Agenda

Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission (WPC)
March 14, 2018 - 3:30 p.m., Conference Room 334
Dakota County Western Service Center, Apple Valley, MN

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda Action
3. Approval of Minutes from the January 10, 2018, Meeting Action
4. Business Items
   b. Recommendation to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Lakeville for Participation in a Carp Assessment Study for East Lake Action
   c. Recommendation to Execute a Grant Agreement with Dakota County to Perform an East Lake Carp Assessment Action
5. Updates
   a. Chairman’s Report
   b. Staff Updates
6. Adjourn Action

*Additional information provided in packet, if available.

Other Information

Next Meeting Date: April 11, 2018 at 3:30 p.m.
Dakota County Western Service Center, Room 334, Apple Valley, MN
Please confirm your attendance by contacting Jen Dullum at 952.891.7086 or via e-mail at jennifer.dullum@co.dakota.mn.us
You will be notified if the meeting is cancelled due to an anticipated lack of quorum.
Minutes
Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission (VRWPC) Meeting

January 10, 2017 - 3:30 p.m.
Dakota County Western Service Center, Room 334, Apple Valley, MN

WPC Members in Attendance
Chuck Clanton  Bruce Rydeen
Jim Guttmann  Brian Rohrenbach
Mark Henry   Tony Wotzka
Carolyn Miller

Staff in Attendance
Mark Zabel, VRWJPO
Mark Ryan, VRWJPO
Jen Dullum, VRWJPO
Paula Liepold, VRWJPO

Others in Attendance
Curt Coudron, SWCD
Adam Flett, FMR

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Chair Guttmann at 3:33 p.m., and opened with the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. a. 2018 Election of Officers
Before Mark Zabel opened nominations for Chair of the 2017 Watershed Planning Commission, Chair Guttmann announced that this was his last meeting as a member of the VRWPC.

   Motion by Commissioner Rohrenbach to nominate Carolyn Miller as Chair. Mark Zabel called for other nominations three times, none were received. Mark Zabel then asked for any objections to elect Carolyn Miller as Chair by acclimation. Carolyn was unanimously elected Chair of the 2018 VRWPC.

Chair Miller called for nominations for Vice Chair of the 2018 Watershed Planning Commission.

   Motion by Commissioner Clanton to nominate Mark Henry as Vice Chair. Chair Miller called for other nominations three times, none were received. Mark Henry was unanimously elected Vice Chair of the 2018 VRWPC.

b. Approval of Agenda

   Motion by Commissioner Rydeen, second by Commissioner Wotzka, to approve the agenda. The agenda was unanimously approved as presented.
3. Approval of minutes

Motion by Commissioner Guttmann, second by Commissioner Rohrenbach, to approve the minutes of the November 29, 2017 meeting as presented. The minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Business Items

a. Vermillion Stewards 2017 Program Report

Adam Flett, Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) Stewardship and Education Program Director, gave an overview of the 2017 stewards program. Working with local cities and partners, FMR organized 9 VRWJPO sponsored program events (1 cancelled) and held 12 other events within the watershed as part of its role implementing the Vermillion Stewards Program. VRWJPO program events attracted 177 volunteers and event participants contributing 337.5 volunteer hours to the program. Approximately 36 percent of 2017 VRWJPO tracked program participants were watershed residents. Overall, from the 20 events held in the watershed, there were 586 program participants, 798 volunteer hours, and approximately 72 percent of the participants were watershed residents.

Commissioner Rohrenbach asked more about live staking. Commissioner Miller asked if the focus would be the same in 2018. Adam responded yes and that FMR is currently working on securing matching funds for programming. Commissioner Miller also asked how outreach for volunteers was conducted. Adam noted that FMR has a robust list of past volunteers that they can work from. They also do targeted mailing, use volunteer websites, social media, and reach out to local news outlets. Commissioner Rydeen asked about the total budget. In 2017, the Vermillion Stewards budget was just under $55,000 with the VRWJPO contributing $25,000. Commissioner Guttmann suggested reaching out to the local mountain biking club at Lake Marion for volunteers.

b. Election of 2018 Watershed Planning Commission Officers

See 2A.

c. Recommendation to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District for Services in 2018

Curt Coudron from the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) provided detail on the types of services provided under the agreement, including capital improvement projects and monitoring. The total proposed budget of $251,400 is a decrease from the $265,450 JPA budget from 2017.

Commissioner Clanton questioned how the Master Water Stewards could be associated with the work plan shown. The thought is to tie in Master Water Stewards as project leaders in the Landscaping for Clean Water workshops. Commissioner Miller asked about the budget; has it been growing? Mark Zabel replied that the budget has actually been reduced the last few years. Commissioner Miller also asked if the budget amount for monitoring has and will continue to remain fairly stable. Mark responded that yes, it is fairly stable, especially since monitoring has gone from “chasing storms” to regular grab samples. Commissioner Rydeen asked of other agencies are monitoring as well. Mark said that the MetCouncil does some monitoring but has been cutting that area since the waste water treatment plant has gone off-line in Dakota County. The United States Geologic Survey has one monitoring station at Empire. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and
the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources use our monitoring data for their monitoring purposes and collaborate with the VRWJPO on sample collection.

Motion by Commissioner Clanton, second by Commissioner Henry, to recommend executing a Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District for Services in 2018

d. Recommend Modifications to the VRWJPO Permit Program Fee and Security Schedule

Mark Ryan began by reminding the Commissioners that this past October the Rules were revised and adopted. The Rules update prompted staff to review the current fee schedule which had not been updated since 2010. Mark went over the proposed Tier One and Tier Two permit application fees, field inspection fees, securities, and escrow amount requirements for field inspection fees.

Commissioner Henry asked what Tier aggregate mining for road construction would fall into, which would probably be Tier Two. Mark Ryan replied that staff would rather rely on a size threshold versus identifying individual activities. Commissioner Rydeen asked what a typical project in Eureka Township is. Typical projects include; outbuildings, home sites, business expansion, etc. Overall, projects include any land disturbing activity, with the VRWJPO’s interests being erosion control and stormwater management. Commissioner Rydeen also asked about other municipalities and if they do their own permitting. Currently all other municipalities do. The VRWJPO can take over permitting if the Standards are not being upheld. Commissioner Guttmann had concerns about the discretionary waiver: first, it could be seen as arbitrary or the VRWJPO as being unfair, and second, the Schedule is very concise; if it is not followed, should that be at the VRWJPO’s discretion or the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board’s (VRJPB)? There was discussion about fitting criteria to the waiver or striking it from the Schedule. Commissioner Guttmann also questioned having Tier Two being broken down into two categories; Tier Two and Tier Three instead of Tier Two A and Tier Two B.

Motion by Commissioner Rydeen, second by Commissioner Wotzka, to recommend modifications to the VRWJPO permit program fee and security schedule subject to input from VRWPC meeting discussion

5. Updates

a. Chairman’s Report
None

b. Staff Updates
Mark Zabel was at a recent meeting regarding the Board of Water and Soil Resources’ One Watershed – One Plan funding pilot program. As watershed based plans are approved across the state, funding allocations from the Clean Water Fund will be provided to implement the plans. Within the seven-county metro area, organizations within each County will have the option of working collaboratively to spend funds from a County-wide pot. Dakota County would receive approximately 20% of the money available to the seven-county metro area, or $1,018,000, in 2019 for a two-year biennium and should anticipate a similar amount in the future. If organizations within Dakota County cannot agree to a collaborative agreement for funding disbursement, the money would then be returned to a metro area pool in which organizations from all metro area Counties compete for funds returned from any non-collaborative Counties. Mark Zabel recommends a
collaborative approach for this first year, and if the VRWJPO finds the funding mechanism disadvantageous, we would advocate for change. Commissioner Miller asked if the competitive funding is comparable to what the VRWJPO has received in the past with competitive grants. In 2017, the VRWJPO was awarded over one million dollars in grant funding for five grants, although that amount is difficult to acquire and maintain each year. Going forward, a similar amount of money would now be shared County-wide; however, the funding would be known and stable.

Mark Ryan let the Commissioners know that the Clean Water Fund Grant application for the Johnny Cake Ridge Road stormwater improvements submitted by the City of Apple Valley did not receive funding this cycle. The VRWJPO assisted the City of Apple Valley with the application and committed $100,000 to the Capital Improvement Program in 2018. Due to the design of the project lagging, it has been pushed back until 2019. Other funding options will be looked into during 2018, and a smaller project than originally proposed could be designed and constructed with funding already dedicated. This project benefits Long and Farquar Lakes by addressing the phosphorus impairments in those waterbodies.

Commissioner Henry asked for an update on the County Road 78 Nitrate Reduction project. Mark Ryan indicated that construction crews will be out again starting next week. Staff had hoped that the project would have been constructed in November and December 2017, but the contractor opted to wait for truly frozen conditions in early 2018.

Commissioner Clanton brought up current events happening in Brown County. The Brown County Board of Commissioners declined to adopt a plan by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture that would test private wells for nitrates and other farm contaminants fearing it could lead to further regulation.

6. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Guttmann, second by Commissioner Rydeen, to adjourn the meeting at 5:17, p.m. The motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting Date: 3/14/2018
Item Type: Action
Contact: Travis Thiel
Telephone: 952-891-7546
Prepared by: Travis Thiel

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

- Recommendation to approve the VRWJPO Consultants List for 2018-2019

SUMMARY

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) staff distributed and posted a request for qualifications (RFQ) in January 2018 for professional engineering, environmental, ecological restoration and management, geotechnical investigations, and unmanned aerial vehicle (drone) inspection and mapping services. The Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) requires water management organizations to solicit qualifications from consultants on a biennial basis and provide a list of consultants that has been compiled. The VRWJPO may use the list of consultants to contract for services that watershed staff may not be able to perform because of limited technical expertise or time constraints. The ability to choose consultants based on their qualifications saves time by allowing staff to forego a request for proposal (RFP) process for every project (although it does not preclude use of the RFP process for specific projects).

All services performed by a consultant would require a contract with the VRWJPO, which would be submitted to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) for approval before being executed, unless the contract amount is less than $50,000, which allows for limited approval authority by the VRWJPO Administrator. The list of consultants who submitted qualifications and have technical skills appropriate for future VRWJPO projects is included in the resolution. Staff requests the VRWJPB to approve the VRWJPO professional engineering, environmental, ecological restoration and management, geotechnical investigations, and unmanned aerial vehicle (drone) inspection and mapping services consultant list for 2018-19. VRWJPO staff requests the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission recommend approval of the VRWJPO consultant list for 2018-19.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT

No fiscal impact
RESOLUTION


WHEREAS, the VRWJPO contracts with professional engineering, environmental, ecological restoration and management, geotechnical investigations, and unmanned aerial vehicle (drone) inspection and mapping services for projects that require specialized expertise not available among staff or have time constraints that staff is unable to meet; and

WHEREAS, the VRWJPO’s ability to contract for professional service from a pre-approved list of qualified vendors can provide advantages in project quality, timeliness, and efficiency; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. 103B.227, subd. 5, requires watershed districts or watershed management organizations to issue a biennial solicitation for professional or technical consulting services; and

WHEREAS, the VRWJPO distributed and posted a biennial solicitation/request for qualifications (RFQ) in January 2018 for professional engineering, environmental, ecological restoration and management, geotechnical investigations, and unmanned aerial vehicle (drone) inspection and mapping services; and

WHEREAS, respondents to the RFQ provided qualifications, which were then evaluated to determine if they were sufficient and applicable to potential 2018-2019 VRWJPO projects; and

