Minutes

Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission (VRWPC) Meeting
February 8, 2016
Dakota County Western Service Center, Room 334, Apple Valley, MN

WPC Members in Attendance
Mark Henry  Tony Wotzka  Jim Guttmann  Jeannie Fredlund  Chuck Clanton

Staff in Attendance
Mark Zabel, VRWJPO  Travis Thiel, VRWJPO  Mark Ryan, VRWJPO

Others in Attendance
Curt Coudron, Dakota SWCD  Adam Flett, FMR  Dee McDaniels, Dakota Co.

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Mark Zabel at 3:35 p.m. Mark asked if there was anyone who wanted to address the WPC with issues not on the agenda. There were none.

2 a. 2016 Election of Officers
Mark Zabel opened nominations for Chair of the 2017 Watershed Planning Commission.

Motion by Commissioner Clanton to nominate Jim Guttmann as Chair, second by Commissioner Henry. Mark Zabel called for other nominations or objections; none were received. Jim Guttmann was unanimously elected Chair of the 2017 VRWPC.

Chair Guttmann called for nominations for Vice Chair of the 2017 Watershed Planning Commission.

Motion by Commission Fredlund to nominate Mark Henry as Vice Chair, second by Commissioner Rohrenbach. Chair Guttmann called for other nominations or objections; none were received. Mark Henry was unanimously elected Vice Chair of the 2017 VRWPC.

b. Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Clanton second by Commissioner Henry to approve the agenda as presented. The agenda was unanimously approved.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Clanton second by Commissioner Henry to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2017 meeting with the following corrections: “Commissioner Clanton completed the remaining term of a previous WPC member, and is starting the first of two consecutive terms.” The minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

4. Business Items
a. Overview of 2016 Vermillion River Watershed Stewards Program

Adam Flett, FMR Stewardship Coordinator, gave an overview of the 2016 Stewards program. Adams said new for 2016 was a subwatershed focus on events in the upper part of the watershed. FMR attended meetings Alimagnet and Long Lake Associations to present information on rain gardens and rain barrels.
FMR also worked with volunteers from Alimagnet Lake Association at a citywide trash pick-up event in Apple Valley, spreading the word about the Vermillion Stewards Program.

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 2016 tracked program participants were watershed residents.

b. **Recommendation to Execute a Grant Agreement with Friends of the Mississippi River for the Vermillion River Stewards Program in 2017**

Adam Flett said the 2017 Stewards program will consist of 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. During the 2017 season, FMR will attempt to 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.

Motion by Commissioner Fredlund, second by Commissioner Henry to recommend the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board execute a Grant Agreement with Friends of the Mississippi River for the Vermillion River Stewards Program in 2017, not to exceed $25,000. The motion was unanimously approved.

c. **Recommend a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the City of Lakeville for the South Creek Stormwater Hydrodynamic Separator**

Travis Thiel said in 2016, the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) received a Clean Water Fund grant from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to fund the installation of a stormwater hydrodynamic separator in the City of Lakeville. The grant award was $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.

Chair Guttmann said the dollar amounts on all the JPAs seem to be different then the grant amount. Mark Zabel said the amount of money given to the cities would be less than the total grant amount because of the match requirement of overhead costs. Staff will evaluate the JPA dollar amounts before the VRJPB meeting for accuracy and report back at the March meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Wotzka, second by Commissioner Clayton to recommend the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board execute a Joint Powers Agreement with City of Lakeville for the South Creek Stormwater Hydrodynamic Separator. The motion was unanimously approved.
d. Recommend a JPA with the City of Lakeville for the South Creek Temperature Reduction Project

Travis said the VRWJPO received the second of five Clean Water Fund grants from BWSR to fund the construction of a temperature reduction project on South Creek in the City of Lakeville. The grant award was $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 VRWJPO allocated $50,000 for the South Creek/Golden Pond Restoration within the VRWJPO 2017 Budget.

Motion by Commissioner Wotzka, second by Commissioner Clanton to recommend the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Lakeville for the South Creek Temperature Reduction Project. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

Travis said the VRWJPO received the third of five Clean Water Fund grants from BWSR to fund the construction of a nitrate treatment project on a tributary to the South Branch Vermillion River in Castle Rock Township. The grant award was $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 VRWJPO allocated $50,000 for the County Road 78 Nitrate Reduction Practice within the VRWJPO 2017 Budget.

Motion by Commissioner Fredlund, second by Commissioner Henry to recommend the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the Dakota County Transportation Department for the South Branch Nitrate Treatment Project in Castle Rock Township. The motion was unanimously approved.
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.**

Travis said the VRWJPO received the fourth of five Clean Water Fund grants from BWSR 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. BWSR notified the VRWJPO that the grant award was $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 VRWJPB allocated $30,000 for the County Road 50 Lake Marion Protection Stormwater Improvements within the VRWJPO 2017 Budget.

*Motion by Commissioner Wotzka, second by Commissioner Clanton to recommend the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County Transportation Department and the City of Lakeville for the Phosphorus Treatment Enhancements Project at County Road 50 in Lakeville. The motion was unanimously approved.*

g. **Recommend a JPA with the City of Burnsville for Alimagnet Lake Stormwater Improvement Projects**

Travis said the VRWJPO received the fifth of five Clean Water Fund grants from BWRS to fund the construction of two iron-enhanced sand filter projects to reduce phosphorus discharged to Alimagnet Lake in Burnsville. The grant award was $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.

*Motion by Commissioner Henry, second by Commissioner Clanton to recommend the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Burnsville for Alimagnet Lake Stormwater Improvement Projects. The motion was unanimously approved.*

5. **Updates**
   a. **Chairman’s Report**
      None given.
   
   b. **Staff Updates**
      None given.

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

   Next meeting: Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 3:30 p.m.
   Dakota County Western Service Center, Room 334, Apple Valley, MN