



# Agenda

## Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board Meeting

January 28, 2021, 1 p.m.

Teleconference using Zoom

- |  |             |         |
|--|-------------|---------|
| 1. Call to Order   |             |         |
| 2. Election of Joint Powers Board Officers   | Action      |         |
| 3. Roll Call   |             |         |
| 4. Audience Comments on Items Not on the Agenda<br>(please limit audience comments to five minutes)                            |             |         |
| 5. Consent Agenda  | Action      |         |
| a. Approval of Agenda  |             | Page 1  |
| b. Approval of Minutes from the December 3, 2020, Meeting  |             | Page 2  |
| c. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report  |             | Page 8  |
| d. Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District for Services in 2021               |             | Page 9  |
| e. Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Scott Soil and Water Conservation District for Services in 2021                       |             | Page 12 |
| f. Authorization to Amend a Joint Powers Agreement with City of Hastings for the 21st St. Stormwater Treatment Projects        |             | Page 15 |
| 6. Approval of Expenses  | Action      | Page 18 |
| 7. Business Items  |             |         |
| a. Public Hearing to Receive Comments on an Amendment to the Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan Implementation Section | Action      | Page 20 |
| b. Hastings High School Field Biology Class Presentation on Monitoring Macroinvertebrates at a Site in the Vermillion River    | Information | Page 24 |
| c. Consideration of Candidates and Appointments to the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission                          | Action      | Page 45 |
| 8. Staff Reports   |             |         |
| 9. Adjourn   | Action      |         |

\* Draft minutes from the January 13, 2021 Watershed Planning Commission Meeting are included at the end of the packet as information for the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board.

Please note, the January 28, 2021, Joint Powers Board meeting will take place **via teleconference by phone and/or the web-based application, Zoom**. In response to COVID-19, no in-person meeting will be available. We are following provisions in Minnesota Open Meeting Law addressing meetings in the case of a pandemic.



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://dakotacountymn.zoom.us/j/91934422775?pwd=dmNNcnNHU1Z5cnNyS3ZjckJaY0RZZz09>

Meeting ID: 919 3442 2775

Passcode: 026457

One tap mobile

+16513728299,,91934422775#,,,,\*026457# US (Minnesota)

Dial by your location

+1 651 372 8299 US (Minnesota)

Meeting ID: 919 3442 2775

Passcode: 026457

Find your local number: <https://dakotacountymn.zoom.us/j/91934422775?pwd=dmNNcnNHU1Z5cnNyS3ZjckJaY0RZZz09>

### Other Information

Next Meeting Date: **February 25, 2021**, at 1 p.m.

You will be notified if the meeting is cancelled due to an anticipated lack of quorum.



# Meeting Minutes

## Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board Meeting

December 3, 2020, 1 p.m., Teleconference using Zoom

### Board Members in Attendance

Dakota County Commissioner Mike Slavik, Chair

Dakota County Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg, Vice Chair

### Others in Attendance

Mark Zabel, Dakota County, Watershed Administrator

Melissa Bokman Ermer, Scott County, Watershed Co-administrator

Travis Thiel, Dakota County, Senior Watershed Specialist

Mark Ryan, Dakota County, VRWJPO Watershed Engineer

Jen Dullum, Dakota County, Public Outreach and Communication

Helen Brosnahan, Dakota County, Assistant County Attorney

Steve Mielke, Dakota County Physical Development Division Director

Brian Watson, Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District Manager

Troy Kuphal, Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District Manager

### 1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Slavik at 1: p.m.

### 1a. Statement of Need to Change Format of Meeting Due to Health Pandemic

Commissioner Slavik noted that the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) had been meeting in hybrid forum through this past October. With the rise in COVID-19 cases a decision was made to meet remotely.

### 2. Roll Call

Commissioner Slavik and Commissioner Holberg were in attendance.

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

There were no comments from the audience.

### 4. Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Agenda
- b. Approval of Minutes from the October 22, 2020, meeting
- c. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
- d. Approval of Expenses

e. Approval of Dates for 2021 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board Meetings

*Res. No. VRW 20-17: Motion by Commissioner Holberg, Second by Commissioner Slavik, and passed on a 2-0 roll call vote to approve the consent agenda.*

**5. Business Items**

**5a. Adoption of VRWJPO 2021 Final Draft Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy**

Mark Zabel introduced the final draft budget and watershed management tax district levy. Mark went through changes from the preliminary budget, shown in red, that were presented in August. Changes noted were mostly related to final Capital Improvement Project numbers and grant funds anticipated to be received in 2021. Mark shared the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) levy request presentation (attached).

Commissioner Slavik is glad that we are moving forward with stream obstruction removal after seeing photos of the work done with Conservation Corps of Minnesota (CCM) on the Vermillion River near Cedar Ave.

*Res. No. VRW 20-18: Motion by Commissioner Holberg, Second by Commissioner Slavik, and passed on a 2-0 roll call vote to adopt the VRWJPO 2021 Final Draft Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy.*

**5b. Approval of Submittal of an Amendment and Schedule a Public Hearing of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Watershed Management Plan to the Board of Water & Soil Resources**

Mark Zabel introduced this item. The current waterbody is a wildlife pond, listed as a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) public water. The current outlet is challenged and has potential for imminent failure. Staff want to request Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) for repairs. For the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil (BWSR) to approve this project, it needs to appear in an approved watershed plan. Staff requested approval to submit an amendment to the Vermillion River Watershed Plan, as well as approval to schedule a public hearing after a public 30-day review.

Melissa Bokman Ermer added that BWSR had additional questions when staff recently met with them to clarify aspects of the project. BWSR noted that it will be difficult to justify the project as a water quality improvement project. Additional water quality information on the current state of the basin is needed. Troy Kuphal is currently doing additional investigation. Staff will meet with BWSR on December 9, 2020, to discuss further.

Troy gave additional details on the project. The basin is located in New Market Township in Scott County. The area was originally a pasture. A berm was created to make an open water system for storage. Because of the size of the basin, the DNR has identified it as a public water even though it is an engineered system. The outlet, a shallow ditch, flows south until it meets the Vermillion River. The berm structure is over 50 years old. The 12-inch outlet structure is deteriorating and collapsing. The basin is currently providing storage and water quality benefits, capturing approximately 260 acres of drainage. In addition to reducing volume and peak flow downstream, open water basins provide longer resident time for the settling of phosphorous and sediment. A concerned landowner brought the issue to the attention of the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

The Scott SWCD completed modeling comparing the current system to if/when the outlet fails. The modeling program (PTMApp) is a supported model developed by the BWSR. The BWSR is interested in additional information on water quality improvement comparing the existing condition to the future, fixed condition. Scott SWCD is working on modeling reductions in phosphorous and sediment and will be revising retention and peak discharge numbers. Afterward, there are two steps: 1) amend the Watershed Plan to include the project, and 2) demonstrate to BWSR the water quality benefits that make the project eligible for WBIF.

Commissioner Holberg questioned the extent of damage that would occur from outlet failure. Troy Kuphal noted that once the outlet pipe is washed out, the berm will be destroyed. Water from the basin should stay within the channel and flow to the Vermillion headwaters. Every storm following failure of the berm will flow through with no pollution filters. No infrastructure should be impacted except for one landowner driveway and culvert just downstream of the berm (for the Bemis home site). Commissioner Slavik summarized that it would be a one-time failure bringing a lot of water downstream.

Commissioner Slavik has no objection to this project and supports putting it in the Watershed Plan.

*Res. No. VRW 20-19: Motion by Commissioner Holberg, Second by Commissioner Slavik, and passed on a 2-0 roll call vote to approve submittal of an amendment and schedule a public hearing of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Watershed Management Plan to the Board of Water & Soil Resources.*

### **Staff Reports**

Travis Thiel gave an update on the status of several projects:

- Three water quality improvement projects associated with 21st St. in Hastings wrapped up this week: the hydrodynamic separator, filtration basin, and ravine basin stabilization.
- The 78-10 woodchip bioreactor at Castle Rock Town Hall is mostly complete. Seeding and stabilization still need to take place.
- Staff investigated a complaint about standing water in a backyard in Hastings. This is not the first-time staff have been to this residence. The previous landowner also had concerns about water in the backyard. The standing water issue appears to be a result ongoing high water flows and a downstream neighbor having likely placed fill in the floodplain.
- The Dakota County SWCD is planning to submit a multi-organization (SWCD/County/VRWJPO) Conservation Corps Minnesota (CCM) grant application in December. The VRWJPO would like to continue the work at the Bachman's property clearing downfalls and debris to improve river flow and the grant application is for CCM crew time to help with that project. Mark Ryan noted that an important factor for doing some selective removal with CCM is that Bachman's has been a very good private landowner partner to work with on the cleanup.
- The enhancements at the Jaguar Basin (Jaguar and 50), that were approved at the October meeting, will be completed this week.

Commissioner Slavik reiterated his comment about river obstructions and noted down trees in the Vermillion River at Highways 52 and 66 and from Highway 52 into Hastings. He mentioned if there should ever be a project that can look at this, perhaps partnering with other groups like the Hastings Environmental Protectors, to get the work done as it would be beneficial for recreation and water retention.

Mark Ryan provided updates on projects:

- The Records Trail project is complete after seeding in October.
- Small project work on the Jaguar basin and the nitrate treatment wetland at County Road 78 (mentioned by Travis) has been ongoing and finished up with seeding this fall.

Mark Ryan also described a potential collaborative effort in Ravenna Township that has reemerged in discussion with Township officials. Localized flooding is taking place along a waterway which runs through a neighborhood. The neighborhood was built in 1970's without much accommodation for the waterway/dry channel that runs through it because no regulation was present at that time. Existing condition modeling was done for the area by the VRWJPO in 2018. The township was awarded a Community Block Grant (through the Dakota County Community Development Authority) to investigate solutions in more detail. A consultant (Stantec) has completed this work and produced a final memo, and project options will be discussed further at the December township meeting. Travis Thiel has been engaged with a township supervisor recently on project ideas. Project funding and partners are currently being investigated. Staff believe it to be beneficial to create upstream storage instead of just upsizing culverts in the neighborhood, and a project may be considered in collaboration with Dakota County Water Resources/Land Conservation units.

Melissa Bokman Ermer stated that the Webster wetland restoration began construction in November and is almost complete. She will have photos and more detail at next month's meeting.

Brian Watson provided an update on the 2020 Landscaping for Clean Water program. Thirty-five (35) in-person workshops had been scheduled at the start of 2020. The Dakota County SWCD had completed four classes before COVID-19 halted in-person activities. Within three weeks, the classes had been made virtual. Three course types were offered; maintenance, design, beginner. Over 700 people participated in these online classes. 17 projects were installed in the Vermillion River Watershed in 2020; receiving cost share funding. The education committee decided to continue full virtual courses for 2021.

Mark Zabel mentioned that, at the November Watershed Planning Commission meeting, two of students of Hastings High School teacher Joe Beatie's field biology class presented macroinvertebrate data from the Vermillion River. The presentation was well received and Mark would like to have it presented at the January VRWJPO Board meeting.

Mark Zabel received a call from an attorney representing a client/landowner in Vermillion Township who would like to put in a field road, in a low spot, on their property. The property is near the Vermillion River and in a floodplain. The landowner is seeking approval from the VRWJPO. Mark informed the attorney that the VRWJPO does not have a role in permitting within Vermillion Township. Mark directed the attorney to work through township supervisors and noted that there would likely be a permit required from Dakota County because of the regulatory shoreland and floodplain. Helen Brosnahan noted that the property involved is currently in litigation related to violations of County Ordinance 50.

