Minutes
Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission (VRWPC) Meeting
April 11, 2018 - 3:30 p.m.
Dakota County Western Service Center, Room 334, Apple Valley, MN

WPC Members in Attendance
Chuck Clanton  Bruce Rydeen
Ken Betzold    Brian Rohrenbach
Mark Henry     Tony Wotzka
Carolyn Miller Josh Borton

Staff in Attendance
Mark Zabel, VRWJPO
Jen Dullum, VRWJPO

Others in Attendance
Curt Coudron, SWCD

1. **Call to Order**
The meeting was called to order by Chair Miller at 3:30 p.m., and opened with the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

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

3. **Approval of minutes**

   Motion by Commissioner Clanton, second by Commissioner Betzold, to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2018 meeting as presented. The minutes were unanimously approved.

4. **Business Items**

   a. **Recommend Authorization to Proceed with Social Media Outreach Using Instagram**
   Jen Dullum introduced the idea of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization branching out onto Instagram. Instagram is a photo-sharing platform. Dakota County and the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District are currently on Instagram. Our hope is that when residents of the watershed are out enjoying areas within the watershed they will share their photos on our site. The VRWJPO can also share the projects we are doing and places we go in the watershed with any followers.

      Motion by Commissioner Wotzka, second by Commissioner Borton, to recommend authorization to proceed with social media outreach using Instagram.

   b. **Recommend Authorization to Submit the 2017 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources**
Jen Dullum presented the 2017 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement. This report is due to the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources by the end of April. Jen is asking for any comments or changes before the report is brought to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) at their April 26 meeting.

It was clarified for Commissioner Rydeen that this report is required by Minnesota Rule to be submitted annually. Responding to a question from Commissioner Miller, the budget presented in the report is not the revised budget, but the original budget adopted by the VRWJPB at their December 7, 2017 meeting.

"Motion by Commissioner Henry, second by Commissioner Rydeen, to recommend authorization to submit the 2017 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources."

c. **Recommend Approval of Proposed Amendments to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) 2018 Budget**

Mark Zabel began by explaining that after the financial books are closed a request is sent for a final balance sheet and funds update. What Mark is given is end of year report for the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) for actual revenues, expenditures and cash balance, not estimated. This is so a comparison can be made to the adopted budget, adjustments made, and resulting balances revised. Commissioners were given the VRWJPO Draft Revised 2018 Budget; items in red have changed. Mark went over each line item that was in red.

Commissioner Rydeen asked about the timing for sale of wetland credits from the wetland restoration/bank project. Mark Zabel responded that 15% of the estimated credits will be available after construction is complete. The remaining credits will be available after the wetland restoration is verified complete by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which could take up to five years for restoration.

Replying to Commissioner Rydeen, if everything goes as planned in 2018; the fund balance of $314,000 will remain the same. Commissioner asked if Dakota County audits the VRWJPO. Since Dakota County is the VRWJPO’s fiscal agent, the VRWJPO is included in Dakota County’s annual audit. Responding to a question from Commissioner Rydeen, the next step for the draft revised budget is to bring it to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board for approval at their next meeting.

"Motion by Commissioner Borton, second by Commissioner Betzold, to recommend approval of proposed amendments to the VRWJPO 2018 Budget."

5. **Updates**

a. **Chairman’s Report**

None

b. **Staff Updates**

Jen Dullum mentioned that staff will be at the City of Lakeville’s Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 21 and the City of Farmington’s Earth & Arbor Day Celebration on Saturday, April 28.

Mark Zabel brought up One Watershed-One Plan. The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) has put together a project list including input solicited from watershed
municipalities. This will be sent to the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the next week to compile into a final plan with the other Dakota County watersheds. The VRWJPO will likely receive $343,500 in new money for new projects beginning in 2019.

Mark Zabel mentioned that the County Road 78-06 Nitrate Treatment project has been making the news. The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources produced an article and video of the project with was picked up by Minnesota Public Radio and subsequently the Associated Press and U.S. News and World Report.

Curt Coudron reported that the Landscaping for Clean Water workshops have been generating good attendance. There have been between 30-40 residents at each workshop.

6. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Clanton, second by Commission Betzold, to adjourn the meeting at 4:14 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved.