

## VLAWMO TECHNICAL COMMISSION MEETING

**8:15 AM – April 9, 2025**

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

Action items: ☁

- I. Call to Order – 8:15 am – Chair Ousky
- II. Approval of Agenda ☁
- III. Approval of Minutes (March 12, 2025) ☁
- IV. Administration & Operations – Phil
  - A. April Financial Report and Consider Authorization for Payment ☁ Pg. 7
  - B. April TEC Report to the Board ☁ Pg. 14
- V. Programs – Angela, Brian, Lauren
  - A. Consider Recommendation on Draft 2024 Annual Report/Monitoring Report and Summary, Angela & Brian ☁ Pg. 15
  - B. SHG 2025-03 Valdez & Smith Property Restoration Phase 2 ☁ Pgs. 15 & 22
  - C. SHG 2025-04 Redding & Lynch Downspout Raingarden Phase 2 ☁ Pgs. 16 & 36
- VI. Projects – Dawn
  - A. JPA Update as Part of WMP Process Pg. 16
  - B. 319 Update: Remaining Scope for Round 1 and Workplan Preparation for Round 2 Projects Pg. 17
  - C. Rotary Nature Preserve Restoration Update ☁ Pgs. 17 & 44
  - D. Spring Project Update: Tamarack Alum, Common Carp Removal, and Birch AIS Pg. 20
- VII. Commissioner Reports
- VIII. NOHOA
- IX. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division
- X. St. Paul Regional Water Services
- XI. Public Comment
- XII. Next meetings: TEC+: April 9, 2025 (9:00 am), TEC: May 14, 2025 (8:15 am); Board Meeting: April 23, 2025
- XIII. Adjourn ☁
- XIV. **TEC + Watershed Plan review meeting – 9:00AM**

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

**Upcoming Events: Visit [vlawmo.org/events](https://www.vlawmo.org/events)**

Watershed Action Volunteers (WAV) spring kick-off meeting: April 14  
Monarch Joint Venture pollinator workshop: May 15

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization  
Technical Commission (TEC) Minutes  
March 12, 2025  
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Council Chambers  
800 County Road E East, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127**

**Commission Members Present:**

Nick Ousky	Vadnais Heights (VH)
Gloria Tessier	Gem Lake (GL)
Susan Miller	North Oaks (NO)
Tom Hoffman	City of Lino Lakes (LL)
Beth Artner	White Bear Township (WBT – alternate)

**Absent:** Jami Philip, White Bear Township (WBT); Terry Huntrods, City of White Bear Lake (WBL)

**Others in attendance:** Phil Belfiori, Brian Corcoran, Dawn Tanner, Lauren Sampedro, Angela Hugunin (VLAWMO staff)

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Ousky called the meeting to order at 8:14 am.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

It was moved by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Tessier to approve the March 12, 2025 TEC agenda. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**III. Approval of Minutes (February 12, 2025)**

It was moved by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Tessier to approve the February 12, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

**IV. Administration & Operations**

**A. March Financial Report and Consider Authorization for Payment**

Administrator Belfiori summarized the March financial statement as included in the meeting materials. He highlighted income from interest received and noted a payment for a large portion of the audit, which will be presented at the April BOD meeting. Belfiori also noted the Storm Sewer Utility as the main source of local funding. The Watershed Management Plan (WMP) is the primary program expenditure this month, with staff currently reviewing a draft of Section 4 of the WMP. Staff recommended approval of the March financial report for payment.

It was moved by Commissioner Tessier and seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve the March financial report and authorize for payment. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

## **V. Programs**

### **A. LL2 2025-01 Charley Lake Condo Association Smart Irrigation Application**

Sampedro provided an overview of the first Landscape Level 2 (LL2) grant application of the season. Sampedro showed an aerial view of the proposed project in North Oaks, noting that the condo association previously applied for and was awarded a Soil Health grant also through VLAWMO in 2023 to convert turf grass areas into native prairie.

Sampedro explained that irrigation challenges, high water use, and costly water bills have been primary motivators for the project. As part of this application, the applicant hopes to upgrade their irrigation system to reduce their water usage. Sampedro presented the two bids received by the applicant, noting that the total estimated cost is based on the lowest bid. Staff recommended approval of LL2 2025-01.

Commissioner Miller asked whether VLAWMO had done outreach to HOAs within the watershed and asked how the applicant (an HOA) found out about this opportunity. Sampedro replied that information about these programs has primarily spread through word-of-mouth so far.

Commissioner Artner asked whether residents in North Oaks are being reached out to, as they are getting their water from White Bear Township. Sampedro answered that at this time, VLAWMO isn't reaching out to individual homeowners regarding smart irrigation controllers. She explained that this may be considered for the future, but VLAWMO is currently focused on larger-scale irrigators.

Commissioner Artner noted an interest in working together on this sort of issue and noted this may become more contentious in the future. Sampedro shared VLAWMO would be glad to partner.

It was moved by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Tessier to approve LL2 2025-01 in the amount of 90% of eligible project expenses, not to exceed \$17,887.50 in accordance with program guidelines. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

### **B. Grant Programs Evaluation Survey**

Sampedro and Hugunin gave an update on the development of a survey for previous VLAWMO grantees. They highlighted noteworthy survey responses and explained how the data will be used to inform workshop and resource development for VLAWMO's grant programs moving forward.

Commissioner Hoffman asked how far back the grant program goes. Sampedro noted the program started in 2007. She also identified that the program averaged 10-15 recipients per year.

Overall the Commissioners congratulated staff for an excellent 88% satisfaction rating from survey respondents.

## **VI. Projects**

### **A. Update on BWSR Watershed-based Implementation Funding Grant Program**

Sampedro shared an update on the BWSR WBIF grant program, sharing that the Board authorized the signing of a grant agreement between VLAWMO and BWSR. She highlighted a few projects that have been discussed as potential sites for receiving this funding, including the Sports Center bioswale project in White Bear Lake, a potential partnership project with the City of Lino Lakes and North Oaks Company, and the Green Streets project with the City of Vadnais Heights. Sampedro explained that VLAWMO will have until 2027 to utilize the funding, and staff is excited to have another funding source to supplement the Landscape Level 2 grant program.

### **B. Update on two LCCMR Application Proposals**

Corcoran gave an update on two LCCMR grant applications, noting that VLAWMO is working with White Bear Township and Vadnais Heights on two separate application proposals. He explained that the White Bear Township application is for a surface water reuse project at Polar Lakes Park, while the application with the City of Vadnais Heights is for a water quality improvement project, trails, and educational features for the land behind the Vadnais Heights City Hall.

Corcoran showed an aerial view of both proposed project sites. He also explained that if the grant proposals are successful, staff will provide updates at a future TEC meeting.

### **C. Update on CR J WCA Replacement Plan**

Corcoran shared an update on the WCA Replacement Plan for the County Road J area in Lino Lakes. He noted that safety improvement projects will have a wetland impact. A wetland replacement permit application was approved by the VLAWMO Board at their February meeting for the Interstate 35E and County Road J Interchange in Anoka and Ramsey Counties.

Commissioner Hoffman shared that the project was pushed back, as it was slated to begin in spring but has been moved to midsummer-early fall, going into next year.

Commissioner Miller asked for more information on banking credits and what they entail. Corcoran explained the concept, citing wetland impacts during development, approval processes, and alternatives for reducing or eliminating wetland impacts.

Commissioner Hoffman explained that banking efforts are highly regulated, with a 12-step process and follow-up processes are precise and in-depth.

Corcoran noted that there will be a project update in the future.

#### **D. Update on Feasibility Study Partnership with City of Lino Lakes and North Oaks Company**

Corcoran explained that staff representatives from NOC, VLAWMO, and the City of Lino Lakes have met to discuss the development of a feasibility study investigating BMPs to be located within the proposed NOC development site located in the City of Lino Lakes. NOC hired ISG Engineering to be the engineers for the proposed development site. Corcoran highlighted VLAWMO and Lino Lakes staff have interest in exploring “over and above” regulatory standards water quality treatment practices to help reduce nutrient loading in Wilkinson Lake.

He shared the approximate proposed location for the BMP as part of the feasibility investigation and shared the three focus areas for BMPs: Regional BMP for stormwater, water reuse, and smart irrigation controllers technology.

#### **E. Update on WMP and next TEC+ Meeting**

Tanner gave an update on the development on the WMP, noting that staff and HEI continue work on sections 1-4, with intense focus on sections 3 and 4. Tanner shared that section 4 is anticipated to be the focus of an April 9, 2025 TEC+ meeting. The draft section and comment table will be provided at least a week in advance of the meeting. Completed comment tables are requested by April 16 (emailed to [dawn.tanner@vlawmo.org](mailto:dawn.tanner@vlawmo.org)).

### **VII. Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Hoffman shared that the City of Lino lakes is having an open house for the Amelia Lake ditch study done in 2021. Now that the study is done, the City will meet with homeowners/residents to discern whether there is potential for a project to reduce amounts of TSS and TPP that go into Amelia Lake and ultimately Wilkinson Lake.

Commissioner Hoffman also noted that Lino Lakes will be maintaining the west stormwater pond for the I-35E and County Road J interchange project and is looking at doing water reuse for the landscaping around the pond.

### **VIII. NOHOA**

None

**IX. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division**

None

**X. St. Paul Regional Water Services**

None

**XI. Public Comment**

None

**XII. Next Meetings**

TEC: April 9, 2025 at 8:15 a.m.; TEC+: April 9, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.; Board Meeting: April 23, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

**XIII. Adjourn**

It was moved by Commissioner Tessier and seconded by Commissioner Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 am. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