**Adjourn**

*Motion by Commissioner Holberg, Second by Commissioner Slavik, and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 p.m.*

Next Meeting Date: January 28, 2021, at 1 p.m. Location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted:

Jen Dillum  
Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

Mark Zabel  
Administrator for the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

Attest

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Commissioner Tom Wolf

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Secretary/ Treasurer

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Date



## 2020 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Treasurer's Report

January, 2021 - Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board Meeting

		<u>Budget Amounts</u>	<u>Expenses to Date</u>	<u>Expenses Pending</u>	<u>Account Balance</u>
I.	Administration & Operations (217002-0000)	\$ 233,500.00	\$ 224,263.34	\$ 15,434.79	\$ (6,198.13)
II.	Research & Planning (217002-0130)	\$ 65,600.00	\$ 18,415.79	\$ 267.58	\$ 46,916.63
III.	Monitoring & Assessment (217002-0230)	\$ 160,600.00	\$ 84,575.96	\$ 15,419.92	\$ 60,604.12
IV.	Public Communications & Outreach (217002-0330)	\$ 212,050.00	\$ 132,032.37	\$ 15,858.81	\$ 64,158.82
V.	Regulation (217002-0530)	\$ 65,900.00	\$ 28,150.62	\$ 2,411.14	\$ 35,338.24
VI.	Coordination & Collaboration (217002-0531)	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 24,067.64	\$ 1,377.57	\$ (5,445.21)
VIII.	Feasibility/Preliminary Studies (217002-0631)	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 190,945.93	\$ 12,507.61	\$ (3,453.54)
X.	Capital Improvement Projects (217092-0130)	\$ 504,300.00	\$ 233,662.81	\$ 45,375.29	\$ 225,261.90
XI.	Met Council Grant (217002-0832)	\$ -	\$ 1,300.00	\$ -	\$ (1,300.00)
XII.	CWF Grant - Alimagnet (217002-0836)	\$ 6,060.00	\$ 6,053.71	\$ -	\$ 6.29
XIII.	CWF Grant - County Road 50 (217002-0837)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
XIV.	CWF Grant - South Branch (217002-0838)	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 33,939.84	\$ 34,642.56	\$ 11,417.60
XV.	CWF Grant - Lakeville (217002-0839)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
XVI.	CWF Grant - South Creek (217002-0840)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
XVII.	CWF Grant - Erickson Park St (217002-0841)	\$ 164,300.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 164,300.00
XVIII.	CWF Grant - Farmington Street (217002-0842)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
XIX.	CWF Grant - Aronson Park Storm (217002-0843)	\$ 100,100.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,100.00
XX.	CWF Grant - Webster Wetland (217002-0844)	\$ 67,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 67,000.00
XXI.	CWF Grant - Technical Assistance (217002-0845)	\$ 19,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,500.00
XXII.	CWF Grant - Imminet Health T (217002-0846)	\$ 8,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,000.00
XXIII.	CPL Grant - South Creek at Hamburg (217002-0847)	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 2,285.22	\$ 239.08	\$ 23,475.70
XXIX.	FY2019 - Watershed Funding Grant (217002-0848)	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,180.36	\$ 553.20	\$ 266.44
XXX.	CWF Grant - Records Trail/Grade (217002-0849)	\$ 105,000.00	\$ 89,672.88	\$ 400.00	\$ 14,927.12
XXXI.	CWF Grant - 21st Street Ravine Outlet (217002-0850)	\$ 147,600.00	\$ 73,800.00	\$ -	\$ 73,800.00
XXXII.	CWF Grant - Vermillion Falls Bio (217002-0851)	\$ 37,000.00	\$ 18,500.00	\$ -	\$ 18,500.00
XXXIII.	CWF Grant - Middle Creek Restoration (217002-0852)	\$ 430,000.00	\$ 1,819.15	\$ 114.89	\$ 428,065.96
VRW JPO Revised Budget Expense TOTAL		<u>\$ 2,657,510.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,237,346.47</u>	<u>\$ 144,602.44</u>	<u>\$ 1,255,241.94</u>

Budget Funding Sources

Scott County Levy	\$ 34,000.00
Dakota County Levy	\$ 966,000.00
Expected 2019 Carryover (Fund Balance)	\$ 569,240.00
Special Use Permit	\$ 2,500.00
2019 CWF Grants (BWSR)	\$ 440,000.00
2019 CWF Grant 1W1P (BWSR)	\$ 159,400.00
CPL Grant South Creek at Hamburg	\$ 25,000.00
Met Council Grant	\$ -
Expected CIP	\$ 549,660.00
Investment Earnings	\$ 20,000.00

\$ 2,765,800.00



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**5d. Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District for Services in 2021**

Meeting Date: 1/28/2021  
Item Type: Regular-Action  
Contact: Brian Watson  
Telephone: 651-480-7778  
Prepared by: Mark Zabel  
Reviewed by: N/A

N/A

**PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED**

- Authorization to execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for services in 2021

**SUMMARY**

Each of the tasks in Dakota County SWCD's proposed work plan and budget (Attachment A) is included as a line item in the 2021 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) budget. The largest proposed spending is in the Capital Improvement Project category. Rather than developing VRWJPO cost-sharing programs that duplicate existing efforts, the VRWJPO relies on the established cost-share programs implemented by Dakota County SWCD to efficiently implement water-quality improvement projects. The VRWJPO provides Dakota County SWCD with funds to cost-share best management practices (BMPs) in urban and rural areas throughout the watershed.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff requests the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board authorize executing a Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County SWCD for services in 2021.

**EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT**

Total not to exceed \$257,000.

**RESOLUTION**

**5e. Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District for Services in 2021**

**WHEREAS**, the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) provides a variety of essential services to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) each year, including water monitoring, outreach and education, policy development, regulatory review, inventory and assessment, and capital improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dakota County SWCD is proposing to assist the VRWJPO with similar tasks in 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the tasks outlined in the Dakota County SWCD proposed work plan and budget are each included as line items in the VRWJPO 2021 Budget in various categories; and

**WHEREAS**, the VRWJPO relies on Dakota County SWCD's established cost-share programs to efficiently implement capital improvement projects in the Vermillion River Watershed.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) authorizes the chair to execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County SWCD for a total not to exceed \$257,000 as presented to the VRWJPB at its meeting on January 28, 2021; subject to approval by the Dakota County Attorney's Office as to form.

## 2021 Dakota County SWCD Work Plan and Budget to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

### Evaluation and Policy

- Incentive program policy assistance for programs to install voluntary conservation practices \$1,600
- Subtotal \$1,600**

### Feasibility/Preliminary Studies

- Preliminary design, technical assistance and marketing of voluntary conservation practices \$40,000
- Subtotal \$40,000**

### Capital Improvement Projects

- Install water quality projects under SWCD Cost Share Programs \$61,250<sup>1</sup>
  - Implement Landscaping for Clean Water Grant Program (LCW) \$18,750<sup>2</sup>
- Subtotal \$80,000**

### Public Outreach and Communication

- Coordinate tasks under the Vermillion River Watch Program \$ 6,000
  - Conduct Landscaping for Clean Water Workshops (up to 19 total) \$30,400
  - Presentations for Grades 3-12 (up to 5 total) \$4,000
- Subtotal \$40,400**

### Inventories and Assessments

- Provide GIS mapping support \$5,000
- Subtotal \$5,000**

### Monitoring and Data Analysis

- Staff time for sample collection, equipment installation, maintenance, downloading, longitudinal surveys (temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity), winter nitrate monitoring at South Branch Vermillion River \$39,000
  - Data analysis, database management, data reporting, FLUX modeling, reporting \$17,000
  - Water quality sample analysis and QA/QC samples \$19,000
  - Equipment and supplies \$ 8,000
  - Macroinvertebrate collections and habitat monitoring \$ 7,000
- Subtotal \$90,000**

**Total Not To Exceed Amount: \$257,000**

<sup>1</sup> 25% technical and administrative costs will be invoiced for each contracted project installed

<sup>2</sup> Each Landscaping for Clean Water project installed includes \$250 for landowner stipend and \$500 for technical and administrative assistance

**5e. Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Scott Soil and Water Conservation District for Services in 2021**

Meeting Date: 1/28/2021  
Item Type: Regular-Action  
Contact: Troy Kuphal  
Telephone: 952-492-5425  
Prepared by: Mark Zabel  
Reviewed by: N/A

N/A

**PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED**

- Authorization to execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for services in 2021.

**SUMMARY**

Each of the tasks in the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District's (SWCD) proposed work plan and budget (Attachment A) is included as a line item in the 2021 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) budget. The largest proposed spending is in the Capital Improvement Project category for cost share and financial incentives for approved best management practices (BMPs). Rather than developing VRWJPO cost-sharing programs that duplicate existing efforts, the VRWJPO relies on Scott SWCD's established cost-share programs to efficiently implement water-quality improvement projects. The VRWJPO provides Scott SWCD with funds to cost share BMPs in urban and rural areas throughout the watershed.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff requests the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board authorize executing a Joint Powers Agreement with Scott SWCD for services in 2021.

**EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT**

Total not to exceed \$54,025.

**Supporting Documents:**

Attachment A: Scott SWCD 2021 Work Plan and Budget

**Previous Board Action(s):**

**RESOLUTION**

**5f. Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Scott Soil and Water Conservation District for services in 2021**

**WHEREAS**, Scott SWCD provides a variety of essential services to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) each year, including water monitoring, outreach and education, regulatory review, inventory and assessment, and capital improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, Scott SWCD is proposing to assist the VRWJPO with similar tasks in 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the tasks in the Scott SWCD proposed work plan and budget are each included as line items in the VRWJPO 2021 Budget in various categories; and

**WHEREAS**, the VRWJPO relies on Scott SWCD's established programs to efficiently implement cost-share funding for capital improvement projects.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) authorizes the chair to execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Scott SWCD in an amount not to exceed \$54,025 as presented to the VRWJPB at its meeting on January 28, 2021; subject to approval by the Dakota County Attorney's Office as to form.

**Attachment A**  
**2021 SCOTT SWCD WORK PLAN AND BUDGET**

Activity	Detail	Line Item		TOTAL	
		2020	2021	2020	2021
<b>Water Quality Monitoring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor water quality at one station (V24) to include: equipment set-up and take-down; flow measurements; base flow and grab samples collection; programming; thermal monitoring; data processing and management; planning and coordination.</li> </ul>	\$5775	\$5775	<b>\$9,775</b>	<b>\$9,775</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equipment maintenance, repair and replacement expenses</li> </ul>	\$1,500	\$1,500		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lab, data line, and courier expenses</li> </ul>	\$2,500	\$2,500		
<b>Public Outreach and Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conservation, stormwater and youth education, as detailed in the Scott Clean Water Education Program 2019 Work Plan. Includes but not limited to community events/expos, library displays, news releases, Outdoor Education Day; and workshops</li> </ul>	\$1,300	\$1,300	<b>\$1,300</b>	<b>\$1,300</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Program<sup>1</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project development: Identify properties for potential restorable wetlands, buffers, filter strips and other priority conservation practices, including but not limited to those identified in the 2014 subwatershed analysis; promote and market practices to property owners; meet with receptive owners.</li> </ul>	\$2,200	\$2,200	<b>\$41,300</b>	<b>\$41,300</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project design and engineering: feasibility investigations; surveys; project design and conservation plan preparation; construction inspections and certification; cost share contract administration. Eligible projects to include but not limited to: wetland restoration, streambank stabilization, filter strips, bioretention, nutrient management, cover crops, closed tile intakes, grade stabilization structures, grassed and lined waterways, and water and sediment control basins.</li> </ul>	\$8,400	\$8,400		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost share and financial incentives for approved project applications</li> </ul>	\$30,700	\$30,700		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost share and financial incentives carried over for applications approved in 2017</li> </ul>	\$0	\$0		
<b>Regulatory Program Assistance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research, investigations, and corrective action follow-up related to wetland, feedlot, and buffer law compliance.</li> </ul>	\$900	\$900	<b>\$900</b>	<b>\$900</b>
<b>Management and Administration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage work, planning, budget and financial recordkeeping</li> <li>Prepare and administer Service agreement</li> <li>Attend Board, TAG and other JPB-sponsored meetings</li> <li>Identify and develop recommendations regarding JPO programs and policies</li> </ul>	\$750	\$750	<b>\$750</b>	<b>\$750</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$54,025</b>	<b>\$54,025.00</b>

<sup>1</sup> To the maximum extent practical, other local, state, federal cost-share funds will be utilized to implement conservation practices before, or in conjunction with, the use VRWJPO funds. By approval of this work plan, the VRWJPO authorizes the Scott SWCD to utilize funding under this line item to provide financial assistance to landowners and occupiers in the watershed for the implementation of approved practices, as set forth in applicable 2020 cost share and incentive program policies as adopted by Scott SWCD Board of Supervisors.

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**5f. Authorization to Amend a Joint Powers Agreement with City of Hastings for the 21<sup>st</sup> St. Stormwater Treatment Projects**

Meeting Date: 1/28/2020  
Item Type: Consent-Action  
Contact: Travis Thiel  
Telephone: 952-891-7546  
Prepared by: Travis Thiel  
Reviewed by: N/A

N/A

**PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED**

- Authorization to amend a Joint Powers Agreement with City of Hastings for the 21<sup>st</sup> St. Stormwater Treatment Projects

**SUMMARY**

The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) worked with the City of Hastings (City) to design and construct three projects along 21<sup>st</sup> St. that treat stormwater runoff and reduce the amount of runoff reaching the Vermillion River. The projects were completed in Fall 2020, but one project encountered more bedrock than was anticipated even with soil borings at the project location.

Encountering the bedrock required the City and contractor to excavate more bedrock in order to maintain project function and drainage. The resulting excavation increased the cost of the project as a change order was approved for the rock excavation. The rock excavation resulted in an increase in the project cost of \$21,408. The City requested the VRWJPO evenly split the cost overrun with the City.

VRWJPO staff evaluated the Capital Improvement Program finances to determine if there was budget available to assist the City with the cost overrun. VRWJPO staff identified budget available based on cost savings on other projects and projected staff time.

VRWJPO staff requests the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) authorize the chair to amend a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Hastings for the 21<sup>st</sup> St. Stormwater Treatment Projects in an amount not to exceed \$10,704.

**EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT**

The approved VRWJPO 2021 Budget has funding for the project available under the Capital Improvement Program portion of the budget.

**RESOLUTION**

**5f. Authorization to Amend a Joint Powers Agreement with City of Hastings for the 21<sup>st</sup> St. Stormwater Treatment Projects**

**WHEREAS**, the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) worked with the City of Hastings (City) to design and construct three projects along 21<sup>st</sup> St. that treat stormwater runoff and reduce the amount of runoff from reaching the Vermillion River; and

**WHEREAS**, the projects were completed in Fall 2020, but one project encountered more bedrock than was anticipated even with soil borings from the project locations; and

**WHEREAS**, encountering the bedrock required the City and contractor to excavate more bedrock in order to maintain project function and drainage, which required a change order to address the increased cost of the work; and

**WHEREAS**, the rock excavation resulted in an increase in the project cost of \$21,408; and

**WHEREAS**, the City requested the VRWJPO evenly split the cost overrun; and

**WHEREAS**, VRWJPO staff identified budget available based on cost savings on other projects and projected staff time.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) authorizes the chair to amend a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Hastings for the 21<sup>st</sup> St. Stormwater Treatment Projects in an amount not to exceed \$10,704; subject to approval by the Dakota County Attorney's Office as to form.



**FIRST AMENDMENT TO JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE VERMILLION RIVER WATERSHED JOINT POWERS ORGANIZATION  
AND  
THE CITY OF HASTINGS  
FOR STORMWATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN THE VERMILLION FALLS PARK AND RAVINE AREA**

WHEREAS, effective January 13, 2020, the Vermillion River Joint Powers Organization and the City of Hastings entered into a joint powers agreement (Agreement) for cost share of stormwater improvements in the Vermillion Falls Park and Ravine Area; and

WHEREAS the parties desire to amend certain terms of the Agreement as more fully set forth below; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement provides that any amendments shall be valid only when expressed in writing and duly signed by the parties.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein, the parties agree as follows:

1. To amend Section 7.3 as follows:
  - a. The Grant has a match requirement to the amount of the Grant monies received. The VRWJPO shall contribute in an amount to not exceed \$106,554 and the City shall contribute and amount not to exceed \$64,104, for a total Grant match not to exceed \$170,658. The VRWJPO's contribution can be used for design engineering and construction of the Project. The City's maximum eligible reimbursement amount is \$195,304 (Agreement Maximum).
2. All other terms of the Agreement between the VRWJPO and the City for the Stormwater Improvement Projects in the Vermillion Falls Park and Ravine Area shall remain in full force and effect unless otherwise amended or terminated in accordance with law or the terms of the Agreement.
3. In any case where this Amendment conflicts with the Agreement, this Amendment shall govern.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Amendment on the date(s) indicated below.

CITY OF HASTINGS

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Fasbender, Mayor  
Date of Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Julie Flaten, City Clerk  
Date of Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

VERMILLION RIVER WATERSHED  
JOINT POWERS ORGANIZATION

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Dakota County Attorney    Date  
VRW Res. No. \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_  
KS-19-385-1

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Slavik Chair  
Date of Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



**Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization**

4100 220th St. W., Suite 103, Farmington, MN 55024

**Date:** January 28, 2021  
**To:** Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board  
**From:** Staff  
**Subject:** Joint Powers Organization Expenses

**Agenda Item 6a**

Expenses from the invoices submitted between October 13, 2020 and November 20, 2020 totalled \$409,100.95

The invoices submitted between November 21, 2020 and December 16, 2020 are listed below:

<b><u>Invoice</u></b>	<b><u>Vendor</u></b>		<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Nov-20	Dakota County Staff Time	\$	36,019.41
IN26524	Scott County	\$	1,365.02
October	Legal	\$	798.42
2010729798	U of M	\$	2,453.76
120098141	Wenck	\$	1,237.50
230904	MN DNR	\$	4,850.00
Refund	Michael Krummel Master Water Stewards	\$	125.00
20-152018	144Design	\$	95.00
20-172004	144Design	\$	350.00
20-177010	144Design	\$	95.00
12/10/2020	BKJ Excavating	\$	24,627.48
CP 50-23	Dakota County Transportation	\$	90,000.00
30611	City of Lakeville	\$	1,850.00
<b>Total expense as approved on January 28, 2021</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>163,866.59</b>

**Action Requested: Approve all above expenses as presented on January 28, 2021**



**Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization**

4100 220th St. W., Suite 103, Farmington, MN 55024

**Date:** January 28, 2021  
**To:** Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board  
**From:** Staff  
**Subject:** Joint Powers Organization Expenses

**Agenda Item 6b**

Expenses from the invoices submitted between November 21, 2020 and December 16, 2020 totalled \$163,866.59

The invoices submitted between December 17, 2020 and January 19, 2021 are listed below:

<b><u>Invoice</u></b>	<b><u>Vendor</u></b>		<b><u>Amount</u></b>
December 2020	Dakota County Staff	\$	34,059.38
20-10800-19b	144Design	\$	95.00
December 2020	Dakota County Legal	\$	731.89
IN26621	Scott County	\$	1,607.53
VS-0123120	Friends of the Mississippi	\$	8,834.50
3056	Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District	\$	60,292.28
11/18/2020	Fieldstone Creek Irrigation Audit Equipment	\$	1,675.00
2010735977	U of M	\$	2,453.76
5256	Applied Ecological Services	\$	440.34
CP 78-10	Dakota County Transportation	\$	34,012.76
PCard - Zabel	PCard - Zabel Stormwater Permit Fee	\$	400.00
<b>Total expense as approved on January 28, 2021</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>144,602.44</b>

**Action Requested: Approve all above expenses as presented on January 28, 2021**

**7a. Public Hearing to Receive Comments on a Proposed Amendment to the Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan Implementation Section**

Meeting Date: 1/28/2021  
Item Type: Regular-Action  
Contact: Mark Zabel  
Telephone: 952-891-7011  
Prepared by: Mark Zabel  
Reviewed by: N/A

N/A

**PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED**

- Public hearing to receive comments on a proposed amendment to the Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan implementation section.

**SUMMARY**

An existing dam structure in Section 10, New Market Township, is in imminent threat of failure. Built 50 years ago, the structure converted a pastured, Type 1/2 wetland into a Type 4/5 open water wetland with a 24-acre pool area. This pool serves to improve water quality in the Vermillion River by providing increased storage and retention of runoff from its 238-acre watershed. Increased retention time allows settling and immobilization of sediment and nutrients. It also serves to reduce runoff volumes and peak discharge rates, which reduces potential for scouring and erosion of downstream channels. The original construction details are unknown, but it is reasonable to assume, however, that neither the berm nor the outlet pipe meet current practice standards and specifications. This waterbody is identified in Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wetland Inventory as a public water wetland: #70-293W. (See Attachments A and B).

The primary purpose of this project is to not only maintain but also enhance the water quality benefits provided by the structure. Enhancement will result from replacement of the existing, single-stage outlet structure with a new, multi-stage water level control structure. The earthen berm will be reconstructed, either completely or just the section where the new outlet structure will be placed, depending on what is discovered during the yet-to-be-completed geotechnical/engineering assessment.

Water quality benefits will result from enhanced storage capacity of the wetland basin resulting in increased capture, settling and immobilization of sediment (TSS) and associated nutrients (N and P). Modeling will be implemented to quantify estimated water quality benefits. Control of peak flows will further improve water quality by increasing geomorphic stability of the downstream system, thus reducing potential for in and near channel erosion. A flood routing analysis was completed using HydroCAD to predict design storm flows. Three different feasible construction options result in increased storage, therefore increased water quality benefits. Additional DNR requirements, depending on the design option, would require flowage easements or approval by affected landowners.

The total cost estimate of the project is \$30,000. Potential funding assistance will be sought through grant opportunities or partner participation. Eligibility for some grant funding sources is dependent upon inclusion in an approved watershed management plan.

**RECOMMENDATION**

None. This public hearing is for receipt of comments on the proposed amendment for consideration by the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board.

**EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT**

None.

## **Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Watershed Management Plan Proposed Amendment**

### **Bemis Wetland Restoration Project**

An existing dam structure located in the SW ¼, of the NW ¼, of the NE ¼ of Section 10, New Market Township, Scott County, is in imminent threat of failure. Built 50 years ago, the structure converted a pastured, Type 1/2 wetland into a Type 4/5 open water wetland with a 24-acre pool area. This pool serves to improve water quality in the Vermillion River by providing increased storage and retention of runoff from its 238-acre watershed. Increased retention time allows settling and immobilization of sediment and nutrients. It also serves to reduce runoff volumes and peak discharge rates, which reduces potential for scouring and erosion of downstream channels.

The existing outlet structure is beyond its design life and is in a serious state of disrepair. The earthen berm structure remains intact; however, there are signs of deterioration and its exact construction in terms of soils, height relative to spillway, freeboard, etc., are unknown at this time. It is reasonable to assume, however, that the neither the berm nor the outlet pipe meet current practice standards and specifications.

If the berm and outlet structure are not reconstructed, catastrophic failure is imminent. An estimated 57 acre-feet of water will be released instantly, likely resulting in significant scouring of the receiving outlet ditch and the Vermillion River (Reach 520, in Scott County) approximately 2500' downstream. The primary purpose of this project is to not only maintain but improve the water quality benefits provided by the existing structure.

