



**CITY OF NORTH OAKS**

**Regular Natural Resources Commission Meeting**  
**Thursday, April 15, 2021**  
**7 PM, Via Teleconference or Other Electronic Means Only**  
**MEETING AGENDA**

**Remote Access** - *Natural Resource Commission members will participate by telephone or other electronic means pursuant to Minn. Stat. §13D.021. Any person wishing to monitor the meeting electronically from a remote location may do so by calling the following Zoom meeting videoconference number: 1-312-626-6799, Webinar ID: 835 1948 8641 or by joining the meeting via the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83519488641>. Due to the existing COVID-19 Health Pandemic, no more than five (5) members of the public may be in Council Chambers (Community Room, 100 Village Center Drive, MN) during the meeting. Once room capacity is met, anyone wishing to attend the meeting above the five (5) members of the public who may be present in the room during the meeting will be required to monitor the meeting remotely.*

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Roll Call**

**3. Approval of Agenda**

**4. Citizen Comments** - *Members of the public are invited to make comments to the Commission during the public comments section. Up to four minutes shall be allowed for each speaker. No action will be taken by the Commission on items raised during the public comment period unless the item appears as an agenda item for action.*

**5. Approval of Previous Month's Minutes**

5a. Approval of NRC Meeting Minutes from March 18, 2021  
[3.18.21 NRC Meeting Minutes - Draft.pdf](#)

**6. Business Action Items**

6a. Presentation from VLAWMO on Wilkinson Lake project  
[Wilinson Lake 319.pptx](#)

6b. Discussion and possible action on minute taking

6c. Discussion and possible action on North Oaks News articles list

**7. Commissioner / Staff Reports -**

- *Tick Task Force Report*
- *Community Outreach: Winsor Report*
- *NOHOA/ NEST Report*
- *City Forester Report*
- *VLAWMO Tech Report*
- *City Report*

7a.Outreach Report

[Outreach report Winsor.pdf](#)

7b.Forester Report

[March 2021 in Review.pdf](#)

**8. Next Meeting:**

**9. Adjourn**

**North Oaks Natural Resources Commission  
NRC Meeting Minutes  
Virtual Meeting via Teleconference or Electronic Means Only  
March 18, 2021 at 7 p.m.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Hawkins called the meeting of March 18, 2021, to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

NRC members participated **by telephone or other electronic means** pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.021.

Present: Chair Andrew Hawkins, Vice Chair Kate Winsor, Commissioners Bob Larson (Absent), Shannon Dunn, David White, Penny Kianian, Damien Lepoutre, City Council liaison Tom Watson, Jim Hara and NOHOA liaison Patricia Orud.

Staff Present: City Administrator Kevin Kress, City Forester Mark Rehder.

Guests:

A quorum was declared present.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION by Winsor, seconded by Dunn, to approve the agenda as submitted.**

**MOTION carried unanimously by roll call vote.**

**4. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

None.

**5. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES**

Councilor Winsor reviewed and requested minor corrections to the minutes including 7d. and 7c.

**MOTION by White, seconded by Winsor, to approve the February 18, 2021 minutes with corrections as discussed.**

**MOTION carried unanimously by roll call vote.**

**6. BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS**

\*\*Chair Hawkins informed the commission about practices moving forward including the agenda building, additions, etc. Gave thanks for those who submitted reports.

**a. Discussion on Earth Day Activities**

- Winsor submitted article to North Oaks News encouraging residents to pick up trash on walks. Email blasts is encouraged to be used as a reminder. Winsor doesn't think an organized event can happen safely this year.
- Kianian asked if the Boy Scouts have any opportunity to take advantage of Earth Day planning activities. Winsor commented they helped with the movie event in the past.

- Lepoutre voiced that a clean-up this year will be difficult but clean up day is a good way to communicate. Good way to raise awareness.
- Hawkins liked the idea of the email blast, and liked the idea of Earth Day month. There were some issues with trash ending up in trees.
- Watson commented the Boy Scouts had merged with Peace Methodist. And thought maybe the middle school would be interested as part of their science activities. Winsor commented they could cruise around their property.
- Hawkins relayed that it is both in-person and virtual.
- Hawkins volunteered to contact the Chippewa middle school.
- Watson said they can be acknowledged at CC meeting
- Lepoutre asked who organized the signs on the trails
- Orud commented it was an Eagle Scout project.
- Winsor will share email blast items with NOHOA
- Dunn commented tying to TTF to recommend they be mindful of their recommendations to TTF. Tuck in your pants.

#### **b. Discussion on deer management**

- Hawkins spoke to Hara about deer management. Watson managed program for many years and asked for comments from Watson and Hara.
- Watson commented he was happy to turn it over to Hara. Watson wanted to clarify the minutes of Council and NRC. Wanted to know what Laughlin's experience was in recent months. They indicated there weren't enough deer seen around traps. Was advised by Council prior to 2021 that they should eradicate deer in North Oaks. The City asked Laughlin to terminate their contract a month earlier so they were done in February. The deer program has not been eliminated. Only the contract was eliminated. Program is still alive and well but needs some guts and context. Nothing we can do for several months. We are in the birthing period. In the meantime, getting hands on the statistics so he can recreate models used previously and review zones in the community. City will have to determine who to contract with moving forward. Watson has a list of 4-5 other organizations that are possible candidates for the removal program. That could happen this summer. Need to arrange to do an aerial count after a snow storm Dec-Jan. Transferring what you see to the zone map. We would also need to submit app to DNR for a permit. It will be difficult if we have to report we didn't see any deer. They insist on having a certain population. Application is usually sent in October with permits coming shortly thereafter. New terms will have to be negotiated. The aerial count helps with the perimeter of North Oak's as well to see what is happening in bordering cities.
- Hara- mission is to line up some resources and create a plan. Tom Landwehr was contacted and lives in Shoreview. He was kind and gracious to give us some guidance and resources. Spoke of the carrying capacity in North Oaks. Familiar with what happens in North Oaks. 2 indicators for number of deer, habitat 25 per sq. mile and social tolerance of the community. Hara reported less deer with no deer seen near his property. Supports what Laughlin indicated to Mr. Watson. Step one, what is population and two, what is plan moving forward. Education is necessary to inform the public. Learn from Tom and Chair Hawkins
- Kianian was curious about aerals. Wanted to know if traffic incidents could be relevant to the count.

- Hara commented that the DNR does use vehicle kills from insurance companies. They do push for additional permits in relation to the number of deer taking. Chronic wasting is of high concern to the DNR. CWD showed up in WI and permits were opened up and it hurt the population. The CWD turned out to be not that big of a problem. Hara didn't know if they could use that as a metric.
- Watson indicated they typically didn't do that in the past. During the season of taking deer a small amount was killed by vehicles. It depends on how the accident occurs and what City the incident will be reported. 4-6 vehicle kills per year came to mind. Major issue is aerial count and autopsy data told us a lot about the age of the population and reproduction rate. Landwehr served on Shoreview city council. In urban areas we aren't working anywhere near 25/sq. mile it is more like 10-12 range. A developed site is more like 4-6 per sq. mile. In North Oaks, the capacity is relatively low we should be talking about 75 deer total. Map contained 13 zones and population was indicated. Trapping indicated by zone and we could explain which zone produced the largest number of deer. Helped enable the number of permits obtained. Ron Schara was mentioned and incidents were mentioned in South Deep Lake Road where fawns were found dead next to foundation. Mr. Schara talked about starving deer in North Oaks. The problem was the diet was so rich that breeding lasted longer in fall, and the fawns were born later in the Spring. This resulted in the fawns not building up enough body fat before an early winter hit and they ended up freezing to death.
- Winsor commented she had confidence in Watson and Hara coordinating the deer program as long as it's done with biology and science and consulted with NRC.
- White agreed.
- Hawkins agreed and will help where applicable.
- Watson thought science based, facts, was important including aerial counts.
- Lepoutre asked about the matching zones, with DNR target and aerial count for an article.
- Select communication was mentioned by Watson so some confidentially is necessary. This was to deter tampering with traps and damaging traps.
- Hara – mentioned some would be horrified about the process for removing deer.
- Hawkins agreed selective communication was necessary. Communicate program is still active and not planned to be eliminated.
- Watson thought it would be useful for those interested to hear about how program works and is conducted. Most deer are asleep when they are removed
- Kianian commented on trap in neighbor's property. Struggled to get ahold of dnr and neighbor about the deer. Talked with Fletcher and RC came out to investigate. Was on board for how the program was run and when traps were active.
- Watson explained that when there is a lull this topic should come back up for discussion. Traps weren't visible from anywhere not the contractor placing the traps at their own discretion. Watson experience was they were removing with complete transparency. He was the main contact in the past. Penny's experience would never have happened in the past.
- Dunn liked Hawkins perspective that information should be shared the more the better.
- Watson commented they did communicate but didn't share addresses. Numbers, activity, etc.
- Damien – need to explain and communicate we have a plan supported by science and DNR. We have the target and the process to achieve the results.