# VLAWMO Finance Summary: April 2025

Feb-25		Actual 4/1/25	Actual to Date	2025 Budget (June 2024 Board Approved)	Carry over from 2024 to 2025	Remaining in Budget	2025 Available (Dec. 2024 Board approved)	Act vs. Budget
BUDGET #	INCOME							
5.11	Storm Water Utility		\$528,269	\$1,202,703	\$0	\$674,434	\$1,202,703	44%
5.12	Service Fees			\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	0%
5.13	Interest + mitigation acct	\$3,786	\$17,547	\$30,000	\$0	\$12,453	\$30,000	58%
5.14	Misc. income - WCA admin & other		\$3,306	\$3,000	\$0	(\$306)	\$3,000	110%
5.15	Other Income Grants/ <u>loan</u>	\$79,627	\$84,648	\$238,960	\$0	\$154,312	\$238,960	35%
5.16	Transfer from reserves			\$1,180,708	\$180,796	\$1,361,504	\$1,361,504	0%
	TOTAL	\$83,413	\$633,770	\$2,656,371	\$180,796	\$2,203,397	\$2,837,167	24%
EXPENSES								
3.1	Operations & Administration							
3.110	Office - rent, copies, post tel supplies	\$2,193	\$8,814	\$33,851	\$0	\$25,037	\$33,851	26%
3.120	Information Systems	\$1,697	\$6,980	\$33,850	\$0	\$26,870	\$33,850	21%
3.130	Insurance			\$12,000	\$0	\$12,000	\$12,000	0%
3.141	Consulting - Audit	\$4,190	\$13,745	\$23,000	\$0	\$9,255	\$23,000	60%
3.142	Consulting - Bookkeeping	\$44	\$180	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,320	\$1,500	12%
3.143	Consulting - Legal		\$1,013	\$8,000	\$0	\$6,987	\$8,000	13%
3.144	Consulting - Eng. & Tech.		\$220	\$50,000	\$0	\$49,780	\$50,000	0%
3.150	Storm Sewer Utility		\$7,878	\$22,500	\$0	\$14,622	\$22,500	35%
3.160	Training (staff/board)			\$18,000	\$0	\$18,000	\$18,000	0%
3.170	Misc. & mileage	\$62	\$328	\$7,276	\$0	\$6,948	\$7,276	5%
3.191	Administration - staff	\$36,419	\$153,973	\$470,287	\$13,165	\$329,479	\$483,452	32%
3.192	Employer Liability	\$11,789	\$46,166	\$144,579	\$0	\$98,413	\$144,579	32%
3.2	Monitoring and Studies							
3.210	Lake and Creek lab analysis			\$18,000	\$3,000	\$21,000	\$21,000	0%
3.220	Equipment			\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	0%
3.230	Wetland assessment & management			\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	0%
3.240	Watershed planning /special study	\$22,507	\$48,946	\$150,000	\$0	\$101,054	\$150,000	33%
3.3	Education and Outreach							
3.310	Public Education		\$2,000	\$6,000	\$0	\$4,000	\$6,000	33%
3.320	Comm., Outreach & Marketing	\$212	\$1,032	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$23,968	\$25,000	4%
3.330	Community Blue Ed Grant			\$12,000	\$0	\$12,000	\$12,000	0%
Total Core functions: Ops, Monitoring, Education		\$79,113	\$291,275	\$1,043,843	\$21,165	\$773,733	\$1,065,008	27%
Capital Improvement Projects and Programs								
3.4	Subwatershed Activity							
3.410	Gem Lake			\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000	0%
3.420	Lambert Creek			\$160,000	\$0	\$160,000	\$160,000	0%
3.421	Lambert Lake Loan			\$38,568	\$0	\$38,568	\$38,568	0%
3.425	Goose Lake			\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000	\$75,000	0%
3.430	Birch Lake		\$15,000	\$70,000	\$0	\$55,000	\$70,000	21%

3.440	Gulf Black Tam Wilk Amelia	\$6,478	\$20,648	\$375,000	\$100,000	\$454,352	\$475,000	4%
3.450	Pleasant Charley Deep	\$11,160	\$26,660	\$150,000	\$0	\$123,340	\$150,000	18%
3.460	Sucker Vadnais		\$45,406	\$250,000	\$0	\$204,594	\$250,000	18%
3.48	<b>Programs</b>							
3.480	Soil Health Grant		\$1,000	\$20,000	\$4,524	\$23,524	\$24,524	4%
3.481	Landscape 1			\$50,000	\$26,900	\$76,900	\$76,900	0%
3.482	Landscape 2/BWSR WBF	\$446	\$23,616	\$80,000	\$28,207	\$84,591	\$108,207	22%
3.483	Project Research & feasibility			\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	0%
3.485	Facilities Maintenanc/ Pub. Ditch Main.		\$5,136	\$70,000	\$0	\$64,864	\$70,000	7%
3.5	<b>Regulatory</b>							
3.510	Engineer Plan review			\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	0%
	<i>Total CIP &amp; Program</i>	\$18,084	\$137,466	\$1,373,568	\$159,631	\$1,395,733	\$1,533,199	9%
	<b>Total of Core Operations &amp; CIP</b>	<b>\$97,197</b>	\$428,741	\$2,417,411	\$180,796	<b>\$2,169,466</b>	\$2,598,207	<b>17%</b>

Fund Balance		3/1/2025	4/1/2025
4M Account		\$790,502	\$780,091
4M Plus Savings		\$254,548	\$255,482
Total		\$1,045,050	\$1,035,573

Restricted funds		4/1/2025
Mitigation Savings		\$0
Term Series		\$300,000

# Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization

9:22 AM

## Check Detail

04/02/2025

March 13 through April 9, 2025

	Type	Num	Date	Name	Item	Account	Paid Amount	Original Amount
	Check	eft	03/13/2025	further		Checking - 1987		-7.00
					Insurance Benefit		-7.00	7.00
TOTAL							-7.00	7.00
	Check	eft	03/19/2025	US Bank		Checking - 1987		-43.77
					3.142 · Bookkeeping help		-43.77	43.77
TOTAL							-43.77	43.77
	Check	eft	03/20/2025	Reliance Standard		Checking - 1987		-428.30
					Insurance Benefit		-428.30	428.30
TOTAL							-428.30	428.30
	Check	5953	04/09/2025	City of Gem Lake		Checking - 1987		-445.50
					3.482 · Landscape 2		-445.50	445.50
TOTAL							-445.50	445.50
	Check	5954	04/09/2025	Dawn Tanner		Checking - 1987		-32.20
					3.170 · Misc. & mileage		-32.20	32.20
TOTAL							-32.20	32.20
	Check	5955	04/09/2025	Brian Corcoran		Checking - 1987		-29.40
					3.170 · Misc. & mileage		-29.40	29.40
TOTAL							-29.40	29.40
	Check	5956	04/09/2025	Metro - Inet		Checking - 1987		-1,697.00
					IT Support		-1,697.00	1,697.00
TOTAL							-1,697.00	1,697.00
	Check	5957	04/09/2025	carp solutions		Checking - 1987		-11,160.00
					3.450 · Pleasant Charley Deep		-11,160.00	11,160.00
TOTAL							-11,160.00	11,160.00
	Check	5958	04/09/2025	CliftonLarsonAllen		Checking - 1987		-4,189.54

	3.141 · Audit	-4,189.54	4,189.54
TOTAL		-4,189.54	4,189.54
<b>Check 5959 04/09/2025 City of Vadnais Heights</b>	<b>Checking - 1987</b>		<b>-2,192.96</b>
	Rent	-1,815.00	1,815.00
	Phone/Internet/Machine Overhead	-325.00	325.00
	Postage	-22.18	22.18
	Copies	-30.78	30.78
TOTAL		-2,192.96	2,192.96
<b>Check 5960 04/09/2025 City of White Bear Lake</b>	<b>Checking - 1987</b>		<b>-47,772.72</b>
	payroll	-36,419.28	36,419.28
	Administration FICA	-2,672.02	2,672.02
	Administration PERA	-2,731.46	2,731.46
	Insurance Benefit	-5,695.04	5,695.04
	Admin payroll processing	-254.92	254.92
TOTAL		-47,772.72	47,772.72
<b>Check 5961 04/09/2025 Houston Engineering, Inc</b>	<b>Checking - 1987</b>		<b>-18,772.25</b>
	3.240 · Watershed Plan Amendment	-678.00	678.00
	3.240 · Watershed Plan Amendment	-18,094.25	18,094.25
TOTAL		-18,772.25	18,772.25
<b>Check 5962 04/09/2025 Barr Engineering Co</b>	<b>Checking - 1987</b>		<b>-6,477.50</b>
	3.440 · Gilfillan Black Tamarack Wilkin	-622.50	622.50
	3.440 · Gilfillan Black Tamarack Wilkin	-5,435.00	5,435.00
	3.440 · Gilfillan Black Tamarack Wilkin	-420.00	420.00
TOTAL		-6,477.50	6,477.50
<b>Check 5963 04/09/2025 Town Law Center, PLLP</b>	<b>Checking - 1987</b>		<b>-3,735.00</b>
	3.240 · Watershed Plan Amendment	-3,735.00	3,735.00
TOTAL		-3,735.00	3,735.00

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Orga**  
**Profit & Loss**  
**March 13 through April 9, 2025**

9:26 AM

04/02/2025

Cash Basis

**Mar 13 - Apr 9, 25**

**Ordinary Income/Expense**

**Income**

**5.1 · Income**

**5.13 · Interest**

3,785.68

**Total 5.1 · Income**

3,785.68

**6.6.6 · Grants**

79,626.50

**Total Income**

83,412.18

**Gross Profit**

83,412.18

**Expense**

**3.1 · Administrative/Operations**

**3.110 · Office**

**Copies**

30.78

**Phone/Internet/Machine Overhead**

325.00

**Postage**

22.18

**Rent**

1,815.00

**Total 3.110 · Office**

2,192.96

**3.120 · Information Systems**

**IT Support**

1,697.00

**Total 3.120 · Information Systems**

1,697.00

**3.141 · Audit**

4,189.54

**3.142 · Bookkeeping help**

43.77

**3.170 · Misc. & mileage**

61.60

**3.191 · Employee Payroll**

**payroll**

36,419.28

**Total 3.191 · Employee Payroll**

36,419.28

**3.192 · Employer Liabilities**

**Admin payroll processing**

254.92

**Administration FICA**

2,672.02

**Administration PERA**

2,731.46

**Insurance Benefit**

6,130.34

**Total 3.192 · Employer Liabilities**

11,788.74

**Total 3.1 · Administrative/Operations**

56,392.89

**3.2 · Monitoring and Studies**

**3.240 · Watershed Plan Amendment**

22,507.25

**Total 3.2 · Monitoring and Studies**

22,507.25

**3.3 · Education and Outreach**

**3.320 · Marketing**

211.73

**Total 3.3 · Education and Outreach**

211.73

**3.4 · Capital Imp. Projects/Programs**

**3.440 · Gilfillan Black Tamarack Wilkin**

6,477.50

**3.450 · Pleasant Charley Deep**

11,160.00

**Total 3.4 · Capital Imp. Projects/Programs**

17,637.50

3.48 · Programs	
3.482 · Landscape 2	445.50
Total 3.48 · Programs	445.50
Total Expense	97,194.87
Net Ordinary Income	-13,782.69
Net Income	<b>-13,782.69</b>

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization**  
**Custom Transaction Detail Report**  
February 1 through April 1, 2025

9:21 AM

04/02/2025

Accrual Basis

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Account	Clr	Split	Amount	Balance
Feb 1 - Apr 1, 25									
Credit Card Charge	02/03/2025		Google*SVCAPPS_VLAWM		US Bank CC	✓	WEB	42.00	42.00
Transfer	02/20/2025			Funds Transfer	US Bank CC	✓	Checking - 1987	-642.50	-600.50
Credit Card Charge	02/25/2025		Adobe *Creative Cloud		US Bank CC	✓	Software	32.50	-568.00
Credit Card Charge	02/26/2025		Prairie Moon Nursery	city hall seed	US Bank CC	✓	3.485 · Facilities & Maintenance	1,408.00	840.00
Credit Card Charge	03/03/2025		Google*SVCAPPS_VLAWM		US Bank CC	✓	WEB	42.00	882.00
Credit Card Charge	03/27/2025		Vista Print	business cards	US Bank CC		3.320 · Marketing	61.73	943.73
Credit Card Charge	03/31/2025		Monarch Joint Venture	fee for in person presentation 2025	US Bank CC		3.320 · Marketing	150.00	1,093.73
Feb 1 - Apr 1, 25								<b>1,093.73</b>	<b>1,093.73</b>

