

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission (TEC) Minutes
December 11, 2024
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Council Chambers
800 County Road E East, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127**

Commission Members Present:

Gloria Tessier	Gem Lake (GL)
Nick Ousky	Vadnais Heights (VH)
Jami Philip	White Bear Township (WBT)
Susan Miller	North Oaks (NO)
Terry Huntrods	City of White Bear Lake (WBL)
Tom Hoffman	City of Lino Lakes (LL)

Others in attendance: Phil Belfiori, Dawn Tanner, Lauren Sampedro, Brian Corcoran, Angela Hugunin (VLAWMO staff); Jeremy Erickson, SPRWS.

I. Call to Order

Chair Tessier called the meeting to order at 8:15 am.

II. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Huntrods and seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve the December 11, 2024, TEC agenda. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes (November 13, 2024)

It was moved by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Philip to approve the November 13, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IV. Administration & Operations

A. Introduce Angela Hugunin – New Communication and Outreach Coordinator

Administrator Belfiori said VLAWMO is excited to welcome new VLAWMO staff member Angela Hugunin as the Communication and Outreach Coordinator. Hugunin introduced herself, and the TEC also provided introductions and described their roles.

B. December Financial Report and Consider Authorization for Payment

Administrator Belfiori summarized the December financial statement as included in the packet. Notable items included payments for information systems, historic wetland escrow, watershed management planning, finalizing Phase 1 of the alum project, and engineering review for the gullies on Lambert Creek.

Staff recommended approval of the financial report and bills for December.

It was moved by Commissioner Ousky and seconded by Commissioners Huntrods and Miller to approve the December Financial Report and authorize for payment. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

C. December TEC Report to the Board of Directors

Administrator Belfiori summarized the TEC Report to the Board as included in the packet. Notable items included submittal of MPCA grant applications, Rotary Park work with White Bear Lake, getting ready for the second phase of alum treatment at Tamarack Lake, carp management planning for next year, wrapping up the Elmwood Park raingarden and White Bear Lake curb cut raingardens for the season, finalizing the 2025 working budget, and continued watershed management plan work.

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

V. Programs

A. Update on Water Conservation Partnership with City of Vadnais Heights

Sampedro summarized a new partnership with the City of Vadnais Heights to pursue a program to provide EPA WaterSense pre-rinse sprayers to businesses and institutions for more water conservation in the City. She identified that these practices can conserve up to 7,000 gallons per year. This program is also a way to provide outreach and build relationships with local businesses and institutions to implement other water conservation practices in the future.

VI. Projects

A. Consider Temporary Access Agreement for Continued Tamarack Alum Project

Tanner presented that staff received a renewed temporary access agreement with Ramsey County Parks and Tamarack Nature Center for the next season of the alum project at Tamarack Lake. She discussed that this agreement will allow for phase two work to begin in spring 2025. She added that this access agreement would cover the time range of ice out in the spring through the end of the growing season in fall 2025.

Tanner asked for the TEC's recommendation to the Board for signing the temporary access agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ousky and seconded by Commissioner Miller to recommend to the Board to sign the temporary access agreement and authorize VLAWMO staff to return the fully executed agreement to Ramsey County. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. Consider Agreement (MOU) for VLAWMO Support for Phase 3 of Rotary Park Restoration with the City of White Bear Lake

Tanner discussed that staff received a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of White Bear Lake for ongoing work on the Rotary Park restoration project. She said that phase three is underway. VLAWMO will provide \$5,000 towards the project, with the City providing a \$5,000 match. She noted that there was a recent article in the Vadnais Heights and White Bear Press that covered the project.

Tanner asked for the TEC's recommendation to the Board to sign the MOU and request an invoice.

Commissioner Miller commented that this is a nice project that restores an area in the middle of development and noted that many people use the park. Tanner responded that there is also signage about the project for those using the park.

It was moved by Commissioner Huntrods and seconded by Commissioner Miller to recommend to the Board to sign the MOU with the City of White Bear Lake for ongoing Rotary Park restoration, and authorize staff to return the fully executed MOU to the City of WBL and request an invoice for 2024. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

C. Consider Maintenance and Ongoing Program Contracts

Tanner presented that staff utilize consultants for assisting with maintenance activities and ongoing programs. VLAWMO develops contracts with them each fall to bring to the TEC in December. She described the contracts including one with the RCSWCD for \$9,425-12,195 for activities such as Birch Lake pre- and post-invasive vegetation surveys, Tamarack Lake vegetation survey, and vegetation transplant work at the Wilkinson deep-water wetland; two contracts with Natural Shore Technologies for maintenance on projects like the 4th St and Otter Lake Rd iron enhanced sand filter, invasive yellow iris removal, and Wilkinson deep-water wetland; one with Sandstrom Land Management for maintenance of the biochar filter; and one contract with Carp Solutions for continued carp removal at Pleasant Lake.

Commissioner Miller asked if carp removals will be happening at the Charley Lake channel next year or if Carp Solutions will only be monitoring the channel. Tanner clarified they will only be monitoring at that location next year. She said that removal at Charley Lake could be added to the carp management planning in 2026, depending on what is learned from the monitoring work and biomass estimate.

Tanner asked for the TEC's recommended approval of the contracts to the Board. She noted that the contracts would be provided at the February Board meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Huntrods and seconded by Commissioner Philip to recommend to the Board approval of the batch of contracts provided in the packet: RCSWCD, Natural Shore Technologies, Sandstrom Land Management, and Carp Solutions. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

D. Update on WMP – TEC + Scheduled for Jan 8, 2025

Tanner provided an update that staff and HEI are working on the Watershed Management Plan sections one through four. She said section three will be provided for the TEC's review

and discussion for the next TEC+ meeting. She added staff are hoping to provide the draft to the TEC the week of December 23rd.

She said the TEC+ meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2025 at 9:00 am. Staff are requesting section three comments to be submitted by January 15, 2025.

VII. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Hoffman reported that the City of Lino Lakes has approved a resolution to partner with VLAWMO on a study for the Wilkinson Lake subwatershed area. He discussed there is a proposed development and the City has limited space for stormwater treatment in the area. He noted the partnership is a good opportunity to add more stormwater treatment in the subwatershed and make progress on the nutrient Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

VIII. NOHOA

Commissioner Miller reported that NOHOA is moving forward with Deep Lake shoreline restoration work. She described that the eastern part of the lake is owned by NOC and NOHOA is continuing shoreline restoration work along this side of the lake. She said a significant amount of buckthorn removal has been completed, and they are starting to see more expansion native plant species including Red Osier Dogwood. She added that, with the considerable amount of work that NOC is contributing in the area that they own, NOHOA is hoping the restoration work will be completed around all of the lake next year. Tanner noted that VLAWMO is working with NOHOA and NOC on writing an article about this restoration work that will also incorporate the multi-year partnership work on invasive yellow iris removal around Deep Lake.

IX. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division

None

X. St. Paul Regional Water Services

None

XI. Public Comment:

None

Administrator Belfiori thanked the TEC for attending the TEC meetings and for their great work in 2024. He said VLAWMO looks forward to the continued partnership with TEC members in 2025.

XII. Next Meetings:

TEC: January 8, 2025 at 8:15 a.m.; TEC+: January 8, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.; Board: February 26, 2025.

XIII. Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner Hoffman and seconded by Commissioner Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 am. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.