Agenda
Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission (WPC)
February 08, 2017 - 3:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

2. a 2017 Election of WPC Officers*  Action
   b. Approval of the Agenda  Action

3. Approval of Minutes from November 28, 2016 Meeting*  Action

4. Business Items
   a. Overview of 2016 Vermillion River Watershed Stewards Program*  Information
   b. Recommendation to Execute a Grant Agreement with Friends of the Mississippi River for the Vermillion River Stewards Program in 2017*  Action
   c. Recommend a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the City of Lakeville for the South Creek Stormwater Hydrodynamic Separator  Action
   d. Recommend a JPA with the City of Lakeville for the South Creek Temperature Reduction Project  Action
   e. Recommend a JPA with the Dakota County Transportation Department for the South Branch Nitrate Treatment Project in Castle Rock Township  Action
   f. Recommend a JPA with Dakota County Transportation Department and the City of Lakeville for the Phosphorus Treatment Enhancements Project at County Road 50 in Lakeville  Action
   g. Recommend a JPA with the City of Burnsville for Alimagnet Lake Stormwater Improvement Projects  Action

5. Updates
   a. Chairman's Report
   b. Staff Updates

6. Adjourn  Action

*Additional information provided in packet, if available.

Other Information

Next Meeting Date: March 8, 2017 at 3:30 p.m.
Dakota County Western Service Center, Room 334, Apple Valley, MN
Please confirm your attendance by contacting Dee McDaniels at 952.891.7024 or via e-mail at dee.mcdaniels@co.dakota.mn.us
You will be notified if the meeting is cancelled due to an anticipated lack of quorum.

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization
14955 Galaxie Avenue, Apple Valley, MN 55124, 952.891.7011, Fax 952.891.7031
Minutes

Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission (VRWPC) Meeting
November 30, 2016
Dakota County Western Service Center, Room 334, Apple Valley, MN

WPC Members in Attendance
Mark Henry  Tony Wotzka
Jim Guttmann  Ken Betzold
John Glynn  Chuck Clanton
Brian Rohrenbach

Staff in Attendance
Mark Zabel, VRWJPO
Mark Ryan, VRWJPO
Dee McDaniels, Dakota. Co.

Others in Attendance
Brian Watson, Dakota SWCD

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Chair Glynn at 3:35 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

2. Approval of the Agenda
   Motion by Commissioner Rohrenbach second by Commissioner Wotzka to approve the agenda as presented. The agenda was unanimously approved.

3. Approval of the Minutes
   Motion by Commissioner Clanton second by Commissioner Wotzka to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2016 meeting with the following corrections: correct the misspelling of Clanton and Cuomo, and correct the approval of minutes from August 10, to June 8. The minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

4. Business Items
   a. Recommend Authorization to execute a Grant Agreement with the DNR for the South Creek stream habitat restoration project.

      Mark Ryan presented the South Creek stream habitat restoration proposal. Mark said, Dakota County recently purchased the parcel where the restoration will occur as it is within the identified corridor of the Lake Marion Greenway. This portion of South Creek is impaired for E. coli bacteria and aquatic life. The aquatic life impairment arises from insufficient in-stream habitat, sediment-carrying stormwater runoff, streambank erosion, warm stream temperatures, lack of adequate dissolved oxygen, and lack of native riparian vegetation. Nearly 2,000 linear feet of South Creek and a tributary will be restored as part of this project.

      The VRWJPO developed a proposal to install in-stream habitat features (such as root wads, boulders, rock veins, stream barbs, brush mattresses, tree pins, and cobble) to provide refuge areas for trout and other aquatic species, protect the streambanks, and aerate the water; Stabilize streambanks to prevent erosion, decrease turbidity, and increase resilience to storm events; and Vegetate streambanks with native plants to filter stormwater runoff and reduce delivery of pollutants to the stream that adversely affect turbidity and dissolved oxygen.

      The VRWJPO submitted the proposal to the DNR for possible Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) grant funding, and was notified that a CPL grant of $268,000 had been awarded for the project. Match of $26,800 in cash or in-kind services is required. The VRWJPO will provide match total of $82,000.
($30,000 cash and $52,000 of in-kind services), the total of which exceeds the required match. The VRWJPO staff requests the VRWJPB to authorize the chair to execute a Grant Agreement with the DNR for the South Creek stream habitat restoration project to receive a CPL grant for $268,000.

Commissioner Clanton expressed concern over the cost of the project. Mark Ryan said the cost was typical for these types of projects.

Motion by Commissioner Clanton, second by Commission Henry to recommend Authorization to execute a Grant Agreement with the DNR for the South Creek stream habitat restoration project. The motion was unanimously approved.

b. Recommend Adoption of the final VRWJPO 2017 Budget and Special Tax District

Mark Zabel provided an overview of the final budget, which includes shifts in funding to reflect changes in circumstances. The final budget totals and special watershed district tax levy amounts remain the same as proposed to the WPC in August 2016. One change is that Katherine Carlson, who is currently at 0.75 FTE, will retire from Dakota County at the end of 2016. She will be replaced by a full-time position.

Because of the change in staff and project costs, Mark adjusted the final VRWJPO 2017 Budget by:

- increasing Dakota County staff expenses by $10,000 (Administration and Operations, line 1);
- increasing staff expenses in Public Communications and Outreach by $5,000 (line 1);
- decreasing the budget for Master Water Stewards by $12,500 to reflect the five candidates participating in 2017 (Public Communication and Outreach, line 13);
- decreasing allocation for buffer and floodplain easements by $5,000 (CIP, line 4);
- moving the Blair Restoration grant match to the Conservation Partners Legacy grant category (decreasing CIP by $30,000);
- adding grant match for the County Road 78 nitrate reduction of $50,000 (CIP line 11), giving a CIP project subtotal of $1,157,150;
- adding $5,000 for maintenance of past projects;
- adding $17,000 for development of a white paper on impacts of aggregate mining on groundwater and surface water (Feasibility/Preliminary Studies, line 3);
- reducing the Met Council Grant category by $190,000 to reflect completion of Minnesota Zoo projects and payment of invoices;
- adding a new CPL grant category for the Blair Restoration $268,000 grant; and
- increasing the cash reserve by $32,500.

Mark said that these modifications to the VRWJPO 2017 Budget do not change the proposed Dakota and Scott levy amounts and lead to $2,933,200 in expenses, $62,000 cash reserve, and total budget of $2,995,200. In addition, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) has recommended that the VRWJPO receive Clean Water Funds for five separate CIP projects. If these are approved, a budget amendment to accept these grants will be needed.

Motion by Commissioner Clanton, second by Commissioner Betzold to recommend adoption of the final VRWJPO 2017 Budget and Special Tax District Levy. The motion was unanimously approved.

c. Adopt 2017 Meeting Schedule

In 2016, the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission (WPC) meetings were held on the second Wednesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. in Room 334 of the Dakota County Western Service Center. It is proposed that the 2017 WPC meetings continue on the same schedule. Traditionally, no meeting is scheduled in November; however, because the Joint Powers Board (JPB) meets on December 7, 2017, it is beneficial to meet at the end of November vs. December 6, 2017, to review the budget and make a recommendation to the JPB.
Motion by Commissioner Clanton, second by Commission Wotzka to adopt the 2017 meeting schedule as proposed, and to hold the final meeting of the year on November 29, 2017. The motion was unanimously approved.

d. Opportunities to Partner with Dakota County on Watershed Initiatives

Mark Zabel said the VRWJPO has made inroads with the County Transportation and Parks Departments. Staff is open to suggestions on what the WPC sees as opportunities, programs or projects.

Commissioner Clanton said that wherever an opportunity present its self, we should take it.

Commission Guttmann said that his thoughts were not as extensive as major project engagement, but more about the public’s interest in making water a priority. Parks has events and volunteer groups to engage the citizenry. I would like to piggy back with them to do water related education.

Brian Watson suggested partnering with the Office of Planning to identify sensitive areas, wetlands and hydric soils where trails and county infrastructure should not be located. He also suggested the VRWJPO should partner with Land Conservation to identify priority sensitive areas and target those areas for conservation.

Commission Clanton asked about tillage practices and soil health, and the possibility of having someone come in and talk to the WPC on the subject

5. Updates
   a. Chairman’s Report
   Commissioner Glynn said he has been sampling the river along Dodd road. He said that the water quality and flow were poor in August, but clarity seems to have improved. Mark Zabel said the River on Monday was at a daily record for this time of year.

   Commissioner Glynn reminded everyone about the requirement to notify staff if are unable to attend a meeting, and the importance of attending meetings whenever possible. The Bylaws state that a member can be removed for two consecutive unexcused absences in a row.

   b. Staff Updates
   Dee McDaniels said that 1st terms are expiring for Commissioners Clanton, Glynn, and Henry. You need to notify your commissioner if you would like to be reappointed for a second term.

6. Adjourn
   Motion by Commissioner Clanton, second by Commission Rohrenbach to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved.

   Next meeting: Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 3:30 p.m.
   Dakota County Western Service Center, Room 334, Apple Valley, MN
2a. Election of Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission (VRWPC) Officers for 2017

Meeting Date: 2/8/2017
Item Type: Action
Contact: Dee McDaniels
Telephone: 952-891-7024
Prepared by: Dee McDaniels

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED


SUMMARY

In 2016, the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission (VRWPC) nominated and elected Commissioner Glynn as the Chair and Commissioner Guttmann as the Vice Chair of the VRWPC. An election of officers is required as specified in Article VIII. Officers, of the VRWPC bylaws. Article VIII. Officers, specifies the following:

The Commission will elect a Chair and a vice-Chair from among its members. Officers will be elected at the first meeting of the calendar year and shall serve one-year terms. The Chair shall: (1) preside at all meetings of the Commission; (2) lead meetings in an orderly fashion; (3) plan meeting agendas in cooperation with staff; (4) encourage participation by all members at meetings; (5) serve as primary contact to the VRWJPB; and (6) appoint members and the Chair of each committee established pursuant to Article XIII. The vice-Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair in the Chair’s absence.

Staff recommends nominating and electing a Chair and Vice Chair to the VRWPC in 2017.
4a. Vermillion River Watershed Stewards 2016 Program Report

Meeting Date: 2/08/17
Item Type: Regular-Information
Contact: Paula Liepold
Telephone: 952-891-7117
Prepared by: Paula Liepold
Reviewed by: N/A

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED
- Vermillion River Stewards 2016 Program Report

SUMMARY
The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) contracted with Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) to conduct the Vermillion Stewards Program in 2016. Working with local cities and partners, FMR organized 17 public stewardship events (16 were held, one was canceled), and helped organize, conduct and/or support 6 other events at multiple sites across the watershed as part of its role implementing the Vermillion River Stewards Program. In total, 606 volunteers and event participants attended these events, contributing 757.5 volunteer hours to the program. Approximately 76 percent of this year’s tracked program participants were watershed residents.

Irene Jones, FMR River Corridor Program Director, and Adam Flett, FMR Stewardship Coordinator, will report on the activities and successes of the Vermillion River Stewards Program in 2016.
2016 Vermillion Stewards Program Report

Background

Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) is a leading citizen-based organization that works to protect and enhance the Mississippi River and its watershed in the Twin Cities area. FMR has a strong record of providing excellent educational programming as well as working with volunteers on river and watershed protection activities.

FMR began working in the Vermillion River Watershed in 1998. Initially our work focused on assessing and restoring the river’s shoreline to protect water quality along the Vermillion River and its tributaries. Later, our Mississippi-Vermillion Heritage Land Registry began working with riverfront landowners to make a voluntary pledge to protect and restore their land.

The Vermillion River Watershed Stewards Program was launched in 2005 in partnership between the Vermillion River Joint Powers Organization and Friends of the Mississippi River. The program was designed to engage local citizens in activities that protect the Vermillion River and the many tributaries, lakes and wetlands that make up its watershed.

During the past twelve years, Vermillion Stewards volunteers have worked alongside FMR, the Vermillion Join Powers Organization and other local partners, to engage in educational, recreation, stewardship, and clean up activities aimed at improving water quality in the Vermillion River Watershed.

Thanks to the generous funding of the Vermillion Watershed JPO, FMR was able to develop an exciting 2016 Vermillion Stewards program. Working with local cities and partners, FMR organized 17 stewardship events (16 held; 1 cancelled) and helped organize, carry out and/or supported 6 other events at multiple sites across the watershed. In total, 606 volunteers and event participants attended events, contributing 757.5 volunteer hours to the Program in 2016. Approximately 76% of this year’s tracked program participants were watershed residents.

2016 Program Objectives

The 2016 Vermillion Stewards Program’s event calendar was designed to achieve the following primary goals:
• **Community Outreach and Citizen Engagement:** To raise awareness throughout watershed communities about the importance of watershed protection and what local residents, businesses, organizations, and communities can do to help. Our new focus in 2015 involving sub-watershed communities around impaired lakes will continue in the 2016 season.

• **Water Resource Protection and Enhancement:** To involve community members and program volunteers in stewardship, education and restoration activities that improve the overall health of the Vermillion River and the tributaries, lakes and wetlands that make up its watershed through a series of hands-on watershed stewardship and education activities.

• **Partnership and Resource Development:** To build strong partnerships that leverage Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization investments by bringing additional financial and professional resources to the watershed.

**Summary of 2016 Events**

**Alimagnet Lake Association Spring Meeting**  
April 11, 2016 - Burnsville Public Works

FMR Stewardship Coordinator Adam Flett attended the spring meeting for the Alimagnet Lake Association, presenting information on rain gardens and rain barrels to 18 association members. This built upon last fall’s short presentation, and helped show potential ways to contribute to runoff reductions in the subwatershed. Staff from the cities of Apple Valley and Burnsville also spoke about their work in the lake, and Travis Thiel of the VRWJPO provided information on the WRAPS project and future actions to reduce total phosphorous loading, which dovetailed with the information FMR provided for individual homeowners.

**Hastings Area Birding Festival**  
April 23, 2016 - Various Locations, Hastings

FMR helped conduct outreach to get participants involved in the annual Hastings Area Birding Festival. 101 individuals participated in this year’s event focused on identifying and recording birds in the area. FMR also provided materials connecting birds to local restoration efforts, including the Sand Coulee SNA, where one of the hikes was held.

**Long Lake Association Spring Meeting**  
April 23, 2016 - Dakota County Western Service Center, Apple Valley

FMR Stewardship Coordinator Adam Flett provided information on ways to improve water quality through yard maintenance and gardening for members of the Long Lake Association. Adam also provided background information on the subwatershed, how it has changed over time, and how present pollution issues relate to individual homeowner practices in the yard. 19 members attended the session, and also heard from City of Apple Valley staff about their work in helping to
improve Long Lake’s water quality.

Watershed Class for Dakota County 4-H Club  
April 28, 2016 - Pleasant Hill Library, Hastings

FMR Youth Stewardship Coordinator Kate Clayton held a watersheds program with landscape models for the 14 youth of the Dakota County 4-H Shooting and Wildlife Club. The concepts covered include watershed modeling, pollution from runoff, erosion, the role of wetlands and streams, and habitat.

Rosemount Preserve Planting  
May 5, 2016 - Rosemount Preserve, Rosemount

FMR Youth Stewardship Coordinator Kate Clayton and Senior Ecologist Karen Schik worked with 27 students from Rosemount High School’s Green Team. The students helped to plant more woodland shrubs, and built small fences to enclose the areas.
https://www.flickr.com/photos/friendsmissriv/albums/72157667947406572

Vermillion AMA Buckthorn Hauling and Seeding  
May 7, 2016 - Vermillion AMA (Kassel Property), Empire Township

Mark Nemeth of the Department of Natural Resources and FMR Ecologist Alex Roth led a brush haul in the Kassel Property portion of the Vermillion AMA. 21 volunteers hauled and stacked brush, then spread a prairie seed and oats mix across the area, helping to establish better conditions for what will eventually be savanna. There was also time for a short interpretive walk.
https://www.flickr.com/photos/friendsmissriv/albums/72157667939812121

White Tail Woods Tree Planting  
May 7, 2016 - White Tail Woods Park, Farmington

FMR’s Stewardship Coordinator Adam Flett and 3 “Super Volunteers” from FMR joined Dakota County Parks and Dakota Electric in coordinating and carrying out another tree-planting event, putting in around 1,000 native trees and shrubs. 79 volunteers contributed to the planting, learning about the importance of biodiversity, as well as best practices for planting bare-root trees. Volunteers (Dakota Electric customers) were invited to participate in future Vermillion Stewards events.
https://www.flickr.com/photos/friendsmissriv/albums/72157667941322711
Birding Outing with Hastings High School Biology Class
May 16, 2016 - Old Mill Park, Hastings

FMR Land Conservation Director Tom Lewanski and Senior Ecologist Karen Schik worked with Joe Beattie’s biology class in tracking birds at Old Mill Park. 13 students helped find, identify and record the bird species found near restored prairie and woodland areas.

Alimagnet Lake (and citywide) Trash Pick Up
May 21, 2016 - Various Locations, Apple Valley

As a part of the citywide clean up, FMR worked with 13 volunteers from the Alimagnet Lake Association, also getting exposure to upwards of 70 people at the end-of-event get together. This helped spread the word about Vermillion Stewards Program in the local area and garner interest in our upcoming rain barrel workshop.

Old Mill Park Tending
June 16, 2016 - Old Mill Park, Hastings

FMR Senior Ecologist Karen Schik and Stewardship Coordinator Adam Flett led 13 volunteers in tending to the demonstration prairie in Old Mill Park. Hand weeding of small invading plants has helped to keep the garden in good form in the initial years of establishment.
https://www.flickr.com/photos/friendsmissriv/albums/72157669926038566

Invasive Plant Pull at the Sand Coulee SNA
June 23, 2016 - Sand Coulee SNA, Hastings

FMR Senior Ecologist Karen Schick and Stewardship Coordinator Adam Flett led 14 volunteers in pulling invasive spotted knapweed and vetch in the southern portion of the Sand Coulee SNA, an activity that is continuing to help protect the important flora of this high quality site.
https://www.flickr.com/photos/friendsmissriv/albums/72157667445005944

Pollinator Patch Planting with Hastings Environmental Protectors
June 25, 2016 - Various Locations, Hastings

FMR Stewardship Coordinator Adam Flett helped members of the Hastings Environmental Protectors install pollinator patch gardens at C.P. Adams, Grenit and Cari Parks in Hastings. 18 volunteers helped prepare, plant, mulch and water the areas, capturing stormwater runoff and creating a few more valuable spots for pollinator species to thrive in the Hastings area.
Make and Take Rain Barrel Workshop I  
June 28, 2016 - Apple Valley Senior Center

FMR Stewardship Coordinator Adam Flett held a rain barrel workshop in Apple Valley for 30 attendees. In addition to making a rain barrel to take home, participants learned about run-off pollution from homes and gardens, ways to reduce pollution, and options for creating habitat at home.

Make and Take Rain Barrel Workshop II  
August 23, 2016 - Farmington

23 workshop attendees learned about run-off pollution from homes and gardens at this late Summer event led by FMR Stewardship Coordinator Adam Flett. Like past events, ways to improve water quality by changing practices in yard and garden management were presented, along with making a rain barrel to take home.

Vermillion River Trout Survey  
September 24, 2016 - Near Vermillion AMA

This event was cancelled due to unsafe water levels in the Vermillion River.

Seed Collection Training and Gathering  
September 24, 2016 - Sand Coulee Scientific and Natural Area, Marshan Township

12 volunteers helped collect seed with FMR Assistant Stewardship Coordinator Kate Clayton and Ecologist Alex Roth. The collected native grasses and forbs will be used to seed or plant at the SNA and other SNA sites in the area.  
https://www.flickr.com/photos/friendsmissriv/albums/72157674461486865

Rapid Riders Clean-up Event Support  
October 4, 2016 - Old Mill Park, Hastings Area

FMR supported this annual clean up with the Rapid Riders, where 40 volunteers cleaned up debris along the Vermillion River near the falls and in Old Mill Park, one of the best attendance rates ever for the group.
**Rosemount Preserve Planting**  
October 12 & 19, 2016 - Rosemount Preserve, Rosemount

On two separate days FMR Youth Stewardship Coordinator Kate Clayton worked with 5 students from Rosemount High School’s Green Team. The students helped to plant more woodland shrubs, and built small fences to enclose the areas.  
[https://www.flickr.com/photos/friendsmissriv/albums/72157671694620044](https://www.flickr.com/photos/friendsmissriv/albums/72157671694620044)

**Vermillion Linear Park Shrub Planting and Tending**  
October 13 & 26, 2016 - Vermillion Linear Park, Hastings

Students from Hastings High School joined 3 FMR Staff in planting a riverside area in Vermillion Linear Park. This event was a continuation of restoration work by Hastings High School groups last year, and 12 students helped put various native trees and shrubs in the ground, learning proper technique and practice for successful plantings along the way. Follow up planting for remaining plants took place on October 26, where students from Hastings High School joined 3 FMR Staff in planting a river-side area in Vermillion Linear Park. 6 students and 2 members of Hastings Environmental Protectors helped put woodland plants in the ground.  

**Angry Inch Brewing Landscape for Water Quality Presentation**  
October 18, 2016 - Angry Inch Brewing, Lakeville

As a part of FMR’s Brewing Clean Water series, FMR Stewardship Coordinator Adam Flett presented to 14 attendees about runoff issues from homes, water friendly practices and other opportunities to improve local water quality by reducing runoff. Angry Inch Brewing, an environmentally sound company, was a great partner to work with because of their enthusiasm for water quality and willingness to help FMR for this event.

**Extra Education for Riverview Elementary School**  
October 24, 2016 - Riverview Elementary School, Farmington

FMR Youth Stewardship Coordinator Kate Clayton held two watershed program sessions with landscape model activities for 52 fourth grade students of Riverview Elementary School. The concepts covered include watershed modeling, pollution from runoff, erosion, the role of wetlands and streams, and habitat.

**Gores AMA Live-Staking Event**

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October 26, 2016 - Gores AMA, Hastings

26 volunteers from a 3M facility joined FMR’s Land Conservation staff at Gores AMA for an all-day volunteer activity focused on cottonwood tree regeneration. Using live seedling sized trees from an upland site, the volunteers created live-stakes, which were brought down to the planting area and pounded into the ground. In all, hundreds of cottonwoods were staked.
https://www.flickr.com/photos/friendsmissriv/albums/72157675712558296

State of the River Report Presentation
November 15, 2016 - Schaar’s Bluff Gathering Center, Hastings

FMR Water Program Director Trevor Russell and National Park Service Water Quality Coordinator Lark Weller presented findings from the second edition of the State of the River Report, which highlights 14 key indicators of river health and presents each in a way that non-scientists can understand. The report examines the status and trends of each indicator and highlights strategies for improvement.

Sub-Watershed Stewardship Pilot Project Update:

In the 2015 Vermillion Stewards Program Proposal, FMR outlined an approach to reaching individuals in sub-watersheds specified by the VRWJPO Staff. The suggested watersheds were around Alimagnet, Long and Farquar Lakes in Apple Valley and Burnsville. As FMR iterated in the proposal, connecting with representatives from each respective Lake Association, as well as with residents from this area, took considerable effort beyond our normal coordinating and outreach process.

Working with Lake Associations continued in 2016, where FMR met with Alimagnet Lake Association in April by presenting information on ways to reduce runoff around the home, and in May by supporting ALA’s portion of a citywide clean up in Apple Valley. FMR has continued to connect with ALA leaders, though the direction of the project is in flux, which has been discussed with VRWJPO Staff. Both the VRWJPO and FMR Staff agree that shifting focus towards other projects in the coming years is the best idea, while continuing to offer assistance to the ALA should an on-the-ground project present itself. FMR also provided an introductory presentation to the Long Lake Association about ways to positively impact water quality at home.

It’s also worth noting that Staff from the City of Apple Valley was pleased with FMR’s presence at the Spring 2016 meetings for these Lake associations, as it helps to provide more context and support for similar messages coming from them. FMR will continue to be in contact with these groups while FMR and VRWJPO Staff consider additional opportunities to engage residents around these important subwatersheds.
**Event Participation Summary**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Event Participation Totals</th>
<th>JPO Funded Event Participation Totals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Program Events: 22 (1 cancelled)</td>
<td>JPO Program Events: 10 (1 cancelled)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Volunteer: 14</td>
<td>- Volunteer: 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Education/Interpretive: 8</td>
<td>- Education/Interpretive: 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Program Participants: 606</td>
<td>JPO Program Participants: 245</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Program Volunteer Hours: 757.5</td>
<td>JPO Program Volunteer Hours: 286.5</td>
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**2016 Vermillion Stewards Events List**

**VRWJPO Funded Events**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th># Proposed</th>
<th># Part</th>
<th>Vol Hrs</th>
<th># in VWS</th>
<th>% in VWS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04/11/2016</td>
<td>Alimagnet Lake Association Spring Meeting- Reducing Run-off Presentation</td>
<td>Burnsville Public Works</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>04/23/2016</td>
<td>Long Lake Association Spring Meeting-Landscaping for Water Quality Presentation</td>
<td>Dakota County Western Service Center</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>05/07/2016</td>
<td>Vermillion Brush Haul</td>
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<td>05/21/2016</td>
<td>Alimagnet Lake Clean-up Support</td>
<td>Citywide-Apple Valley</td>
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<td>19.5</td>
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<td>05/21/2016</td>
<td>Dakota County/Dakota Electric Tree Planting and Tending Event Support</td>
<td>White Tail Woods</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>165</td>
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<td>06/16/2016</td>
<td>Old Mill Welcoming Prairie Tending</td>
<td>Old Mill Park</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>26</td>
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<td>06/25/2016</td>
<td>Hastings Environmental Protectors Pollinator Patch Planting</td>
<td>Hastings- various</td>
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<td>06/28/2016</td>
<td>Apple Valley Rain Barrel Workshop</td>
<td>Apple Valley Senior Center</td>
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<td>08/23/2016</td>
<td>Farmington Rain Barrel Workshop</td>
<td>Dakota County Fairgrounds</td>
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<td>9/24/2016</td>
<td>Trout Survey (cancelled)</td>
<td>Empire</td>
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<td>10/18/2016</td>
<td>Angry Inch Brewery-Landscape for Water Quality Presentation</td>
<td>Angry Inch Brewing (Lakeville)</td>
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<td>14</td>
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<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal (VRWJPO Funded)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>286.5</strong></td>
<td><strong>111</strong> (of 167 w/info)</td>
<td><strong>66%</strong></td>
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2016 Vermillion Stewards Program Report
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### Match Funded Events

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th># Proposed</th>
<th># Part</th>
<th>Vol Hrs</th>
<th># in VWS</th>
<th>% in VWS</th>
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<tr>
<td>04/23/2016</td>
<td>Hastings Area Birding Festival Event Support</td>
<td>Hastings area</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>101</td>
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<td>Pleasant Hills Library</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>Rosemount Wildlife Preserve</td>
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<td>54</td>
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<td>Sand Coulee SNA</td>
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<td>Rosemount Wildlife Preserve</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>10/19/2016</td>
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<td>10/13/2016,</td>
<td>Vermillion Linear Park Planting with Hastings High School</td>
<td>Vermillion Linear Park</td>
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<td>10/26/2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>Riverview Elementary</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>52</td>
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<td>10/24/2016</td>
<td>Water Education for Riverview Elementary School Group</td>
<td>Gores AMA</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>10/26/2016</td>
<td>Cottonwood Live-Staking with 3M</td>
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<td><strong>Subtotal (Match Funded)</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>190</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>84%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2016 VS Program Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>430</td>
<td>606</td>
<td>757.5</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>76%</td>
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</table>
Outreach, Communications and Volunteer Recruitment

Four Vermillion Stewards emails were sent to approximately 800 people. FMR staff also produced and mailed a postcard to 2,004 homes in the targeted sub-watershed to advertise the rain barrel workshops in Apple Valley and Farmington (list was slightly targeted to focus on home ownership and age range for greater success). Press Releases were sent to all Patch, Sun and This Week papers, as well as the Pioneer Press, Farmington Independent and Hastings Star Gazette. While it is difficult to track all online and print listings, a sample link is included here.


In addition, Vermillion Stewards events are included on FMR.org and in our monthly Mississippi Messages Event Calendar and our Mississippi Messages Email Newsletter. Each email newsletter item was distributed to approximately 12,500 individuals (including many government and community agencies and group contacts) each month in 2016.

Facebook campaigns targeted specifically at ZIP codes in the watershed resulted in an additional 15,000+ Facebook viewers from within the watershed for the workshops and some of the participation stemmed directly from the Facebook ad. Examples are part of the email attachments for this report.

Additional Vermillion Stewards Program information, links, and event notices have also been posted online through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Pioneer Press, VolunteerMatch, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's 'Next Step' website, Green Hands USA, 1Mississippi, National Park Service, the Rosemount/Apple Valley and Lakeville Patch online newspaper, Minnesota Environmental Fund, Zvents publication network, Hastings United Way online volunteer network, Minnesota Master Naturalists, and Facebook.

Example: http://doitgreen.org/calendar/?cid=mc-6bea5a7e02f8f5e2945b6f6b1bbf9266&month=6&yr=2016

FMR also partnered with local organizations to help promote the Hastings Area Birding Day Festival in April. All attendees received information about the Vermillion Stewards program as part of their registration and event materials, including information on the connection between our local watershed work and wildlife habitat. 100+ flyers were distributed at this event.

Community outreach activities also involved direct outreach to a number of local groups, organizations and institutions interested in learning more about our events. These groups include 4-H, The Carpenter Nature Center, Hastings Environmental Protectors, Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Inver Hills Community College, Dakota County Technical and Community College, Hastings High School, School of Environmental Studies, The National Park Service, Hastings Rapids
Riders, REI, Rosemount High School, Hastings High School, Trout Unlimited, and multiple scout and other community groups throughout the year.

**Evaluations and Photos**

We are currently administering an online survey for all of our 2016 volunteers and we will share the results in late January.

Photos from public events in the Vermillion can be accessed and downloaded at FMR’s Flickr site: [http://www.flickr.com/friendsmissriv/](http://www.flickr.com/friendsmissriv/)

**Budget Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 VS Program</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>VRJPO</th>
<th>Match</th>
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<td>46,635</td>
<td>23,000</td>
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<td>Operations Expenses</td>
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<td>3,095</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>1,095</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>44,870</strong></td>
<td><strong>49,730</strong></td>
<td><strong>25,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>24,730</strong></td>
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</table>

FMR applied for and received additional Vermillion Stewards Program funding from multiple sources including: the Winter Wheat Foundation, Laura Jane Musser Fund, Hastings High School (Joe Beattie received funding from 3M and United Way), Hastings United Way, Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR), and funding from our Youth Program and General Funds.

Total matching funds for the 2016 Vermillion River Watershed Stewards constituted approximately 50% of total program resources for the year.

**Program Contact Information**

Irene Jones  
River Corridor Program Director  
Friends of the Mississippi River  
360 N. Robert Street - Suite 400 St. Paul, MN 55101  
Phone: 651-222-2193 (x11)  
Email: ijones@fmr.org

Adam Flett  
Stewardship Events Coordinator  
Phone: 651-222-2193 (x16)  
Email: aflett@fmr.org
4b. Recommend to Execute a Grant Agreement with Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) for the Vermillion River Stewards Program in 2017

Meeting Date: 2/08/17  
Item Type: Regular-Action  
Contact: Paula Liepold  
Telephone: 952-891-7117  
Prepared by: Paula Liepold  
Reviewed by: N/A  

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

- Recommend to execute a grant agreement with Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) for the Vermillion River Stewards Program in 2017.

SUMMARY

The outreach, engagement, and natural resource protection objectives of the Vermillion River Stewards Program are:

- to raise awareness about the importance of watershed protection and what residents, businesses, organizations, and communities can do to help; and
- to involve community members and volunteers in stewardship, education, and restoration activities that improve the overall health of the water resources.

By participating in hands-on stewardship and educational events, Vermillion River Stewards Program participants learn about the river and the watershed, and work to protect these natural resources. Implementation of the Vermillion River Stewards Program assists in meeting public outreach and educational goals of the Watershed Plan and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) 2017 annual work plan.

Since 2005, the VRWJPO has coordinated with FMR to implement the Vermillion River Stewards Program. The FMR has proposed activities in 2017 that meet the program’s objectives. The proposal includes eight to nine events and activities implemented with VRWJPO funds and nine to eleven events with funds from additional sources (see attached proposal). The VRWJPO-funded events will be geared towards the upper and central watershed communities (reflecting requests by the JPO in the past; e.g., Lakeville, Farmington, Apple Valley). Other events further down the watershed tend to fall in the “Match” funded portion of the budget. A final report, and interim reports as needed, will be presented to the Watershed Planning Commission (WPC) and Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB).

The Vermillion River Stewards Program has proven to be an effective way to build environmental stewardship and reach the public involvement and education goals in the Watershed Plan and 2017 VRWJPO work plan. The item is included in the VRWJPO’s 2017 Budget in the Public Outreach and Communication category.

Staff requests the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission recommend that a grant agreement be executed with FMR for the 2017 Vermillion Stewards Program, in an amount not to exceed $25,000.
Friends of the Mississippi River respect fully requests $25,000 from the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization to support implementation of the Vermillion Watershed Stewards Program in 2017.

Introduction
Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) is a leading citizen-based organization that works to protect and enhance the Mississippi River and its watershed in the Twin Cities area. FMR has a strong record of providing excellent educational programming as well as working with volunteers on river and watershed protection activities.

FMR began working in the Vermillion River Watershed in 1998. Initially our work focused on assessing and restoring the river’s shoreline to protect water quality and improve habitat, and providing technical assistance to landowners. In 2001, we started the Mississippi-Vermillion Heritage Land Registry, asking riverfront landowners to make a voluntary pledge to protect and restore their land. We currently have 58 members with more than 3,000 acres enrolled in the registry.

Thanks to funding from the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization and Recreational Equipment Incorporated (REI), FMR was able to launch the first year of Vermillion Stewards in 2005. Since then, FMR has organized a total of 185 Vermillion Stewards events with 4,529 Vermillion Stewards contributing 8,833 hours of volunteer service to the watershed.

In 2016, FMR worked with local cities and partners to organize 22 stewardship or educational events (1 canceled). A total of 606 citizens participated in these activities, contributing 757.5 hours of volunteer service in the watershed. Approximately 76% of the 2016 participants were residents of the Vermillion River Watershed.

Program Objectives
• **Community Outreach and Citizen Engagement:** To raise awareness throughout watershed communities about the importance of watershed protection and what local residents, businesses, organizations, and communities can do to help. In the past two years, FMR has worked with some focus on specific subwatershed communities with mixed results. FMR and VRWJPO staff agree to shift some focus towards other projects but will maintain relationships and search for additional worthwhile engagement opportunities for these respective areas.

• **Water Resource Protection and Enhancement:** To involve community members and program volunteers in stewardship, education and restoration activities that improve the overall health of the Vermillion River and the tributaries, lakes and wetlands that make up its watershed through a series of hands-on watershed stewardship and education activities.
• **Partnership and Resource Development:** To build strong partnerships that leverage Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization investments by bringing additional financial and professional resources to the watershed.

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The Vermillion Stewards Program event schedule and budget are organized in two parts. FMR proposed to organize or support 8-9 events and activities with funding from the Vermillion River Watershed JPO and 9-11 events with funds from additional sources. Generally speaking, the JPO funded events include opportunities to learn about and take action to protect water bodies, and opportunities to improve native plant communities and wildlife habitat. The JPO events skew towards the upper and central watershed communities (reflecting requests by the JPO in the past; e.g. Lakeville, Farmington, Apple Valley). Other events further down the watershed, or with youth or community groups of interest to FMR, tend to fall in the Match funded portion of the budget. Those events tend to hold long-standing importance for many Vermillion Stewards and for FMR’s Conservation Program, and tend to have a higher percentage of individuals from the Vermillion Watershed than newer programs due to targeted outreach efforts of past years.

All events will be promoted together under the Vermillion Stewards Program, and the proposed schedule and budget are provided with this proposal to provide context and supplemental information about the overall program.

**2016 Program Highlights**

**Live-staking in Farmington along the North Branch:**
With the guidance of the VRWJPO staff, FMR aims to launch a new volunteer event to help establish more vegetation along an important stretch of the North Branch of the Vermillion River via live-staking of dogwood shrubs. The project aims to create soil stability and additional habitat along the meanders of the North Branch near Meadowview Elementary School, and the size of the project indicates that this will be a multi-year, multi-event venture. FMR will engage members of the public in this restoration project, likely in late Fall 2017.

**Brewing Clean Water Program in the Vermillion Watershed:**
As requested last year by VRWJPO staff, and in the spirit of successful educational offerings of the same kind in Minneapolis and St. Paul, FMR will again include efforts to host an event as a part of the Brewing Clean Water Program. Last year, this was held at Angry Inch Brewery in Lakeville, which proved to be a great event partner that FMR hopes to continue to work with in 2017. The program aims to tie the importance of high quality water in making great beer, capturing the momentum and popularity of breweries as a mode from attracting event participants. FMR has successfully engaged hundreds of participants in educational workshops and outings over the past three years as a part of this program, helping spread information from our Watershed Action workshops, Landscape for the River presentations, and State of the River Report presentations. Emphasis on individual action is always present, leaving participants with actionable items at the end of each program. Until recently, there were no breweries in the Vermillion Watershed.

**Continued Sub-watershed Community Targeting for Impaired Water Bodies:**
The past year’s efforts in this endeavor were marked, though the future of this focus is uncertain given a lack of on-site engagement opportunities within the watershed. Both FMR and VRWJPO staff are taking time to reconsider approaches and to consider alternative opportunities for engagement. Both parties agree that some opportunities may merit involvement in the future when a few particular VRWJPO projects break ground.
Event Support Funding Sourcing
Aiming to retain support for certain partner organizations, FMR has chosen to alter some group event support to the Match fund side of the budget. This allows FMR to pursue JPO interests further while maintaining important relationships with groups of interest in the Vermillion Watershed. FMR is not the sole organizer of these events, allowing for their inclusion at a lower cost in the overall budget.

PROJECT WORKPLAN

Stewardship Event Coordination and Partner Collaboration: FMR staff reaches out to program partners during the beginning of each calendar year to refine program activities and projects. FMR will engage several program partners to plan and co-lead events including, but not limited to, the MN DNR, Dakota SWCD, Dakota County, Vermillion River Watershed cities and townships, Lakeville Friends of the Environment, Rapids Riders, Hastings Environmental Protectors, Hastings High School, Rosemount High School, Southern Dakota County Sportsmen’s Club, and other groups in the watershed. Partner input will be used to refine the schedule of stewardship and education events beginning in early spring 2017 and concluding by December 2017.

Examples of projects include native plantings, stream bank stabilization plantings, erosion control seeding, surveying trout populations, invasive species removal, native seed collections, and others. Educational workshops and presentations include those about watershed protection around the home and yard, interpretive events, classroom and public presentations about the Vermillion River watershed and impairments. A draft schedule of 2017 events is at the end of this proposal.

Outreach, Communication and Volunteer Recruitment: During the 2017 season, FMR will recruit a minimum of 175 Vermillion Stewards Program volunteers and participants for the JPO-funded events and activities; approximately 225 additional participants will be engaged through other events in the watershed.

Similar to past years, FMR staff will develop and distribute electronic and print outreach materials (flyers and postcards, as needed) throughout Vermillion Watershed communities. Press releases and calendar items for most events will be sent to media contacts in the watershed. Calendar submissions and subsequent articles will be tracked, where feasible, and included in our Vermillion Stewards Program final report. Outreach efforts aimed at targeting specific sub-watersheds will include list purchase/enhancement, special mailings and direct contact/meetings with lake associations and local schools.

FMR will maintain a page on our website with information on the Vermillion Stewards Program and upcoming program events and activities. FMR will also post links to program events on partner websites and volunteer clearinghouse websites including the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, REI, Pioneer Press, VolunteerMatch and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s ‘Next Step’ website. FMR will also promote events through Facebook and our twice-monthly e-newsletter, which Dakota County staff also receives, for possible inclusion in County materials.

In addition, FMR will reach out to a number of local groups, organizations and institutions that may be interested in participating in Vermillion Stewards Program events. These groups may include 4-H, The Carpenter Nature Center, Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Inver Hills Community College, Dakota County Technical and Community College, Hastings High School, The National Park Service, Outback Nursery, Rapids Riders, REI, Rosemount High School, The School of Environmental Studies, The Native Plant Society, Tree Care Advisors, the Federation of Fly Fishers, Trout Unlimited, and multiple scout and other groups throughout the watershed.
FMR will credit the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization for sponsorship and funding of the Vermillion River Watershed Stewards Program activities in all printed materials, such as press releases and other announcements, and on our website, as well as verbally at all program events. We will also direct participants to links and contact information for VRWJPO and Dakota County web pages, newsletters and programs.

**Volunteer Program Management:** FMR is committed to ensuring that all volunteers have a safe and enjoyable experience at all events.

- **Employee background checks:** Comprehensive background checks are conducted on all FMR employees and interns prior to employment.
- **Volunteer registration:** FMR collects contact information from each volunteer, and includes a liability waiver and photo release as part of the registration process.
- **Volunteer supervision:** FMR has a strong record of volunteer supervision and safety. FMR event and natural resource staff are responsible for volunteer supervision at all Vermillion Stewards events, which generally have a staff to volunteer ratio of one staff person for every 10-25 volunteers, depending on the nature of the site and the activity.
- **Volunteer training:** Vermillion Stewards event volunteers receive a basic site orientation, activity-specific training and safety instructions prior to participating in each event. Depending on the activity and site characteristics, FMR staff will also conduct more detailed safety instructions for participants, including but not limited to, the use of tools, risk management, noxious weed identification and treatment, terrain risks, and emergency procedures in case of accident or injury.
- **Volunteer background checks:** Background checks are not conducted for Vermillion Stewards Program event volunteers, because the volunteers are not placed in supervisory roles during events.

**Program Evaluation and Reporting:** FMR staff will provide a brief summary with each invoice, which will include a description of the activities and work completed, total number of participating volunteers, and the number/percentage of volunteers who live in the Vermillion Watershed.

Upon completion of 2017 stewardship events, FMR program staff will submit a final program report to the Dakota County Water Resources Department in early January 2018. The final report will summarize program activities and participation, including number of participants, volunteer hours, and number and percentage of participants from the watershed when possible. Presentations will be given to the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission and Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization in early 2018 to report on the year’s activities. Additional presentations can be arranged upon request.

**Budget Overview:**

- **2017 Program Budget = $55,495.00**
- **2017 Request to Vermillion Watershed JPO = $25,000.00**
- **2017 Program Match Funding = $30,495.00**

**Match Funding Sources:** FMR brings matching funds for the program from the following sources: the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (LCCMR), Hastings High School, United Way of Hastings, Laura Jane Musser Fund, H.B. Fuller Co, other private sources, and fees for the Rain Barrel Workshop to cover workshop supplies.
Invoices and Reports
Friends of the Mississippi River will invoice the Dakota County Water Resources Department according to the schedule below. Each invoice will include an overview/description of expenses incurred to date.

- June 30, 2017 $8,500.00
- August 31, 2017 $8,000.00
- November 30, 2017 $8,500.00

Program Contact Information
Adam Flett
Stewardship Program Manager
Friends of the Mississippi River
101 East Fifth Street, Suite 2000
St. Paul, MN 55101
Phone: 651-222-2193 Ext.16
Email: aflett@fmr.org
Website: www.fmr.org

Kate Clayton
Assistant Stewardship Coordinator
Phone: 651-222-2193 Ext.23
Email: kclayton@fmr.org

Amy Kilgore
Volunteer Coordinator
Phone: 651-222-2193 Ext.31
Email: akilgore@fmr.org

Irene R. Jones
River Corridor Program Director
Phone: 651-222-2193 Ext.11
Email: ijones@fmr.org
## Proposed Event Schedule and 2017 Budget

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<th>Vermillion Stewards Program</th>
<th>Partner</th>
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<th>VRJPO</th>
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<td>Ongoing</td>
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### Operating Expense Detail

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<th>Match</th>
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<td>Outreach &amp; Promotion</td>
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<td>240</td>
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<td>Food &amp; Meals</td>
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<td>Postage and Mailhouse</td>
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<td>Project Supplies/Plant Material</td>
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<td>Staff and Board Travel</td>
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<td><strong>Operating Expenses Totals</strong></td>
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### VRJPO Event Schedule

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<th>Match</th>
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<td>Summer</td>
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<td>Hastings</td>
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<td>2,110</td>
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<td>Fall</td>
<td>Rain Barrel Workshop</td>
<td>Farmington or Lakeville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Vermillion River Trout Survey</td>
<td>DNR</td>
<td>Empire</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2,110</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Dogwood Live-Staking at Meadowview Elementary</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Fall</td>
<td>Brewing Clean Water: Water-Positive Living</td>
<td>Brewery TBD</td>
<td>Lakeville/A.V.</td>
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<td>1,460</td>
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<td>Fall</td>
<td>Hampton Woods Invasive Species Removal</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>VRJPO Event Expense Totals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>175</strong></td>
<td><strong>19,640</strong></td>
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### Other Vermillion Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>City/Twp</th>
<th>Vols</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
<th>VRJPO</th>
<th>Match</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Hastings Birthing Festival (support)</td>
<td>HEP/City</td>
<td>Hastings</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1,085</td>
<td>1,085</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>TBD Resto Event (Rsmt Earth Club)</td>
<td>Rosemount HS</td>
<td>Rosemount</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>880</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>TBD Youth Outing or Classroom Program</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>880</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Birding with Hastings H.S. (Beatle)</td>
<td>Hastings HS</td>
<td>Vermillion</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>880</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>White Tail Woods Restoration Event (support)</td>
<td>Dakota Electric/Dakota Parks</td>
<td>Farmington</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>1,085</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Invasive Species Removal - Sand Coulee SNA</td>
<td>DNR</td>
<td>Marshall</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2,890</td>
<td>2,890</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Vermillion Linear Park Planting/Tending (Beatle)</td>
<td>Hastings HS</td>
<td>Hastings</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1,855</td>
<td>1,855</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Rapids Riders River Clean-up (support)</td>
<td>Rapids Riders</td>
<td>Hastings</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1,085</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Prairie Seed Collection - Sand Coulee SNA</td>
<td>DNR</td>
<td>Marshall</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2,890</td>
<td>2,890</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Other Vermillion Event Expense Totals</strong></td>
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<td><strong>225</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,530</strong></td>
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### Total Expenses

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>VRJPO</th>
<th>Match</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>55,495</strong></td>
<td><strong>25,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>30,495</strong></td>
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4c. Recommend a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the City of Lakeville for the South Creek Stormwater Hydrodynamic Separator

Meeting Date: 2/08/17  
Item Type: Regular-Information  
Contact: Travis Thiel  
Telephone: 952-891-7546  
Prepared by: Dee McDaniels  
Reviewed by: N/A

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED
- Recommend a JPA with the City of Lakeville for the South Creek Stormwater Hydrodynamic Separator

SUMMARY
The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) applied for a Clean Water Fund grant from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) in 2016 to fund the installation of a stormwater hydrodynamic separator in the City of Lakeville. The BWSR notified the VRWJPO in December 2016 that it had been awarded $116,000 toward implementing the project. The grant will pay $111,000 for engineering and construction and $5,000 for VRWJPO staff to perform grant administration and coordination. The City and the VRWJPO have been working collaboratively using a subwatershed assessment to identify the most cost-effective stormwater treatment practice for the AirLake Industrial Park and downtown Lakeville areas. A hydrodynamic separator at this location was identified as one of the highest priority projects. The hydrodynamic separator should annually reduce an average of 7,200 lbs. of sediment and 28 lbs. of phosphorus.

The VRWJPO will provide $50,000 and the City will provide $50,000 as match toward the grant's required 25 percent local match; the City will provide project construction oversight and administration and long-term maintenance of the stormwater reuse system. The VRWJPB allocated $50,000 for the South Creek Hydrodynamic Separator within the VRWJPO 2017 Budget.

Staff requests the Watershed Planning Commission (WPC) recommend a JPA with the City of Lakeville for the South Creek Stormwater Hydrodynamic Separator in an amount not to exceed $111,000; subject to approval by the Dakota County Attorney as to form.
4d. Recommend a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the City of Lakeville for the South Creek Temperature Reduction Project

Meeting Date: 2/08/17
Item Type: Regular-Information
Contact: Travis Thiel
Telephone: 952-891-7546
Prepared by: Dee McDaniels
Reviewed by: N/A

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED
- Recommend a JPA with the City of Lakeville for the South Creek Temperature Reduction Project

SUMMARY
Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) applied for a Clean Water Fund grant from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) in 2016 to fund the construction of a temperature reduction project on South Creek in the City of Lakeville. BWSR notified the VRWJPO in December 2016, that it had been awarded $194,800 toward implementing the project. The grant will pay $179,800 for engineering and construction and $15,000 for VRWJPO staff to perform grant administration and coordination. The City and the VRWJPO have been working collaboratively to identify the most cost-effective temperature reduction practice for a reach of South Creek.

South Creek flows through a stormwater pond, which adds significantly warmer, and potentially sediment laden water, to South Creek. A reinforced berm to separate South Creek from the pond was found to be the most cost-effective practice. Separating South Creek from the stormwater pond should reduce summer water temperatures in this reach of South Creek an average of 11° Celsius, but up to a maximum of 17° Celsius, and should also reduce the amount of sediment delivered to South Creek by the stormwater pond.

The VRWJPO will provide $50,000 and the City will provide $50,000 as match toward the grant’s required 25 percent local match; the City will provide project construction oversight and administration and long-term maintenance of the project. The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) allocated $50,000 for the South Creek/Golden Pond Restoration within the VRWJPO 2017 Budget.

Staff requests the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission recommends a JPA with the City of Lakeville for the South Creek Temperature Reduction Project an amount not to exceed $179,800; subject to approval by the Dakota County Attorney as to form.
4e. Recommend a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the Dakota County Transportation Department for the South Branch Nitrate Treatment Project in Castle Rock Township

Meeting Date: 2/08/17  
Item Type: Regular-Information  
Contact: Travis Thiel  
Telephone: 952-891-7546  
Prepared by: Dee McDaniels  
Reviewed by: N/A

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

- Recommend a JPA with the Dakota County Transportation Department for the South Branch Nitrate Treatment Project in Castle Rock Township.

SUMMARY

The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) applied for a Clean Water Fund grant from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) in 2016, to fund the construction of a nitrate treatment project on a tributary to the South Branch Vermillion River in Castle Rock Township. The BWSR notified the VRWJPO in December 2016, that it had been awarded $412,200 toward implementing the project. The grant will pay $397,200 for engineering and construction and $15,000 for VRWJPO staff time for grant administration and coordination.

Dakota County and the VRWJPO have been working collaboratively to identify the most cost-effective nitrate treatment project that could be implemented as part of the reconstruction of County Road 78, which is directly adjacent to the tributary to the South Branch Vermillion River. The South Branch Vermillion River subwatershed is the highest source of nitrate in the Vermillion River Watershed, and a primary source of nitrate in drinking water supplies in the eastern portion of the Watershed.

A constructed woodchip-enhanced wetland was found to be the most cost-effective practice to reduce nitrate from the tributary. The constructed wetland should annually reduce 13,600 lbs. of nitrate and 15,200 lbs. of sediment from the South Branch Vermillion River subwatershed.

The VRWJPO will provide $50,000 and Dakota County will provide $78,000 from the Environmental Resources Department’s Capital Improvement Program budget as match toward the grant’s required 25 percent local match; the County and VRWJPO has provided engineering, and will provide project construction oversight and administration of the project. Dakota County will provide long-term maintenance of the project with the assistance of the VRWJPO. The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) allocated $50,000 for the County Road 78 Nitrate Reduction Practice within the VRWJPO 2017 Budget.

Staff requests the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission (WPC) recommend a JPA with the Dakota County Transportation Department for the South Branch Nitrate Treatment Project in an amount not to exceed $397,200; subject to approval by the Dakota County Attorney as to form.
4f. Recommend a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with Dakota County Transportation Department and the City of Lakeville for the Phosphorus Treatment Enhancements Project at County Road 50 in Lakeville

Meeting Date: 2/08/17
Item Type: Regular-Information
Contact: Travis Thiel
Telephone: 952-891-7546
Prepared by: Dee McDaniels
Reviewed by: N/A

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED
- Recommend a JPA with Dakota County Transportation Department and the City of Lakeville for the Phosphorus Treatment Enhancements Project at County Road 50 in Lakeville.

SUMMARY
The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) applied for a Clean Water Fund grant from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) in 2016, to fund the construction of a stormwater treatment project to reduce phosphorus discharged to Lake Marion in Lakeville as part of the County Road 50 reconstruction project. The BWSR notified the VRWJPO in December 2016, that it had been awarded $127,500 toward implementing the project. The grant will pay $125,000 for project construction and $2,500 for grant administration and coordination.

Dakota County and the VRWJPO have been working collaboratively to identify a cost-effective phosphorus reduction stormwater practice that could be integrated into the reconstruction of County Road 50. Lake Marion is not an impaired water, but is near the water quality standard and has been identified in the Vermillion River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) as a water resource to be protected from impairment by reducing phosphorus discharged to the lake.

A bioretention and iron-enhanced sand filter will be constructed to reduce the amount of phosphorus in the stormwater from a portion of the road and a 28-acre neighborhood. The bioretention and iron-enhanced sand filter should annually reduce 19.7 lbs. of phosphorus, 4,200 lbs. of sediment, and 7.2 acre-feet of water volume from reaching Lake Marion.

The VRWJPO will provide $30,000 and the City of Lakeville will provide $5,000 as local match. Dakota County is contributing engineering services. Dakota County and the VRWJPO will provide project construction oversight and administration. The City of Lakeville will provide the long-term maintenance of the project. The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWPB) allocated $30,000 for the County Road 50 Lake Marion Protection Stormwater Improvements within the VRWJPO 2017 Budget.

Staff requests the Watershed Planning Commission (WPC) recommend a JPA with the Dakota County Transportation Department, and the City of Lakeville for the Phosphorus Treatment Enhancements Project at County Road 50, in an amount not to exceed $125,000; subject to approval by the Dakota County Attorney as to form.
4g. Recommend a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the City of Burnsville for the Alimagnet Lake Stormwater Improvement Projects

Meeting Date: 2/08/17
Item Type: Regular-Information
Contact: Travis Thiel
Telephone: 952-891-7546
Prepared by: Dee McDaniels
Reviewed by: N/A

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED
- Recommend a JPA with the City of Burnsville for Alimagnet Lake Stormwater Improvement Projects

SUMMARY
The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) applied for a Clean Water Fund grant from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) in 2016, to fund the construction of two iron-enhanced sand filter projects to reduce phosphorus discharged to Alimagnet Lake in Burnsville. BWSR notified the VRWJPO in December 2016, that it had been awarded $216,450 toward implementing the iron-enhanced sand filter projects. The grant will pay $206,450 for project engineering and construction and $10,000 for VRWJPO staff to perform grant administration and coordination.

The City of Burnsville and the VRWJPO have been working collaboratively to identify cost-effective phosphorus reduction stormwater practices that drain to Alimagnet Lake. Alimagnet is nutrient-impaired for phosphorus. Strategies to reduce phosphorus loads have been identified in the Vermillion River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS). The VRWJPO conducted a subwatershed assessment for the area draining the Alimagnet Lake to identify the most cost-effective practices to implement.

Two iron-enhanced sand filter benches and two pond alum treatments were identified in the subwatershed assessment as very high ranking projects for implementation on regional stormwater ponds LA2-A and LA3-A. The alum is estimated to have a three year life span, at which time it will need subsequent alum treatments. The iron-enhanced sand filter bench on pond LA2-A is estimated to annually reduce 14.0 lbs. of phosphorus, the iron-enhanced sand filter bench on pond LA3-A is estimated to annually reduce 12.0 lbs. of phosphorus, the alum treatment on pond LA2-A is estimated to annually reduce 16.5 lbs. of phosphorus, the alum treatment on pond LA3-A is estimated to annually reduce 19.5 lbs. of phosphorus, cumulatively reducing phosphorus by 62.0 lbs.

The VRWJPO will provide $75,000 and the City of Burnsville will provide $125,000 as local match, which includes the cost of one alum treatment for each pond. City of Burnsville and VRWJPO staff will provide project construction oversight, administration, on ponds LA2-A and LA3-A, and the City will provide the long-term maintenance of the project. The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) allocated $75,000 for the Alimagnet Lake Stormwater Improvement Projects within the VRWJPO 2017 Budget.

Staff requests the Watershed Planning Commission (WPC) recommend a JPA with the City of Burnsville for the Alimagnet Lake Stormwater Improvement Projects, in an amount not to exceed $281,450; subject to approval by the Dakota County Attorney as to form.