## TEC Report to Board -April 2025

Programs & Projects	Effort Level	Completion Date	Comments
	LOW		
	MED		
	HIGH		
Projects			
E. Vadnais Lake Subwatershed Resiliency Study		Ongoing	Staff are continuing to work with the City of Vadnais Heights on Phase 2 of the study. A state grant application for further investigation and construction plan development for the recommended BMPs identified in the study was submitted in March. News about the grant will be received in June.
Rotary Park partnership		2025-26	Request to authorize MOU, CPL grant contract, and quote recommendation
Polar Lake Park Reuse Study		2025	Continuing to work with WB Township to investigate possible grant application opportunities
MPCA 319 /Wilkinson Lake BMPs		ongoing	Complete remaining project items for phase 1 and authorize workplan for phase 2
Pleasant Lake Carp Management		ongoing	3 antenna locations are actively monitoring, and 2 sites are prepped for spring removals
Tamarack Alum Project and Birch AIS		2025	Phase 2 underway for alum and survey/permit efforts are underway for Birch AIS
Programs			
City/Township MS4		Ongoing	Beginning work to determine needs of MS4 partners and update outreach materials.
Education/Outreach		Ongoing	2024 annual report and monitoring annual report will be considered at April TEC & BOD meetings. Planning underway for educational workshops and field days.
Website		Ongoing	Current website continues to be updated as needed. New website planning underway.
WAV		Ongoing	Beginning work to determine volunteer events and opportunities, as well as collaborative opportunities with VLAWMO member communities. Spring WAV kick-off event scheduled for April 14.
Cost Share & BWSR WBIF		Ongoing	2024 projects continue to be closed out. Site visits have begun for the season and more grant applications are coming in. Construction plans were completed for a bioswale project at the White Bear Lake Sports Center. The 2025-2027 WBIF work plan was approved by BWSR and VLAWMO and partners are considering projects for the grant, including potentially the Sports Center project.
GIS		Ongoing	Updating the online GIS viewer to reflect boundary change with RCWD.
Monitoring		Ongoing	2025 season will begin in April.
WCA		Ongoing	Administering WCA as needed.

Administration & Operation			
Audit		2024	2024 Audit will be considered at the April BOD meeting
Budget		for 2026 budget	VLAWMO Board Subcommittee will be discussing high level draft 2026 budget at their meeting on 4/3.
Personnel /HR		ongoing	Staff continuing to pursuing training opportunities
SSU		ongoing	The approved 2024 SSU certifications have been submitted to Anoka and Ramsey County. Starting work with Elhers on necessary SSU boundary changes based on approved updated RCWD/VLAWMO Boundary
2027-2036 Watershed Mgmt. Plan		2023-2025	Draft phase and associated reviews underway. TEC + meeting scheduled for 4/9 on draft Sect. 4.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY as of 4/1/2025		
4M Account (1.10)	4M Plus (1.23)	Total
\$780,091	\$255,482	\$1,035,573

Budget Summary	Actual Expense YTD	2025 Budget "working"	Remaining in Budget	% YTD
Operations	\$291,275	\$1,065,008	\$773,733	27%
CIP	\$137,466	\$1,533,199	\$1,395,733	9%
Total	\$428,741	\$2,598,207	\$2,169,466	17%

## TEC Staff Memo – April 9, 2025

### IV. Administration & Operations

#### A. April Financial Report and Consider Authorization for Payment

Please find the April financial report and authorization to pay bills for consideration and approval.

#### B. April TEC Report to the Board

Please find the April TEC report to the Board attached in the ePacket for review and approval.

### V. Programs

#### A. Consider Recommendation on Draft 2024 Annual Report/Monitoring Report and Summary

The 2024 Annual Report and 2024 Water Monitoring Report are complete and ready for TEC review and recommendation to the Board. With Board approval the Annual Report will be submitted to the Board of Water and Soil Resources per State statute requirement. Staff will provide a brief preview of the reports during the April TEC meeting. Excerpts from the summary documents are included in the April TEC packet, and the links to the complete documents are listed below.

2024 Annual Report:

[https://www.vlawmo.org/index.php/download\\_file/5117/](https://www.vlawmo.org/index.php/download_file/5117/)

2024 Annual Report Summary:

See Attachment 1 or [https://www.vlawmo.org/index.php/download\\_file/5119/](https://www.vlawmo.org/index.php/download_file/5119/)

2024 Water Monitoring Report:

[https://www.vlawmo.org/index.php/download\\_file/5116/](https://www.vlawmo.org/index.php/download_file/5116/)

2024 Water Monitoring Report Summary:

See Attachment 2 or [https://www.vlawmo.org/index.php/download\\_file/5118/](https://www.vlawmo.org/index.php/download_file/5118/)

**Request TEC approve a recommendation to the Board for approval of the 2024 annual report, report summary and water monitoring report with non-material changes.**

#### B. SHG 2025-03 Valdez & Smith Property Restoration Phase 2

Landowners Nissa Valdez and Alex Smith submitted a Soil Health Grant application for a 70 square foot downspout raingarden and native plantings on the northwest side of their property, over a total area of about 3,600 square feet. This is the second phase and third raingarden of a multi-phase property restoration project that started in the fall of 2023 at their 1.4-acre property in North Oaks. The project area drains to Pleasant Lake. The raingarden will capture runoff from the remaining downspout from the roof of their home and will add

pollinator habitat. The landowners have made notable progress in reducing stormwater runoff from their home through rain barrels and downspout raingardens completed with previous years' VLAWMO grants. They have also completed significant work removing invasive species and turf grass from their property. In addition to the native plants in the raingarden, native trees and shrubs will be added around the raingarden, deck, and existing understory to continue restoring the native plant community and adding pollinator habitat on their property.

The landowners will be completing the project themselves. They are also engaged in VLAWMO's education and outreach efforts and are interested in being featured in a future VLAWMO spotlight, summer project tours, or a potential Q & A panel. The total estimated project cost is \$2,452.14.

**Requested action:** Staff recommends approval of SHG 2025-03 in the amount of \$1,000 for phase 2.

**C. SHG 2025-04 Redding & Lynch Downspout Raingarden Phase 2**

Landowners Kirsten Redding and Kyle Lynch submitted a Soil Health grant application for a 120 square foot downspout raingarden project as the second phase of their two-year native plant project that started in the summer of 2024 at their 0.28-acre property in the City of Vadnais Heights. The project area is within a VLAWMO priority zone for habitat and ultimately drains to Sucker Lake. The proposed downspout raingarden will be added to the front yard, which will capture runoff from the roof of their home and garage and will add pollinator habitat. The 2013 Vadnais Lakes retrofit report identified raingarden opportunities in the project area and this is the first known installation in the neighborhood. The landowners' ultimate goal is to remove the turf grass in their front yard for a low-maintenance and natural landscape and be an example to neighbors.

They will be using EcoScapes to complete site preparation work and install the raingarden. Site preparation will include removal of the existing turf grass and rerouting water from the existing downspout into the raingarden area. The total estimated cost for phase 2 is \$3,400.

**Requested action:** Staff recommends approval of SHG 2025-04 in the amount of \$1,250 for phase 2.

## **VI. Projects**

**A. JPA Update as Part of WMP Process**

VLAWMO staff have been working with legal counsel to update the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) that forms our organization and establishes VLAWMO's

authorities. The current JPA runs through December 31, 2026, and a new JPA is being prepared in concert with the next generation WMP. The new JPA will be brought to the Board, submitted to member communities, and shared with review authorities as part of the 60-day review of the WMP that is anticipated to be opened during summer 2025.

**B. 319 Update: Remaining Scope for Round 1 and Workplan Preparation for Round 2 Projects**

VLAWMO staff and project partners are working closely with MPCA to finalize the Wilkinson deep-water wetland project by August 31, 2025. Remaining project work is underway with HEI to conduct bank repairs and prevent additional sediment to be deposited into Wilkinson Lake due to bank cutting. HEI is working on providing a project design, within remaining funding parameters, that can be used to request quotes for remaining project work to be constructed during summer 2025.

The second-round project preparation is also underway. MPCA have requested a workplan by May 1, 2025. VLAWMO staff are preparing the workplan, which will be brought to the Board at the April 23, 2025, regular meeting. Project feasibility is nearly completed with ISG for the anticipated project on the north side of Wilkinson Lake. Completed feasibility work will be incorporated into the workplan parameters. North Oaks Company/North Oaks Farms (NOC) is the landowner of the location of the regional project. NOC has been requested to prepare a letter of support that includes permission for land access, which will be formalized through either a temporary access agreement or project easement. The letter will be included in the Board packet in addition to the workplan.

MPCA will be presenting the Group B package of projects (of which VLAWMO is a member) for the Small, Priority Watershed grant program to the EPA following aggregation of the cohort workplans. VLAWMO will be notified in late summer/fall as to the status of the program, funding levels, and preparation of a grant contract. The grant contract will include the workplan and be presented to the TEC and Board once /if it has been received by VLAWMO.

**C. Rotary Nature Preserve Restoration Update**

VLAWMO staff have been working with legal counsel and the City of White Bear Lake to prepare materials for the April VLAWMO Board meeting to allow the Board to:

- Accept and sign an MOU between VLAWMO and the City of White Bear Lake that formalizes partnership for project implementation and maintenance following completion of the 5-year project
- Accept and sign the Conservation Partners Legacy grant contract with MN DNR for years 1 - 4 of the project

- Select a quote and authorize VLAWMO staff to work with legal counsel to prepare a contract with the awarded company

### Background

The VLAWMO Board approved submission of a Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) grant proposal for Rotary Nature Preserve Wetland in August. The proposal used the completed NST Rotary Nature Preserve Wetland - Plant Community Assessment and Management Recommendations as the foundation of the workplan for the grant proposal. VLAWMO staff worked with the City of White Bear Lake to complete a letter of support and the required land manager agreement.

VLAWMO staff were notified that the proposal was selected for funding in December 2024. VLAWMO staff notified the TEC that the project was selected for funding at their meeting in January 2025.

An MOU between VLAWMO and the City of WBL was drafted and signed by the City in February. The MOU specifies party responsibilities related to this 4-year grant effort, following 1-year (year 5) project work, and 10-year initial maintenance partnership. The MOU has been approved by the WBL City Council and signed by the City of WBL.

At the regular meeting on February 12, 2025, the TEC recommended that the Board authorize and sign the grant contract with the MN DNR/CPL program for the Rotary Nature Preserve Wetland Restoration in partnership with the City of WBL, authorize signing the MOU, and to return the fully executed MOU to the City of WBL.

### Request for quotes

VLAWMO has requested quotes, which are required to include the payment of prevailing wages, and worked with legal counsel to provide a recommendation to the TEC and Board to consider and recommend accepting the successful quote.

The quote request was sent to: Critical Connections Ecological Services, Kjolhaug Environmental Services Company, Minnesota Native Landscapes, and Natural Shore Technologies. One of those companies was recently purchased by another, and one declined to quote on the project. We received quotes from Minnesota Native Landscapes (MNL) and Natural Shore Technologies (NST). The quotes are briefly summarized below and attached.

Company	Minnesota Native Landscapes	Natural Shore Technologies
Prevailing wages included	Yes	Yes
Quote provided includes completion of the project as described in the Rotary Nature Preserve Wetland – Plant Community	Yes	Yes

Assessment and Management Recommendations		
Company has prior experience working at Rotary Park	No	Yes
Cost provided (either range with mean or total)	Not to exceed total = \$127,579	\$100,000-\$150,000

### **Operational expectations**

In addition to the request for quotes email that VLAWMO sent (that was approved by legal counsel), VLAWMO received a quote from NST with a cost range specified. The upper limit should be considered a not-to-exceed total for the project. Because of the adaptive nature of the project, MNL requested clarification by phone. VLAWMO staff provided that a cost range was acceptable, and a not-to-exceed total would be used for drafting a contract. Within the contract, task orders will be drafted and approved sequentially throughout the duration of the project, as agreed upon collaboratively throughout the project with involvement from the City of WBL and VLAWMO. This flexibility is necessary because of the adaptive nature of the project and wetland restoration in general. The City of WBL and VLAWMO will have the ability to oversee and agree upon restoration needs; they will also have the ability to provide limits on task orders that will be recommended to TEC and Board for approval.

Legal counsel has advised VLAWMO that the Board is not required to award the contract to the company that provides the lowest quote. The sealed bid process does not apply to this contract, nor does the lowest responsible bidder requirement. The Board has the authority to award the contract to the company it desires to work with and that it determines is most likely to produce the best outcomes for the project.

### **Recommendation to Board:**

The City of White Bear Lake and VLAWMO staff, with support from VLAWMO's legal counsel, recommend accepting the quote received from NST. This quote has the potential to be higher than the quote received from MNL. However, the project will have collaborative oversight with the City of WBL and VLAWMO. The TEC and Board will have the opportunity to approve task orders sequentially throughout the project and can maintain the project within the cost range provided in the quote. Cost savings are possible by continuing to work with the company that drafted the plan for restoration and that is working on related restoration within Rotary Park (prior phases that are already underway or complete and transitioning to maintenance). A holistic maintenance plan for the park also has the potential for considerable cost savings over time.

### **Requested TEC consideration**

Based on the above mentioned background and staff/legal counsel/City of White Bear Lake recommendation, request that the TEC approve a recommendation to the VLAWMO Board of Directors accepting the quote received from NST and authorizing VLAWMO staff to work with legal counsel to prepare a contract with NST to complete the restoration elements as identified in their scope and the attachment documentation.

#### Attachments

1. MN DNR CPL grant agreement contract (linked: [https://www.vlawmo.org/index.php/download\\_file/5120/](https://www.vlawmo.org/index.php/download_file/5120/))
2. MN DNR/CPL grant workplan (linked: [https://www.vlawmo.org/index.php/download\\_file/5094/](https://www.vlawmo.org/index.php/download_file/5094/))
3. NST Rotary Nature Preserve Wetland - Plant Community Assessment and
  - a. Management Recommendations (linked: [https://www.vlawmo.org/index.php/download\\_file/4804/](https://www.vlawmo.org/index.php/download_file/4804/))
4. MOU with the City of WBL Restoration of the Rotary Nature Preserve Wetland
5. Quote from Minnesota Native Landscapes
6. Quote from Natural Shore Technologies
7. Email of support from City of WBL for Recommendation

#### D. Spring Project Update: Tamarack Alum, Common Carp Removal, and Birch AIS

**Tamarack phase 2** alum is anticipated to be scheduled to begin during the week of April 1, 2025, at the time of packet preparation (weather permitting). An update will be provided at the TEC meeting.

**Common carp removal** preparation is underway: the barrier and antenna are functioning at Chickadee Lane (Deep Lake), antenna monitoring is underway at the culvert entrance (Pleasant Lake) so that trap netting can be conducted at the appropriate time, and an antenna is installed and monitoring at Charley Lake.

#### Antenna installation at Charley Lake:



**The Birch Lake** pre-survey for Curly-leaf pondweed is scheduled for April 7 at the time of packet preparation. An update will be provided at the TEC meeting.

# Soil Health Grant Application



Submit completed application to:

Lauren Sampedro

lauren.sampedro@vlawmo.org

## Applicant Information:

Name:	Nissa Valdez + Alex Smith
Address:	2 Falcon Lane North Oaks, MN 55127
City/Township, State, Zip:	↑
Phone:	612 280 3000 - Nissa 612 309 7887 - Alex
Email:	npvaldez@gmail.com thedudeabides277@gmail.com



## Project Summary:

ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST (\$)	<del>\$2,452.14</del> \$1500
AMOUNT REQUESTED (\$1,000 MAX or \$1,250 in Priority Area)	\$1000
EXPECTED PROJECT COMPLETION (Month, Year)	9/1/2025

### PROJECT TYPE:

- ☒ Downspout/Small  
Raingarden
- ☒ Native Restoration/  
Pollinator Garden
- ☐ Turfgrass  
Replacement
- ☐ Other

If other, please describe  
the proposed project:

## Project Background:

Describe your property. What is the purpose of your project? Does your property connect to a lake, stream, ditch, or wetland in VLA WMO?	please see attached document.
---	----------------------------------

## Project Background: Continued

<p>Describe how your project will support the goals of the Soil Health Grant Program. (See grant policy)</p>	<p>please see attached sheets</p>
<p>Briefly describe the planned installation and maintenance activities for your project.</p>	<p>please see attached sheets</p>

## Project Specifications:

<p>TOTAL PROPERTY AREA (Acres)</p>	<p>1.4 acres</p>
<p>Total PROJECT SIZE (SQ FT)</p>	<p>~3600 sf</p>
<p>IF APPLICABLE: DEPTH OF RAINGARDEN BASIN (Inches)</p>	<p>6"</p>



## Required Attachments:

- ⇒ Detailed drawing or plan of the proposed project.
- ⇒ Detailed project budget estimate with itemized costs and materials that equal your total estimated cost.

# VLAWMO Soil Health Grant Agreement



It is understood that:

1. The grantee is responsible for maintaining the project for at least 5 years after its installation. VLAWMO is not responsible for completing maintenance activities.
2. The grantee will participate in VLAWMO's outreach and project sharing efforts.
3. A project may be visited and inspected by a VLAWMO representative during the 5-year maintenance period.
4. Grant awards will expire within 1 year of grant approval unless the project is extended with VLAWMO approval.

The applicant's signature indicates their agreement to the above terms and certifies the grant application information is true and accurate. A VLAWMO staff signature will constitute an approved and executed grant agreement between the grantee and the VLAWMO.

## Applicant/Grantee

Signature

Nissa Valdez / Alex Smith

Date

3/30/25

Print

Nissa Valdez / Alex Smith

## VLAWMO Staff

Signature

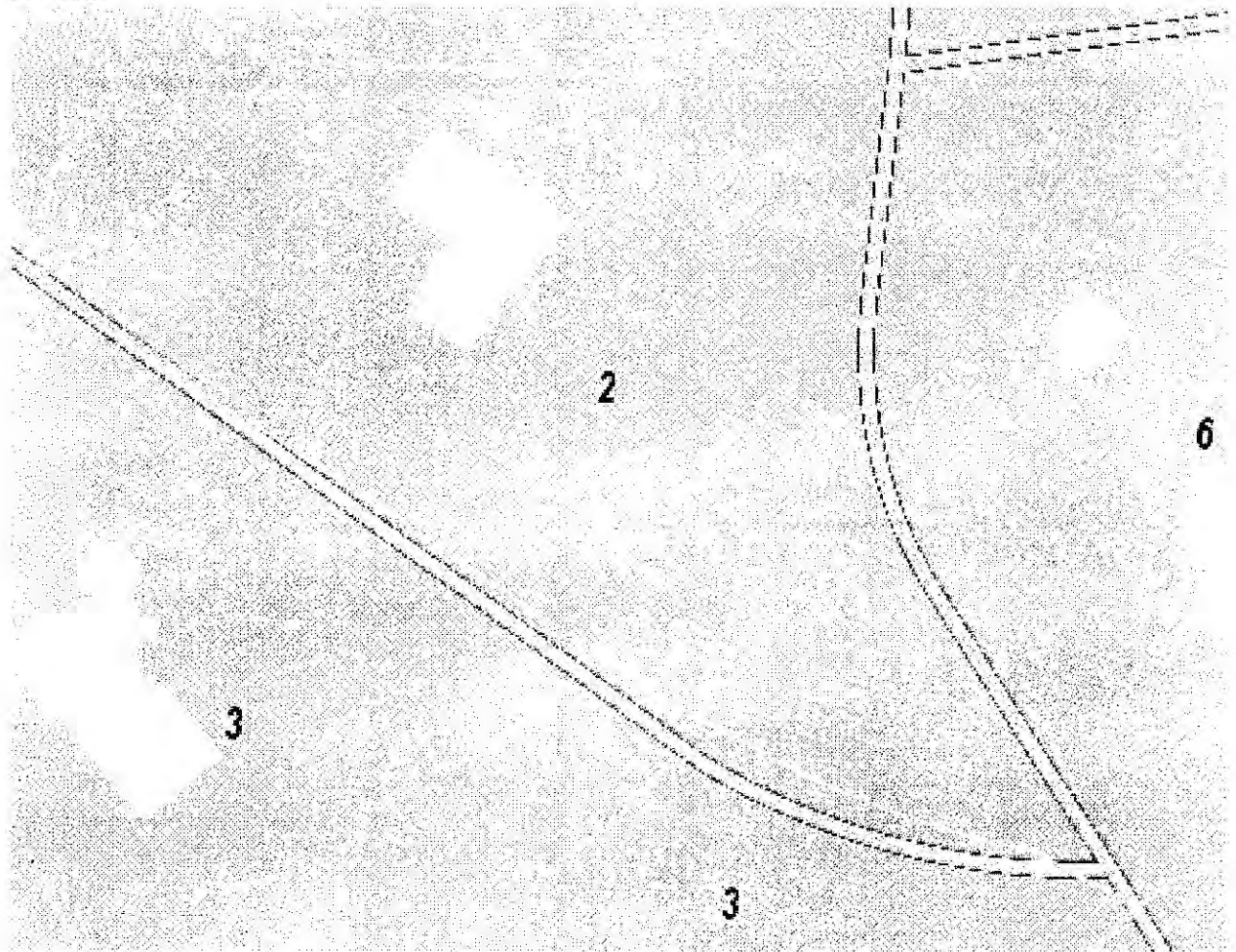
Date

Print

# Project Background

## Describe your property

Our property is about 1.4 acres, all of which is wooded with large oaks, maples, cottonwoods, elms, birch, and pine. The property is on a hill sloping to the southeast. The soil is quite sandy loam. Most of the property is shaded, but some small patches get pretty direct sun for much of the day.



## What is the purpose of your project?

Our goal is to restore our property to a native woodland with native understory plants, shrubs, and trees. We would like to direct rainwater for use by plantings, rather than being lost to runoff. We would like to remove invasive plant species and replace them with native plantings.

## Does your property connect to a lake, stream, ditch, or wetland in VLAWMO?

We are not on a lake, but we are not far from Pleasant Lake. Runoff on part of the property runs through a culvert under Falcon Ln to a low area.

## Describe how your project will support the goals of the Soil Health Grant Program

Our project will involve the removal of invasive non-native species at the root, including buckthorn and the three types of noxious weeds (garlic mustard, and two other similar plants) that come up every year. We will be replacing these with native plants, with preference to those that are pollinator-friendly. We believe this work will result in greatly improved the soil quality.

Our project involves multiple rain gardens to harvest runoff from the roof, as well as waste water from our reverse osmosis water filter and the wash-down water from regeneration of the iron/sulfur filter section of our home water conditioning system. We will install three-way valves on these outputs so we can redirect waste water to the rain garden during above-freezing weather. Water from these components should not harm plants.

## Briefly describe the planned installation and maintenance activities for your project

### Phase 1 (COMPLETED 2024):

- Excavation for patio base.\*
- Excavation for rain gardens 1 and 2.
- Installation and tamping of crushed limestone base layer for patio. Base will be pitched to direct water to rain gardens.\*
- Installation and tamping of base sand for patio pavers.\*
- Installation of patio pavers.\*
- Application of sealing compound over pavers and cracks.\*
- Adjust southeast rain gutter pitch to drain to the north end near rain garden 2.
- Move southeast downspout from south end to north end of run.
- Installation of 4" PVC waste pipe to direct water from downspouts to rain gardens 1 and 2.
- Install steel edging around rain gardens.
- Addition of compost soil amendment for rain gardens 1 and 2.
- Install plantings in rain gardens 1 and 2

- Removal of invasive plants in the Phase 1 region.
- Planting of native species of trees, shrubs, and plants. Installation of wire cages to protect trees and shrubs from deer.
- Installation of 3-way valves and outlet tubing extensions to outside for reverse osmosis filter and iron/sulfur water conditioner filter.

\* Cost related to patio and not counted toward grant proposal cost.

#### **Phase 2 (CURRENT FUNDING REQUEST):**

- Excavation for rain garden 3.
- Downspout extension • Installation of 4" ~~culvert~~ to direct water from southwest downspout to rain garden 3.
- Install steel edging around rain garden 3.
- Addition of compost soil amendment for rain garden 3.
- Install plantings in rain garden 3.
- Install trees/shrubs as indicated in the plan
  - adjacent to north and sound side of rain garden 3.
  - Shrubs around the deck.
  - Understory trees around top of hill

#### **Phase 3 (future funding request):**

- Removal of invasive plants.
- Planting of native species of trees, shrubs, and plants. Installation of wire cages to protect trees and shrubs from deer.

#### **Phase 4 (future funding request):**

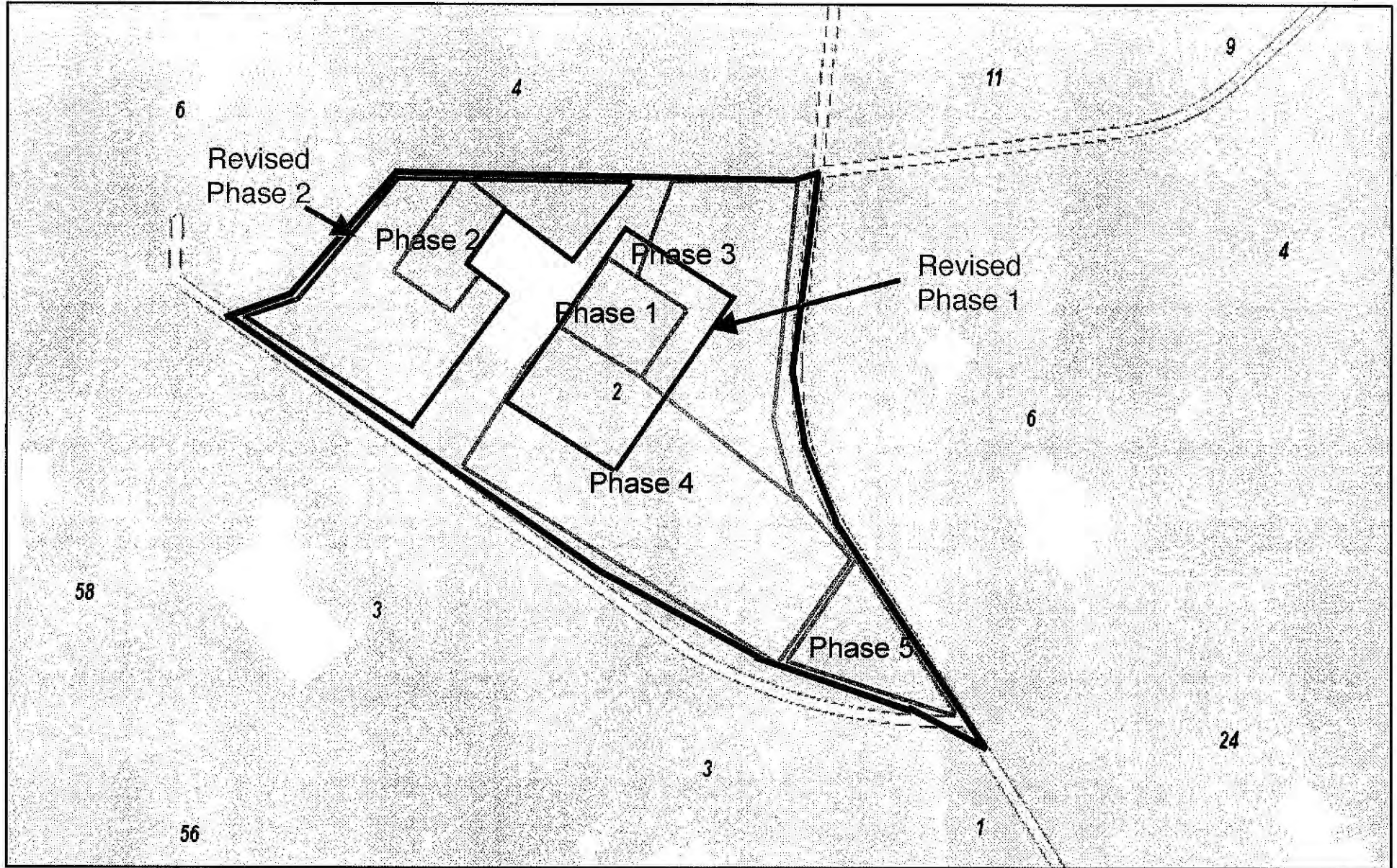
- Removal of invasive plants.
- Planting of native species of trees, shrubs, and plants. Installation of wire cages to protect trees and shrubs from deer.

#### **Phase 5 (future funding request):**

- Removal of invasive plants.
- Planting of native species of trees, shrubs, and plants. Installation of wire cages to protect trees and shrubs from deer.
- Rain garden to collect runoff from Falcon Ln and North Oaks Rd.

Current project is  
Phase 2

# Map Ramsey



10/1/2023, 9:07:26 AM

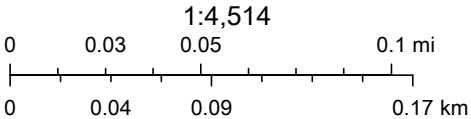
Override 1 Tax Parcels County Offices  
Personal Property Cities

1:948  
0 0.01 0.01 0.03 mi  
0 0.01 0.03 0.05 km

SHG 2025-03 Valdez & Smith Property Restoration Phase 2

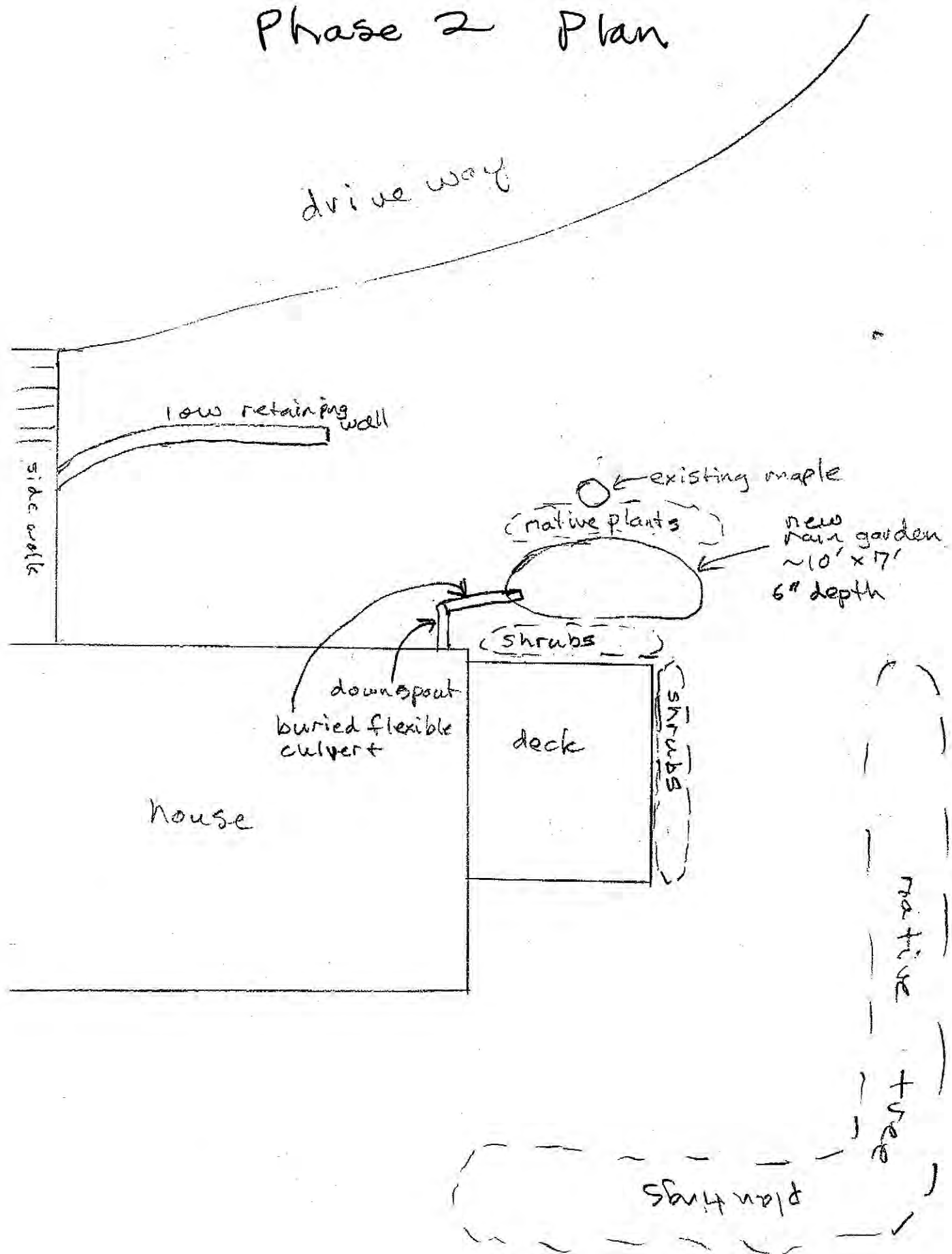


- VLA WMO Boundary 2020
- VLA WMO lakes
- Project Location
- Flow Arrows



Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community, County of Ramsey, Esri, HERE, Garmin, GeoTechnologies, Inc.,  
ArcGIS Web AppBuilder  
County of Ramsey, Esri, HERE, Garmin, GeoTechnologies, Inc., USGS, EPA |

