



Meeting Minutes

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board Meeting

June 25, 2020, 1 p.m.

Videoconference via Zoom

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 Ermer, Watershed Co-administrator

Helen Brosnahan, Assistant County Attorney

Travis Thiel, VRWJPO Watershed Specialist

Mark Ryan, VRWJPO Watershed Engineer

Jen Dillum, VRWJPO Public Outreach and Communications

Bruce Johnson, Dakota County Soil and Water Supervisor

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Slavik at 1:01 p.m. after attendees announced their presence at the Zoom meeting.

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

Commissioner Slavik requested the addition of staff updates as Item 5 to the agenda.

- a. Approval of Agenda
- b. Approval of Minutes from the April 23, 2020, meeting
- c. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
- d. Approval of Expenses
- e. Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Lakeville for the East Lake Fish Barrier Feasibility Study
- f. Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Rosemount for an Irrigation Audit Program

- g. Appointment of Stephen Hamrick to the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission

Res. No. VRW 20-11: Motion by Commissioner Wolf, Second by Commissioner Holberg and passed 3-0 on a roll call vote to approve the consent agenda, as amended.

5. Staff Updates

Mark Ryan gave a brief project update on the Ravenna Trail project, describing the landowner meetings and the balancing of project components to meet the landowners concerns with the project budget. He also mentioned that several permits have come in from Eureka Township this year and that the 2019 amendments to the Standards for erosion and sediment control have resulted in at least one fewer permit.

Melissa Bokman Ermer gave an update on the New Market Township E. coli levels. A third round of letters have been sent to homeowners with non-conforming septic systems and/or homes built before 2000. Scott County is offering grants up to \$4,000 through the Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) for septic upgrades where there is an imminent health and safety concern septic system but have not had any interest from homeowners thus far. This summer Scott County with the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District hope to use drones to further investigate the situation.

Jen Dullum told the Commissioners that she is working on making programming and activities virtual due to the current COVID-19 health restrictions.

Travis Thiel is working with the Minnesota Department of Veteran Affairs on possible site improvements at the Hastings facility to reduce groundwater use. Potential projects include reusing site runoff for toilet flushing and vehicle washing. Vehicle washing would be used at the adjacent Minnesota Department of Transportation facility. A feasibility study is in the works.

Travis also noted that a water quality improvement projects in Hastings will be constructed soon in partnership with the City of Hastings and will be using 2019 WBIF funding. The projects are proposed along 21st Street and include a filter, ravine clean out and stabilization, and a hydrodynamic separator.

Mark Zabel noted that work on the next round of WBIF continues. Draft project selection criteria have been created and adopted by the group meeting on the Vermillion River watershed. Soliciting potential projects and evaluating them using the adopted criteria for project ranking will be the next step in the process. Funding likely won't be seen in the VRWJPO accounts until early 2021.

Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Wolf Second by Commissioner Holberg and passed on a roll call vote 3-0 to adjourn the meeting at 1:14 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: July 23, 2020 – location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted:


Jen Dullum
Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

Mark Zabel
Administrator for the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

Attest



Commissioner Secretary/ Treasurer



Date