1. **Call to Order**
   The meeting was called to order by Chair Guttmann at 3:32 p.m., and opened with the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Approval of Agenda**
   Motion by Commissioner Henry, second by Commissioner Betzold, to approve the agenda. The agenda was unanimously approved.

3. **Approval of minutes**
   Motion by Commissioner Wotzka, second by Commissioner Clanton, to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2017 meeting as presented. The minutes were unanimously approved.

4. **Business Items**
   a. **Recommend the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board Adopt a Pollinator Friendly Policy Resolution**

   Mark Zabel began by recounting recent internal county staff meetings discussing the Dakota County Board, Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) adopting a pollinator friendly policy. The resolution presented maintains that projects under the VRWJPO’s control will utilize pollinator friendly plants and avoid pesticides that affect pollinators.

   Commissioner Guttmann reiterated that the resolution language was careful not to disallow certain practices but to encourage and avoid. Commissioner Rydeen asked if this policy was cost neutral; it is. Commissioner Henry was curious if this policy would be passed down to
the cities and townships within the Vermilion River Watershed. The resolution can be shared, but it is not a Standard that needs to be adopted into local ordinance. The resolution only pertains to projects the VRWJPO participates in. Commissioner Henry was also curious if something should be written into the resolution about herbicide use in the context of controlling invasive species. Commissioner Wotzka wanted to know if we should include neonicitinoid-free plant material. Mark Zabel had little concern about that since most of the VRWJPO’s plant material is in the form of seed. Commissioners Henry and Betzold are very interested in passing this information and resolution to the townships and encouraging adoption.

*Motion by Commissioner Clanton, second by Commissioner Betzold, to recommend the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board adopt a pollinator friendly policy resolution. The motion was unanimously approved.*

**b. Recommend the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board Adopt a Fund Balance Policy**

Last year, Joint Powers Board members were interested in cash reserves and asked the question about the appropriate level to carry. The unwritten policy was that after all Capitol Improvement Project (CIP) funds were spent, carry over would go back into CIP and any leftover funds were the cash reserve. This year, when Mark Zabel presented the budget to the Dakota County manager, Mark was asked again about fund balance.

The resulting policy was developed using governmental reporting standards from the Government Accounting Standards Board and the Government Finance Officers’ Association. There are three parts to the current budget; the Restricted Fund Balance, Committed Fund Balance and the Unassigned Fund Balance (cash reserve). Following recommendations; a two month fund balance will be planned for, which is approximately $77,000 to cover general operating expenses.

*Motion by Commissioner Clanton, second by Commissioner Rydeen, to recommend the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board adopt a fund balance policy. The motion was unanimously approved.*

5. **Updates**

a. **Chairman’s Report**

Commissioner Guttmann thanked staff for the great experience that was the Watershed Tour. He felt it was a great opportunity to see what it was that we talk about at meeting in person. Several townships and cities attended, along with two County Commissioners and a few Watershed Planning Commission members.

Commissioner Guttmann reminded the members that the next Watershed Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 29, 2017 at 3:30 p.m.

b. **Staff Updates**

Jen Dullum gave the Commissioners an update on the Master Water Stewards. The program kicked off on October 10 with an introductory meeting. The VRWJPO has four stewards this year and will host a local tour for them on Monday, October 16 to introduce them to their watershed.
Mark Zabel mentioned his presentation at the 25% by 2025 Town Hall meeting in Burnsville on October 4. There were about 220 attendees. Much of the breakout conversation seemed to revolve around salt. Information about the meeting and other meetings that were held around the State can be found at: https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/content/attend-town-hall. Just click on the Town Hall meeting you are interested in learning more about and scroll down to see the agenda and data collected from the meeting.

The Rambling River Park and South Creek Habitat Restoration projects are both completed and paid out.

The County Road 50 and County Road 78 projects are underway. The VRWJPO portions of the projects has not yet started.

6. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Henry, second by Commission Wotzka, to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved.