



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS – DECEMBER 14, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Attendance		Present	Absent
Jim Lindner, Chair	City of Gem Lake	x	
Tom Watson	City of North Oaks	x	
Rob Rafferty	City of Lino Lakes		x
Ed Prudhon	White Bear Township		x
Dan Jones, Vice Chair	City of White Bear Lake	x	
Patricia Youker, Secretary-Treasurer	City of Vadnais Heights	x	
Phil Belfiori	Administrator	x	
Brian Corcoran	Water Resources Mgr.	x	
Dawn Tanner	Program Development Coord.	x	
Nick Voss	Education & Outreach Coord.	x	
Lauren Sampedro	Watershed Tech & Program Coord.	x	

*= with prior notice

Others in attendance: None

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Chair Lindner.

II. Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the December 14, 2022 Board meeting was presented for approval.

A motion was made by Director Watson and seconded by Director Youker to approve the October Board meeting agenda.

Vote: Jones: aye, Youker: aye, Lindner: aye, Watson: aye. Motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the October 26, 2022 Board meeting were placed on the agenda for approval, as presented. No comments from the Directors.

A motion was made by Director Youker and seconded by Director Watson to approve the October 26 Board meeting minutes. Vote: Jones: aye, Youker: aye, Lindner: aye, Jones: aye, Watson: aye. Motion passed.

IV. Visitors and Presentations

A. Recognition of Director Patricia Youker

Administrator Belfiori and Chair Lindner presented a certificate of appreciation and water drop award to Director Youker for her years of service on the Board of Directors.

B. 2022 VLAWMO Watershed Awards

Voss presented a summary of the 2022 watershed award recipients as provided in the December Board packet.

C. TEC Report and Financial Report for December

Administrator Belfiori described the December 2022 TEC report to the Board of Directors as included in the December Board packet. Highlights include updates on the Whitaker Pond biochar filter, drone footage of Lambert Creek, a spent lime study being underway, updates on the Wilkinson Lake BMP project, and Pleasant Lake carp management.

Discussion:

None

V. Consent Agenda 

Chair Lindner asked if any Board members wished to speak on any of the consent agenda items;

Director Jones requested discussion on V.A. regarding the contract with the Munch Bunch. Tanner provided insight on goat effectiveness for buckthorn removal. She said the effectiveness relies on treatment and clearing occurring before the goats are used for grazing. The site in the proposed contract is ideal because prior treatment has been completed in the target areas at the Vadnais Heights City Hall. An additional feature in the proposed contract is that the goats will have collars that are able to be monitored and moved around the site remotely.

Consent agenda items on the agenda and included in the December Board packet were as follows:

A. Consider Contracts/quotes for 2023- (5 total) 

B. Wilkinson BMP Project update

C. Consider Spent lime grant submission authorization 

D. Update on MAWD annual meeting carp presentation

E. Update on Great River Greening Vadnais/Sucker Park restoration

F. Consider Watershed Planning Resiliency Grant application 

G. Consider VLAWMO legal services for 2023 and 24 

A motion was made by Director Watson and seconded by Director Jones to approve the consent agenda. Vote: Jones: aye, Lindner: aye, Youker: aye, Watson: aye. Motion passed.

D. Public Visitors – Non agenda items

None

VI. Business

A. Administration and Projects

1. Consider Working 2023 budget fund balance carryover – Res 10-2022 

Administrator Belfiori presented the PowerPoint as included in the December BOD packet. The presentation included a summary of Resolutions 10-2022. Carry-over funds are requested for four areas: 3.1 Operations and Administration, 3.2 Monitoring and Studies, 3.3 Education and Outreach, and 3.4 Capital Improvement Projects. Staff recommends approval of the 2023 working budget as summarized and included in Resolution 10-2022.