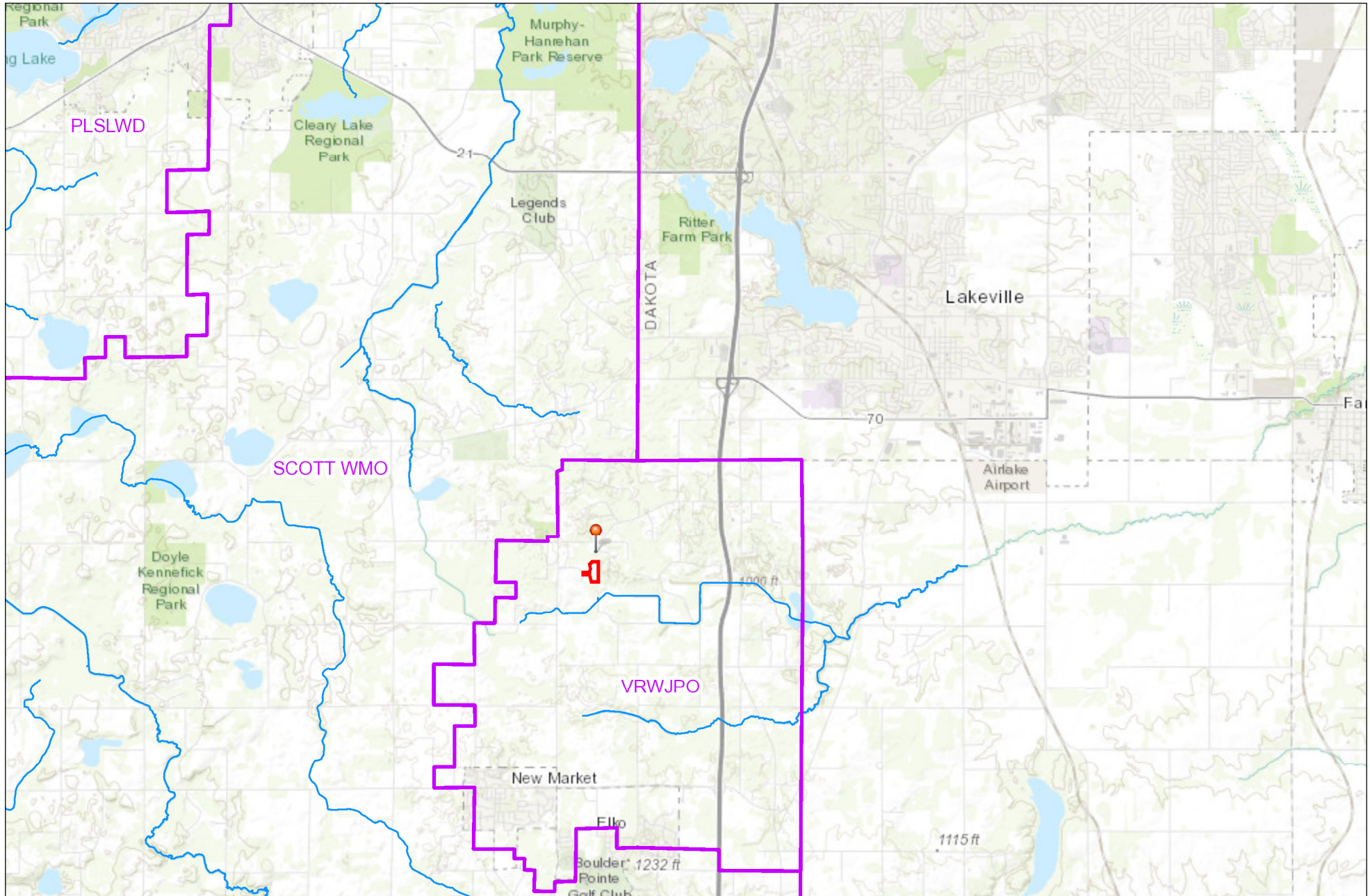
The Bemis Wetland Project will be added to Figure 7.2.1: Upper Main Stem Subwatershed Management Plan, Page 112, under 7.2 Upper Main Stem Subwatershed with an original scenario budget of \$30,000. This will increase the Ten Year Total budget from \$2,387,720 to \$2,417,720. In addition, it will be added to Figure 7.10.1: Implementation Plan Table, Page 121, under Land and Water Treatment, Goal A with a budget amount of \$30,000 for 2021. This will increase the Annual Totals and Totals Funded Through Levy on page 122 for 2021 from \$1,136,975 to \$1,166,975.

Project location can be found on the attached map.



# Scott County

7a- Attachment B



This drawing is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as one. This drawing is a compilation of records, information, and data located in various city, county, and state offices, and other sources affecting the area shown, and is to be used for reference purposes only. Scott County is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained. If discrepancies are found, please contact the Scott County Surveyors Office.



Date: 1/12/2021

1 in = 12,037 ft



**7b. Hastings High School Field Biology Class Presentation on Monitoring Macroinvertebrates at a Site in the Vermillion River**

Meeting Date: 1/28/2021

Item Type: Regular-Information

Contact: Mark Zabel

Telephone: 952-891-7011

Prepared by: Mark Zabel

Reviewed by: N/A

N/A

**PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED**

- Hastings High School Field Biology class presentation on monitoring macroinvertebrates at a site in the Vermillion River.

**SUMMARY**

Student(s) from Joe Beattie's Hastings High School field biology class will describe how they sample macroinvertebrates from the Vermillion River and interpret the data collected from the fall 2020 class they participated in.

**RECOMMENDATION**

None.

**EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT**

Information only.



# College River Monitoring Presentation



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/f/fc/Densu\\_River\\_5.jpg/1200px-Densu\\_River\\_5.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/f/fc/Densu_River_5.jpg/1200px-Densu_River_5.jpg)

# Site Location



<https://www.google.com/maps/@44.7202748,-92.8621197,118m/data=!3m1!1e3>

# What is the purpose of macroinvertebrate monitoring?

- Macroinvertebrates are indicators of an ecosystem's overall health
- Some require very specific conditions to survive, making them indicators of a healthy, diverse area



[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-04/benthicmacroinvertebrates\\_g.carter\\_noaa.jpg](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-04/benthicmacroinvertebrates_g.carter_noaa.jpg)

# How do you conduct macroinvertebrate monitoring?

1. Choose a location on a river, choose different locations in the stream such as a leaf patch, drop off, or rapids
2. Place the net on the bottom of the river and shuffle the area in front of the net to release sediment and macroinvertebrates into the net.

3. Finally, place the collected material into a bucket for further identification



Gabe Sanchez and Nick Mann by Joe Beattie on Instagram

# Macroinvertebrates Collected



<https://tse2.mm.bing.net/th?id=OIP.HfG457qtcQIdnN96y1LwWAHaDk&pid=Api>

# Ephemeroptera (Mayflies)

- Baetidae (Blue Wing Olive)
- Tolerance Level of 4
- Heptageniidae (Flatheaded Mayfly)
- Tolerance Level of 4



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# Odonata (Dragonflies, Damselflies)

- Calopterygidae (Broad Winged Damselflies)
- Tolerance Level of 5
- Corduliidae (Emerald Dragonfly)
- Tolerance Level of 5



[https://genent.cals.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/132\\_img\\_9542.jpg](https://genent.cals.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/132_img_9542.jpg)

- Lestidae (Spreadwings)
- Tolerance Level of 9



[https://tse4.mm.bing.net/th?id=OIP.luy7n\\_l36j2luPXaTLHGNgHaE8&pid=Api](https://tse4.mm.bing.net/th?id=OIP.luy7n_l36j2luPXaTLHGNgHaE8&pid=Api)



<https://tse4.mm.bing.net/th?id=OIP.dOCVI4L1W0v9B5R6AmC2rwHaFf&pid=Api>

# Plecoptera (Stoneflies)

- Perlidae (Golden Stoneflies)
- Tolerance Level of 1
- Pteronarcyidae (Ebony Salmonfly)
- Tolerance Level of 0



<https://tse2.mm.bing.net/th?id=OIPWXfSoNk8djOptTIOUEAVHQHaE-&pid=Api>



[https://tse2.mm.bing.net/th?id=OIPjj2DZO3ZuohNVDpzAvJ\\_3QHaeO&pid=Api](https://tse2.mm.bing.net/th?id=OIPjj2DZO3ZuohNVDpzAvJ_3QHaeO&pid=Api)



# Coleoptera (Water Beetles)

- Elimidae (Riffle Beetle)
- Tolerance Level of 4
- Hydrophilidae (Water Scavenger Beetles)
- Tolerance Level of 5



<https://tse1.mm.bing.net/th?id=OIP.6vHY-h4CH1YrJEFjZIJzVwHaHa&pid=Api>



<https://tse1.mm.bing.net/th?id=OIP.Y9brT9V87jdIGeZCx FkOxgD6D6&pid=Api>

# Hemiptera (True Bugs)

- Belostomatidae (Giant Water Bugs)
- Tolerance Level of 10
- Corixidae (Water Boatman)
- Tolerance Level of 9



<https://tse3.mm.bing.net/th?id=OIP.YT8NYvR RoOXsSRy3AXNSAQHaHa&pid=Api>



[https://tse3.mm.bing.net/th?id=OIP.edIE sMMPR8-l\\_5\\_lcLDVuQHaFl&pid=Api](https://tse3.mm.bing.net/th?id=OIP.edIE sMMPR8-l_5_lcLDVuQHaFl&pid=Api)

# Hemiptera (True Bugs) Continued

- Gerridae (Water Striders)
- Tolerance Value of 4
- Nepidae (Water Scorpions)
- Tolerance Level of 8



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[https://tse3.explicit.bing.net/th?id=OIP.wkyjS\\_U0aBrwWYK5c-dbQAAAA&pid=Api](https://tse3.explicit.bing.net/th?id=OIP.wkyjS_U0aBrwWYK5c-dbQAAAA&pid=Api)

# Trichoptera (Caddisflies)

- Hydropsychidae (Net Spinning Caddisflies)
- Tolerance Level of 4
- Leptoceridae (Longhorn Caddisflies)
- Tolerance Level of 4



[https://tse2.mm.bing.net/th?id=OIP.1vX\\_xPX7jruVmrVRQm4BCQHaha&pid=Api](https://tse2.mm.bing.net/th?id=OIP.1vX_xPX7jruVmrVRQm4BCQHaha&pid=Api)



[https://tse1.mm.bing.net/th?id=OIP.rzTENE\\_XM6zcS7KPf2V21gHaHa&pid=Api](https://tse1.mm.bing.net/th?id=OIP.rzTENE_XM6zcS7KPf2V21gHaHa&pid=Api)

# Diptera (Midges, Gnats, Mosquitoes, Flies)

- Athericidae (Water Snipe Fly)
- Tolerance Level 2



<https://tse4.mm.bing.net/th?id=OIP.1hmZDdSAMWQMeF1IRldrpwHaHa&pid=Api>

- Chironomidae (Non Biting Midges)
- Tolerance Level 6



<https://tse2.mm.bing.net/th?id=OIP.nfPCHK296Bj5fdv5xVcZsgHaFR&pid=Api>

- Simuliidae (Black Fly)
- Tolerance Level of 6



<https://tse3.mm.bing.net/th?id=OIP.i4tFCFulrmCRgbf7iXmdZgHaEo&pid=Api>

# Amphipoda (Scuds)

- Gammaridae  
(Gammarids)
- Tolerance Level of 4



<https://tse4.mm.bing.net/th?id=OIP,ywTXMLsaUDCZy-9bAB3ZhAHaEI&pid=Api>

# Other

- Class Oligochaeta (Worms)
- Tolerance Level of 8



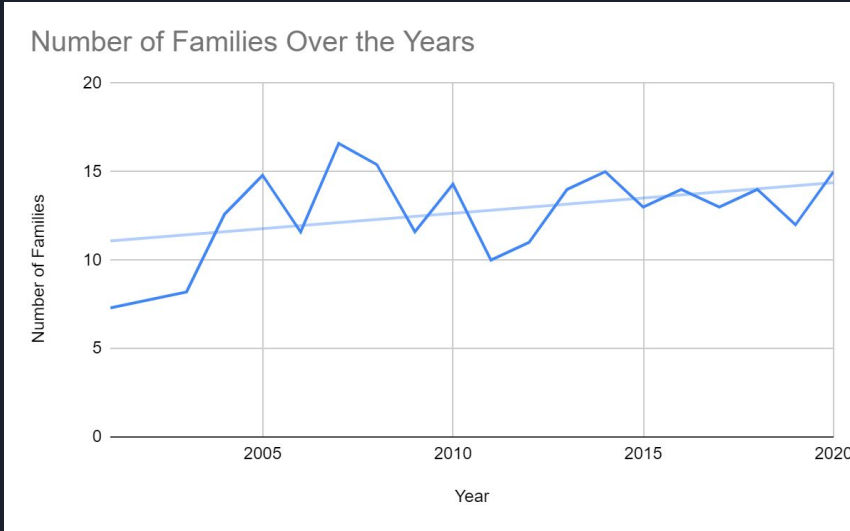
[https://tse4.mm.bing.net/th?id=OIP.F1Tix4rlyiQ7BqYcN\\_MeVgHaFl&pid=Api](https://tse4.mm.bing.net/th?id=OIP.F1Tix4rlyiQ7BqYcN_MeVgHaFl&pid=Api)

- Class Gastropoda (Snails)
- Tolerance Level of 7



<https://tse1.mm.bing.net/th?id=OIP.uZv21cfLIZ6cKsOOTKCVMAH al4&pid=Api>

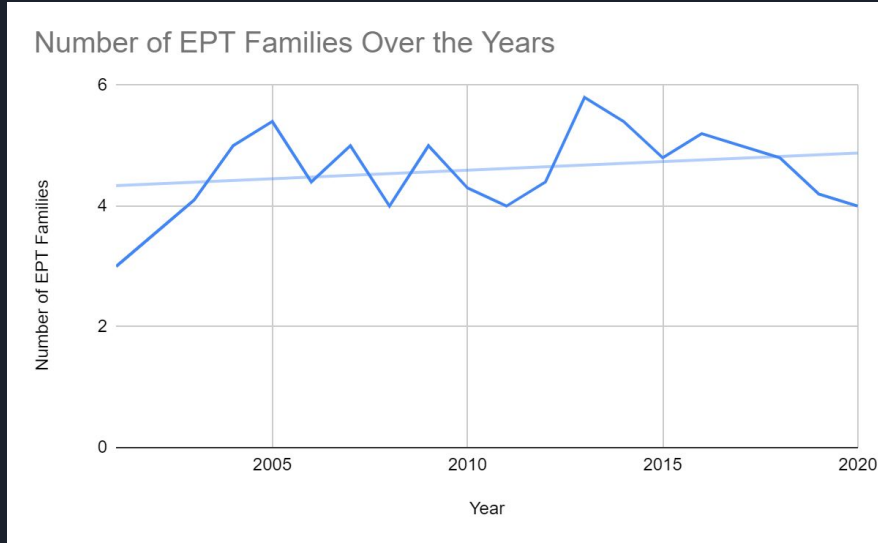
# Number of Families Trends



As the trend line shows, the number of families of macroinvertebrates we have seen is slowly increasing over the years. This would suggest that the river's ecosystem could be healthy enough to support the increase of the number of families over time.

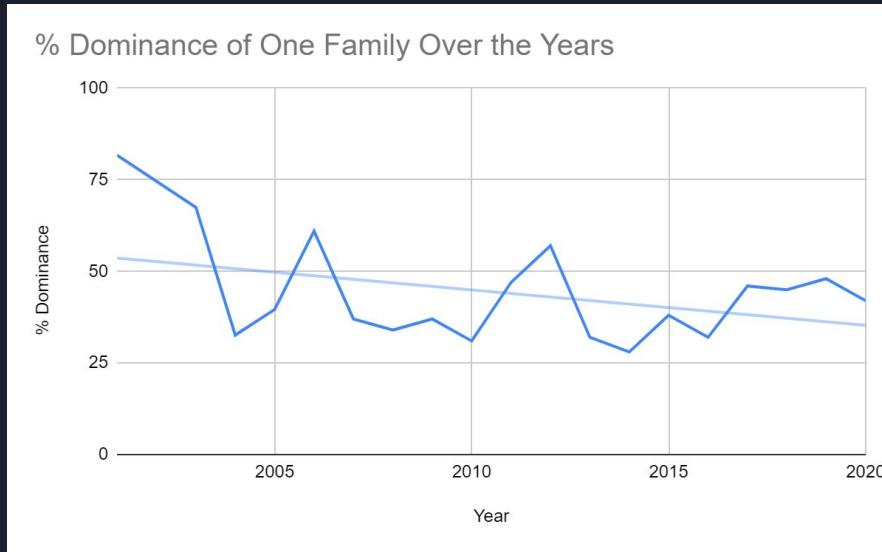


# Number of EPT Families Trend



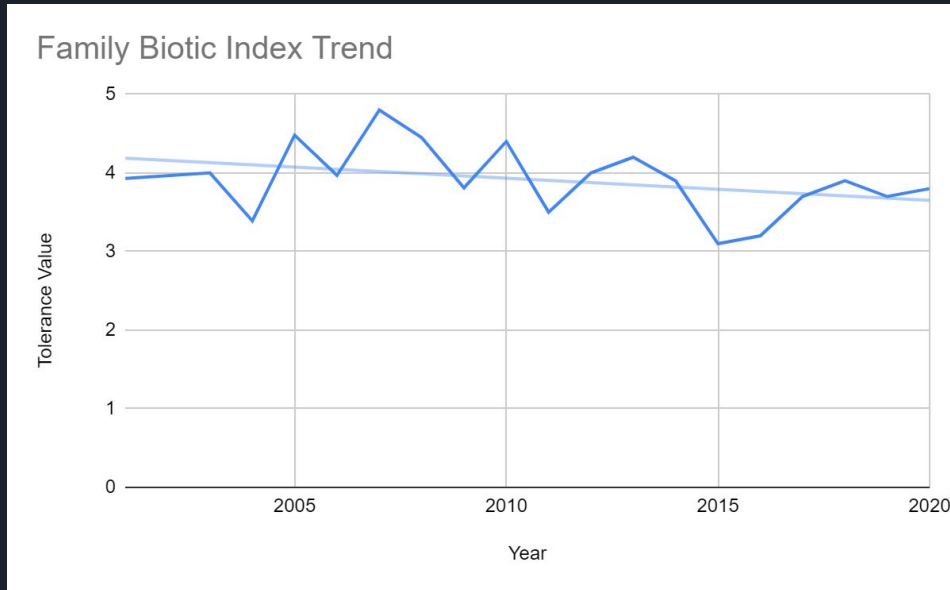
The number of EPT families found has slightly grown over the years, as shown by the trend line, this conclusion may be safe to say that the number of EPT families may continue to rise in the following years.

# Percent Dominance Trend



Over the years the trend shows that the percent dominance of 1 family has drastically decreased, starting from about 82% all the way down to about 21%, which is great news for the river, because it means not one family has total dominance, which is a bad trait for an ecosystem.

# Family Biotic Index Trend



The Family Biotic Index shows how the tolerance of families in the river changes over the years. It has not changed much in the last 23 years, and it has an average value of about 4. This value may suggest that this river is an ecosystem capable of supporting fairly sensitive life.

# Who Supported Me in My Monitoring Efforts?

Joe Beattie



<https://img.apmcdn.org/5ed72c9685a0c6bbc4346f8316d25da1e44b4d93/uncropped/37d338-20141014-20141008vermillion002.jpg>

Lindsey Albright



<https://tse1.mm.bing.net/th?id=OIP.7nP-Q9oXlxJFw6xK4w-SAQAAAA&pid=Api>

**7c. Candidate Consideration and Appointments to the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission (WPC)**

Meeting Date: 1/28/21  
Item Type: Regular-Action  
Contact: Mark Zabel  
Telephone: 952-891-7011  
Prepared by: Mark Zabel  
Reviewed by: N/A

N/A

**PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED**

- Candidate consideration and appointments to the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission

**SUMMARY**

The Joint Powers Agreement governing the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) established a nine-member advisory Watershed Planning Commission (WPC) composed of citizens of the watershed, including eight from Dakota County and one from Scott County. Currently, vacancies exist for two citizens from Dakota County.

Pamela Rubash, a resident of the City of Apple Valley, Dakota County, within the Vermillion River Watershed (Attachment A), Andrew Riesgraf, a resident of the City of Apple Valley, Dakota County, within the Vermillion River Watershed (Attachment B), and James Kotz, a resident of the City of Rosemount, Dakota County, within the Vermillion River Watershed (Attachment C) applied to serve on the WPC. The WPC reviewed the applications and forwarded a recommendation of two candidates, Riesgraf and Kotz, for consideration by the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board for appointment to the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission. The WPC recommended Mr. Riesgraf and Mr. Kotz be appointed to serve as Commissioners on the WPC filling the current open terms ending December 31, 2023.

**EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT**

Members of the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission are eligible to receive a per diem of \$35 per meeting attended. Members may choose to deny receipt of per diem at their discretion.

**Supporting Documents:**

Attachment A: Pamela Rubash, Application to WPC  
Attachment B: Andrew Riesgraf, Application to WPC  
Attachment C: James Kotz, Application to WPC

**Previous Board Action(s):**

- ;

**RESOLUTION****7d. Candidate Consideration and Appointments to the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission (WPC)**

WHEREAS, the Joint Powers Agreement establishing the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) authorized the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) to establish a nine-member advisory Watershed Planning Commission (WPC) composed of citizens of the watershed, eight from Dakota County and one from Scott County; and

WHEREAS, under the Joint Powers Agreement, the VRWJPB is authorized to make appointments to the WPC by resolution; and

WHEREAS, a WPC member is eligible to complete the incumbent vacant term plus two consecutive three-year terms; and

WHEREAS, Pamela Rubash, Andrew Riesgraf, and James Kotz, have applied and been determined eligible to be appointed to serve as a Commissioner on the WPC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the VRWJPB hereby appoints Andrew Riesgraf and James Kotz to the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission with their appointed terms ending December 31, 2023.

**Open Appointments Application for  
Citizen Advisory Committees/Commissions/Boards****Part 1: Applicant Information**

Applicant Name:

Rutash  
Last NamePamela  
First NameJ.  
M.I.☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☒ Ms.

Home Address:

Street Address

Apple Valley  
CityMN  
State55124  
ZipDakota  
County of Residence

Commissioner District: \_\_\_\_\_ (Leave blank if you do not know the number of your commissioner district.)

Telephone:

Cell

( )  
Business( )  
Home

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 2: Committee Selection**

Indicate below the name of the committee(s) for which you are seeking appointment. If more than one, number them according to preference (1 being your first choice). All applicants: complete Parts 3-7. Review Parts 8-10 and complete only those that apply to the committee(s) you select below.

☐ Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board☐ Special Board of Appeal and Equalization☐ Extension Committee☒ Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission☐ Library Advisory Committee☐ Zoning Board of Adjustment☐ Planning Commission☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_☐ Public Art Citizen Advisory Committee**Part 3: Your Rights as a Subject of Data/Applicant Declaration**

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13, Dakota County informs you that the following information which you are asked to provide in this application is private data: telephone numbers, fax number, residential street address, email address, business/financial interest, status as recipient of human services, and criminal record. Unless and until you are appointed to an advisory committee, this information will be available only to you and county officials who need it to perform their job duties. Furnishing this information is voluntary. Failure to provide the information requested in Parts 4-10 of this application may disqualify you from appointment to one or more advisory committees. The remainder of the information in this application is public.

State law requires your residential street address and either your email address or telephone number be made public if you are appointed to an advisory committee. Unless you indicate otherwise, Dakota County will make your email address public. If you do not have an email address, Dakota County will make your home telephone number public. You may request that both be made public or that your business telephone number instead of your home telephone number be made public.

If appointed, I request that Dakota County make public (check all that apply):

☐ Cell phone number: \_\_\_\_\_☐ Business phone number: \_\_\_\_\_☐ Home phone number: \_\_\_\_\_☒ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant

Date

11/11/20



**Part 4: Per Diem**

Most County Board citizen advisory committee appointees, who are not representing a governmental unit, receive \$35 per diem (but no additional expense reimbursement) for attendance at regular and special meetings of the committee. Exceptions are appointees to the Personnel Board of Appeals (\$35 per diem plus expense reimbursement for attendance), and Special Board of Appeal and Equalization (\$175 per day or \$87.50 per half-day plus mileage reimbursement). Applicants may choose to decline the per diem at the time of application.

Please check this box if you wish to decline the per diem: ☒ Decline

**Part 5: Affiliation with Dakota County**

Dakota County employees are not eligible for appointment to any citizen advisory committee, unless otherwise provided by law.

Are you an employee of Dakota County?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Individuals affiliated with Dakota County are eligible for appointment to any citizen advisory committee but do not receive preference in the appointment process and are not automatically disqualified, unless otherwise provided by law. For purposes of this policy, affiliated means (1) has a contract with Dakota County, or (2) is employed by a Dakota County contractor.

Are you currently under contract with or employed by a contractor of Dakota County?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, which contractor? \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 6: Criminal Record**

Having a criminal record does not automatically exclude an applicant from the appointment process. However, to protect the integrity of its Citizen Advisory Committees, Dakota County reserves the right to exclude from appointment individuals who are on probation for a felony level offense or who have been convicted of any of the following felony or gross misdemeanor offenses: homicide/murder, crimes against the person, sex crimes, crimes against the family, crimes against public safety and health, public misconduct or nuisance, or first-, second- or third-degree driving while impaired. Check one and complete as necessary.

☒ I am not on probation for a felony level offense and do not have a felony or gross misdemeanor conviction as listed above.

☐ I am not on probation for a felony level offense and I have the following above-listed felony or gross misdemeanor conviction(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 7: Statement of Qualifications (You may supplement this section by attaching a resume or additional information.)**

**PLEASE NOTE: In accordance with County policy, no paid employee of Dakota County is eligible to be appointed as a member of any citizen advisory committee unless otherwise specified by law.**

Business/Employer: Prison Fellowship

Business Address: 44180 Riverside Pkwy. Lansdowne, VA 20176  
Street City State Zip County

Job Title: Program Director, Prison Fellowship Academy

Current Responsibilities: Manage life transformation program for incarcerated women at the Minnesota Correctional Facility - Shakopee



Previous Work Experience: Business Partnerships Manager, VFAP - Bloomington  
Children & Family Ministry Director, Faith Covenant Church - Burnsville  
National Trainer on Non Profit Best Practices, LOVE, INC. - Minneapolis  
Marketing Director, Page Inc. - Savage mn

Vocational/Educational Background: BA with majors in Business Administration  
and in Communications

Community Service: Girl Scout leader, Boy Scout leader, Drama Teacher

Describe your interest in serving on a citizen advisory committee: I'm very concerned about the  
environment and water quality

**PLEASE NOTE:** Some committees require additional information from applicants.  
Review Parts 8-10, and complete only those that apply to the committee(s) you selected in Part 2.

#### **Part 8: Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board Applicants Only**

Minn. Stat. § 268.666, subd. 3, requires that local workforce councils include as members representatives of the private sector (owners of business concerns, chief executives or chief operating officers of nongovernmental employers, or other private sector executives who have substantial management or policy responsibility), organized labor, workforce and community-based organizations, educational agencies that are representative of all educational agencies within the workforce service area, vocational rehabilitation agencies, public assistance agencies, economic development agencies, and public employment service agencies.

Private sector applications must be accompanied by a letter of support from a general purpose business organization (e.g. chamber of commerce). Public sector applications must be accompanied by a letter of support from the parent agency. For further information on the Workforce Development Board, please call Dakota County Workforce Services at 651-554-5633.

Nominating Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

**Which do you represent:** (Check all that apply.)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private Sector/Small Business                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Economic Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private Sector/Large Business (>500 employees) | <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Education            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private Sector/Minority Business               | <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Labor                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Apprentice                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Public Assistance    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Community Based                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Public Employment    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Rehabilitation       |

#### **Part 9: Planning Commission Applicants Only**

Minnesota Statutes Section 394.30, subdivision 1, the statutory authority under which the Dakota County Planning Commission has been created, requires that: "No voting member of the commission shall have received, during the two years prior to appointment, any substantial portion of income from business operations involving the development of land within the county for urban or urban related purposes."

During the last two years, have you received any substantial portion of your income from business operations involving the development of land within Dakota County for urban or urban related purposes?

- ☐ Yes    ☐ No

**Part 10: Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission Applicants Only**

The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board, consisting of commissioners from Dakota and Scott Counties, makes appointments to the Watershed Planning Commission. Qualified applicants must reside in the watershed (residency will be verified upon receipt of this application) and may be elected officials. Employees of local governments located in the watershed are not eligible for appointment.

1. Are you an elected official?  
☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, for what government entity? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you have personal or employment experience in a field related to watershed management?  
☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, please specify relevant experience: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU!**

**Return completed form to:**

Sr. Administrative Coordinator to the Board  
Administration Center  
1590 Highway 55  
Hastings, MN 55033

Email:  
Fax: (651) 438-4405

**Office Use Only**

Date Received: _____	Appointment Date: _____
Date Entered: _____	Term Ended Date: _____
Appointed: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Retention Date: _____
Committee: _____	





## Open Appointments Application for Citizen Advisory Committees/Commissions/Boards

### Part 1: Applicant Information

**Applicant Name:** Riesgraf Andy T ☒ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms.  
Last Name First Name M.I.

**Home Address:**

Apple Valley MN 55124 Dakota  
City State Zip County of Residence

**Commissioner District:** (Leave blank if you do not know the number of your commissioner district.)

**Telephone:**

Cell Business Home

**E-mail Address:**

### Part 2: Committee Selection

Indicate below the name of the committee(s) for which you are seeking appointment. **If more than one, number them according to preference (1 being your first choice).** All applicants: complete Parts 3–7. Review Parts 8-10 and complete only those that apply to the committee(s) you select below.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Board of Appeal and Equalization                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extension Committee                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library Advisory Committee               | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning Board of Adjustment                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Other:  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Art Citizen Advisory Committee    |  |

### Part 3: Your Rights as a Subject of Data/Applicant Declaration

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13, Dakota County informs you that the following information which you are asked to provide in this application is private data: telephone numbers, fax number, residential street address, email address, business/financial interest, status as recipient of human services, and criminal record. Unless and until you are appointed to an advisory committee, this information will be available only to you and county officials who need it to perform their job duties. Furnishing this information is voluntary. Failure to provide the information requested in Parts 4-10 of this application may disqualify you from appointment to one or more advisory committees. The remainder of the information in this application is public.

State law requires your residential street address and either your email address or telephone number be made public if you are appointed to an advisory committee. Unless you indicate otherwise, Dakota County will make your email address public. If you do not have an email address, Dakota County will make your home telephone number public. You may request that both be made public or that your business telephone number instead of your home telephone number be made public.

If appointed, I request that Dakota County make public (check all that apply):

- ☐ Cell phone number:  
☐ Business phone number:  
☐ Home phone number:  
☒ E-mail address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

11-23-2020\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Part 4: Per Diem**

Most County Board citizen advisory committee appointees, who are not representing a governmental unit, receive \$35 per diem (but no additional expense reimbursement) for attendance at regular and special meetings of the committee. Exceptions are appointees to the Personnel Board of Appeals (\$35 per diem plus expense reimbursement for attendance), and Special Board of Appeal and Equalization (\$175 per day or \$87.50 per half-day plus mileage reimbursement). Applicants may choose to decline the per diem at the time of application.

Please check this box if you wish to decline the per diem: ☒ Decline

**Part 5: Affiliation with Dakota County**

Dakota County employees are not eligible for appointment to any citizen advisory committee, unless otherwise provided by law.

Are you an employee of Dakota County?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Individuals affiliated with Dakota County are eligible for appointment to any citizen advisory committee but do not receive preference in the appointment process and are not automatically disqualified, unless otherwise provided by law. For purposes of this policy, affiliated means (1) has a contract with Dakota County, or (2) is employed by a Dakota County contractor.

Are you currently under contract with or employed by a contractor of Dakota County?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, which contractor?

**Part 6: Criminal Record**

Having a criminal record does not automatically exclude an applicant from the appointment process. However, to protect the integrity of its Citizen Advisory Committees, Dakota County reserves the right to exclude from appointment individuals who are on probation for a felony level offense or who have been convicted of any of the following felony or gross misdemeanor offenses: homicide/murder, crimes against the person, sex crimes, crimes against the family, crimes against public safety and health, public misconduct or nuisance, or first-, second- or third-degree driving while impaired. Check one and complete as necessary.

☒ I am not on probation for a felony level offense and do not have a felony or gross misdemeanor conviction as listed above.

☐ I am not on probation for a felony level offense and I have the following above-listed felony or gross misdemeanor conviction(s):

**Part 7: Statement of Qualifications (You may supplement this section by attaching a resume or additional information.)**

**PLEASE NOTE: In accordance with County policy, no paid employee of Dakota County is eligible to be appointed as a member of any citizen advisory committee unless otherwise specified by law.**

**Business/Employer:** PLEASE SEE ATTACHED RESUME

**Business Address:**

Street

City

State

Zip

County

**Job Title:**

**Current Responsibilities:**

**Previous Work Experience:**

**Vocational/Educational Background:**

**Community Service:**

**Describe your interest in serving on a citizen advisory committee:**

**PLEASE NOTE: Some committees require additional information from applicants.  
Review Parts 8–10, and complete only those that apply to the committee(s) you selected in Part 2.**

**Part 8: Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board Applicants Only**

Minn. Stat. § 268.666, subd. 3, requires that local workforce councils include as members representatives of the private sector (owners of business concerns, chief executives or chief operating officers of nongovernmental employers, or other private sector executives who have substantial management or policy responsibility), organized labor, workforce and community-based organizations, educational agencies that are representative of all educational agencies within the workforce service area, vocational rehabilitation agencies, public assistance agencies, economic development agencies, and public employment service agencies.

Private sector applications must be accompanied by a letter of support from a general purpose business organization (e.g. chamber of commerce). Public sector applications must be accompanied by a letter of support from the parent agency. For further information on the Workforce Development Board, please call Dakota County Workforce Services at 651-554-5633.

**Nominating Agency:**

**Which do you represent:** (Check all that apply.)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private Sector/Small Business                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Economic Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private Sector/Large Business (>500 employees) | <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Education            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private Sector/Minority Business               | <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Labor                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Apprentice                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Public Assistance    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Community Based                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Public Employment    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Rehabilitation       |

**Part 9: Planning Commission Applicants Only**

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During the last two years, have you received any substantial portion of your income from business operations involving the development of land within Dakota County for urban or urban related purposes?

- ☐ Yes    ☒ No

**Part 10: Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission Applicants Only**

The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board, consisting of commissioners from Dakota and Scott Counties, makes appointments to the Watershed Planning Commission. Qualified applicants must reside in the watershed (residency will be verified upon receipt of this application) and may be elected officials. Employees of local governments located in the watershed are not eligible for appointment.

1. Are you an elected official?  
☐ Yes    ☒ No    If yes, for what government entity?
2. Do you have personal or employment experience in a field related to watershed management?  
☒ Yes    ☐ No    If yes, please specify relevant experience: Please see attached resume.

**THANK YOU!**

**Return completed form to:**

Sr. Administrative Coordinator to the Board  
Administration Center  
1590 Highway 55  
Hastings, MN 55033

Email: [board@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:board@co.dakota.mn.us)  
Fax: (651) 438-4405

**Office Use Only**

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Entered: \_\_\_\_\_  
Appointed:    ☐ Yes                      ☐ No  
Committee:    \_\_\_\_\_

Appointment Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Term Ended Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Retention Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Andrew T. Riesgraf

## Objective

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To become a member of the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission (WPC).

## Education

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### UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, TWIN CITIES, St. Paul, Minnesota

*Master of Science in Fisheries and Aquatic Biology*

February 2020

- Thesis: *A field test of a sound deterrent system to block the upstream migration of invasive carp through a Mississippi River Lock and Dam*
- Notable courses: Hydrology and Water Quality Field Methods, Hydrology and Watershed Management, Stream and River Ecology, Ecosystem Health, Ecosystem Ecology, Human Dimensions of Biological Conservation
- Advisor: Dr. Peter Sorensen
- GPA 3.88/4.00

*Bachelor of Science in Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, emphasis in Fisheries*

2014 - 2016

*Minor in Environmental Sciences, Policy, and Management*

- Notable courses: Limnology, Wetlands, GIS for Natural Resources, Vegetation Sampling for Habitat Assessments, and Human Dimensions of Fisheries and Wildlife Management
- Undergraduate Research Opportunities Project  
A collaboration with MN DNR East Metro area fisheries  
Project: *Age, Growth, and Maturity of Freshwater Drum in Minnesota's Major Rivers* October 2014
- Eric Ness Memorial Scholarship Award June 2014
- Dayton P. Kirkham Sr. Scholarship Award May 2014
- Dean's List Spring 2015
- GPA 3.46/4.00

### MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, Mankato, Minnesota

*Bachelor of Science in Law Enforcement*

2004 - 2008

- Dean's List Spring 2007, Fall 2007
- GPA 3.34/4.00

## Employment

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### UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, TWIN CITIES, Minneapolis, Minnesota

ST. ANTHONY FALLS LABORATORY

September 2020 - Present

*Researcher - Field Lead*

- Works collaboratively with a team of professors, researchers, engineers, and students to investigate the impacts of recreational boat-generated waves and propeller wash on lake sediments and shorelines
- Leads daily field work logistics and activities
- Assists with the fabrication, installation, and maintenance of sensor deployment apparatuses
- Deploys and maintains monitoring sensors including water quality sondes (Hydrolab HL4 and DS5X), acoustic doppler velocimeter (Nortek Vectrino), and acoustic doppler current profiler (Nortek Signature 1000)
- Completes data management activities including documentation, data download and entry, and basic spreadsheet analysis

### UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, TWIN CITIES, St. Paul, Minnesota

MINNESOTA AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES RESEARCH CENTER

*Graduate Research Assistant - Sorensen Fisheries Lab*

September 2018 - January 2020

- *Field Technician*
  - Research project investigated a newly installed invasive carp deterrent system at Mississippi River Lock and Dam No. 8
  - Developed and deployed a complex remote access acoustic telemetry receiver array

- Captured common carp via electrofishing and surgically implanted fish with acoustic tracking transmitters
- Collected and organized field data, utilizing databases, spreadsheets, and word processing
- *Laboratory Manager*
  - Managed, monitored, maintained, and repaired a complex fish holding facility
  - Tested fish behavior using a variety of experimental techniques and laboratory procedures
  - Collected, archived, analyzed, and graphed data to be presented in technical writing and presentations

*Fisheries Researcher – Sorensen Fisheries Lab*

May 2016 – September 2018

- Research project tracked the movement of fish around Mississippi River locks and dams to determine how fish respond to water velocities and sound fields, with the intent to apply findings to the deterrence and/or management of invasive carp
- Developed, deployed, and maintained an intricate acoustic telemetry receiver array
- Used GPS equipment to track fish movement via active and passive radio and acoustic telemetry
- Planned, implemented, reported, and presented scientific findings to federal and state agencies
- Performed data collection, analysis, and report preparation, utilizing databases, spreadsheets, and word processing
- Maintained communication with a diverse group of stakeholders via email, phone, written reports, and oral presentations
- Managed project logistics, equipment acquisition, maintenance, and repair
- Effectively worked independently and as a member of the team
- Supervised and managed undergraduate student employees
- Skilled in the ability to catch fish utilizing various sampling gear and methodology including gill nets, hoop nets, electrofishing, and angling
- Proficient in surgical implantation of acoustic and radio tracking transmitters in various fish species including common carp, bigmouth and smallmouth buffalo, walleye, and channel catfish
- Expert in safely operating and trailering boats

**MINNESOTA STATE**

March 2009 – September 2015

NORMANDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, Bloomington, Minnesota

*Public Safety Officer*

- Assigned, supervised, managed, and directed student public safety officers
- First responder to emergency situations and trouble calls
- Responded to campus community inquiries, complaints, and requests, utilizing de-escalation techniques when necessary
- Regulated, monitored, and patrolled interior, exterior, and encircling properties
- Enforced violations of rules and ordinances

**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

May 2015 – August 2015

EAST METRO AREA FISHERIES OFFICE, St. Paul, Minnesota

*Fisheries Intern – invasive carp*

- Assisted with the detection and monitoring of all life stages of invasive carp species in the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers
- Monitored native fish species that may be affected by the establishment of invasive carp species
- Performed growth and age analysis of various fish species
- Documented the collection and organization of field data
- Experienced with the following fish sampling methods: contracted commercial fishing, electrofishing by boat and backpack, gill and trammel netting, trap and hoop netting, and larval trawling
- Assisted in the marking (fin clips and Floy tags) of various fish species



**SOUTH LAKE MINNETONKA POLICE DEPARTMENT, Shorewood, Minnesota** July 2008 – August 2012*Community Service Officer*

- Assisted licensed police officers with routine patrol and medical emergencies
- Performed administrative tasks, animal control duties, community service, crime prevention, maintenance of department equipment and supplies, specialized patrol and enforcement, and prisoner transports
- Effectively utilized public relations skills and resolved dispute and problem calls
- Conducted investigations involving nuisance animal, dangerous animal, and animal welfare cases and executed appropriate follow-up and/or enforcement actions
- Interpreted and explained city ordinances, policies, and procedures to local citizens and businesses
- Implemented enforcement actions when noncompliance with city ordinances, policies, and procedures were identified

**Professional Publications, Reports, and Presentations**

- 
- **Riesgraf A.T.**, Finger J.S., Zielinski D.P., Dennis C.D., and Sorensen P.W. (In Preparation) A field test of a broadband sound designed to block the upstream entrance of carp into a Mississippi River navigation lock. Target Journal: *Management of Biological Invasions*.
  - Finger J.S., **Riesgraf A.T.**, Zielinski D.P., and Sorensen P.W. (2020) Monitoring upstream fish passage through a Mississippi River lock and dam reveals species differences in lock chamber usage and supports a fish passage model, which describes velocity-dependent passage through spillway gates. *River Research and Applications*, 36(1): 36-46.
  - Finger J.S., **Riesgraf A.T.**, and Sorensen P.W. Integrating detection, deterrents, and operations at Upper Mississippi River Locks and Dams. Report submitted to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. March 2019, pg. 1-91.
  - **Riesgraf A.T.**, Whitty J.M., Zielinski D.P., and Sorensen P.W. Integrating a sound/light deterrent and dam gate operations at Lock and Dam 8, Mississippi River to reduce upstream migration of common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*). Poster Presentation. American Fisheries Society Meeting- Minnesota Chapter. February 2020.
  - **Riesgraf A.T.**, Finger J.S., Dennis C.D., and Sorensen P.W. A field test examining the ability of an outboard boat motor sound to deter common carp from passing through the lock of a Mississippi River lock and dam. Poster presentation. American Fisheries Society Meeting- Minnesota Chapter. February 2018.
  - **Riesgraf A.T.**, Finger J.S., Zielinski D.P., Gilmanov A., and Sorensen P.W. Lack of fish passage at Lock and Dam No. 2 supports an agent-based model. Research update presentation. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Research Meeting. June 2017.
  - **Riesgraf A.T.**, Finger J.S., Zielinski D.P., and Sorensen P.W. A custom-built acoustic array that precisely determines the route of fish passage through a Mississippi River lock and dam. Poster presentation. American Fisheries Society Meeting- Minnesota Chapter. February 2017.

**Volunteer Experience****FRESHWATER SOCIETY, St. Paul, Minnesota**

October 2017 - Present

**VERMILLION RIVER WATERSHED JOINT POWERS ORGANIZATION, Farmington, Minnesota***Minnesota Water Steward*

- Developing the knowledge and skills needed to help improve water quality at the grassroots level
- Participates in training curriculum led by experts in the fields of hydrology, stormwater management, water policy, community-based social marketing, landscape assessment, and installation of clean water practices
- Serves as a clean water advocate and volunteers time at community outreach events

**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

October 2014 – April 2016

EAST METRO AREA FISHERIES OFFICE, St. Paul, Minnesota

- Assisted invasive carp species personnel at East Metro Area Fisheries Office
- Aged various fish species via otolith examination to develop Von Bertalanffy growth curves

**WETLAND HEALTH EVALUATION PROGRAM (WHEP)**

May 2014 – September 2015

DAKOTA COUNTY, APPLE VALLEY TEAM

- Community wetland health monitoring program that utilizes an IBI scoring system based on two biological communities: plants and macroinvertebrates
- Performed standard plot sampling methods to gather and identify plant community data
- Performed bottle trap and dip net sampling methods to gather and identify macroinvertebrate community data

**SOUTH LAKE MINNETONKA POLICE DEPARTMENT**, Shorewood, Minnesota

May 2007 - August 2012

- Reserve Officer
- Assisted with community outreach events and programs

**Certifications, Licenses, and Memberships**

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- Minnesota Class D Driver's License
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Watercraft Operator's Permit
- First Aid and CPR/AED Certified by the American Red Cross
- Certified in Electrofishing Safety by the U.S. Department of the Interior
- American Fisheries Society member

Expires June 2021

March 2019

October 2015 - Present

## Part 1: Applicant Information

**Home Address:**

Street Address

## Rosemount

MN

55068

Dakota

City

State

Zip

County of Residence

**Commissioner District:** 4 (Leave blank if you do not know the number of your commissioner district.)

**Telephone:**

(1978-1979)

( ) same

( ) same

Cell

Business

Home

**E-mail Address:**

## Part 2: Committee Selection

Indicate below the name of the committee(s) for which you are seeking appointment. If more than one, number them according to preference (1 being your first choice). All applicants: complete Parts 3–7. Review Parts 8-10 and complete only those that apply to the committee(s) you select below.

- ☐ Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board
 ☐ Special Board of Appeal and Equalization  
☐ Extension Committee
 ☒ Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission  
☐ Library Advisory Committee
 ☐ Zoning Board of Adjustment  
☐ Planning Commission
 ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Public Art Citizen Advisory Committee

### Part 3: Your Rights as a Subject of Data/Applicant Declaration

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13, Dakota County informs you that the following information which you are asked to provide in this application is private data: telephone numbers, fax number, residential street address, email address, business/financial interest, status as recipient of human services, and criminal record. Unless and until you are appointed to an advisory committee, this information will be available only to you and county officials who need it to perform their job duties. Furnishing this information is voluntary. Failure to provide the information requested in Parts 4-10 of this application may disqualify you from appointment to one or more advisory committees. The remainder of the information in this application is public.

State law requires your residential street address and either your email address or telephone number be made public if you are appointed to an advisory committee. Unless you indicate otherwise, Dakota County will make your email address public. If you do not have an email address, Dakota County will make your home telephone number public. You may request that both be made public or that your business telephone number instead of your home telephone number be made public.

If appointed, I request that Dakota County make public (check all that apply):

- ☐ Cell phone number: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Business phone number: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Home phone number: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

James P Kotz

January 4, 2021

**Signature of Applicant**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 4: Per Diem**

Most County Board citizen advisory committee appointees, who are not representing a governmental unit, receive \$35 per diem (but no additional expense reimbursement) for attendance at regular and special meetings of the committee. Exceptions are appointees to the Personnel Board of Appeals (\$35 per diem plus expense reimbursement for attendance), and Special Board of Appeal and Equalization (\$175 per day or \$87.50 per half-day plus mileage reimbursement). Applicants may choose to decline the per diem at the time of application.

Please check this box if you wish to decline the per diem: ☐ Decline

**Part 5: Affiliation with Dakota County**

Dakota County employees are not eligible for appointment to any citizen advisory committee, unless otherwise provided by law.

Are you an employee of Dakota County?

☐ Yes ☒ No

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Are you currently under contract with or employed by a contractor of Dakota County?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, which contractor? \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 6: Criminal Record**

Having a criminal record does not automatically exclude an applicant from the appointment process. However, to protect the integrity of its Citizen Advisory Committees, Dakota County reserves the right to exclude from appointment individuals who are on probation for a felony level offense or who have been convicted of any of the following felony or gross misdemeanor offenses: homicide/murder, crimes against the person, sex crimes, crimes against the family, crimes against public safety and health, public misconduct or nuisance, or first-, second- or third-degree driving while impaired. Check one and complete as necessary.

☒ I am not on probation for a felony level offense and do not have a felony or gross misdemeanor conviction as listed above.

☐ I am not on probation for a felony level offense and I have the following above-listed felony or gross misdemeanor conviction(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 7: Statement of Qualifications (You may supplement this section by attaching a resume or additional information.)**

**PLEASE NOTE:** In accordance with County policy, no paid employee of Dakota County is eligible to be appointed as a member of any citizen advisory committee unless otherwise specified by law.

**Business/Employer:** LRG, Inc.

**Business Address:** 227 E. Milam St Jasper TX 75951 Jasper Cty  
Street City State Zip County

**Job Title:** Regional Manager, North Region

**Current Responsibilities:** I am a sales representative in the security industry. I have lived in Minnesota  
my entire life and have lived in Rosemount, MN for the last 32 years.

Previous Work Experience: I have been in sale representative business for the past 36 years.

Vocational/Educational Background: I have a Associates Degree from South Central College in Sales & Marketing. I have graduated from U of M Minnesota Master Naturalist program (2016), I have graduated from the Master Water Steward - Freshwater program (2019)

Community Service: MN Master Naturalist, Master Water Steward, served various positions on the executive council on the board with Rosemount Area Arts Council (RAAC), and have volunteered with other various volunteer opportunities.

Describe your interest in serving on a citizen advisory committee: Since 2010, I have been very concerned with water conditions across our state and local area. I believe water is something we need to take care of now and, more importantly, our future generations.

**PLEASE NOTE: Some committees require additional information from applicants.  
Review Parts 8–10, and complete only those that apply to the committee(s) you selected in Part 2.**

**Part 8: Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board Applicants Only**

Minn. Stat. § 268.666, subd. 3, requires that local workforce councils include as members representatives of the private sector (owners of business concerns, chief executives or chief operating officers of nongovernmental employers, or other private sector executives who have substantial management or policy responsibility), organized labor, workforce and community-based organizations, educational agencies that are representative of all educational agencies within the workforce service area, vocational rehabilitation agencies, public assistance agencies, economic development agencies, and public employment service agencies.

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Nominating Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

**Which do you represent:** (Check all that apply.)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private Sector/Small Business                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Economic Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private Sector/Large Business (>500 employees) | <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Education            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private Sector/Minority Business               | <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Labor                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Apprentice                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Public Assistance    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Community Based                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Public Employment    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Rehabilitation       |

**Part 9: Planning Commission Applicants Only**

Minnesota Statutes Section 394.30, subdivision 1, the statutory authority under which the Dakota County Planning Commission has been created, requires that: "No voting member of the commission shall have received, during the two years prior to appointment, any substantial portion of income from business operations involving the development of land within the county for urban or urban related purposes."

During the last two years, have you received any substantial portion of your income from business operations involving the development of land within Dakota County for urban or urban related purposes?

- ☐ Yes    ☐ No

**Part 10: Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission Applicants Only**

The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board, consisting of commissioners from Dakota and Scott Counties, makes appointments to the Watershed Planning Commission. Qualified applicants must reside in the watershed (residency will be verified upon receipt of this application) and may be elected officials. Employees of local governments located in the watershed are not eligible for appointment.

1. Are you an elected official?

☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, for what government entity? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you have personal or employment experience in a field related to watershed management?

☒ Yes ☐ No If yes, please specify relevant experience: Master Water Steward - Freshwater program (2019)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU!**

**Return completed form to:**

Sr. Administrative Coordinator to the Board  
Administration Center  
1590 Highway 55  
Hastings, MN 55033

Email: [board@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:board@co.dakota.mn.us)

Fax: (651) 438-4405

**Office Use Only**

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Appointment Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Entered: \_\_\_\_\_

Term Ended Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Appointed: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Retention Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee: \_\_\_\_\_





# Minutes

## Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission Meeting

January 13, 2021 - 3:30 p.m.

Zoom Videoconference

### WPC Members in Attendance

Josh Borton      Chuck Clanton  
Tony Wotzka     Mark Henry  
Ken Betzold     Steve Hamrick

### Staff in Attendance

Mark Zabel, VRWJPO  
Mark Ryan, VRWJPO  
Paula Liepold, VRWJPO  
Travis Thiel, VRWJPO

### Others in Attendance

Curt Coudron, Dakota County SWCD  
Laurie Halverson, Commissioner,  
Dakota County

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Henry at 3:35 p.m. Roll call was taken.

### 2. Election of Officers

Mark Zabel opened nominations for Chair. Motion by Commissioner Clanton for Commissioner Henry as Chair. Commissioner Henry accepted the nomination. Zabel called for any further nominations and made a third call for nominations. There were no further nominations. Zabel then called for any objection to election of Commissioner Henry to the position of Chair by acclamation. There were no objections. Zabel declared Commissioner Henry elected to Chair by acclamation and turned control of the meeting over to Mr. Henry.

Commissioner Henry called for nominations for Vice-chair. No members offered a nomination. Commissioner Henry asked again for a member to make a nomination and provided some time for response. When there was no response, Commissioner Henry then made a nomination of Commissioner Betzold as Vice-chair. Commissioner Henry then called for further nominations and repeated the call for nominations a third time. There were no further nominations. Commissioner Henry then suggested the election of Commissioner Betzold to Vice-chair via White Ballot. Commissioner Henry asked if there was any objection to this action and there was none. Commissioner Henry then declared Commissioner Betzold elected to Vice-chair. Commissioner Henry noted that Commissioner Betzold has served as Township Chairman in the past and served well in that capacity.

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

None

#### **4. Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Henry asked for a motion to approve the agenda as provided in the packet.

*Motion by Commissioner Borton, second by Commissioner Betzold, to approve the agenda. The agenda was unanimously approved by 6-0 roll call.*

#### **5. Approval of Minutes**

Zabel indicated to the members that Commissioner Clanton had contacted him earlier in the day to inform him that information pertinent to the meeting was missing from the draft minutes. Upon review of the draft minutes provided in the meeting packet, Zabel discovered that indeed pages were missing; the first half of the meeting was noted but the second half was not. This may have occurred in compiling the materials into the packet for posting. Zabel then corrected the minutes by including the missing materials in a revised set of draft minutes that was distributed to members via email in anticipation of the requirement for corrections at this meeting. Zabel suggested members refer to this revised version and provide any additional corrections which would be incorporated upon their approval. There were no further corrections or other changes suggested.

*Motion by Commissioner Clanton, second by Commissioner Borton, to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2020, meeting, as revised. The minutes were unanimously approved by 6-0 roll call vote.*

#### **6. Business Items**

##### **6a. Recommendation to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District for Services in 2021**

Zabel outlined that this item is for an agreement with the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) that is pursued annually to allow cooperation and collaboration between the VRWJPO and the Dakota County SWCD to implement water quality improvement projects within the watershed. This year there are no significant changes to the work plan or budget as compared to last year. Zabel then requested Curt Coudron from the SWCD provide any further comments or detail pertinent to the requested recommendation.

Coudron commented that the Dakota SWCD is highly appreciative of the partnership and the opportunities for collaboration that are provided through this agreement. The agreement allows both organizations the opportunity to share strengths in implementing our missions and getting projects in the ground. Coudron then detailed the individual elements of the work plan.

When Coudron was highlighting the importance of work on feasibility and preliminary design, Chair Henry asked if people are generally cooperative with the work proposed by the staff of the SWCD when they are either approached by the SWCD for a conservation project or they reach out to the SWCD for a potential project on their property. Coudron responded that both approaches occur, the SWCD staff are approached by interested landowners and staff also approach landowners to try to encourage implementation of targeted practices. Coudron commented that it is usually easier when the landowner is the initiator, but that cooperation occurs with both.

Chair Henry also commented that he believes SWCD and others have been successful in getting more habitat on the ground in Dakota County than there has been in the past and asked if SWCD staff are seeing that as well. Coudron commented that he agrees that there is probably more habitat in the



landscape, in his opinion, than in the past but it is structured differently. Habitat is now more consolidated into big chunks where in the past it was more distributed in woodlots, fence lines, and the like. Chair Henry agreed with those statements.

Commissioner Clanton asked about the amount of CIP funding allocated (\$61,000) and how many projects is that distributed to. Coudron indicated that 14 projects were completed using those funds last year. Clanton also asked how much the use of those funds leverage other funding. Coudron responded that funds are usually leveraged at an equal level. Cover crops leverage Clean Water Funds through the Board of Water and Soil Resources. Project dollars are leveraged from landowners or other partners and the VRWJPO funds provide incentive that allows projects to be implemented that otherwise might not occur. Coudron noted that these dollars also attract technical assistance opportunities available through Clean Water Fund or other partners such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

*Motion by Commissioner Wotzka, second by Commissioner Betzold, to recommend execution of a joint powers agreement with the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District. The motion passed on an 6-0 roll-call vote.*

#### **6b. Recommendation to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Scott Soil and Water Conservation District for Services in 2021**

There was no representative from Scott SWCD at the meeting so Mark Zabel provided representation for the item. Zabel indicated that there were no differences between the work plan and budget presented compared to the work plan and budget in last year's agreement. However, members should be aware that there is a request to amend the Watershed Plan to include a project for an outlet repair on a wetland basin called the Bemis Wetland to be added to the implementation section. The public hearing related to this plan change was an item on the November 2020 meeting agenda. If that project is constructed it may impact the budget and the Scott SWCD may request an amendment the agreement in the future. This was not included at this time due to the uncertainty associated with the timing and the potential for funding from grants or other partner participation.

Chair Henry commented that he was curious as to the proportionality between the Dakota and Scott SWCD budgets in these agreements in comparison to the land areas serviced. Zabel commented that Scott SWCD generally overbudgets the CIP category for them to assure that they have funds to cover any project contracts that may come forward during the term of the agreement and rarely make use of all of those funds. Therefore, the VRWJPO has not had issue with needs identified through their work plan. If this did become an issue, we might need to do more work in cooperation with the Scott SWCD in project targeting and prioritization. Zabel noted that the Scott SWCD is currently slated to receive grant funding through the Watershed Based Implementation Fund program through the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources to complete a subwatershed assessment in this area which will serve to identify and prioritize potential projects going forward. Chair Henry indicated he was satisfied with that answer.

*Motion by Commissioner Borton, second by Commissioner Clanton, to recommend execution of a joint powers agreement with the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District. The motion passed on an 6-0 roll-call vote.*

#### **6c. Review Applications for Vacant Seats on the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission**

Chair Henry asked how many seats are currently open to be filled by appointment. Zabel indicated that there are two seats open, Commissioner Rydeen has chosen not to seek appointment to another term

and Commissioner Rohrenbach resigned his seat. There are two open seats and three applicants. Zabel briefly reviewed the three applications. Zabel indicated that the only eligibility criteria for applicants is that they reside within the watershed. Beyond that it is up to the WPC to make recommendations, or if they choose not to make a recommendation, the decision would go to a review group made up of the Chair of the WPC, Chair of the JPB, and the Watershed Administrator to make selection(s) among eligible applicants for recommendation to the Board. Commissioner Borton suggested that upon review of the applications, Riesgraf and Kotz applications stood out as highly qualified and would be assets to the WPC. Commissioners Wotzka, Clanton, and Henry concurred stating that those two applications were prominent in their clear interest in water resources. Commissioner Clanton noted also that the completeness with which these two applicants filled out the application demonstrated their high level of interest.

*Motion by Commissioner Clanton, second by Commissioner Borton, to recommend appointments of Andrew Riesgraf and James Kotz to the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission by the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board. The motion passed on an 6-0 roll-call vote.*

## **7. Updates**

### **7a. Chairperson's Report**

Chair Henry commented that he is a hunter and has spent time the "Big Slough" fishing the creeks growing up and generally out in the landscapes of Dakota County. He has seen a lot of conservation projects that have been implemented and believes there is probably more habitat in the landscape than in the past (as discussed earlier). He has recently read articles regarding neonicotinoids and their potential impacts. Commissioner Henry asked if members think we are starting to have an emerging issue with chemicals (pesticides) in the landscape having impacts to wildlife. Do we need to start looking at things other than habitat? Commissioner Henry asked Zabel. Zabel provided some general overview of neonicotinoids and their use and effects as an insecticide. Commissioner Henry went on to describe his observations of the decline of pheasants in the landscape and questions whether this is an effect. Clanton suggested that there are larger issues at play such as the dependence on monoculture cropping and that diversity in cropping would be a help regarding these issues. Commissioner Henry intends to discuss this further with the Dakota County Habitat Alliance group.

### **7b. Staff Updates**

Zabel remarked that everyone has no doubt noticed the absence of Jen Dullum at this meeting. Jen has chosen to leave employment with Dakota County/VRWJPO as of Friday (January 8, 2021) and has accepted employment with a private consulting firm. We wish her well in her new venture.

Mark Ryan shared that the VRWJPO is working with the City of Lakeville doing a bank stabilization on about a mile of Middle Creek in a tributary east of a previous restoration project done a few years ago. Ryan highlighted areas where some specific practices will be implemented on some meander cut banks. He showed both aerial views using GIS and photos taken on-site. Construction is underway now, and Ryan noted that winter construction is unusual on VRWJPO projects, but because this reach is not designated trout stream, work can be done in the winter. Housing is being constructed nearby as this project is underway, and one consideration of doing this project now was to complete the restoration work prior to the entire development being complete to make the project less intrusive.

Ryan then used GIS to describe potential projects to address ravine erosion in Ravenna Township near and west of County Road 54 (Ravenna Trail). Dakota County is putting out a request for proposals to do

some ravine stabilization in this area. There is about 100 feet of fall in some of these ravines. While the engineering budget is from the County, VRWJPO staff will also be involved to provide their input on the design approach.

Chair Henry asks if the WPC could receive a progress report on the Braun Wetland Bank restoration project. Coudron is involved some with the project but agreed with Chair Henry that Dakota SWCD staff, John Stelzner, who is managing much of the project day-to-day, could present a more detailed update.

Paula Liepold is providing some additional support to the VRWJPO in the absence of a communications and outreach staff. Paula listed several of the programs and activities that she will be covering in the interim. Zabel mentioned that he is bringing the open position before the Joint Powers Board for their approval to fill.

## **8. Adjourn**

*Motion by Commissioner Betzold, second by Commissioner Clanton, to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m. The motion passed on an 5-0 roll-call vote.*