



CITY OF NORTH OAKS

Regular Natural Resources Commission Meeting
Thursday, May 20, 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: 857 6171 2708 or by joining the meeting via the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85761712708>. 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 Meeting Minutes - April 15, 2021
[4.15.21 NRC Meeting Minutes V2.pdf](#)

6 Business Action Items

6a. Update on East Oaks Rec Center, renovating the existing bioswale - (VLAWMO)
[May 20 Natural Resource Commission North Oaks East Oaks bioswale.pdf](#)

6b. Pleasant Lake management, including authority, research, and plans - (NOHOA)

7 Commissioner / Staff Reports -

- *Tick Task Force Report*

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

a. Reports

[DNR Geese.pdf](#)

[Non-Lethal Techniques_goose .pdf](#)

[April in Review.pdf](#)

[Outreach report.pdf](#)

8Next Meeting:

9Adjourn

**North Oaks Natural Resources Commission
NRC Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting via Teleconference or Electronic Means Only
April 15, 2021 at 7 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hawkins called the meeting of April 15, 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, Shannon Dunn, Penny Kianian, Damien Lepoutre, David White (joined late with technical difficulties) City Council liaison Tom Watson.

Absent: NOHOA Liaison Patricia Orud

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

Guests: Dawn Tanner and Administrator Belfiori from VLAWMO

A quorum was declared present.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Larson, 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

Commissioner Lepoutre noted minor spelling corrections on page 6 and 7.

MOTION by Dunn, seconded by Larson, to approve the March 18, 2021 minutes with corrections as discussed.

MOTION carried unanimously by roll call vote.

6. BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS

a. Presentation from VLAWMO on Wilkinson Lake project

- Dawn Tanner and Administrator Belfiori from VLAWMO were introduced as guest speakers.
- Councilor Watson gave some background information on Minnesota 319 Clean Water act.
- Involves an EPA grant project awarded in 2019 of \$500,000 to initiate a project involving Lake Wilkinson.

- VLAWMO will be voting on the project in late April, Watson thought pertinent for Natural Resource Committee to take a look at the project and how it relates to the PDA and upcoming developments.
- There are economic impacts and budget involved – but they are exciting projects, though expensive.
- Belfiori introduced himself as the administrator at VLAWMO, who was previously in attendance at NRC to talk about upcoming projects. He is aware of the upcoming North Oaks developments.
- VLAWMO formed in 1983 as a joint powers organization with the 6 communities: North Oaks, White Bear Lake, Gem, Lino Lakes, Vadnais Heights, and White Bear Township. Partnerships such as the City, NOHOA, University of Minnesota, St. Paul Regional Water Service and North Oaks Company are key to their development projects.
- Dawn Tanner introduced the Minnesota Clean Water Act 319 as an EPA Federal Grant Program administered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Administration (MPCA).
- In the past 319 funds were awarded on a per project basis. The Lambert project was part of this type funding and used a combination of loan funds and grant funds. The plan was to take the old ditch lines and failing infrastructure and change to a meandering one in which water can be filtered out. Plants and diversity were also added.
- The new Clean Water 319 project focus is now on priority watersheds. This begins with interviews with MPCA, letter of interest, followed by in-person interview. They were selected in the fall of 2019 and the project extends over 16 years, with being able to present projects every 4 years.
- In fall of 2020 they completed a menu of projects: they identified high target areas of Wilkinson Lake, Tamarack Lake and Birch Lake.
- Concept-level Project for first round involved Wilkinson Lake. Barr engineering worked with NOC and VLAWMO on a high-level and phasing plan targeting Wilkinson Lake. Barr's work was initiated and funded by NOC. This project is unrelated to new development storm water plans.
- Focuses on areas south of Wilkinson, where majority of run off is untreated. Design will likely change as each stage evolves. Project steps involve: City/NOHOA, permitting, Minnesota Lake Trust and other partners as needed.
- No final decision made yet as to the best option. Pre-permitting meeting will be held in April to discuss options with the MPCA.
- Concept 1 involves: water flows from multiple areas into Wilkinson. A pond would be placed on the south – water would flow in, be treated and flow back out.
- Concept 2 – larger pond and meander area after the pond, with an overflow route to protect pond during high flows. Higher permitting needs and higher pollutant reduction than option 1.
- Concept 3 – largest pond and an overflow route to protect pond during high flows. Highest permitting and highest pollutant reductions. Restoration minimized, but some expected dredging maintenance may be needed over time.
- The North Oaks Company has received a letter of support from Minnesota Land Trust.
- The pre-permitting meeting held with NOC, Barr Engineer, VLAWMO and others received favorable feedback.

- Next steps: 1) Anticipated to meet April 28th for VLAWMO board consideration, 2) Fall 2021 for consideration of grant agreement, 3) Early 2022 – Grant Agreement executed and go out for bid, 4) 2023/2024 – project construction.
- Chair Hawkins asked if the amount of pollution removed correlates with the amount of water in the pond. Belfiori indicated yes, the larger pond allows for a larger area for the sediment to settle. When asked if there was an advantage to the hybrid of both a pond and meander, Tanner stated the pond has the larger pollutant reduction. Meander might require a bit of additional landscape/planting maintenance to get established.
- Commissioner Dunn asked if both ponds would require occasional dredging /draining to clear.
- Commissioner Winsor asked what VLAWMO's preference is. Tanner mentioned they would like to hear from all parties involved as to their preference, as maintenance and life cycle cost is also a factor to ensure sustainability.
- Tanner mentioned that the meander would not require dredging and would become more like naturalized stream.
- The project would start in the south area, and can expand in a phase approach to the northern side later.
- Council Watson clarified that water flows north on the East side of North Oaks up into Wilkinson Lake.
- Commissioner Kianian asked what the source of the local match funds is. It was indicated that the total project cost about \$540,000. 60% can come from Federal Government, 40% from local cash match. Local partners currently are VLAWMO and NOC. There is also a possible grant put forth by the water authority – they will find out in a few months.
- Watson mentioned a major beneficiary of the water in North Oaks is the St. Paul Regional Water authority. There is a \$100,000 remaining that needs to be funded.
- Dunn mentioned the \$540,000 needs to cover total out the door costs.
- Administrator Kress asked who would be the ongoing owner of maintenance. Belfiori indicated that conversations are ongoing with NOC and VLAWMO about this. DNR has not been part of discussion since it does not involve public water under their jurisdiction. Tanner indicated there is a resource at DNR that will be very helpful as expert resource.
- Tanner stated St. Paul Water authority had previously committed additional funds to another project. They plan budgets a year out so they will work closely with them as project goes forward.
- St. Paul Water authority is spending funds on Carp program at Pleasant Lake this year to help water quality. Belfiori indicated they will continue to work with them, however they are slow moving in their priority and financial planning and VLAWMO needs to move forward quickly on this project at this time.
- Commissioner Lepoutre asked if they knew what percent of water comes from Mississippi vs. other sources. Tanner and Belfiori didn't have the numbers on hand, but will look into it.
- Watson mentioned that members of community may be interested in the amount of nutrients flowing in at this time to our various lakes and the potential impact of this new project.
- Tanner stated a TMDL (total maximum daily load) was completed in 2013, at which time Wilkinson and was found to be impaired. Target load reduction per year is 544 pounds.
- Pleasant Lake is also impaired for nutrients, but a TMDL has not been completed recently. A TMDL is on the agenda to be done in the future for Pleasant Lake when PCA comes back in the area. It is an extensive process of analysis as much water flow comes from the Mississippi River. Tanner mentioned that there are 2-3 times the amount of carp than should

be in Pleasant, and the carp harvest this year should help. It also has blue green algae blooms in late summer and early fall. They are currently working with NOHOA and Midwest Aqua Care to remove curlyleaf pondweed as a trial test in the western bay, to see if that helps later in the season.

- Meanders helps with natural flood plains, and helps deposits sediment in a various places along the stream in a way nature wants it.
- Birch Lake is a good quality lake with iron enhanced sand filters have been put in place to protect water quality. Tamarack has poorer water quality.
- These filters, ponds and raingardens are all great methods for filtering.
- Watson asked the Commissioners if they had recommendations for Council on this project from a biological or technical standpoint.
- Lepoutre mentioned that the most natural meander seems desirable, but want to also address if there are pollutants coming from White Bear lake so we can also start curb the problem at its source.
- Belfiori reemphasized that the overall goal of VLAWMO is to combine these cities within the watershed to collectively improve water quality and meet their respective water quality City requirements.
- Chair Hawkins prefers the meander along with a pond. Dunn agrees with the more natural and lower maintenance approach.
- Tanner mentioned the Army Core of Engineers is working now on their analysis.
- Watson mentioned he has asked for a Fact sheet from VLAWMO to compile some of the data discussed as such as TMDL, inflows, etc for all the various water sources. Tanner will provide what they have when it comes back to them.
- Hawkins asked for any additional feedback or questions to be sent to Chair Hawkins or Councilmember Watson.

b. Discussion and possible action on Minute taking

- Chair Hawkins mentioned that at the last council meeting, Mayor Ries mentioned the process of taking minutes may change in the future.
- Administrator Kress stated that at a minimum, official meetings must contain basic talking points, and all motions and votes.
- Councilmember Watson indicated that council will discuss it again at the June meeting. In the past they have hired a resident, had staff complete, or outsourced to Timesavers.
- Chair Hawkins asked the Commission to let him know if anyone would be willing to do the NRC minutes.
- Commissioner Lepoutre mentioned that he would be okay if the minutes were even shorter.

MOTION by Hawkins, seconded by Dunn, to table further discussion until the May NRC meeting. MOTION carried unanimously by roll call vote.

c. Discussion on possible action on Articles for the North Oaks News

- Commissioner Winsor reference her report included in the meeting packet on upcoming informational articles.
- The spreadsheet lists articles for the upcoming North Oaks news, with the April issue set. If there are any additional article ideas, send them onto the Winsor for future topics.
- Lepoutre was very pleased with the number of articles in the last edition of the news.

- Administrator Kress will send the link with all the articles back out to the commission.

7. COMMISSIONER / STAFF REPORTS

7a. Tick Task Force Reports

- Chair Hawkins mentioned a Tick task force meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20th at 7:00 p.m. Discussion will include reviewing the TTF plan in place and action items.

7b. NOHOA Nest – Purple loose strife bug reduction plan will be implemented once it leafs out around May. Volunteers are welcome, contact Jon Cotner of NOHOA. Arborist events will take place at Mary Hill Park in May. VLAWMO master water steward program will take place at East Recreation Center. Dates and detail will be communicated by NOHOA. Dunn inquired if it was determined what project was selected by the Water steward program. It was unknown.

7c. City Forester Report:

- **Report included in the packet**
- He is also working with 9North on an Oak Wilt educational video which will include a 15-20-minute video presentation in the field with graphics and how to handle.
- Brush pick up is scheduled for May 14th, working with Langer's Tree Service.
- Working with Justin Thomas from Ramsey County weed corporation regarding oriental bittersweet, as well as initial work on Japanese knotwood sites. Continued focus educating residents and finding funding if need be to help eradicate of these invasive species.

7d. VLAWMO Tech Committee Report:

- Commissioner Larson said there was nothing substantial, just continued efforts to protect the water. His alternate is Sara Shah, but he has not needed a backup so far this year. Councilor Watson spoke to Administrator Kress about the Wetland Conservation Act of Minnesota (WCA) and the upcoming Planning Commission meeting. He also spoke of the Island Field connection and the report that was presented by Mr. Brian Corcoran in their decision in this area.

7e. City Report – Administrator Kress:

- Council Watson indicated there is continued focus on wetland conservation Act. VLAWMO must issue permit whenever there is a project that impacts wetlands. He wondered if that would be of interest for this NRC committee.
- Commissioner Dunn didn't believe it would be of interest if NRC is not part of the formal permit process.
- Watson mentioned that if NRC becomes more a policy body in reviewing projects it might be relevant. Commissioner Winsor agreed it could wait.
- Watson shared the opportunity to attend a presentation on Aquatic species and use of satellite technology to do water monitoring in Minnesota. The presentation is from 9 - noon on May 1st, through the University. Topics include: impact of climate change on AIS, decision making model on how to allocate resources around aquatic plants and animals, and using satellite as a tool in water quality. Watson will forward the link and agenda for the meeting if anyone wishes to join.

- Administrator Kress asked Chair Hawkins if he had heard anything about sump pumps running excessively in Rapp Farm. It was thought that the issue may be hard clay and water pump lane may need to be longer to reach storm water drainage.
- Chair Hawkins communicated information regarding the upcoming Chippewa Clean-up day on Saturday, April 24th at Noon. NRC will provide garbage bags and gloves.
- City Hall is re-opening to the public on May 3rd.

8. **NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, May 20th, 2021 at 7 p.m. through Virtual Means.

ADJOURNED at 9:03 p.m.:

MOTION by Larson, seconded by Dunn, to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION carried unanimously by roll call.

Kevin Kress, City Administrator

Chair, Andrew Hawkins

Date approved: _____

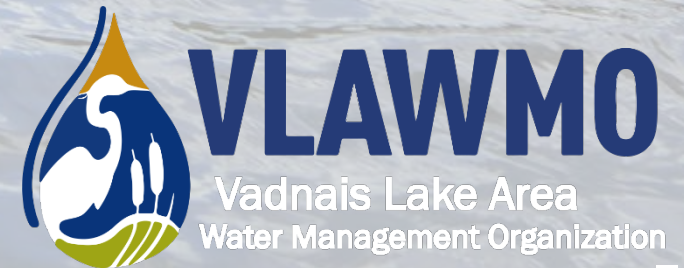
East Oaks Rec Center Bioswale Renovation

Minnesota Water Stewards Capstone Project

MINNESOTA WATER STEWARDS
Community Leadership for Clean Water

North Oaks Natural Resources Commission
Nick Voss and Sierra Weirens

5/20/21



Background: MS4



What is the MS4 Program?

- MPCA permit for generating, tracking, and improving stormwater runoff. North Oaks is a permit holder.
- 6 categories designed to help communities make progress, are measured and audited.
- New permit cycle April, 2021 – June, 2022

MPCA website:

www.pca.state.mn.us/water/complying-ms4-general-permit

VLAWMO MS4 page and mailing list:

<https://www.vlawmo.org/agencies>

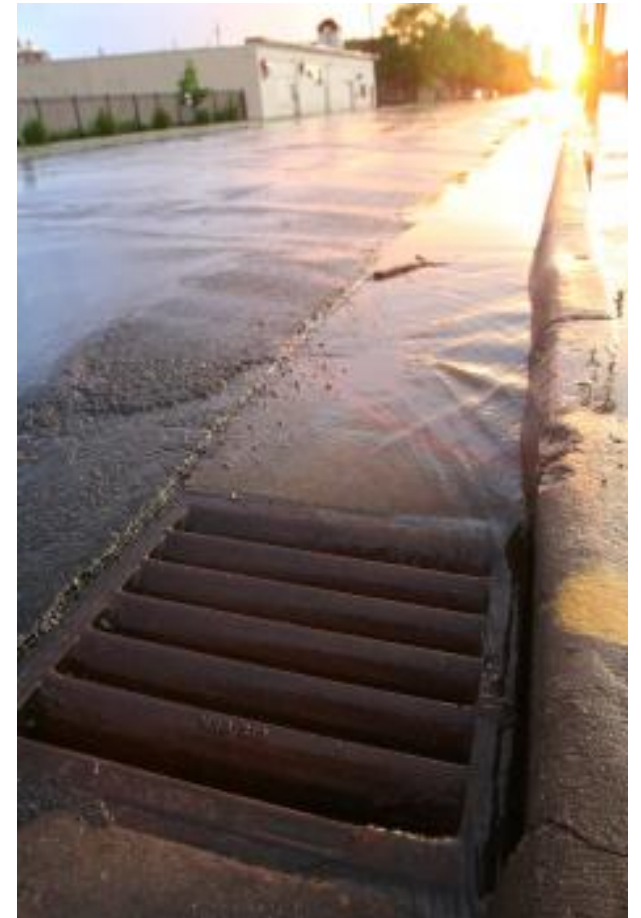


Photo: MPCA

Background: MS4



What does the MS4 permit mean for North Oaks?

- Green infrastructure as a tool to accomplish Minimum Control Measures (MCM).
- Opportunities for education, outreach, and participation. VLAWMO available for assistance.
- An approach for protecting lakes and wetlands as a connected system.
- Permit compliance as a strategy to reduce long-term complications and reduce costs.

MS4

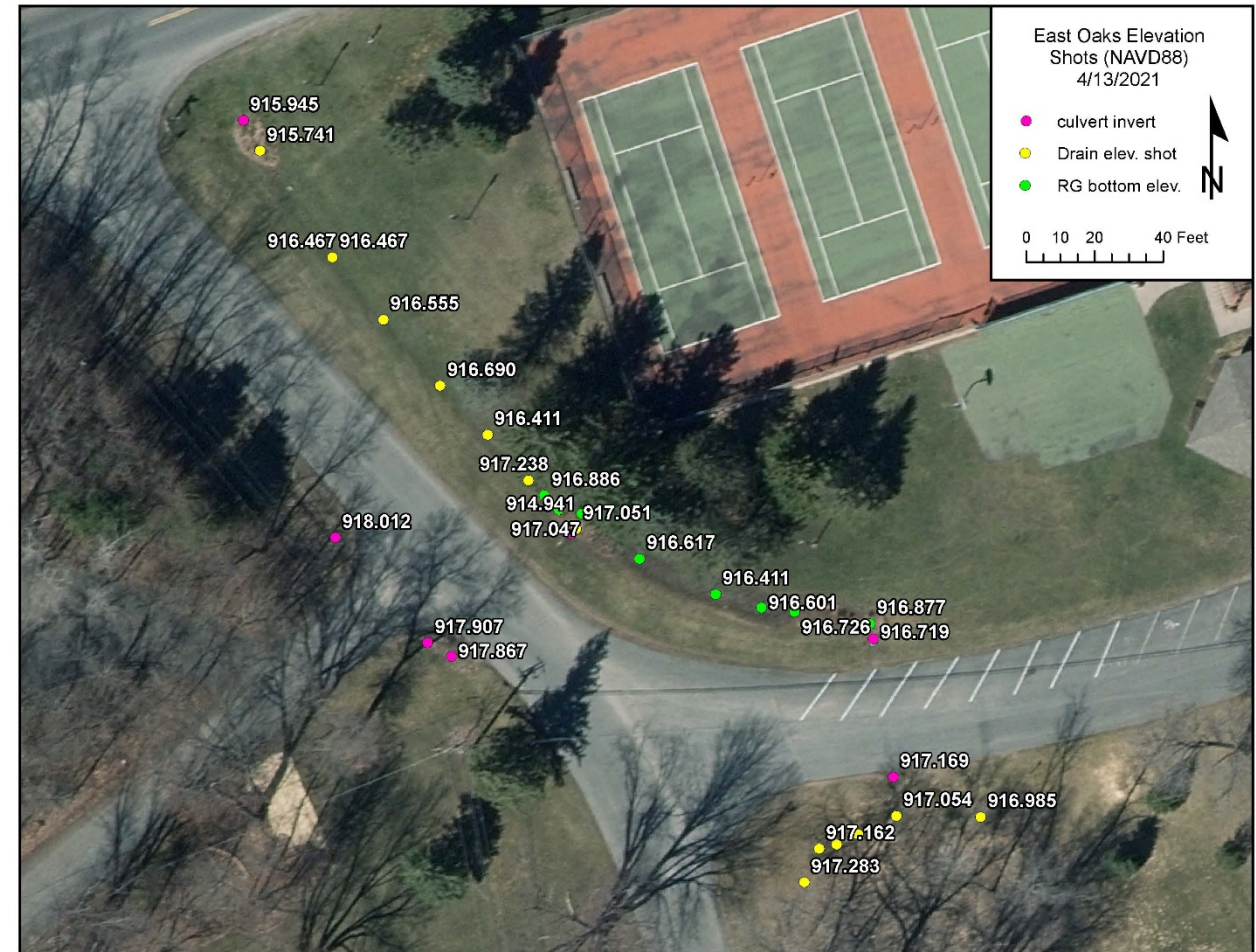
Municipal
Separate
Storm
Sewer
System

Minimum Control Measure (MCM)	
1	Education and Outreach
2	Public Participation
3	Illicit discharge (i.e. illegal dumping)
4	Construction site runoff controls
5	Post- construction site runoff controls
6	Pollution prevention/housekeeping

East Oaks Bioswale

What's the current dynamic?

- Inundated with sediment
- Poor infiltration
- Outdated infrastructure for sediment removal



East Oaks Bioswale

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- Inundated with sediment
- Poor infiltration
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East Oaks Bioswale

What are the options?

- Convert to turf
- Keep as-is
- Where is the happy balance?

Practical maintenance

Asset for pollinators

Beatification

Retain water for infiltration and MS4 credit

Ongoing team effort for sediment removal



East Oaks Bioswale



Project goals:

1. Keep/relocate existing plants
2. Excavate
3. Design new simplified planting plan
4. Communicate across multiple channels
5. Install catchment sumps (2) with NOHOA support
6. Soil amendment, new plants, and mulch
7. Long-term maintenance plan
8. Work towards reduction of stormwater runoff and sediment loading upstream.

VLAWMO cost-share, etc.

Collaboration options for MN Water Steward capstone:

- Communications
- Volunteering: Planting, mulch, etc.

Questions



From: "Pharis, Kelly (DNR)" <kelly.pharis@state.mn.us>
Date: May 17, 2021 at 2:51:44 PM CDT
To: Andrew Hawkins <AHawkins@northoaksmn.gov>
Subject: RE: Goose management

Caution: This email originated outside our organization; please use caution.

Hi Andrew,

In addition to the information found on our website https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/livingwith_wildlife/geese/index.html, attached is a document with different techniques that landowners can try in order to deter geese from an area. Not every technique works in every situation and it is good to implement a few different things in order to have success.

Let me know if you have any additional questions.

Have a great week!
Kelly

Kelly Lynch Pharis

Assistant Area Wildlife Manager | Division of Fish and Wildlife

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

1200 Warner Road

St. Paul, MN 55106

Phone: 651-539-3308

Email: kelly.pharis@state.mn.us

Implementing a few different techniques tends to work the best.

- Landscaping the shoreline with a buffer of tall native grasses and shrubs is considered the most effective long-term method for deterring geese.
- Fencing during the flightless period (June-July) can help to deter geese from regularly using an area as well. I would chicken wire, or something similar, 36" minimum height along the shoreline and bring it up along the edge of the property a ways (in a U shape) so they don't walk around it.
- I have heard of some having success recently using goose lights <https://www.awaywithgeese.com>. They can work well in some situations. They have lights that can be mounted in the upland, as well as floatable ones that can be placed off shore. They can recommend placement and how many units for the most effective result.
- Coyote cutouts can also be successful, if moved regularly. The ones that seem to work the best are on a spring and move in the wind. Some also have a realistic looking tail.
- Regular hazing with people, dogs on a leash or motion detector sprinklers can also be effective.
- There are some new turf sprays also on the market. The first three listed below are spray repellants that use a very similar approach to have the treated area visual to geese and create an upset stomach if eaten.
 1. Avian Enterprises has two products <https://aviancontrolinc.com/>.
 2. Flight Control has one product. Stop The Drop. <http://www.stopthedrop.biz/>.
 3. Liquid Fence has one product. Liquid fence Goose repellant. <http://www.liquidfence.com/Products/Goose-Control.aspx>
 4. Goose Scram. https://www.solutionsstores.com/goose-scram-professional?CAWELAID=12030888000026899&gclid=EAlaIQobChMluLLm2q-92wIVC7XACH0QwgIBEAQYASABEgLdi_D_BwE

April Month in Review

April 2021



Rehder Forestry Consulting

- Stopped removal of trees by an unlicensed contractor at 2 Overhill. They have submitted application, gone through the process, and are now licensed to work in North Oaks.
- Homeowner calls at 10 Spring Marsh Ln for shoreland forestry application.
- Meet with NRC on April 15th, 2021.
- Worked on an Oak Wilt Educational video through 9 North (formerly CSTV), should be ready for release soon.
- Working with the County to see if funding is available for Oriental Bittersweet and Japanese Knotweed control. Hope to continue with the momentum we gained last year.
- Continue to make residents aware of hazard tree situations that should be addressed.
- Marked a number of ash trees for removal that fit the criteria for Emerald Ash Borer (Year 3-4) disease.

Outreach report - May 2021

- Created email blast for City and NOHOA re: "No Mow May," a University of Minnesota initiative to refrain from mowing during the month of May to help pollinators.
- Delivered mosquito control "door knob hangers" to NOHOA office - to be included in new member packets.
- Requested North Oaks News article about neonicotinoids be included on City website.
- Submitted an article about National Pollinator Week (authored by Penny Kianian) - for June issue of North Oaks News
- Submitted an article "What You Don't Know CAN Hurt You" - for June issue of North Oaks News - health effects of common mosquito control chemicals