



# Minutes

## Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission Meeting

June 10, 2020 - 3:30 p.m.

Zoom Videoconference

### WPC Members in Attendance

Josh Borton    Chuck Clanton  
Carolyn Miller    Ken Betzold  
Bruce Rydeen

### Staff in Attendance

Mark Zabel, VRWJPO  
Mark Ryan, VRWJPO

### Others in Attendance

Curt Coudron, Dakota County SWCD

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Miller at 3:34 p.m.

### 2. Audience Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

None

### 3. Approval of Agenda

*Motion by Commissioner Rydeen, second by Commissioner Borton, to approve the agenda. The agenda was unanimously approved.*

### 4. Approval of Minutes

*Motion by Commissioner Clanton, second by Commissioner Rydeen, to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2020, meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.*

### 5. Business Items

#### 5a. Recommendation on Application to Membership on the Watershed Planning Commission

Mark Zabel presented the application for membership for the Watershed Planning Commission (WPC). There are no other current applications for the open seat for a commissioner from Dakota County.

Commissioner Clanton asked how Mr. Hamrick found out and became interested in the vacancy. Mark noted that the posting was placed in the last edition of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) newsletter and posted through Dakota County. Mark mentioned that an interview could be conducted if desired.

*Motion by Commissioner Clanton, second by Commissioner Borton, to recommend the application for membership on the Watershed Planning Commission.*

## **6. Updates**

### **6a. Chairperson's Report**

None

### **6b. Staff Updates**

Mark Ryan gave an overview of current projects. Mark gave an update on a stream restoration project located in Empire Township. Project progress has been slowed somewhat by elevated river flows resulting from some heavy rainfalls in May.

County Road 78-10 nitrate treatment system project is scheduled to begin in August. Commissioner Clanton questioned why the practice was placed on the Castle Rock Township property instead of on the property owner's land. Commissioner Miller asked how much drainage the practice will take. Mark replied that the practice will take about 90 acres of drainage and that the tile drainage had to be routed under the roadway, so it was easier to make an agreement with the Township for siting the practice.

The Middle Creek Stream Restoration project in Lakeville construction should start this fall. Project and permit meetings are taking place. Commissioner Rydeen asked what the VRWJPO investment in the project is. The total project cost is estimated at \$500,000. A \$350,000 grant was awarded for the project and \$50,000 will come from the VRWJPO. The City of Lakeville will pick up any difference in project costs. Commissioner Borton asked about remeander locations, and Mark indicated that only portions of the channels would be remeandered due to the tight layout between development lots.

Mark met with Commissioner Henry at Castle Rock Park on Highway 50 to talk about localized high water and wetness, including discussing water in ditches with Minnesota Department of Transportation maintenance personnel. Mark noted that high water and drainage concerns, including those related to beavers, have continued to be a frequent topic with watershed residents who reach out to the VRWJPO.

Mark Zabel discussed the revised budget which was adopted by the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) in April. Mark reviewed revenues (\$2,765,800), expenses (\$2,577,510), and cash reserves (\$188,290).

Mark discussed the Watershed Based Implementation Funding criteria. The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is changing the way they distribute grant money to watersheds. It is based on a state-wide watershed planning process for major watersheds. The Vermillion River Watershed (VRW) is a major watershed. Two planning meetings have been held to date. Voting members have been decided and criteria for project selection has been adopted. The next step will be project development. This process will take place over the summer with an anticipated outcome by Labor Day. The VRW is eligible for up to \$650,000 in grant funding for the biennium.

Curt Coudron mentioned that this spring has been good for getting projects in the ground. It has been challenging connecting with landowners due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Curt noted that the Landscaping for Clean Water workshops have recently gone virtual to account for these restrictions. There have been 33 applications so far this year in total for Dakota County.

Commissioner Miller asked about the frequency of meetings for the foreseeable future. Mark Zabel noted that it is very dependent on agenda items. After speaking with Commissioner Slavik, in-person,

socially-distant meetings might be forthcoming. Meeting frequency will continue on an every month to two-month schedule.

## **7. Adjourn**

*Motion by Commissioner Clanton, second by Commissioner Rydeen, to adjourn the meeting at 4:22 p.m. The motion passed on a 5-0 roll-call vote.*