# Phase 2 Plan



Date	Item	Vendor	Quantity	Units	Cost/Unit	Tax Included?	Est. Cost
	<b>TOTAL COST</b>						<b>\$2,452.14</b>
<b>MECHANICALS:</b>							
	Rain garden steel edging	Edge Right	2	20 ft kit	\$150.00	N	\$324.38
	Flexible downspout culvert	Menards	1	ea	\$11.29	N	\$12.21
<b>TREES:</b>							
	Allegheny Serviceberry	Mother Earth Gardens	2	ea	\$133.00	N	\$287.61
	Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry	Mother Earth Gardens	2		\$133.00		\$266.00
<b>SHRUBS:</b>							
	Regent Serviceberry		2		\$38.00		\$76.00
	Sand (Roundleaf) Serviceberry		3		\$17.00		\$51.00
	Dogwood - silky, red-twigged and gray		3		\$45.00		\$135.00
	New Jersey Tea		2		\$15.00		\$30.00
	American Hazelnut		2		\$25.00		\$50.00
	Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle		2		\$25.00		\$50.00
	Common Witch Hazel		2		\$49.00		\$98.00
	St. John's Wort		2		\$25.00		\$50.00
	Winterberry		2		\$35.00		\$70.00
	Common Ninebark		2		\$25.00		\$50.00
	Gro-low Sumac		1		\$34.00		\$34.00
	Red-berried Elder		2		\$25.00		\$50.00
	Hardhack Spirea (Steeplebush)		2		\$14.00		\$28.00
	Red Snowberry - Coralberry		2		\$34.00		\$68.00
	Nannyberry Viburnum		3		\$35.00		\$105.00
	American Highbush Cranberry		3		\$14.00		\$42.00
<b>RAINGARDEN &amp; SURROUNDING:</b>							
	Marsh Marigold		3		\$8.00		\$24.00
	Pink Cordalis		3		\$8.00		\$24.00
	Dutchman's Breeches		3		\$8.00		\$24.00
	Bottle Gentian		3		\$8.00		\$24.00
	Alumroot (Prairie Coralbells)		3		\$8.00		\$24.00
	Halberdleaf Rosemallow		3		\$8.00		\$24.00
	Meadow Blazingstar		3		\$8.00		\$24.00
	Dense (Marsh) Blazingstar		3		\$8.00		\$24.00
	False Solomon's Seal		3		\$8.00		\$24.00
	Lion's Foot		3		\$8.00		\$24.00
	Early and Late Figwort		3		\$8.00		\$24.00
	Fox Sedge		3		\$8.00		\$24.00
	Indian Grass		4		\$8.00		\$32.00
	Bottlebrush Grass		4		\$8.00		\$32.00
	Sweet Grass		4		\$8.00		\$32.00

	Wool Grass		4		\$8.00		\$32.00
AMENDMENTS,ETC:							
	mulch	Wood chips - Budget Tree Service	1	pile	\$0.00	N	\$0.00
	Compost	Mother Earth Gardens	15	bags	\$9.80	N	\$158.94
	Tax Rate		8.13%				

# V. B. Valdez & Smith Property Restoration Phase 2

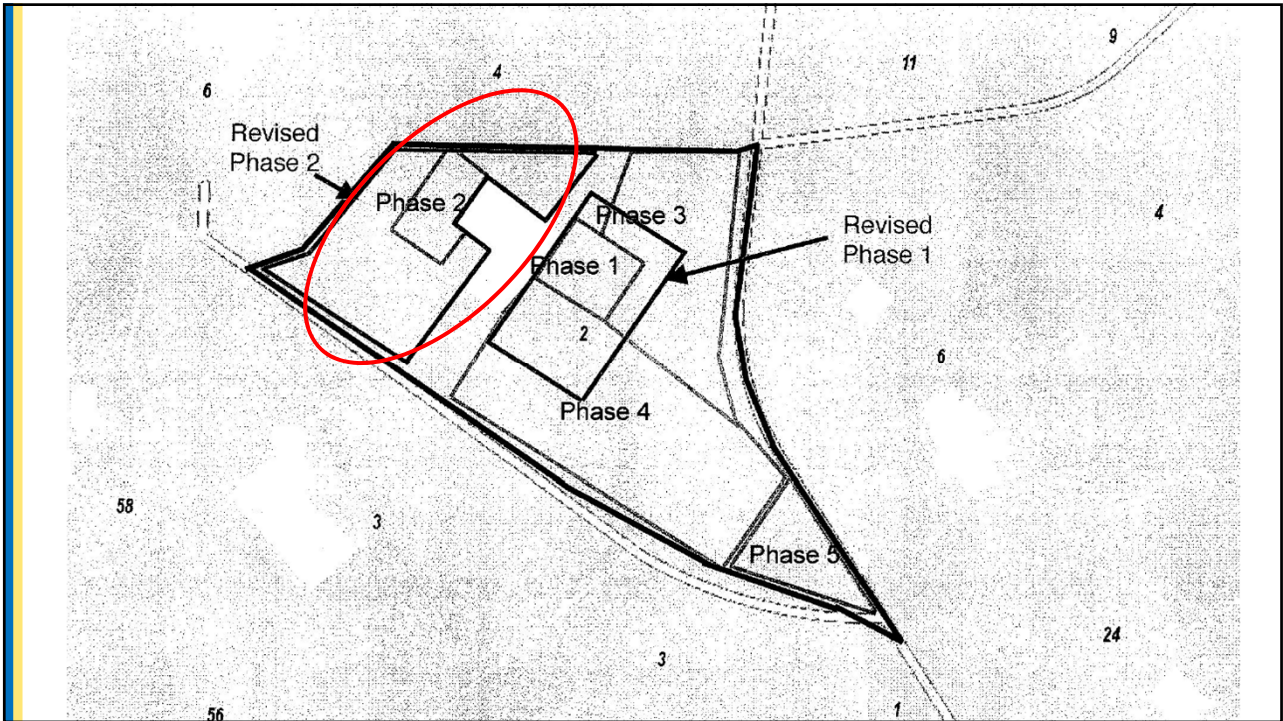
SHG 2025-03 Grant Application

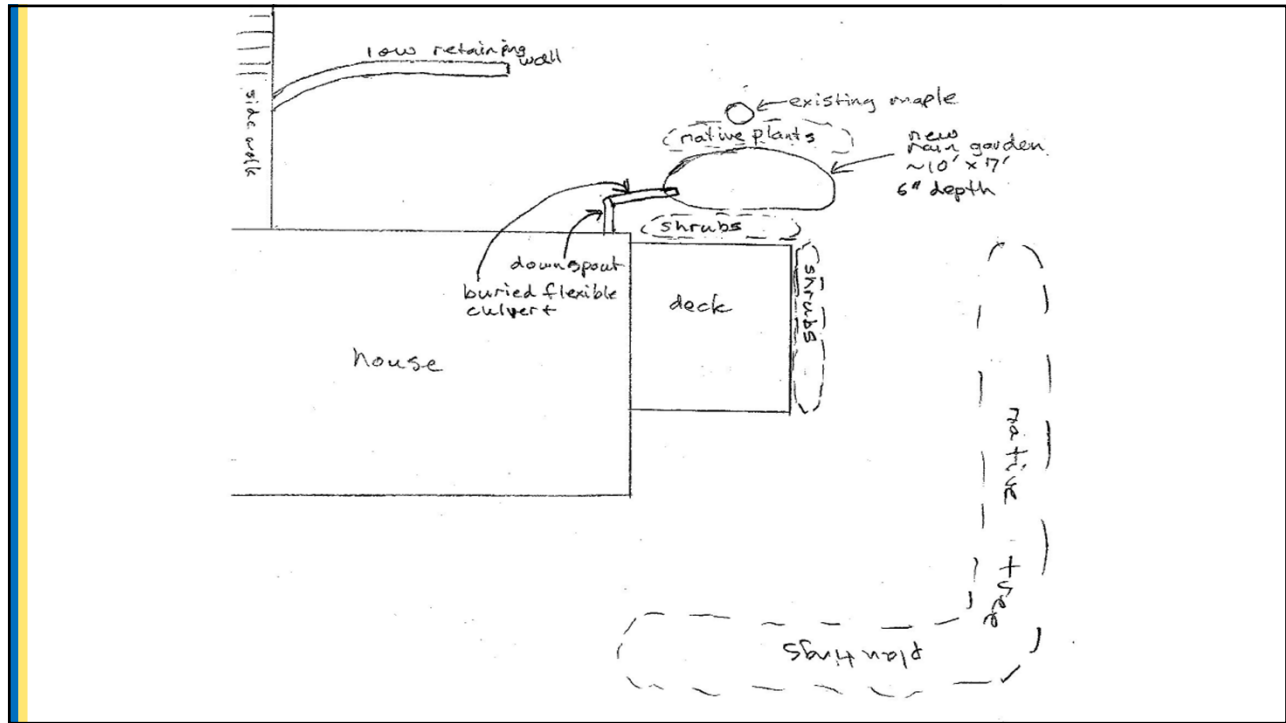
Lauren Sampedro  
TEC Meeting  
4/9/2025



## Soil Health – Property Restoration P2







# Soil Health Grant Application



Submit completed application to:

Lauren Sampedro

lauren.sampedro@vlawmo.org

## Applicant Information:

Name:	Kyle Lynch and Kirsten Redding
Address:	120 Bridgewater Drive
City/Township, State, Zip:	Vadnais Heights, MN, 55127
Phone:	763-226-6346
Email:	klynch342@gmail.com, reddingreading@gmail.com



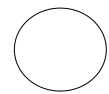
## Project Summary:

ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST (\$)	3,400 (P2)
AMOUNT REQUESTED (\$1,000 MAX or \$1,250 in Priority Area)	\$1,250
EXPECTED PROJECT COMPLETION (Month, Year)	early 2025

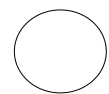
### PROJECT TYPE:



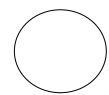
Downspout/Small  
Raingarden



Native Restoration/  
Pollinator Garden



Turfgrass  
Replacement



Other

If other, please describe  
the proposed project: \_\_\_\_\_

## Project Background:

Describe your property. What is the purpose of your project?  Does your property connect to a lake, stream, ditch, or wetland in VLAWMO?	A raingarden will be added to the front yard. We want to have only plants that are native to Minnesota. In 2024, we created a native plant area in addition to native trees (proposal 1). This year we will do our second project phase (proposal 3) and install a raingarden. This has been agreed upon with the contractor EcoScapes. Our yard drains into 2 nearby lakes: Sucker and Vadnais Lakes.
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## Project Background: Continued

Describe how your project will support the goals of the Soil Health Grant Program. (See grant policy)	We are installing a raingarden, which will infiltrate water and improve water quality. We will also be conserving water through installing native plants in our raingarden and stormwater reuse- our plantings will be watered from our downspouts.
Briefly describe the planned installation and maintenance activities for your project.	We will have a landscaping professional do the raingarden and preparation of our front yard. We will maintain the yard by weeding out invasive species and helping to maintain the health of our new native plants.

## Project Specifications:

TOTAL PROPERTY AREA (Acres)	.28
Total PROJECT SIZE (SQ FT)	120
IF APPLICABLE: DEPTH OF RAINGARDEN BASIN (Inches)	6 inches



## Required Attachments:

- ⇒ Detailed drawing or plan of the proposed project.
- ⇒ Detailed project budget estimate with itemized costs and materials that equal your total estimated cost.

# VLAWMO Soil Health Grant Agreement



## It is understood that:

1. The grantee is responsible for maintaining the project for at least 5 years after its installation. VLAWMO is not responsible for completing maintenance activities.
2. The grantee will participate in VLAWMO's outreach and project sharing efforts.
3. A project may be visited and inspected by a VLAWMO representative during the 5-year maintenance period.
4. Grant awards will expire within 1 year of grant approval unless the project is extended with VLAWMO approval.

The applicant's signature indicates their agreement to the above terms and certifies the grant application information is true and accurate. A VLAWMO staff signature will constitute an approved and executed grant agreement between the grantee and the VLAWMO.

### Applicant/Grantee

Signature

*Kyle Lynch*

Date 4/1/25

Print

Kyle Lynch

### VLAWMO Staff

Signature

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print

# SHG 2025-04 Redding & Lynch Raingarden Application

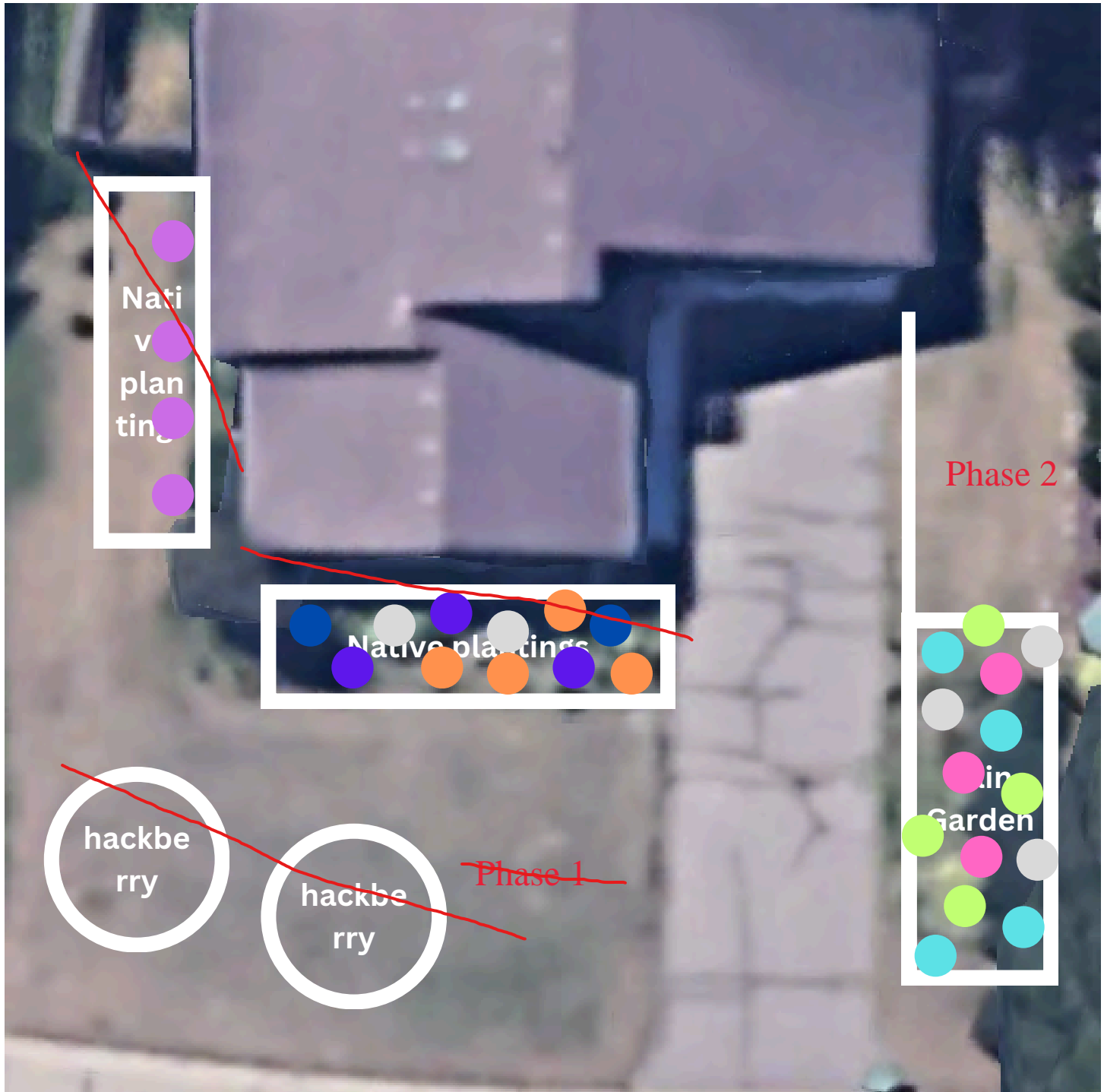


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Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community, County of Ramsey, Esri, HERE, Garmin, GeoTechnologies, Inc., County of Ramsey, Esri, HERE, Garmin, GeoTechnologies, Inc., USGS, EPA | ArcGIS Web AppBuilder



Dwarfbush Honeysuckle

Prairie smoke

Ninebark

meadow blazing

wild

star

bergamot

butterfly weed

blue wild indigo

milkweed



## Estimate

Kirsten Redding  
120 Bridgewater Dr  
Vadnais Heights, MN 55127  
(612) 380-0077  
reddingreading@gmail.com

Project: **Landscape Estimate**

Date: August 14, 2023

### Phase 1

**Proposal #1:** Remove all unwanted shrubs, plantings and weedy plants in front yard and create new planting area of approx.. 500sq.ft. Install 2 – 10 gal native tree, 12 – 5 gal native shrubs, 220 – 3” potted native perennials and 6 yards of shredded hardwood mulch in front beds. Layout of plants shall be done onsite with homeowners input.

\$1400.00 Removal of existing unwanted plants shrubs and weeds

\$4000.00 Installation of all new plants and mulch

\$5400.00 Total

**Proposal #2:** Remove unwanted shrubs and weedy plants in backyard and create new planting beds of approx.. 1000sq.ft. along back fence line and along the back side yard to create more privacy and softening of the fence. Haul away all debris and recycle. Install 2 – 10 gal native trees, 17 – 5 gal native shrubs and 65-1 gallon native perennials, and 5 yards of shredded hardwood mulch. Layout of plants shall be done onsite with homeowners input.

\$1100.00 Removal of existing unwanted plants shrubs and weeds

\$3100.00 Installation of all new plants and mulch

\$5200.00 Total

### Phase 2

**Proposal #3:** Create raingarden adjacent to the driveway of approx. 120 sqft. Ponding depth shall be approx. 6”. Install 1 NDS drain basin and draitile to route water to raingarden from downspout on corner of house. Install a rip rap covered overflow from the raingarden alongside the driveway overflowing out to the street. Install 3 – 5 gal native shrubs and 45 – 1 gal native perennials in the raingarden. Layout of planning beds and plants shall be done onsite with homeowners input.

\$3400.00

Total

## Contract Terms

This is an agreement between "Customer", defined above, and Ecoscapes LLC. Under the terms set forth below, Customer agrees to purchase the services of Ecoscapes LLC in preparing and constructing the landscaping and/or brick paving and/or retaining wall design as set forth in the Proposals, and Ecoscapes LLC agrees to render such services.

As consideration, Customer agrees to pay Ecoscapes LLC the amount shown as “Total”(“Contract Price”) in exchange for performing the services described in the Proposals that are initialed or agreed to. The parties further agree as follows:

## Payments

25755 Zachary Ave. Elko, MN 55020 ~ 612.965.0848 ~ craigstark@ecoscapesl.com ~ www.ecoscapesl.com

# V. C. Redding & Lynch Downspout Raingarden Phase 2 SHG 2025-04 Grant Application

Lauren Sampedro  
TEC Meeting  
4/9/2025



## SHG 2025-04–Location Aerial



## Existing Area



## Proposed Plan

Dwarf bush Honeysuckle    Prairie smoke  
Ninebark    meadow blazing  
wild    butterfly weed    star  
bergamot    milkweed    blue wild indigo



**Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of  
White Bear Lake and the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management  
Organization Regarding Restoration of the Rotary Nature Preserve Wetland**

This Memorandum of Understanding ("**MOU**") is made and entered into by and between the City of White Bear Lake ("**City**") and the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization ("**VLAWMO**"), each acting by and through its duly authorized governing bodies.

**RECITALS**

- A. The City and VLAWMO have partnered successfully on three sequential, prior phases of restoration at the Rotary Nature Preserve ("**Rotary Park**"), including upland and buffer areas, most recently including formal partnership into 2025.
- B. The City and VLAWMO partnered to complete a 5-year (2025-2029) Rotary Park wetland vegetation management plan and budget sheet, which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, ("**Study**") for the restoration of 21 acres of wetland in Rotary Park ("**Project**") with the contractor ("**Contractor**") selected to conduct the Project.
- C. The City Council considered the Study at its March 28, 2023 meeting and agreed to move forward with the Study and Project (Resolution No. 13171).
- D. The completed Study was presented to the VLAWMO Board at its February 21, 2024 regular meeting, and submission of the grant proposal to complete the work described in the Study was authorized by the VLAWMO Board at its August 28, 2024 regular Board meeting:
 

Director Rafferty moved and Director Riedesel seconded authorization of VLAWMO and the City of WBL to submit a grant proposal to CPL for restoration of wetlands in Rotary Park, consistent with the prioritization study and budget prepared by NST, to begin in 2025.
- E. VLAWMO, in partnership with the City, submitted a Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) grant ("**Grant**") proposal with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources that requested funding to complete four years of the phased activities described in the Study.
- F. The Grant provides \$110,250 in grant funding and requires an in-kind/cash match from the City and VLAWMO of \$12,250 (\$9,750 cash match to be shared equally between VLAWMO and the City and \$2,500 in-kind contribution by VLAWMO).
- G. The City and VLAWMO were notified in December 2024 that the Grant proposal was selected for funding and are in the process of taking the steps necessary to accept the Grant (as of January 2025).
- H. The City and VLAWMO included funding for the cash match portion of the Grant in the current 2025 budgets and commit to including funding for the remaining years identified in the Grant agreement through and including the 2028 annual budget.
- I. The City and VLAWMO also commit to including funding in their respective budgets and working together in good faith to develop an agreement, at a later date, for year five (2029) work as defined in the approved Study.

- J. Annual maintenance for the Project, estimated at \$4,000-\$8,000 in the Study, would begin in year six (2030).
- K. Both parties wish to clearly define their respective roles in implementing the activities described in the Grant workplan.

### **AGREEMENT**

In consideration of the mutual promises made herein, the parties agree as follows:

1. City Responsibilities. City agrees to do each of the following:
  - a. Collaborate to provide input to VLAWMO for Project management and oversight.
  - b. Attend meetings and participate in discussions related to Project planning.
  - c. Approves the activities in the Grant workplan to be conducted on Rotary Park.
  - d. Provide land access to VLAWMO and the Contractor to conduct the Project as set out below.
  - e. Provide Project outreach and education including but not limited to erecting signage.
  - f. Reimburse VLAWMO for 50% of cash match (\$9,750 total cash match; 50% = \$4,875).
  - g. Work together in good faith to develop an agreement, at a later date, for year five (2029) work as defined in approved Study.
  - h. Work together in good faith to develop an agreement, at a later date, for the initial 10 years of maintenance (2030-2039) of the Project, as defined in approved Study. Partners plan to share maintenance costs 50/50, with an anticipated amount not-to-exceed \$8,000 per year, unless an increase is mutually agreed upon by both partners to accommodate specific needs identified by the contractor conducting maintenance at the site.
  - i. Contract for the initial 10 years of maintenance (2030-2039) of the Project.
  - j. Prepare and provide an invoice annually for reimbursement to VLAWMO for 50% of the maintenance costs.
2. VLAWMO Responsibilities. VLAWMO agrees to do each of the following:
  - a. Project management and oversight of Grant workplan activities.
  - b. Enter into a contract/letter agreements for each of the four years of the Grant (2025-2028) with the Contractor to complete the Project and pay for services included in the contract.
  - c. Complete grant administration and reporting.
  - d. Attend meetings and participate in discussion related to Project planning.
  - e. Assist the City with Project outreach and education.
  - f. Conduct, document, and submit documentation to CPL for the in-kind match of \$2,500.
  - g. Prepare and provide an invoice for reimbursement to the City for 50% of cash match (\$9,750 total cash match; 50% = \$4,875).
  - h. Work together in good faith to develop an agreement, at a later date, for the year five (2029) work as defined in approved Study.
  - i. Work together in good faith to develop an agreement, at a later date, for the initial 10

years of maintenance (2030-2039) of the Project, as defined in approved Study. Partners plan to share maintenance costs 50/50, with an anticipated amount not-to-exceed \$8,000 per year, unless an increase is mutually agreed upon by both partners to accommodate specific needs identified by the contractor conducting maintenance at the site.

3. License for Access. The City hereby grants VLAWMO, the Contractor, and their respective employees and agents a license to access Rotary Park at all reasonable times and as may reasonably be needed to undertake and complete the work on the restoration project as described in the Grant workplan and in the Study.
4. Term. This MOU is effective on the date of the last party to execute it. This MOU shall terminate upon completion and successful close-out of the Grant.
5. Legal Compliance. Each party is responsible for complying with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances in carrying out their respective obligations under this MOU.
6. Entire Agreement; Amendments. This MOU constitutes the entire agreement between the parties regarding this matter. No amendments to this MOU are valid unless they are in writing and signed by both parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this MOU to be executed by their duly authorized representatives and is effective as of the date of the last party to execute it.

**City of White Bear Lake**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Manager

Date: Feb 13, 2025

**Vadnais Lake Area Watershed  
Management Organization**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Administrator

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Heal the Earth!

## Rotary Nature Preserve Wetland - Plant Community Assessment and Management Recommendations Quote

Task #	Plant Comm.	Restoration Elements	Cost Est.	Timeline
1	WMn82b and MRn93	Spot herbicide, weed whip, and cut cattail below water level – outlier patches	#1 – assumes three visits (\$3,744.00/visit)	2025
2	Perimeter around WMn82b stands	Target RCG/PL and RCG/PL/CT stands around WMn82b	#2 – assumes two treatments (\$4,320.00/visit)	
3,5	RCG, MRn93 and WMn82b1	Spring/summer mowings and fall herbicide treatments - RCG	#3 – assumes two visits (\$6,520.00/visit)	
			#5 – assumes two RCG spray on the east side of the wetland. (\$4,890.00/visit)  Monitoring and Planning – up to two visits (\$1,000.00/visit)  <b>2025 Not-to-Exceed \$44,692.00</b>	
1	WMn82b and MRn93	Spot herbicide, weed whip, and cut cattail below water level – outlier patches	#1 – assumes three visits (\$3,744.00/visit)	2026
2	Perimeter around WMn82b stands	Target RCG/PL and RCG/PL/CT stands around WMn82b	#2 – assumes two treatments (\$4320.00/visit)	
3	MRn93 and WMn82b1	Site prep. - seed and plant – erosion control	#3 – \$10,700.00 allowance  Monitoring and Planning – up to two visits (\$1,000.00/visit)  <b>2026 Not-to-Exceed \$32,572.00</b>	
5	RCG (NE section closest to parking area)	Site prep. - seed and plant – erosion control	#5 - \$8,400.00 allowance	2027



## Heal the Earth!

6	RCG/PL and RCG/PL/CT	Treat test plots in the northwest portions of the wetland	#6 – \$4,320.00/treatment of test plots  Monitoring and Planning – up to two visits (\$1,000.00/visit)  <b>2027 Not-to-Exceed \$14,720.00</b>	
5	RCG (Eastern side parallel to walking path	Site prep. - seed and plant – erosion control	#5 - \$14,095.00 allowance  Monitoring and Planning – up to two visits (\$1,000.00/visit)  <b>2028 Not-to-Exceed \$16,095.00</b>	2028
6	RCG/PL and RCG/PL/CT	Area scope and restoration approach based on test area results; year 5 is necessarily broad. The amount anticipated is a not-to-exceed total to be determined based on results from prior years and outcome to date.	#6 - \$17,500.00 allowance  Monitoring and Planning – up to two visits (\$1,000.00/visit)  <b>2029 Not-to-Exceed \$19,500.00</b>	2029

**Total Not-to-Exceed 2025-2029 = \$127,579.00**

### Notes:

1. Any items placed or planted within treatment area(s) that are under 3' tall must be clearly marked or described to the management crew to avoid damage to said items or equipment. MNL cannot be liable for unseen, unmarked items within management area(s).
2. The quote assumes parking and access for all crew members and equipment.
3. The quote does include prevailing wage.
4. The quote assumes the potential use of a drone for herbicide applications.
5. The quote assumes the potential use of a Marsh Master for herbicide applications and mowing.
6. MNL does not warranty against acts of vandalism, severe drought, flooding or damages caused by wildlife.



## ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION BID

**Date:** March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**To:** Dawn Tanner, Natural Resources Specialist, VLAWMO

**Description:** Main restoration elements detailed in a Natural Shore report titled, “Rotary Nature Preserve Wetland – Plant Community Assessment and Management Recommendations” are listed below. Please refer to page 18 of the report for a summary of restoration tasks. Bid amounts below (cost ranges) are associated with the proposed tasks outlined for a 5-year period. When conducting this project, we will adhere to the Minnesota Department of Labor’s prevailing wage schedule and submit all necessary reports.

### Restoration Schedule with Associated Budget:

Year	Task #	Plant Community	Restoration Elements	Cost Range
2025	1	WMn82b and MRn93	Spot herbicide, weed whip, and cut cattail below water level – outlier patches – winter cutting if conditions allow	\$20,000 - \$30,000
	2	Perimeter around WMn82b stands	Target RCG/PL and RCG/PL/CT stands around WMn82b – implement appropriate treatment methods	
	3,5	RCG, MRn93 and	Spring/summer mowings and fall	

		WMn82b1	herbicide treatments – RCG  Plant areas South of the boardwalk with aggressive wetland and emergent plant species. (species lists will be developed from our experience – 25 yrs and communications with U of MN researchers)	
<b>2026</b>	1	WMn82b and MRn93	Assess and monitor - spot herbicide, weed whip, and cut cattail below water level – outlier patches	\$20,000 - \$30,000
	2	Perimeter around WMn82b stands	Assess and monitor - target RCG/PL and RCG/PL/CT stands around WMn82b	
	3,5	RCG, MRn93 and WMn82b1	Spring/summer mowings and fall herbicide treatments – RCG  Monitor response of 2025 control efforts. If necessary, overseed with a custom wetland seed mix.  Plant areas North of the boardwalk with aggressive wetland and emergent plant species.	
<b>2027</b>	5	RCG (NE section closest to parking area	Site preparation - seeding and planting – erosion control, introduce wetland and emergent species that compete well with RCG – based on NST experience and research	\$20,000-\$30,000
	6	RCG/PL and RCG/PL/CT	Treat test plots in the northwest portions of the wetland	
<b>2028</b>	5	RCG (Eastern side parallel to walking path	Site preparation - seed and plant – erosion control, introduce wetland species that compete well with RCG	\$20,000-\$30,000

	6	RCG/PL and RCG/PL/CT	Assess and monitor test plots in the northwest portions of the wetland, set up additional plots if necessary	
<b>2029</b>	6	RCG/PL and RCG/PL/CT	Area scope and restoration approach based on test area results – select methods will include strategic herbicide applications, seeding with aggressive wetland species, and planting in higher profile areas of the wetland.	\$20,000-\$30,000

**NOTES:**

NST staff and VLAWMO staff will meet on site periodically to monitor progress and discuss restoration strategies.

Maintenance costs are not included above. Once, restoration is initiated, annual maintenance activities would range from \$4,000-\$8,000, depending coverage and the invasive weed response to initial control efforts.

Purple loosestrife beetle rearing can be performed by volunteers, thus it is not included in the budget summary above.

Restoration efforts past 2029 will be shaped by restoration results and pilot test results that take place in the RCG/PL and RCG/PL/CT meadows (northwest section of the wetland).



Dawn Tanner &lt;dawn.tanner@vlawmo.org&gt;

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## Rotary Wetland Project Support

2 messages

**Connie Taillon** <ctaillon@whitebearlake.org>

Wed, Mar 26, 2025 at 11:45 AM

To: Dawn Tanner &lt;dawn.tanner@vlawmo.org&gt;

Cc: Phil Belfiori &lt;phil.belfiori@vlawmo.org&gt;

Hi Dawn,

The City of White Bear Lake supports the recommendation to accept the quote from Natural Shore Technologies (NST) for the Rotary Nature Preserve wetland restoration project. NST is the installation and maintenance contractor for a multi-phase wetland buffer restoration project at Rotary Nature Preserve that began in 2022. Hiring the same contractor to install and maintain multiple restoration projects at one site provides cost efficiencies and operational continuity. In addition, the wetland restoration project flexibility allows partners to manage project costs within the median and lower price range of the NST quote.

Thank you for your partnership on this project.

Connie

**Connie Taillon, P.E.****Environmental Specialist/Water Resources Engineer***City of White Bear Lake**4701 Highway 61 N.**White Bear Lake, MN 55110**651-429-8587 – Direct**651-429-8531 – Main**[ctaillon@whitebearlake.org](mailto:ctaillon@whitebearlake.org) | [www.whitebearlake.org](http://www.whitebearlake.org)**Follow us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram*