

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission (TEC) Minutes
January 8, 2025
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, Brian Corcoran, Angela Hugunin (VLAWMO staff); Jeremy Erickson, SPRWS; Ed Shapland.

I. Call to Order

Chair Tessier called the meeting to order at 8:31 am.

II. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Huntrods and seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve the January 8, 2025, TEC agenda. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes (December 11, 2024)

It was moved by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Ousky to approve the December 11, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IV. Administration & Operations

A. January Financial Report and Consider Authorization for Payment

Administrator Belfiori summarized the January financial statement as included in the meeting materials. He highlighted administrative costs from planning of the 2027-2036 Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, work with Ramsey County on lake surveys, soil health grant reimbursement, and reimbursement to the City of Vadnais Heights for some of the Elmwood Park raingarden project.

Income included the stormwater utility revenue, interest, and grant revenue.

It was moved by Commissioner Philip and seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve the January Financial Report and authorize for payment. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. Technical Commission Officer Appointments

Administrator Belfiori outlined the Technical Commission roles. Commissioners discussed role allocation and responsibilities for 2025.

Chair: Nick Ousky
Vice Chair: Gloria Tessier
Financial Officer: Terry Huntrods
Liason to the Board: Susan Miller

It was moved by Commissioner Philip and seconded by Commissioner Huntrods to confirm the TEC officer slate for 2025. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

C. Confirmation of 2025 TEC Meeting Dates

Administrator Belfiori asked the TEC to confirm whether the 2025 meetings should follow the same schedule and location as 2024.

It was moved by Commissioner Philip and seconded by Commissioner Miller to confirm the 2025 TEC meeting dates. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

D. 2025 Working Budget Overview

Administrator Belfiori outlined the working budget from the December 2024 Board meeting. The 2025 budget includes predominantly 2024 budget carry-over, grant revenue, and stormwater utility fees. Key 2025 approved projects on the budget include development of the Tamarack Alum project, City of Vadnais Heights Green Streets partnership for Greenhaven, East Vadnais Lake subwatershed resiliency project, Polar Lakes Park reuse project, second small watershed grant project design, a second resiliency study with City of Vadnais Heights, Landscape Level 2 grant program partnerships, North Oaks Company partnership and the development of the 2027-2036 VLAWMO watershed management plan, among others listed in the Board packet.

Chair Tessier thanked Administrator Belfiori.

V. Projects

A. Consider Ongoing Partnership Effort with NOHOA for Deep Lake Shoreline Restoration

Administrator Belfiori presented the summary memo of project monitoring for the deep-water wetland in 2024.

Commissioner Miller shared that this was likely the third year of this effort. Administrator Belfiori shared – and Commissioner Miller agreed – that this is an exciting project, a lake that gives more of a northern feel, especially after recent buckthorn removal.

Commissioner Miller shared a hope that in 2025 this project will reach all the way around the lake. Commissioner Miller has noticed lots of the vegetated growth planted by NST starting to take off. Administrator Belfiori thanked her for her leadership.

Commissioner Philip asked whether NOHOA will be responsible for upkeep and maintenance of this project. Commissioner Miller confirmed that NOHOA has budgeted for maintenance for the coming years, but the Board will need to have discussions for longer-term funding. She confirmed a commitment to maintenance for the coming years.

It was moved by Commissioner Philip and seconded by Commissioner Miller to recommend to the Board to partner with NOHOA for ongoing Deep Lake shoreline restoration work in 2025 as described above and authorize the updated MOU for 2025. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. Wilkinson Deep-water Wetland Update: HEI Monitoring Memo for 2024

Administrator Belfiori shared that VLAWMO now has an analysis of this project. HEI anticipates better phosphorus intake once plants are more mature. He shared that they are seeing the beginnings of good momentum with this project.

C. Update on WMP – TEC + (today at 9am)

Administrator Belfiori shared that the TEC+ meeting will follow today's TEC meeting (starting at 9:00 am). TEC+ meeting materials were provided on December 23, 2024. The meeting will focus on the Section 3 draft of the 2027-2035 Watershed Management Plan. Completed comment tables are requested by January 15 (emailed to dawn.tanner@vlawmo.org).

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. Recent Awarding of CPL Grant for Rotary Nature Preserve Wetland Restoration

Administrator Belfiori shared word of the awarding of a CPL grant for the Rotary Nature Preserve Wetland Restoration. He thanked Connie and Dawn for their partnership and congratulated them on this award. He shared the 5-year plan to go into long-term plan of implementing wetland restoration. This work will need to continue with the Rotary Club and will eventually involve collaborative maintenance with volunteers.

Commissioner Miller inquired about the acreage of the park. Chair Tessier shared that it is 21 acres. Administrator Belfiori noted that it is a beautiful park in the middle of an urban area, an exciting space to maintain.

VI. Commissioner Reports

None

VII. NOHOA

None

VIII. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division

None

IX. St. Paul Regional Water Services

None

X. Public Comment:

None

XI. Next Meetings:

TEC: February 12, 2025 at 8:15 a.m.; Board: February 26, 2025.

XII. Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner Huntrods and seconded by Commissioner Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 am. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.