. How to connect closer to VLAWMO’s day to day work:
 - a. Inquire what your local City or Township is currently working on with VLAWMO staff and what upcoming opportunities there might be to support or follow along
 - b. Volunteer with VLAWMO or look into the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)
 - c. Follow the meeting calendar and visit a public meeting

Bridge builder phrases: Optional - Pick 1 as needed

“Working with VLAWMO...”

- Brings resources and expertise from the field of water resources into a City or Township effort.
- Shifts persistent water issues or complications into team-oriented solutions.
- Is a proactive approach to water management.
- Can touch on water quantity, water quality, invasive species, water conservation, and even soil health.

Quick pitch ideas: Navigating some of the most common local water topics

Please contact Nick for questions or further detail

- Everyone has waterfront property – your boulevard and nearest stormdrain connect directly to a lake, stream, or wetland without treatment.
- Stormponds are designed to catch sediment and excess nutrients before the water from nearby development gets to a lake, stream, or wetland. Unsightly stormponds may be due for maintenance, but this also means they've done their job.
- VLAWMO is one of only a few watershed organizations that has community involvement baked into its DNA. Elected officials and appointed reps drive VLAWMO's work and help plan its direction.
- VLAWMO is unique in its connection to a municipal drinking water source. It works with the Saint Paul Regional Water Services (SPRWS) to keep upstream surface water part of the big picture.
- Leaves and grass clippings often seem “natural”, but disposing them in ditches and wetlands creates an imbalance and turns them into a pollutant. This produces excess and potentially toxic algae, harms aquatic life, creates disturbances that invasive species favor, and hurts efficient water movement and storage across the watershed. Responsible disposal at a yard waste facility, compost, or curb-site yardwaste pick-up service is a way to look out for your downstream neighbor.
- When communicating about illicit discharge (illegal dumping) to the public, water resource communicators often refer to the simple phrase of “only rain down the drain.”

Key themes in watershed planning:

- Watershed planning is often a focus on non-point source pollution. This means that there isn't a single “source” or single “point” of water pollution, but is the accumulation of dozens or even hundreds of small, seemingly innocent or accidental problems. This is why VLAWMO strives for both large and small-scale projects to improve water quality and quantity, and balance in the watershed.
- Planning on the front end is more cost-effective and better for community investment than fixing problems after the fact.
- Integrating stormwater best management practices into a development on the front-end, as the development is being planned, does take more time, planning, and communication with partners. But it's still easier overall than including it after buildings and parking lots are built.

VLAWMO Technical Commission – January 2023

40th Anniversary Celebration Plan Draft 1/11/23 for discussion.

Some of the highest priority items in draft list below would be considered for further development by VLAWMO staff.

Title: VLAWMO's 40th anniversary

Key phrase: "Celebrating 40 years of collaborative watershed management and partnerships"

E-Newsletter:

- Special edition newsletter: **April, 2023 focus on major projects**
- "VLAWMO's 40 Year Anniversary" Happy Birthday to the Watershed" at the bottom of standard

Special VLAWMO webpage:

- Post under "about" tab
- Recorded general talk
- Summary of project highlights, linked to other areas of website
- Water samples taken (estimate)
- Projects involved in (estimate)
- Estimate of how many people have been a part of VLAWMO's TEC, BOD, and staff over the years
- 40th anniversary edition VLAWMO logo
- Link to blogs:
 - Recorded general talk
 - Interview with Steph

Blogs:

- Recorded general talk
- Interview with Steph (text)

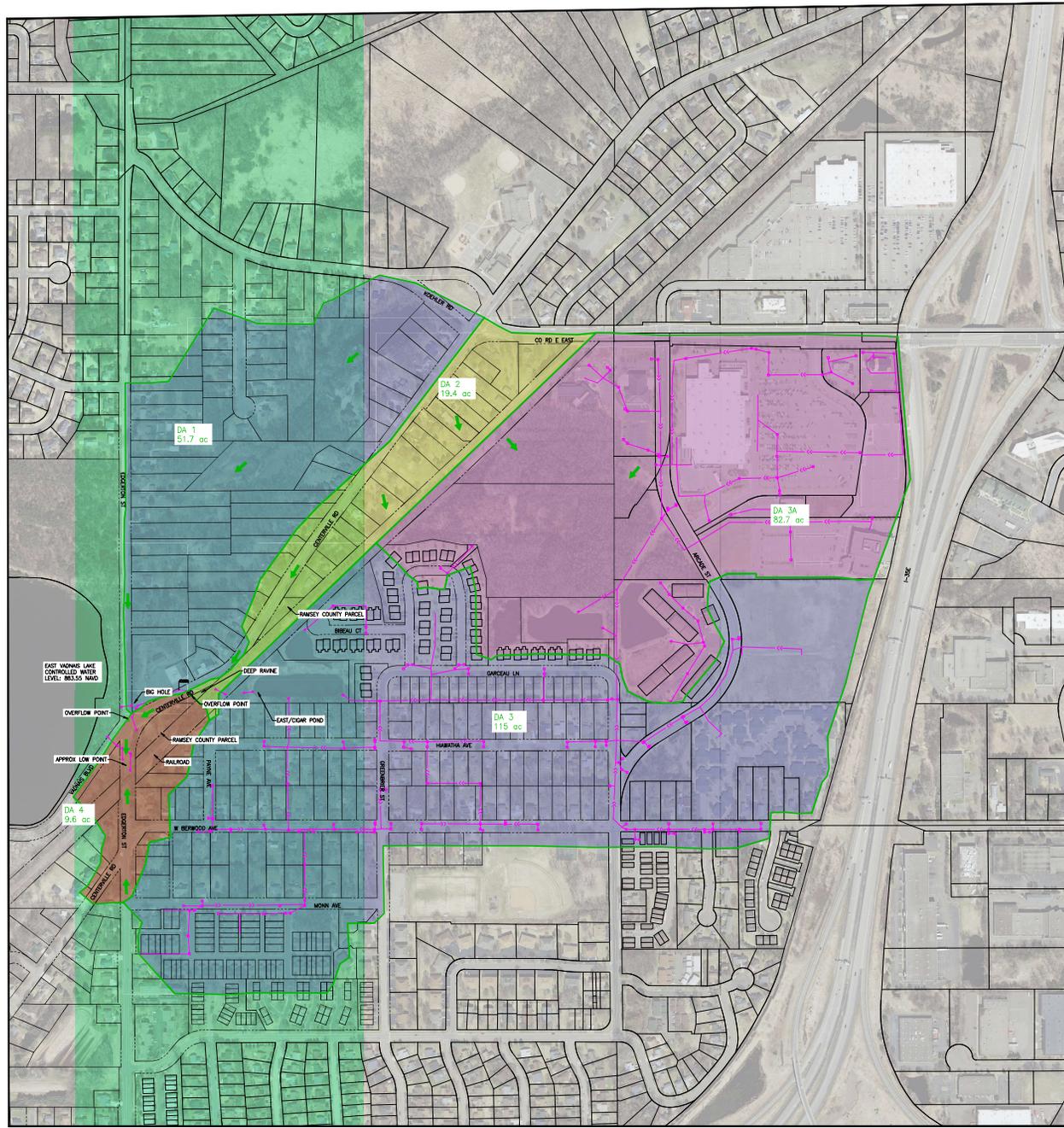
Presentations:

- Recorded general talk with YouTube link (5 minutes)
- In-person presentations based on same recorded talk, customized to community

Annual Report:

- Visual inclusion of 40 year anniversary in routine annual report documents
- Special edition bi-fold brochure

- LEGEND**
- DRAINAGE AREAS
 - DA 1 DRAINAGE AREA LABELS
 - EXISTING STORM SEWER
 - EXISTING STORM STRUCTURES
 - PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY
 - PARCEL LINES
 - DRAINAGE FLOW ARROWS



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