WHEREAS, a list of qualified professional engineering, environmental, ecological restoration and management, geotechnical investigations, and unmanned aerial vehicle (drone) inspection and mapping services consultants includes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Zip</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barr Engineering Company</td>
<td>Scott</td>
<td>Sobiech</td>
<td>4300 MarketPointe Drive, Suite 200</td>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>55435</td>
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<td>Cardno</td>
<td>Mark</td>
<td>Pranckus</td>
<td>7157 Commerce Circle South</td>
<td>Fridley</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>55432</td>
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<tr>
<td>Houston Engineering</td>
<td>Joe</td>
<td>Lewis</td>
<td>6901 East Fish Lake Road, Suite 140</td>
<td>Maple Grove</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>55369</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inter-Fluve</td>
<td>Jonathon</td>
<td>Kusa</td>
<td>2121 Randolph Ave, Second Floor</td>
<td>St. Paul</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>55105</td>
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<tr>
<td>Limno-Tech, Inc.</td>
<td>Hans</td>
<td>Holmberg</td>
<td>7300 Hudson Blvd., Suite 295</td>
<td>Oakdale</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>55128</td>
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<tr>
<td>SRF Consulting Group, Inc.</td>
<td>Erin</td>
<td>Hunker</td>
<td>One Carlson Parkway North, Suite 150</td>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>55447</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tetra Tech</td>
<td>Andrea</td>
<td>Plevan</td>
<td>413 Wacouta Street, Suite 435</td>
<td>St. Paul</td>
<td>MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>TKDA</td>
<td>Patrick</td>
<td>McLarnon</td>
<td>444 Cedar Street, Suite 150</td>
<td>St. Paul</td>
<td>MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wenck Associates, Inc.</td>
<td>Jeff</td>
<td>Madejczyk</td>
<td>1800 Pioneer Creek Center, PO Box 249</td>
<td>Maple Plain</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>55359</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Engineering Testing, Inc.</td>
<td>Gregory</td>
<td>Reuter</td>
<td>550 Cleveland Avenue North</td>
<td>St. Paul</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>55114</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applied Ecological Services, Inc.</td>
<td>Elizabeth</td>
<td>Tiller</td>
<td>21938 Mushtown Rd</td>
<td>Prior Lake</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>55372</td>
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<tr>
<td>WSB</td>
<td>Jake</td>
<td>Newhall</td>
<td>701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 300</td>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minnesota Native Landscapes, Inc.</td>
<td>Josh</td>
<td>Hanson</td>
<td>8740 77th Street Northeast</td>
<td>Otsego</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>55362</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prairie Restorations, Inc.</td>
<td>Beth</td>
<td>Markhart</td>
<td>31646 128th Street</td>
<td>Princeton</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>55371</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Category</td>
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<td>City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wetland Habitat Restorations</td>
<td>Sarah Harding</td>
<td>670 Vandalia Street</td>
<td>St. Paul</td>
<td>MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Braun Intertec</td>
<td>Paul Eickenberg</td>
<td>11001 Hampshire Ave S</td>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>55438</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Precision Approach Aerial Photography</td>
<td>Katie Gilmore</td>
<td>15909 Elmwood Way</td>
<td>Apple Valley</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>55124</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intertek-PSI</td>
<td>Joseph Rozmiarek</td>
<td>2915 Waters Road, Suite 112</td>
<td>Eagan</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>55121</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mi-Tech Services, Inc.</td>
<td>Jay Knoke</td>
<td>5707 Schofield Ave.</td>
<td>Weston</td>
<td>WI</td>
<td>54476</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Technologies, LLC</td>
<td>Ryan Benson</td>
<td>6160 Carmen Avenue East</td>
<td>Inver Grove Heights</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>55076</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alliant Engineering, Inc.</td>
<td>Tony Luft</td>
<td>233 Park Avenue S, Ste 300</td>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>55415</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KLI</td>
<td>Nikki Wallenta</td>
<td>370 Wabasha St., Suite 300</td>
<td>St. Paul</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>55102</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emmons &amp; Olivier Resources, Inc.</td>
<td>Camilla Correll</td>
<td>7030 6th St. North</td>
<td>Oakdale</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>55128</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission recommends approval of the list of qualified professional engineering, environmental, ecological restoration and management, geotechnical investigations, and unmanned aerial vehicle (drone) inspection and mapping services consultants for 2018-19.
VERMILLION RIVER WATERSHED PLANNING COMMISSION

4b. Recommendation to execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Lakeville for Participation in a Carp Assessment Study for East Lake

Meeting Date: 3/14/2018
Item Type: Action
Contact: Travis Thiel
Telephone: 952-891-7546
Prepared by: Travis Thiel

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

- Recommendation to execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Lakeville for participation in a carp assessment study for East Lake

SUMMARY

East Lake is a nutrient-impaired lake within the City of Lakeville. The City has performed significant efforts on the Lake, which have included evaluating in-lake chemistry, surrounding land uses, riparian buffer quality, aquatic plant communities, nutrient release from lake sediments, and fishery surveys. The results of these efforts have shown one of the primary drivers behind the water quality issue is the amount of carp within East Lake. The common carp, an aquatic invasive species (AIS), feed by rooting in the lake sediments and releasing nutrients, which creates algae blooms. Carp have the ability to reproduce in great numbers and can create imbalances in the ecology of lakes. Reducing carp to sustainable numbers and eliminating the possibility of carp movement into the lake would lead to improvement in lake water quality. This was a strategy identified in the Vermillion River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy and included in the Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan.

Based on a previous winterkill in the lake, water quality immediately improved, but carp repopulated the lake and water quality has since degraded. VRWJPO and City staff suspects that carp are able to travel from North Creek to East Lake and can recolonize the lake following a winterkill, but wish to confirm this before evaluating the feasibility of a fish barrier. A number of stormwater basins surround East Lake, which may also provide areas where the carp move during the year that provide routes to recolonization other than North Creek. Staff wishes to estimate the population and biomass of carp within the lake, track carp movements, establish the age structure of carp, and perform some trap netting of the surrounding ponds. By performing these tasks, an appropriate and sustainable carp reduction target will be established, carp will be tracked to determine their movements, the age and recruitment ability into the spawning population will be known, the ponds can be confirmed or eliminated from possible carp harboring areas, and will allow staff to determine the most feasible means to manage carp populations and keep carp from moving into East Lake via fish barrier(s).

VRWJPO, in partnership with the City, had applied for and was awarded a Dakota County AIS grant to perform a carp assessment study in East Lake. The VRWJPO and City would provide 50 percent of the $20,570 cost of the assessment, or $5,142.50 each. The AIS grant would cover the remaining $10,285 of the assessment cost. Staff requests the VRWJPB execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Lakeville for participation in a carp assessment study for East Lake.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT

The VRWJPO would provide $5,142.50 in cash match toward the assessment.
RESOLUTION

4b. Recommendation to execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Lakeville for Participation in a Carp Assessment Study for East Lake

WHEREAS, the City of Lakeville has made significant efforts to determine the causes of nutrient impairment within East Lake; and

WHEREAS, those efforts have found that carp, an aquatic invasive species (AIS), is a primary driver leading to nutrient impairment within the lake; and

WHEREAS, the VRWJPO and City wish to reduce carp numbers to sustainable levels and create a means to block their movements into the Lake in the future; and

WHEREAS, staff believe carp are moving to and from North Creek, but wish to confirm or eliminate the possibility that carp are harboring in adjacent stormwater basins before looking into the feasibility of a fish barrier(s); and

WHEREAS, the VRWJPO, in partnership with the City, had applied for and was awarded a Dakota County AIS grant to perform a carp assessment of the Lake; and

WHEREAS, the assessment estimate the population and biomass of carp within the lake, track carp movements, establish the age structure of carp, and perform some trap netting of the surrounding ponds.

WHEREAS, by performing these tasks, an appropriate and sustainable carp reduction target will be established, carp will be tracked to determine their movements, the age and recruitment ability into the spawning population will be known, and the ponds can be confirmed or eliminated from possible carp harboring areas.

WHEREAS, these efforts were identified as strategies in the Vermillion River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy and included in the Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the total cost of the carp assessment is $20,570, with the VRWJPO and City providing $5,142.50 each, for a total of 50 percent of the cost; and

WHEREAS, the AIS grant will provide the remaining $10,285 toward the cost of the assessment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission recommends the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) authorizes the chair to execute a Joint Powers Agreement with City of Lakeville to accept cash in a total not to exceed $5,142.50 as presented to the VRWJPB at its meeting on March 22, 2018; subject to approval by the Dakota County Attorney’s Office as to form.
4c. Recommendation to Execute a Grant Agreement with Dakota County to Perform an East Lake Carp Assessment

Meeting Date: 3/14/2018
Item Type: Action
Contact: Travis Thiel
Telephone: 952-891-7546
Prepared by: Travis Thiel

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

- Recommendation to execute a grant agreement with Dakota County to perform an East Lake Carp Assessment

SUMMARY

The VRWJPO, in partnership with the City of Lakeville, had applied for and was awarded a Dakota County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) grant to perform a carp assessment study in East Lake. The VRWJPO and City would provide 50 percent of the $20,570 cost of the assessment, or $5,142.50 each. The AIS grant would cover the remaining $10,285 of the assessment cost. Staff requests the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission (VRWPC) recommends the VRWJPO execute a grant agreement with Dakota County to perform an East Lake Carp Assessment.

East Lake is a nutrient-impaired lake within the City of Lakeville. The City of Lakeville has performed significant efforts on the Lake, which have included evaluating in-lake chemistry, surrounding land uses, riparian buffer quality, aquatic plant communities, nutrient release from lake sediments, and fishery surveys. The results of these efforts have shown one of the primary drivers behind the water quality issue is the amount of carp within East Lake. The common carp, an aquatic invasive species (AIS), feed by rooting in the lake sediments and releasing nutrients, which creates algae blooms. Carp have the ability to reproduce in great numbers and can create imbalances in the ecology of lakes. Reducing carp to sustainable numbers and eliminating the possibility of carp movement into the lake would lead to improvement in lake water quality. This was a strategy identified in the Vermillion River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy and included in the Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan.

Based on a previous winterkill in the lake, water quality immediately improved, but carp repopulated the lake and water quality has since degraded. VRWJPO and City staff suspects that carp are able to travel from North Creek to East Lake and can recolonize the lake following a winterkill, but wish to confirm this before evaluating the feasibility of a fish barrier. A number of stormwater basins surround East Lake, which may also provide areas where the carp move during the year that provide routes to recolonization other than North Creek. Staff wishes to estimate the population and biomass of carp within the lake, track carp movements, establish the age structure of carp, and perform some trap netting of the surrounding ponds. By performing these tasks, an appropriate and sustainable carp reduction target will be established, carp will be tracked to determine their movements, the age and recruitment ability into the spawning population will be known, the ponds can be confirmed or eliminated from possible carp harboring areas, and will allow staff to determine the most feasible means to manage carp populations and keep carp from moving into East Lake via fish barrier(s).

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT

The VRWJPO would provide $5,142.50 in cash match toward the assessment.
RESOLUTION

4c. Recommendation to Execute a Grant Agreement with Dakota County to Perform an East Lake Carp Assessment

WHEREAS, the City of Lakeville has made significant efforts to determine the causes of nutrient impairment within East Lake; and

WHEREAS, those efforts have found that carp, an aquatic invasive species (AIS), is a primary driver leading to nutrient impairment within the lake; and

WHEREAS, the VRWJPO and City wish to reduce carp numbers to sustainable levels and create a means to block their movements into the Lake in the future; and

WHEREAS, staff believe carp are moving to and from North Creek, but wish to confirm or eliminate the possibility that carp are harboring in adjacent stormwater basins before looking into the feasibility of a fish barrier(s); and

WHEREAS, the VRWJPO, in partnership with the City, had applied for and was awarded a Dakota County AIS grant to perform a carp assessment of the Lake; and

WHEREAS, the assessment estimate the population and biomass of carp within the lake, track carp movements, establish the age structure of carp, and perform some trap netting of the surrounding ponds.

WHEREAS, by performing these tasks, an appropriate and sustainable carp reduction target will be established, carp will be tracked to determine their movements, the age and recruitment ability into the spawning population will be known, and the ponds can be confirmed or eliminated from possible carp harboring areas.

WHEREAS, these efforts were identified as strategies in the Vermillion River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy and included in the Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the total cost of the carp assessment is $20,570, with the VRWJPO and City providing $5,142.50 each, for a total of 50 percent of the cost; and

WHEREAS, the AIS grant will provide the remaining $10,285 toward the cost of the assessment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission recommends the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) authorize the chair to execute a grant agreement with Dakota County to perform an East Lake Carp Assessment as presented to the VRWJPB at its meeting on March 22, 2018; subject to approval by the Dakota County Attorney’s Office as to form.