Meeting Minutes
Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board Meeting
March 22, 2018, 1 p.m.
Dakota County Western Service Center, Apple Valley, Conference Room 334

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

Others in Attendance
Mark Zabel, Watershed Administrator
Melissa Bokman, Watershed Co-administrator
Helen Brosnahan, County Attorney
Travis Thiel, VRWJPO Watershed Specialist
Mark Ryan, VRWJPO Watershed Engineer
Jen Dullum, VRWJPO Education and Outreach Specialist
Bruce Johnson, Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor
Cal Pflaum, Landowner

1. Call to Order
Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Slavik at 1:00 p.m. All Board members were in attendance.

2. Audience Comments on Items Not on the Agenda
Cal Pflaum addressed the Board regarding the letter on buffers he recently received from Dakota County. Mr. Pflaum is concerned about weed control in buffer areas. He questioned dollars spent on restoration projects. He has concerns about not receiving compensation on buffers he put in several years ago. Mr. Pflaum would like to see something done for the farmers, as taxes in the County are not cheap. He has other concerns not related to buffers regarding mosquito control and County roads. Commissioners Slavik and Holberg explained that the letter received is regarding Dakota County ordinance and not a Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization ordinance. Both commissioners are willing to meet with Mr. Pflaum at another time to discuss these issues. Mr. Pflaum reiterated that people need to work together and honor the individuals doing good stuff and if there are no weeds in and buffers are in compliance there should be compensation.

3. Approval of Agenda
Motion by Commissioner Holberg, Second by Commissioner Wolf, and passed on a unanimous vote to approve the agenda.

1. Approval of Minutes from the February 22, 2018, Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Wolf, Second by Commissioner Holberg, and passed on a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2018, meeting, as presented on March 22, 2018.

2. Approval of Expenses
Mark Zabel went over the current invoices that were not routine monthly expenses. The invoice to the City of Burnsville is for the Alimagnet Lake Stormwater Improvement project. The project is complete other than a final inspection. It came significantly under the budget. This was going to be two projects but we achieved the pollution reduction goals with the one project. Staff will now be looking in Apple Valley for a project on Alimagnet to allocate the remaining funds towards. The invoice for Rosemont was a 10 year agreement payment; this is the third to last payment. 144 Design is for three months of website maintenance. The Wenck payment is for fish monitoring. All other payments are regular routine expenses.

Res. No. VRW 18#: Motion by Commissioner Wolf, Second by Commissioner Holberg, and passed on a 3-0 roll call vote to approve the expenses totaling $235,004.26 that occurred between February 13, 2018, and March 14, 2018, as submitted on March 22, 2018.

3. Acceptance of Treasurer’s Report
Mark Zabel provided an overview treasurer’s report. All expenses noted and balances are in the positive. Mark noted that the Alimagnet Lake project draws the account balance down to $4,000. We have only received half of the grant funding. The VRWJPO will receive more grant funds later to fund the remainder of the projects.

Res. No. VRW 18#: Motion by Commissioner Holberg, Second by Commissioner Wolf, and passed on a 3-0 roll call vote to accept the Treasurer’s Report from March 22, 2018.

4. Business Items

Travis Thiel explained that Minnesota State Statutes and Rules of the Board of Water and Soil Resources requires we publish a request for qualifications (RFQ) creating a list of consultants that become available to provide for services to the VRWJPO every two years. We had a number of firms respond to our RFQ. All but one firm was accepted on our list. This consultant group was rejected because information requested was not submitted and travel time would exceed three hours, increasing costs.

7b. Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Lakeville for Participation in a Carp Assessment Study for East Lake
Travis Theil described this Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the City of Lakeville together with the Dakota County grant agreement (item 7c). The VRWJPO applied for and received a Dakota County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) grant to do this feasibility study in East Lake. This JPA will allow the VRWJPO to accept funds from the City of Lakeville to provide matching funds. The AIS grant will capture and tag carp to determine where they go and where they spawn, along with an aging analysis. This will determine where fish barriers will be needed to keep them out of the East Lake system.

Commissioner Wolf asked if there ever will be a day that we are not fighting carp; if there will ever be a permanent solution. Mark Zabel explained that carp will probably never be fully eradicated but hopefully we will be able to keep the population controlled at a more manageable level reducing negative impacts to East Lake.

*Res. No. VRW 18-:* Motion by Commissioner Holberg, Second by Commissioner Wolf, and passed on a unanimous vote to execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Lakeville for participation in a Carp Assessment Study for East Lake.

7c. Authorization to Execute a Grant Agreement with Dakota County to Perform an East Lake Carp Assessment

*Res. No. 18-:* Motion by Commissioner Holberg, Second by Commissioner Wolf, and passed on a unanimous vote to execute a grant agreement with Dakota County to perform an East Lake Carp Assessment.

7d. Authorization to Execute a Grant Agreement with Conservation Corps of Minnesota to Perform Water Resource Project Restoration and Improvement Work
Travis Theil shared with the commissioners a Conservation Corps Minnesota grant that was awarded with funding allocated through the Clean Water Fund. This grant will provide work crew hours to be used on restoration project maintenance.

Commissioner Holberg wondered how the kids on staff get paid. Crew members are paid by Conservation Corps of Minnesota.

*Res. No. 18-:* Motion by Commissioner Wolf, Second by Commissioner Holberg, and passed on a unanimous vote to authorize to execute a grant agreement with Conservation Corps of Minnesota to perform water resource project restoration and improvement work.

7e. Authorization to Submit the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) Biennial Budget Request for 2020-2021 to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).
Travis Theil explained that the Biennial Budget Request was submitted to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). This fulfills BWSR’s request for information to aid in the development of the budget they submit to the Governor. The draft included in the packet has been updated with an additional project increasing the budget by $100,000.

Commissioner Slavik asked if projects were prioritized. Projects are listed without prioritization.
Res. No. 18-: Motion by Commissioner Wolf, Second by Commissioner Holberg, passed on a unanimous vote to submit the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) Biennial Budget Request for 2020-2021 to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

5. Staff Reports
   a. Melissa Bokman reported that Scott County is ready to release their watershed management organization draft watershed plan for its first 60 day review.
   b. Helen Brosnahan is currently working on a new contract policy in order to reconcile Scott and Dakota counties. Helen in the process of drafting and is asking for direction on several issues from the Commissioners. Commissioner Slavik has requested a side-by-side comparison to be brought as an agenda item in April. The Joint Powers Agreement between Scott and Dakota County will have to be amended following an updated contract policy. This is being done because there is currently no contract policy.
   c. Travis gave an update on current projects.
      The Federal Aviation Administration in Farmington is located in an area of high groundwater. They currently dewater around the building to keep the basement from flooding. They discharge around 250 million gallons per year and have an appropriation permit from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to discharge more. They would like to install a force main for discharge to the river. VRWJPO staff submitted comments to the DNR on other uses for the water to reduce the volume discharged. One possible solution, which the VRWJPO has submitted to School District 196, is reusing some of the groundwater to irrigate athletic fields at the adjacent school.

      Golden Pond in Lakeville, where South Creek is being rerouted around the stormwater pond to reduce temperature impacts, started this week. Stabilization should start next week and the practice will be online this fall.

      The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) authored an article on the South Branch Nitrate Treatment project. It is on the VRWJPO website, Facebook, and twitter. Minnesota Public Radio may pick up the story, look for that.

      Lakeville Watershed Cleanup is April 21 and Farmington Pond & Park Cleanup Day is April 28. VRWJPO staff will be at both events.

d. Mark Ryan gave an update on the township officers meeting he attended. Commissioner Slavik commended on his presentation but also mentioned the time for the permitting workshop in April might be challenging depending on planting this spring.

e. Mark Zabel mentioned the upcoming office reconfiguration which may cause some interference with day to day operations but should hopefully not impact board meetings.

f. Commissioner Holberg had some questions on the salt liability bill currently going through the legislature. The VRWJPO has sponsored classes on salt management offered free of charge to participants. Melissa Bokman mentioned an email she received that noted it had moved through several committees. The current VRWJPO class offerings are possible due to working with a consultant who received grant funding from the MPCA. If that funding were not available, the VRWJPO would need to consider if we wish to continue the workshops, and if so, how we would plan to support them. Our current training offerings do not address the liability issues in the bill.
Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Wolf, Second by Commissioner Holberg, and passed on a unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 2:08 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: April 26, 2018 – Western Service Center, Room 334 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 Mary Liz Holberg

[Signature]
Secretary/Treasurer

[Signature]
Date

4-26-18