Meeting Minutes

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board Meeting
October 24, 2019, 1 p.m.
Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center, Conference Room A, Farmington, MN

Board Members in Attendance
Dakota County Commissioner Mike Slavik, Chair
Dakota County Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg, Vice Chair
Scott County Commissioner Tom Wolf, Secretary/Treasurer

Others in Attendance
Mark Zabel, Watershed Administrator
Melissa Bokman Ermer, Watershed Co-administrator
Travis Thiel, VRWJPO Watershed Specialist
Paula Liepold, VRWJPO Public Outreach and Communications
Mark Ryan, VRWJPO Watershed Engineer
Helen Brosnahan, Assistant County Attorney
Bruce Johnson, Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor

1. Call to Order
Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Slavik at 1:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call
All Board members were in attendance.

3. Audience Comments on Items Not on the Agenda
There were no comments from the audience.

4. Approval of Consent Agenda
a. Approval of Agenda
b. Approval of Minutes from the September 26, 2019, Meeting
c. Acceptance of Treasurer’s Report
d. Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County for the Wetland Health Evaluation Program
e. Authorization to Amend a Joint Powers Agreement with the Minnesota Zoo for Rainwater Harvesting System Project
f. Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County for Vegetation Management at the South Branch Vermillion River Nitrate Treatment Wetland and Dakota County 78-06 Mitigation Wetland and Bioretention Basin
Res. No. VRW 19-39: Motion by Commissioner Wolf, Second by Commissioner Holberg, and passed on a unanimous vote to approve the consent agenda.

5. Approval of Expenses
Mark Zabel presented the current invoices as shown on item 5.
Res. No. VRW 19-40: Motion by Commissioner Holberg, Second by Commissioner Wolf, and passed on a 3-0 roll call vote to approve the expenses totaling $60,089.77 incurred between September 10, 2019 and October 14, 2019, as submitted on October 24, 2019.

6. Business Items

7. Staff Reports
Melissa Bokman Ermer informed the Board about upcoming winter maintenance courses for property managers.

Travis Thiel provided two updates. First, grant requests are pending for irrigation repair work from two townhome association audits completed last year. The total amount requested is $2,741. Second, staff and Dakota County transportation are continuing to work with the adjacent landowners addressing tile-line concerns related to the nitrate treatment project that will be installed along with the County Road 78-10 project.

Mark Ryan provided several updates. First, Mark provided an update on remaining actions related to the Standards amendment and the ad hoc group outcomes of 2019. Mark shared a draft landowner information handout describing the Watershed Standards. Staff will send the handout to township staff for review and comment. A model form and best practice sheet for road maintenance are forthcoming per the outcomes of the ad hoc group. Because the Standards were changed and updated, the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) Rules must also be updated to match. A public hearing will be scheduled over the winter months. Lastly, Mark provided an update on the hydrodynamic separator project, which is nearing completion, on South Creek in Lakeville.

Jen Dullum was not present but provided written updates.
- The Master Water Stewards classes started on October 15. There are three steward candidates in the 2019-2020 program. Two 2018-2019 stewards graduated the week before.
- Friends of the Mississippi River is in planning stages for the 2020 Vermillion Stewards volunteer program.
- Social media posts for the month of August include 7 Facebook posts, 7 Tweets, and 4 Instagram posts.

Mark Zabel gave an update on the operations budget and projection to end of year. The projection in June was a carryover of approximately $560,000. Currently the VRWJPO has $448,000 in carryover in cash reserve and $152,400 as the projected unspent funds in all the operational categories. This brings the total carryover to just over $600,000. There is an expectation that payouts will be made from the Capital Improvement Projects budget at year-end, but it is difficult to predict when those will happen due to project delays and when invoices may be presented to the VRWJPO.
Adjourn
Motion by Commissioner Wolf, Second by Commissioner Holberg, and passed on a unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 1:21 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: December 5, 2019 – Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center, Room A at 1 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jen Dullum
Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

Mark Zabel
Administrator for the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

Attest

[Signature]
Commissioner Tom Wolf
[Signature]
Secretary/ Treasurer

1/23/20
Date