RESOLUTION 10-2022

A RESOLUTION FOR COMMITTING THE FUND BALANCE FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization, does hereby find as follows:

WHEREAS, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board’s Statement No. 54 defines committed fund balance as amounts that can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the Board,

WHEREAS, Board action is required before year end to formalize the commitment of fund balance to specified purposes,

WHEREAS, those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the VLAWMO removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action it employed to previously commit those amounts.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the VLAWMO, that the specific portions of fund balance in the identified funds are committed as follows:

Committed

Fund Name and Description	Proposed Carry Over “committed” Funds (into 2023 “working” budget) and Purpose
General Fund - Fund 3.1. Operations and Administration	\$15,000 Engineering and/or pool firms to implement technical assistance tasks: approved watershed plan amendment projects, feas. studies, unanticipated technical work to date.
General Fund - Fund 3.2. Monitoring and Studies	\$16,000 Possible work with Rotary Park or next phase wetland restoration feasibility study. Equipment costs not spent in 2022.
General Fund - Fund 3.3. Education and Outreach	\$9,500 Carrying over into 2023 re: approved website updated

<p>General Fund -Fund 3.4. Capital Improvement Projects and Programs</p>	<p>\$485,863 The approved 2023 budget (approved at the June 2022 Board meeting) already included utilizing <u>\$294,364</u> of fund balance carry over to implement the 2023 Capital Improvement Projects and Programs. The proposed 2023 “working” budget now proposes an additional <u>\$191,499</u> of additional fund balance carry over for a total Proposed Carry Over “committed” Funds (into 2023 “working” budget) of <u>\$485,863</u>. For implementation of the proposed Wilkinson Lake BMP Project, unspent 319 Wilkinson Lake Project/Lake Amelia BMP study-City of Lino Lks., Public drainage inspection /maintenance, Pleasant Lake partnership funding, East Vadnais Lk. Ramsey County/City partnership, Level 2 /Lvl. 1 cost-share (including encumbered NOHOA entrance), Gem Lake Commercial dist. Study.</p>
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The question was on the adoption of the resolution and there were __ yeas and __ nays as follows:

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>
<i>Dan Jones</i>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Ed Prudhon</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
<i>Rob Rafferty</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
<i>Tom Watson</i>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Patricia Youker</i>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Jim Lindner</i>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Upon vote, the Chair declared the Resolution adopted on this 14th day of December 2022.

_____ Board Chair Dated: December ____, 2022

_____ Attest Dated: December ____, 2022

Discussion: Director Watson inquired about the TEC Report to BOD, comparing financial summaries and a discrepancy between the TEC report to BOD and the annual budget. Belfiori concurred that the approved budget for 2023 is \$1,389,451. Belfiori explained that the apparent discrepancy was due to the TEC report to BOD targeting a monthly summary, while the annual budget accounts for carry-over funds. Belfiori demonstrated how the spreadsheets reconcile.

A motion was made by Director Watson and seconded by Director Youker to approve Resolution 10-2022 for contributing to the fund balance for specific purposes.

Vote: Youker: aye, Lindner: aye, Jones: aye, Watson: aye. Motion passed.

2. Update on 2022 Education and Outreach Plan Summary & 2023 Goals

Voss noted that this presentation was focusing on the MS4 programming partnership with member communities. He summarized the presentations that were held throughout the last year including a presentation on the entrance raingarden in the City of North Oaks. Collaborations events included Lino Lakes Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination video presentation and other work with the member communities. Voss highlighted a groundwater conservation strategy that was based on a new groundwater page on the VLAWMO website. He also summarized the content within the Good Neighbor Guide.

Director Watson shared that the City of North Oaks is investigating its status as an MS4 with the MPCA and also summarized status of water supply discussions with neighboring communities that have been going on since May 2022.

Belfiori provided additional insight from the 2022 Board direction that emphasizes a new and growing focus on groundwater conservation through smart irrigation controller pilots, education and outreach efforts, and feasibility with partners for stormwater reuse.

3. Consider cost share program updates

Sampedro presented the PowerPoint included in the BOD packet, which outlines the policy updates and new materials for VLAWMO's four cost share programs. Sampedro summarized each program including the Soil Health, Landscape Level 1, Landscape Level 2, and Rain barrel grant programs. She highlighted Board-initiated changes of adding groundwater conservation and smart irrigation controllers as eligible projects as well as smart irrigation pilot test sites as eligible costs through the Landscape Level 2 Grant Program.

Sampedro presented the visuals of the new grant policy documents and application documents. Staff recommended approval of the proposed 2023 grant program changes.

Discussion:

Chair Lindner noted that this focus reflects the current status of the irrigation industry.

Director Watson inquired about why the former program included an 85% payment option before the project is completed. Sampedro provided that typically this strategy is included to help homeowners front the costs and continue efforts on a project. However in Landscape Level 2 these projects are focused on Cities and public entities which don't typically need funding strategies.

A motion was made by Director Jones and seconded by Director Youker to approve the 2023 grant program changes as presented.

Vote: Lindner: aye, Jones: aye, Youker: aye, Watson: aye. Motion passed.

4. Consider grant agreement and Res 11-2022 for 23-25 BWSR WBIF Grant

Sampedro presented a grant agreement with BWSR and resolution 11-2022 for a 2023-2025 Watershed-based Implementation Funding program grant for consideration. She explained that the current round of BWSR WBIF funding consists of \$6.5 million for the metro area and recipients of these funds would need to include a 10% match. \$75,000 was specifically allocated to the VLAWMO planning area.

Sampedro described the previous funding round’s grant activities and explained the current application process. The Cities of Vadnais Heights and Lino Lakes elected to be the two municipal representatives for the grant partnership and partners elected VLAWMO to be the grantee for the 2023 grant cycle. The partnership also selected to continue the previous funding cycle’s grant activity of implementing VLAWMO’s grant programs for partnership projects. Sampedro directed attention to the workplan in the Board packet for more detail. The next step to secure the \$75,000 of funding is Board approval of the work plan and execution of the grant agreement with BWSR with the adoption of resolution 11-2022.

RESOLUTION NO. 11-2022 of the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO)

A RESOLUTION APPROVING the 2023-2025 BWSR WATERSHED-BASED IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING GRANT AGREEMENT AND WORK PLAN (C23-3449).

Resolution 11-2022 was moved by Director Watson and seconded by Director Jones.

WHEREAS, on October 27, 2021 the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) approved the Watershed-based Implementation Funding (WBIF) watershed allocations for the 2022-2023 biennium; and

WHEREAS, funds have been allocated based on watershed planning areas, and VLAWMO is part of the Vadnais Lake Watershed Planning Area (Partnership) to which BWSR has allocated \$75,000 for implementation in 2023-2025; and

WHEREAS, VLAWMO submitted a funding request and draft work plan on behalf of the Partnership for the Watershed-Based Implementation Funding grant to BWSR to improve water quality within the Lambert Creek, Goose Lake, Birch Lake, and Gilfillan-Tamarack-Black-Wilkinson-Amelia Lakes subwatersheds; and

WHEREAS, components of the grant proposal include VLAWMO Grant Program implementation within the counties of Anoka and Ramsey, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, VLAWMO has finalized a work plan with BWSR for implementation of the grant; and WHEREAS, VLAWMO will work with the Partnership and other landowners to pursue project opportunities for implementation of the grant, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the VLAWMO Board of Directors hereby approves the C23-3449 grant agreement, with BWSR-approved work plan, and authorizes the WMO Board Chair to execute the grant agreement and submit to BWSR, with any final non-material changes and on advice of counsel.

The question was on the adoption of the resolution and there were 4__ yeas and 0 nays as follows:

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>
<i>Dan Jones</i>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Ed Prudhon</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
<i>Rob Rafferty</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
<i>Tom Watson</i>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<i>Patricia Youker</i>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Jim Lindner</i>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Upon vote, the Chair declared the Resolution adopted on this 14th day of December 2022.

_____	Board Chair	Dated: December ____,2022
_____	Attest	Dated: December ____,2022

Discussion:

Director Watson inquired whether the grant’s match can be cash or in-kind match, Sampedro responded that it can be either.

A motion was made by Director Watson and seconded by Director Jones to approve Resolution 11-2022 approving the 2023-2025 BWSR Watershed-Based Implementation Funding Grant Agreement and Work Plan.

Vote: Lindner: aye, Jones: aye, Watson: aye, Youker: aye. Resolution passed.

VII. Discussion

A. Reminder: 2023 Board and alternate appointments/ TEC appointments and alternate

Director Jones provided an update that after 2023 he will not be running for White Bear Lake City Council. Director Watson discussed an interest in continuing succession planning as Board terms end.

B. Discussion on groundwater conservation as requested by Director Watson

Director Watson commented that the groundwater conservation topics requested had been covered in previous discussions on the agenda, particularly in section VI. A. 2.

VIII. Administration Communication

Belfiori provided a thank you to the Board for the year and a congratulations to Director Youker for her time on the Board of Directors.

VII. Adjourn

A motion was made by Director Youker and seconded by Director Jones to adjourn at 8:04 pm.

Vote: Lindner: aye, Jones: aye, Youker: aye, Watson: aye. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Nick Voss.