- Hawkins expressed thanks to the commission and councilors about the process. NRC is here for support in the program and to educate the public.

**c. Discussion on Invasive Species**

- Hawkins expressed this was recommended by several asked for comment. Buckthorn was called out specifically.
- Winsor – asked for role of NOHOA vs North Oaks.
- Orud – NOHOA responsible for identifying and guiding in the removal can require removal but can encourage it. Natural Environment Plan is plan for id and removal. Policies were passed speaking to NOHOA shorelines and that is an option. Working with VLAWMO for buckthorn removal and others in NO including aquatic and terrestrial plants. Education around that is important.
- Winsor asked about loosestrife and beetles. Diane Gorder is part of it. (7:53)
- Orud said they are coming, working on mapping out loosestrife. NOHOA property is priority. Beetles have a span and typically last 2-4 years so the colony collapses and a new colony has to be established. Need waders to distribute the beetles.
- Rehder experiences that terrestrial is bubbling on the surface. A lot of people have been doing good work. Frustrating to see while walking on the trail that he can't remove more because the property is private. Instead the homeowner is approached and educated on the removal process. Be better if we could be more proactive and the challenge we will have to face. Eradicate list is a priority that the state can require removal for certain species. Be good to have a coordinated effort moving forward. If you can be proactive it can save time in the future. However, he can help he'd be grateful.
- Orud- mentioned Japanese knotweed, garlic mustard is both on the list. All of these are problematic.
- Rehder – brushing out is a concern in regards to buckthorn removal. People then put turf in and it can set up the next stage for garlic mustard. A lite touch is critically important. Good educational component for the public.
- Hawkins – Asked Rehder to define brush out.
- Rehder – commented that if a property is covered in buckthorn and the wood is mowed then the lot is wide open. It seems to be a trickle effect where neighboring properties do the same.
- Winsor said the NRC could resurrect articles: weed of the month, pulled from Dept of Ag where species were described. Maybe start with garlic mustard and toss in other items.
- Hara thought that was a great idea. Has had buckthorn removed on his property in the past. It is expensive to eradicate.
- Rehder said he could get out the articles for garlic it's a lay may bloomer.
- Orud – NST work can demonstrate the beach and merry hill park. They removed buckthorn but left everything else. You can control buckthorn and save the other species. (8:06)
- Lepoutre – plenty of weeds that aren't invasive. Should speak to the invasives. Buckthorn is at least a 3-year plan, remove roots, seeds. Select vs clear cut following 3 years.
- Hawkins asked NRC what they thought about a tangible education piece to inform the public about the issues. Something residents can pick up.

- Kress asked about signage along trails similar to state parks.
- Orud- commented that signs are being discussed terrestrial and aquatic.
- Kianian asked if a smart phone app or google app could be used to inform
- Orud – said that at merry hill park they are creating materials for healthy plants. Quirky code
- Rehder thought maybe temporary education signs may work.
- Orud commented merry hill is covered with garlic mustard
- Hawkins talked about I-naturalist being a good tool to determine what plants and animals are.
- Kress asked Orud if maybe pavers would be more appealing than signage.
- Rehder will continue to look for additional funding to and it helps motivate people.
- Watson added topic about AIS. The NRC used to run a year-round program about various item. Thought the technology available now may be beneficial (8:17) Terrestrial program.
- Hawkins was interested in having a webinar in the future.
- Watson thinks he can get aquatic side for free unsure about terrestrial side.
- Orud attends VLAWMO tech and they learned a lot about **fright mighties** and other aquatic invasives. They have a variety of opportunities available. MN Woods Women also has some opportunities available. These online educational ventures are available to anyone. The VLAWMO sessions can be viewed afterwards.
- Hawkins would be interested in linking these sessions on our page, and City could put it on the eblast in lieu of recreating.
- Nick Voss from VLAWMO is the point of contact

#### d. Discussion on Articles for the North Oaks News

- Hawkins referenced the agenda and the ideas listed as such for potential articles.
- Winsor commented on what was done in the past. April is pretty full. Lake highlights would be an interesting idea. VLAWMO has a site where that information can be found. Winsor can create a spreadsheet and who wants to volunteer to write various articles.
- Hawkins wrote of mouse management in conjunction with tick management program for next issue. Winsor also wrote something regarding Earth Day and information on Conservation Awards program.
- Kianian asked how many words are typically in an article, and when they are due for publication. Winsor didn't believe there was a cap on the number of words, and Winsor would ask Gretchen to ask to add NRC to the distribution list. Hawkins mentioned that 350-500 words has been mentioned in past, but has taken both shorter and longer.
- Rehder said that pictures are enjoyed. Make sure that the message is consistent and vetted to ensure that not duplicating articles. Winsor will review to ensure no duplication.
- Lepoutre suggested an article for garlic mustard before the season. This would need to be included tomorrow for publication
- Article ideas will be sent to Kress and distributed to Winsor.
- **APRIL** • Mouse management to help control ticks & Lyme (already submitted) • Earth Day Reminder (already submitted) • Apply for Conservation Award (already submitted)
- **MAY** • May 1st is National "Start Seeing Monarchs" day (Kate will prepare) • Lake Highlight: Pleasant Lake

- **JUNE** • June 21-27 is National Pollinators Week • Lake Highlight: Deep Lake
- **JULY** • Reminder about ticks and ways to protect your family and property • Lake Highlight: Charley Lake

## **7. COMMISSIONER / STAFF REPORTS**

### **7a. Reports**

- TTF—Hawkins wrote an article for mouse management and tick management. Will meet with Brooke Moore to learn about the survey system. Would like to see survey in august timeframe during more of the active tick season.
- Winsor – No additions
- NOHOA/NEST – Orud natural environment plan has moved from volunteer to technical writer. Hope to have draft to board by May. Geese management plan is active. It's a multi-step process. Focused on beach because caused issues with E.coli in Pleasant Lake. A study will take place this year to see if DNR will grant permits for removal. Beach will be raked twice a day. The sand is a problem that the engineer will handle. A plan is active to freshen the beach the building, picnic area etc. will be improved. Policy revision has been a priority with NOHOA. The NOHOA website has the new trail use policy that has detail for accessing by vendors when necessary. They can be viewed online. They have also revised shorelands policy. Fly question was taken to their consultant. Consultant asked to determine what kind of fly's they are near conservancy area. They will look into the type of flies especially around the conservancy area. Looking for biological intervention not chemical. VLAWMO is very involved in all the lake activities including yellow iris removal and other invasive removals. Dawn Tanner has written many articles that may be beneficial to Winsor.
- Next meeting date of Tick Task Force is to be discussed between Hawkins and Moore.
- Folks on Gilfillan that want geese removed, and although we don't qualify for geese removal, NOHOA suggests using new LED geese lights which is having good success in parks. They can call the NOHOA office for guidance.

### **7d. City Forester Report:**

- Oak Wilt
- **Report included in the packet**
- Rehder said all diseased trees have been removed. Road restrictions are on. Still safe to remove / prune Oak Trees.
- Lepoutre asked question about oak wilt tree removal. He had a hard time what to do with the wood. Would like to see something on website to see what to do with the wood.
- Rehder said it is encouraged to be chipped and taken with contractor. Usually include letter explaining how you can cover the wood and deter overland spread. (8:38)
- Winsor – noticed there was a letter to the editor that NOHOA is paying for NOHOA forester.
- Orud – the letter was littered with misinformation in regards to Mr. Rehder for tree inspections and the natural environment consultant. The person that wrote it had that explained to them but they didn't understand. This was not for Mr. Rehder, it was for a different piece of work. They also thought the contract was for \$20,000 and that's not what it was – that was the entire NOHOA budget for a line item.



- Winsor asked if a rebuttal was ready. Orud doesn't know if that was planned or necessary.
- Orud asked Rehder about covering the wood for a year. Does anyone go back to tell them to take it off after the safe period.
- Orud mentioned they do get complaints about the tarps over woodpiles.
- Rehder acknowledged that residents may not go back and do this. He spoke of debris and the need to remove excess wood from properties so it doesn't become a sawmill.

**7f. VLAWMO Tech Committee Report:**

- Watson said there was nothing substantial. Watson spoke to Kress about the Wetland Conservation Act of Minnesota (WCA) and the upcoming Planning Commission meeting. Spoke of the Island Field connection and the report that was presented by Mr. Brian Corcoran in their decision in this area.

**7g. City Report – Administrator Kress:**

- Watson reported that we are alive and well and that we hired a new City Engineer Tim Korby. Watson is working with Mayor and NOHOA President for a work session on topics that make sense to discuss as one community. Watson talked about the geese permit mentioned by Orud. Watson said they used to remove geese in the past with no issues. Hara mentioned Tim Korby has significant experience getting grant money. Spoke highly of Tim Korby.
- Kianian thanked Kress for bringing in a diverse group of engineers for review by the Council.

**8. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 7 p.m. through Virtual Means.**

**ADJOURNED at 8:53 p.m.:**

**MOTION by White, seconded by Winsor, to adjourn the meeting.**

**MOTION carried unanimously by roll call.**

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Kevin Kress, City Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Andrew Hawkins

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



# VLAWMO upcoming projects targeting Wilkinson, Tamarack, and Birch Lakes

April 8, 2021, City Council Meeting

# 319 Funds and VLAWMO

- 319 is an EPA Federal grant program (from Section 319 of the Clean Water Act)
  - Administered by the MPCA in MN
- In previous years, 319 funds were awarded on a project basis
  - Example: Recent Lambert Creek meander project in 2019 (completed in 2021)
- New model: 16-year, priority small watershed grant program
  - Each priority small watershed has priority 4 times for a project or suite of projects targeting a pre-approved area within their watershed
  - Pre-approved area(s) identified in the required Nine Key Element (NKE) document, approved by EPA



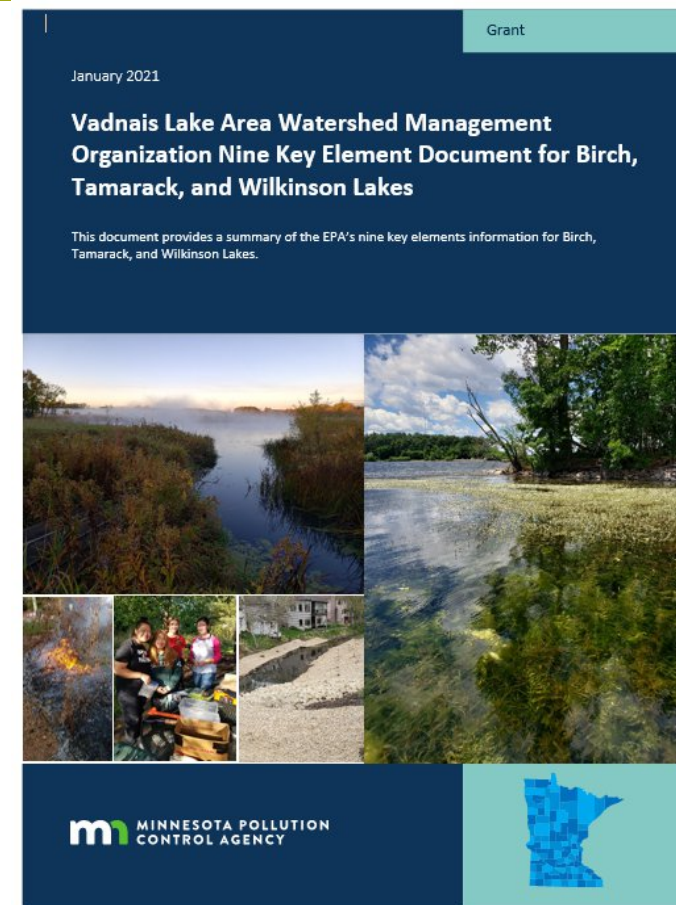
# Process of receiving priority small watershed designation

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- During spring 2019
  - 1) VLAWMO submitted letter of interest
  - 2) Participated in phone interview with MPCA panel
  - 3) In-person interview with partners followed
- In-person interview with MPCA included:
  - Rep from Board (Dan Jones)
  - Reps from TEC, City of North Oaks, and NOHOA (Bob Larson and Diane Gorder)
  - Rep from SPRWS (Justine Roe)
  - VLAWMO staff and more
- During summer/fall 2019: Notified of selection for small watershed priority funding

# Developed NKE document

- During fall 2020 VLAWMO worked with MPCA to build document
- Board approved NKE Document for final submission to EPA on Feb. 24, 2021
- Focal areas selected: Wilkinson Lake, Tamarack Lake, and Birch Lake
- Will be available on the MPCA website
- Includes a menu of projects to choose from when submitting project package





# Concept-level Projects for first round 319 grant application targeting Wilkinson Lake

- Proposal will be submitted during spring 2021
- Project construction will happen following (to be completed by the end of 2024)
- Next proposal due in 2025

# Feasibilities to identify projects

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- SEH worked with VLAWMO to identify smaller-scale projects that could be implemented to improve Wilkinson during 2020
- Barr worked with NOC (and VLAWMO) on high-level concept and phasing plan for regional suite of projects for the first round, 319 priority small-watershed proposal for a cohesive package targeting Wilkinson Lake (2020/2021)
  - Barr's work was initiated and funded by NOC
  - Over and above stormwater requirements
  - Not related to any development stormwater requirements

# Overview of high-level concept

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- Focuses on southern most area
- Need to “fit” to budget of grant and local match amount
  - Cost estimate and pollution reduction est.
- Design will change as each stage in the process evolves, anticipated to be somewhere generally be in the box areas with:
  - City/NOHQA involvement and input where appropriate
  - Permitting/agency input
  - MLT Input
  - Other partners as needed



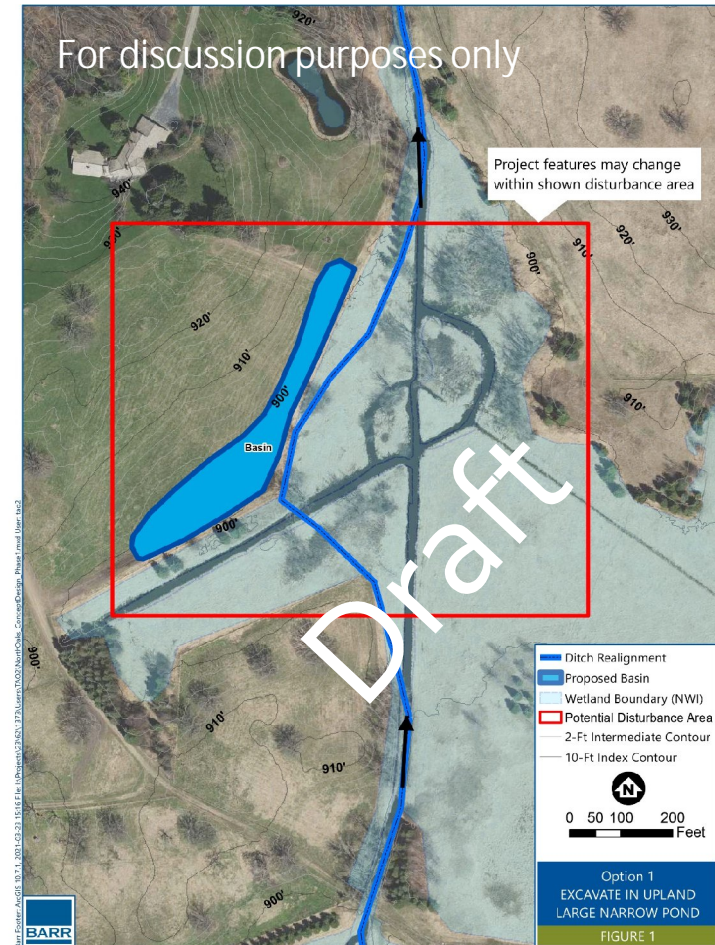
# High-level concept

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- No decision made yet
- Pre-permitting meeting will be held in April to discuss options with agency/permitting authorities
- Proposal for first-round projects will be submitted this spring for grant funding
- Design work will continue after grant proposal is submitted
- Likely final design will be some combination of following concepts

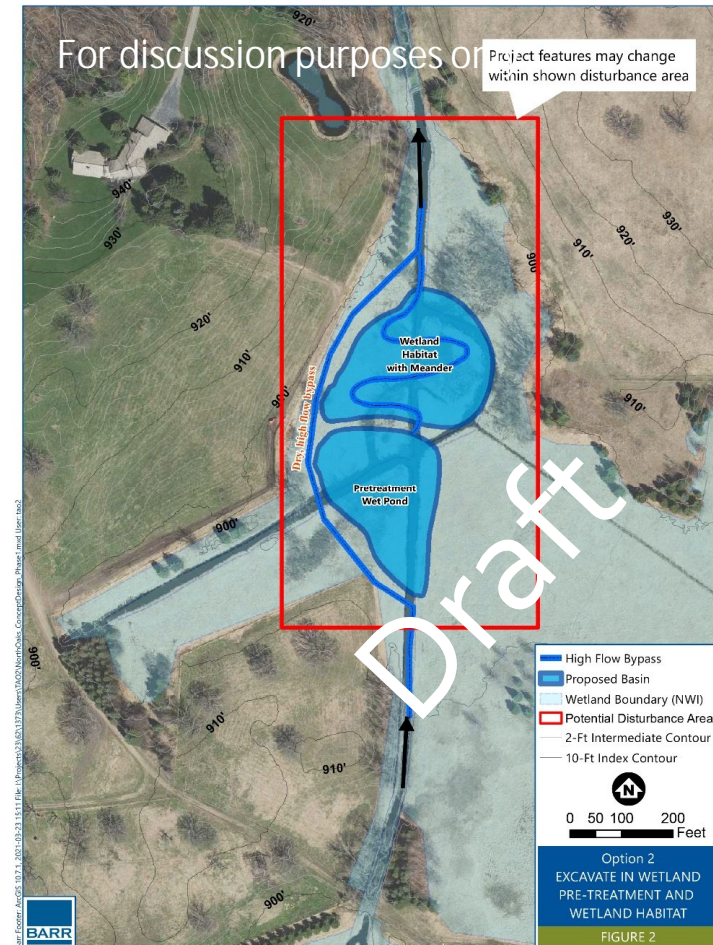
# Concept option #1 for first phase

- This option has a smaller pond receiving only some of the water coming into Wilkinson
- Possibly lower permitting needs
- Lower pollutant reduction
- Higher restoration focus



# Concept option #2 for first phase

- This option has a larger pond and meander area after the pond with an overflow route to protect pond and meander during high flows
- Possibly higher permitting needs than #1
- Higher pollutant reduction than #1
- Restoration and naturalized stream area would reduce dredging maintenance over time

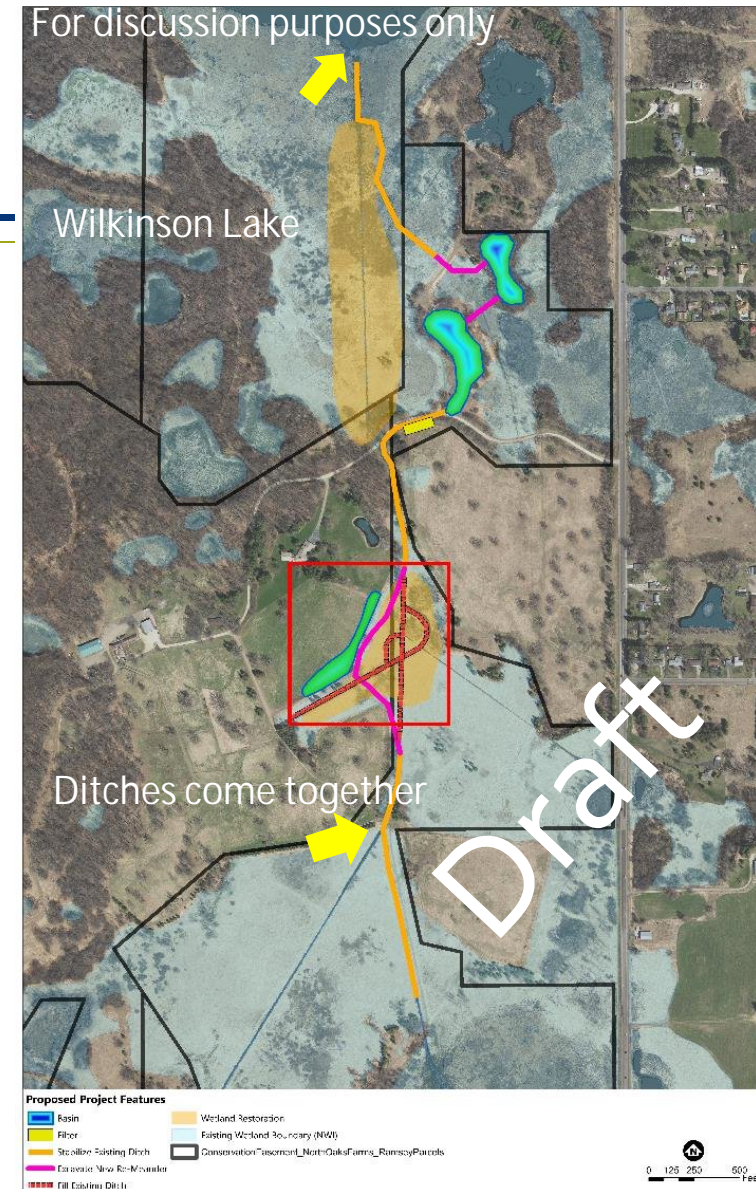
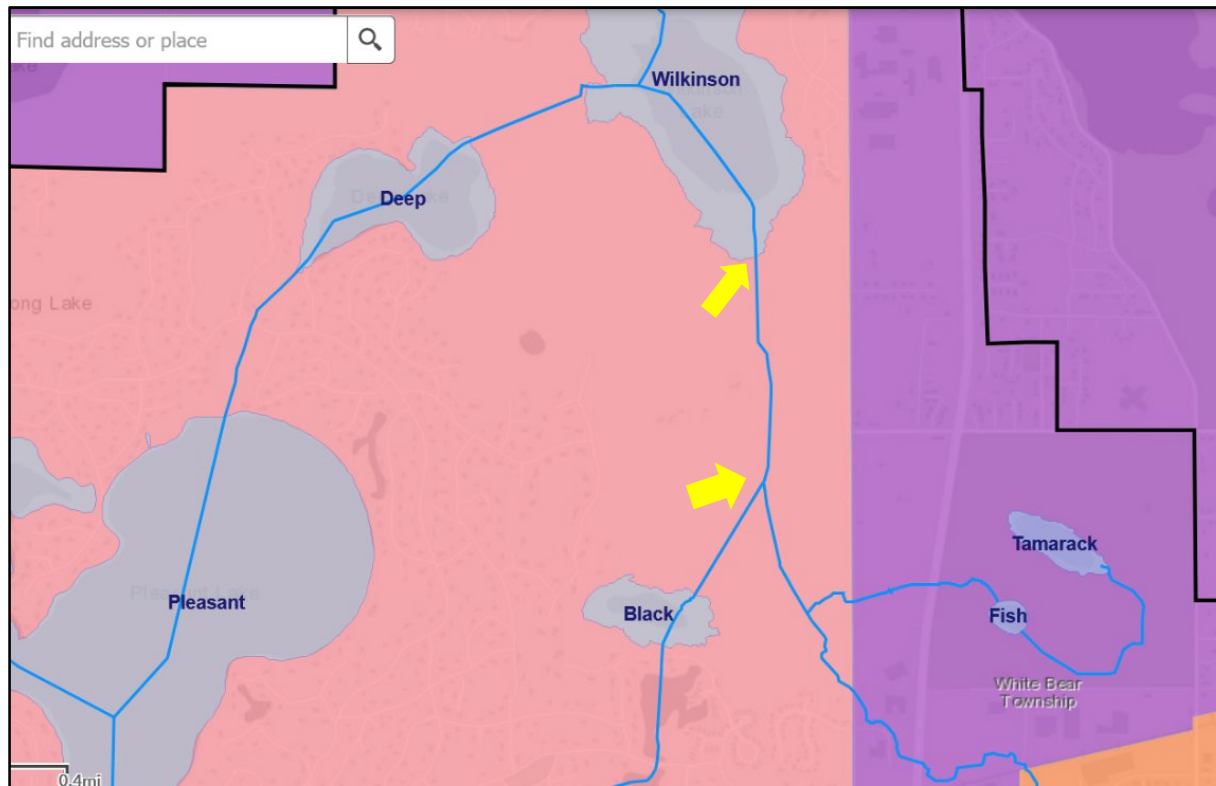


# Concept option #3 for first phase

- This option has the largest pond and an overflow route to protect pond during high flows
- Likely highest permitting needs of 3
- Highest pollutant reductions of 3
- Restoration minimized; some expected dredging maintenance needed over time



Larger area, and possible future project phases  
(boxed area same as previous 3 options)



# Anticipated Next Steps

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- Anticipated April 28 VLAWMO Board consideration of application package
  - Grant application and workplan with high-level design
  - “Base-level” partner agreements
- Fall 2021
  - Consideration of grant agreement
  - Consider further refined access and long-term maintenance agreements
- Early 2022
  - Grant agreement executed
    - Funds used on eligible actions (design and construction)
    - Public engagement
- 2023/2024: Project construction

## Outreach report - April 2021

- Created a spreadsheet to track North Oaks News articles
- Contacted North Oaks News editor and asked her to sending deadline reminders to all NRC Commissioners
- Submitted information to NO News re: monarch butterflies. Editor will either use info as is, or she will draft an article.
- Submitted article to NO News re: Neonicotinoids
- Submitted graphic to NO News re: turtle crossing
- Created email blast for City and NOHOA re: too early to clean up yards and gardens due to impacts on overwintering animals
- Created a series of email blasts re: Earth Day for both City and NOHOA use
- Requested National Wildlife Magazine article (backyard mosquito spraying) be added to Pesticide Information on City website

# March Month in Review

*March 2021*



Rehder Forestry Consulting

- One hundred forty-seven (147) diseased oak trees that were marked in 2020 have been removed. All trees were removed shortly after road restrictions went on and before the oak wilt season began (April 1). No forced removals were required giving us 100% compliance.
- Homeowner calls at 6 Spring Marsh Ln, 56 E Pleasant Lake Rd, 5 South Deep Lake Rd, 7 Aspen, and 5 Evergreen Ln.
- Meet with NRC on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- Provided article on invasive Garlic Mustard control and oak wilt eblast updates.
- Sent out hazard tree notices recommending removal.
- Continue working with and educating residents on goose control near Gilfillan Lake.