



## Agenda

### Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission

April 14, 2021 – 4:00 p.m., Teleconference via Zoom

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Audience Comments on Items Not on the Agenda  
(*please limit audience comments to five minutes*)
4. Approval of Agenda Action
5. Approval of Minutes from the March 10, 2021 Meeting Action
6. Business Items
  - a. Recommend Approval of Proposed Amendments to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) Draft Revised 2021 Budget Action
  - b. Pathways to Projects in the Vermillion River Watershed Action
  - c. Recommend Authorization to Submit 2020 VRWJPO Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement to the Board of Water and Soil Resources Action
7. Updates
  - a. Chairperson's Report
  - b. Staff Updates
8. Adjourn Action

Please note, the April 14 Watershed Planning Commission 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 pandemic.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://dakotacountymn.zoom.us/j/96072233604?pwd=MzNFYnNSeHN5MTUzMj9nbTJPWWpDdz09>

Meeting ID: 960 7223 3604

Passcode: 999999

One tap mobile

+16513728299,,96072233604#,,,999999# US (Minnesota)

Dial by your location

+1 651 372 8299 US (Minnesota)

Meeting ID: 960 7223 3604

Passcode: 999999

Find your local number: <https://dakotacountymn.zoom.us/u/abezQOu0u8>

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Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

4100 220<sup>th</sup> Street West, Suite 103, Farmington, Minnesota 55024



#### Other Information

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Next Meeting Date: **May 12, 2021** at 4:00 p.m.

**Please confirm your attendance by contacting Mark Zabel at [mark.zabel@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:mark.zabel@co.dakota.mn.us)**

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



# Minutes

## Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission Meeting

March 10, 2021 – 4:00 p.m.

Zoom Videoconference

### WPC Members in Attendance

Mark Henry      Chuck Clanton  
Josh Borton     Carolyn Miller  
Ken Betzold     James Kotz  
Andy Riesgraf   Steve Hamrick

### Staff in Attendance

Mark Zabel, VRWJPO  
Mark Ryan, VRWJPO  
Travis Thiel, VRWJPO

### Others in Attendance

Curt Coudron, Dakota County SWCD

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Henry at 4:02 p.m. Member Wotzka was absent.

### 2. Roll Call

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

None

### 4. Approval of Agenda

Chair Henry asked for any changes to the agenda. Upon hearing none, Chair Henry called for a motion to approve the agenda as provided in the packet.

*Motion by Commissioner Miller, second by Commissioner Betzold, to approve the agenda. The agenda was unanimously approved by a 8-0 roll call.*

### 5. Approval of Minutes

Chair Henry requested any additions, deletions, or edits to the agenda. Upon hearing none Chair Henry called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2021 meeting of the WPC.

*Motion by Commissioner Clanton, second by Commissioner Borton, to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2021, meeting, as distributed. The minutes were unanimously approved by a 8-0 roll call vote.*

## **6. Business Items**

### **a. Recommendation to Execute a Grant Agreement with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources for Fiscal Year 2021 Watershed-Based Initiative Funding**

Chair Henry introduced the Item. Travis Thiel described the purpose of the request to approve the execution of a grant agreement from the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) for Watershed Based Initiative Funding (WBIF). Currently \$487,181 is proposed to come to the VRWJPO from the WBIF grant. There were 11 total projects approved for funding through the WBIF. The VRWJPO is receiving funding only for those projects where we are the grantee and fiscal agent. Dakota County SWCD, Scott SWCD and the City of Apple Valley are receiving grants directly and acting as their own fiscal agents for projects they are implementing.

*Motion by Commissioner Clanton, second by Commissioner Kotz, recommending execution of a grant agreement with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources for fiscal year 2021 Watershed-Based Initiative Funding was unanimously approved by a 8-0 roll call vote.*

### **b. Recommendation to Adopt Modifications to the VRWJPO Permit Program Fee and Security Schedule**

Chair Henry introduced the item. Mark Ryan described the permitting program and the need for and use of the fees collected and the security schedule. The VRWJPO provides watershed permits but only in those communities who have chosen not to implement the VRWJPO Standards through their local ordinances. Most cities and townships within the watershed incorporate the VRWJPO standards through their ordinances so if there is a building development or other activity requiring a permit the VRWJPO doesn't issue a separate permit for the activity. If there are design challenges or if it meets certain size criteria we might provide comment on it, but we don't issue our own VRWJPO permit. However, the VRWJPO has implemented a permitting program in one community (Eureka Township) since 2017.

In 2018, the VRWJPO updated the permitting fee document to align with needs from a permitting standpoint. Based on experience with the permitting program over the past few years, the proposed modifications adjust the fees that are charged. There is a \$10 application fee charged with all permits. In addition, money is collected into escrow that is then used to pay for staff to do site inspections, address complaints, or to address inadequacies associated with standards. The current proposal reduces the \$100 per hour fee to \$90 per hour to better align with current staff costs and experience with travel times and rates to sites. The proposal also provides for some additional escrow categories to address different levels of risk associated with different levels of development activities. This is basically an adjustment that keeps us up to date with needs for the permitting program and ensures that adequate but fair escrow amounts are collected.

Travis and others on the call noted that a Tornado Warning was issued for much of the Dakota, Scott, Rice and Goodhue Counties area at this time.

Commissioner Miller asked if this was a preliminary approval and if there was a later public hearing. Mark Ryan responded that this action will be a recommendation to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board and there will be a public hearing for this item at the next Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Clanton asked if the public hearing was an

automatic requirement or if it had a specific trigger of interest, like 25 people requesting there be a public hearing. Zabel responded that the VRWJPO is required to hold a public hearing but that doing so isn't really an additional burden other than the cost to publish a notice in the County newspaper of record. All meetings of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board are public meetings and so having an associated public hearing is not a problem. Chair Henry asked if the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board meetings are now in person or if they are virtual. Zabel answered that they are still in virtual mode. The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board will be discussing future meeting formats at its next meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Changes to meeting formats will be noticed with the posting of future meeting packets and materials.

*Motion by Commissioner Miller, second by Commissioner Betzold, recommending to adopt modifications to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Permit Program Fee and Security Schedule was unanimously approved by a 8-0 roll call vote.*

## **7. Updates**

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

Chair Henry commented that he had a conversation with Mark Ryan about the possibility for a project for nitrate reduction within the Dakota County Fairgrounds easement area. Mark Ryan mentioned that he and Travis Thiel had visited the area Wednesday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. There may be potential to do something there. The existing channel does seem to be providing hydrologic connection to the surrounding wetland area, though there is some potential to modify the wetland hydrology there. Doing so would promote more area as wetland whereas much of the existing restoration is oriented more toward prairie. One of the first questions would be the delineation of what portions of the easement area landscape should be wetland and what portion prairie. Chair Henry commented that he would like some input from VRWJPO and DCSWCD staff as to potential restoration and management efforts. There are some funds available for restoration. There is some expectation that part of the area would remain in existing reed canary grass and sedges as that is what will grow in anyway.

Chair Henry asked about the potential to redistribute spoil piles in the easement area (spoil piles were placed as part of wetland/ditch excavation many years ago). The amount of funds may not be there to deal with this. Chair Henry's primary interest in the potential for nitrate treatment and benefits to the system. Travis mentioned that this is something we can look at but there are issues that would need to be considered in the process. Vegetation changes would be one, another would be the potential for changes to the delineated floodplain and the potential need for a revision to the floodplain associated with a project, which could involve a filing of a Letter of Map Revision with FEMA (which can be an involved and costly process). Travis offered that he and others will continue looking into these issues and keep Chair Henry and members informed of possibilities for this site.

Commissioner Clanton asked how much is known about concentrations of nitrate in water coming into and leaving the easement area. Travis indicated that there has been sampling in the area in the past and Mark Ryan indicated that previous sampling indicated concentrations of up to twice the water quality standard. Commissioner Clanton asked if this is something that could be included in future agendas. Commissioner Clanton went on to ask if removal of vegetation through a harvest of some type might be feasible as a means of removing nutrients. Chair Henry mentioned that the County and Fair Board have been considering some alternative uses to assist in management of the site as prairie. Harvesting may be an option. Chair Henry commented that input from resource professionals are welcomed. Commissioner Clanton asked whether this might be good project for students seeking a capstone

project, especially for those involved in sustainable design programs. Chair Henry indicated being open to that. Chair Henry went on to state that the Fair Board is looking for how to best meet their commitment to manage the area as a natural area and prairie. Commissioner Miller requested that staff provide a presentation on the process for how projects come to the VRWJPO and are considered and prioritized at an upcoming meeting.

Commissioner Clanton reported on a recent meeting (February 23<sup>rd</sup>) of the Local Advisory Team (LAT) for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to assist with addressing nitrate issues in the Hastings Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA). The LAT has been meeting occasionally over the last two years. The recent meeting was held to review draft Best Management Practices (BMPs) for farmers to use in order to reduce nitrate levels in the groundwater. The purpose of the development of the BMPs is to promote practices that have the potential to reduce the nitrate levels in groundwater. If the nitrate levels in groundwater in the DWSMA are not reduced over time, farmers could be required to use the BMPs or further actions to address the nitrate levels could be implemented. Commissioner Clanton commented that his opinion is that most farmers in the area already incorporate most of these BMPs in their operations. Travis Thiel asked if the LAT discussions were only focused on BMP development or did they also address Alternative Management Techniques (AMTs). AMTs are more stringent practices that can be implemented by farmers if BMPs are not found to be effective at reducing nitrate concentrations in groundwater. Clanton indicated that AMTs were included. Clanton said they address nitrogen fertilizer and he thinks farmers in the area are there already. Zabel indicated that this issue is something that may be worth having on the agenda at a future meeting as an information item where we could have staff from the Dakota County Groundwater Unit organize some information in regard to the nitrate in groundwater issue for the DWSMA. Perhaps some people from MDA could be included to talk about what the LAT is trying to accomplish in general and what the MDA's charge is in this, to give a full picture for us.

**b. Staff Updates**

Curt Coudron noted that the cost share policy presented at the last meeting has been approved by the Dakota County SWCD Board and so the Harvestable Cover cost share program is now in place. Curt also reported that the Dakota County SWCD will be receiving some Watershed Based Implementation Funds for projects and a subwatershed analysis being implemented by the SWCD.

Mark Zabel reported that he and Chuck Clanton have been invited to participate in a Board of Water and Soil Resources training on citizen advisory committees as presenters. Zabel also reported that the vacant position was posted on February 26<sup>th</sup> and closes Friday (March 12<sup>th</sup>). There were 47 applicants as of March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Hopefully we may be able to make an offer, if all goes well, by the end of the month. Zabel will be on the call for the Township Officer's meeting just to monitor the call, we have not been asked to present.

**8. Adjourn**

*Motion by Commissioner Miller, second by Commissioner Kotz, to adjourn the meeting at 4:57 p.m. The motion passed on a 7-0 roll-call vote.*

**6a. Recommend Approval of Proposed Amendments to the Vermillion River Watershed  
Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) 2021 Budget**

Meeting Date: 4/14/21  
Item Type: Action  
Contact: Mark Zabel  
Telephone: 952-891-7011  
Prepared by: Mark Zabel



**PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED**

- Recommend approval of proposed amendments to the VRWJPO 2021 Budget

**SUMMARY**

At its meeting on December 3, 2020, the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) adopted the Final 2021 VRWJPO Budget (Resolution No. VRW 20-18). The budget included expenses totaling \$2,306,150, total revenue of \$2,507,400, and an expected cash reserve of \$201,250.

A budget amendment is being proposed to: 1) adjust for the fund balance from under-spending and transfers in 2020 (see Attachment B); 2) reflect changes to several budget line items and the addition of several line items, including line items reflecting grant funded projects. The amendment would bring the total expenses in 2021 to \$2,297,510 and total revenue to \$2,497,900 with a cash reserve of \$200,390 (see Attachment A).

Staff requests that the Watershed Planning Commission review the proposed amendments and recommend approval of the Draft Revised 2021 VRWJPO Budget to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board.

**RESOLUTION**

**5d. Recommend Approval of proposed amendments to the VRWJPO 2021 Budget**

**WHEREAS**, the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board adopted the Final 2021 VRWJPO Budget on December 3, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the budget included expenses totaling \$2,306,150, total revenue of \$2,507,400, and an expected cash reserve of \$201,250; and

**WHEREAS**, a budget amendment is being proposed to: 1) adjust for the fund balance from under-spending and transfers in 2020; 2) reflect changes to several budget line items and the addition of several line items, including line items reflecting grant funded projects.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Committee recommends to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board the approval of the amendment to bring the budgeted total expenses in 2021 to \$2,297,510 and total revenue to \$2,497,900 with a cash reserve of \$200,390.

## VRWJPO Draft Revised 2021 Budget

<u>Category</u>	<u>Budget Items</u>	<u>2021 Draft Revised Budget Amount</u>	<u>Budget % of Total</u>	<u>2021 Final Budget Amount</u>	<u>Budget % of Total</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
<b>Administration and Operations</b> <b>-2170020000</b>	1 Dakota County VRW Staff	\$180,500	7.2%	\$175,000	7.0%
	2 Scott County VRW Staff	\$15,000	0.6%	\$13,500	0.5%
	3 Other Dakota County Staff Time	\$12,000	0.5%	\$12,000	0.5%
	4 Legal Support	\$25,000	1.0%	\$25,000	1.0%
	5 Miscellaneous Expenses (per diems, mileage, postage, etc.)	\$6,000	0.2%	\$6,000	0.2%
	6 Training, Conferences, and Certifications	\$2,000	0.1%	\$2,000	0.1%
<b>Subtotal Administrative</b>		<b>\$240,500</b>	<b>9.6%</b>	<b>\$233,500</b>	<b>9.3%</b>
<b>Research and Planning</b> <b>-2170020130</b>	1 Dakota SWCD Incentive Program Policy Assistance	\$1,600	0.1%	\$1,600	0.1%
	2 Scott County Staff	\$2,000	0.1%	\$2,000	0.1%
	3 VRW Staff	\$12,000	0.5%	\$12,000	0.5%
	4 Conservation Attitudes and Behaviors Survey	\$50,000	2.0%	\$50,000	
<b>Subtotal Research and Planning</b>		<b>\$65,600</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>\$65,600</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
<b>Monitoring and Assessment</b> <b>-2170020230</b>	1 Vermillion River Monitoring Network in Dakota Co.				
	1a Staff Time for Sample Collection, Equipment Installation, Maintenance, Downloading	\$39,000	1.6%	\$39,000	1.6%
	1b Data analysis, database management, data reporting, FLUX modeling, reporting	\$17,000	0.7%	\$17,000	0.7%
	1c Water Quality Sample Analysis and QA/QC samples	\$19,000	0.8%	\$19,000	0.8%
	1d Equipment and Supplies	\$8,000	0.3%	\$8,000	0.3%
	2 Vermillion River Monitoring Network in Scott Co	\$9,800	0.4%	\$9,800	0.4%
	3 USGS Cost Share for Blaine Ave. Station	\$8,900	0.4%	\$8,900	0.4%
	4 DNR Flow Gaging Assistance	\$9,700	0.4%	\$9,700	0.4%
	5a Biological and Habitat Assessments	\$7,000	0.3%	\$7,000	0.3%
	5b Electrofishing	\$16,000	0.6%	\$16,000	0.6%



## VRWJPO Draft Revised 2021 Budget

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	6 Monitoring Programs Review and Evaluation	\$15,000	0.6%	\$15,000	0.6%
	7 General GIS support (Dakota SWCD)	\$5,000	0.2%	\$5,000	0.2%
	8 Nitrate Treatment Practice Sampling	\$1,000	0.0%	\$1,000	0.0%
	9 Iron Enhanced Sand Filter Performance Sampling	\$2,000	0.1%	\$2,000	0.1%
	10 East Lake Carp Assessment	\$0	0.0%	\$3,200	0.1%
<b>Subtotal Monitoring and Data Analysis</b>		<b>\$157,400</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>\$160,600</b>	<b>6.4%</b>
<b>Public Communications and Outreach</b>	1 Communication and Outreach Staff	\$110,000	4.4%	\$110,000	4.4%
	3 Vermillion River Watch Program	\$6,000	0.2%	\$6,000	0.2%
	-2170020330 4 Vermillion River Stewards	\$20,000	0.8%	\$20,000	0.8%
	5 Scott County Outreach Efforts	\$2,050	0.1%	\$2,050	0.1%
	6 Vermillion River Watershed Projects Signage and Map Updates	\$5,000	0.2%	\$5,000	0.2%
	7 Newsletter, Mailings, Website, General Communication Materials	\$10,000	0.4%	\$10,000	0.4%
	8 Landscaping for Clean Water Workshop Program (Dakota SWCD)	\$30,400	1.2%	\$30,400	1.2%
	9 K-12 Classroom Presentations (Dakota SWCD)	\$4,000	0.2%	\$4,000	0.2%
	10 Watershed Tours	\$1,500	0.1%	\$1,500	0.1%
	11 Local Standards/ Ordinance and Turf/ Salt Workshops	\$3,500	0.1%	\$3,500	0.1%
<b>Subtotal Public Outreach and Communication</b>		<b>\$192,450</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>\$192,450</b>	<b>7.7%</b>
<b>Regulation</b>	1 Scott SWCD Assistance with Plan Review	\$900	0.0%	\$900	0.0%
	-2170020530 2 Engineering Assistance and Review	\$45,000	1.8%	\$45,000	1.8%
	3 VRW Staff Local Program Assistance	\$20,000	0.8%	\$20,000	0.8%
<b>Subtotal Regulation</b>		<b>\$65,900</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>\$65,900</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
<b>Coordination and Collaboration</b>	1 Coordination VRW Staff	\$32,000	1.3%	\$25,000	1.0%
	-2170020531 2 Wetland Health Evaluation Program Cost Share	\$3,000	0.1%	\$3,000	0.1%

## VRWJPO Draft Revised 2021 Budget

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	3 Children's Water Festival Support	\$600	0.0%	\$600	0.0%
	4 Watershed Partners	\$5,000	0.2%	\$5,000	0.2%
	5 Master Water Stewards	\$5,000	0.2%	\$12,500	0.5%
<b>Subtotal Coordination and Collaboration</b>		<b>\$45,600</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>\$46,100</b>	<b>1.8%</b>
<b>Land and Water Treatment</b>					
	1 Rosemount Cost Share JPA	\$0	0.0%	\$58,000	2.3%
<b>Capital Improvement Projects</b>	2 Cost Share Programs in Dakota County (SWCD)	\$80,000	3.2%	\$80,000	3.2%
<b>-2170920130</b>	3 Cost Share Programs in Scott County (SWCD)	\$41,300	1.7%	\$41,300	1.6%
	4 Cost-share	\$125,000	5.0%	\$325,000	13.0%
	WBIF match	\$0	0.0%	\$34,100	1.4%
<b>Subtotal Capital Improvement Projects</b>		<b>\$246,300</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>\$538,400</b>	<b>21.5%</b>
<b>Maintenance</b>	1 Past projects maintenance/ repair	\$25,000	1.0%	\$25,000	1.0%
<b>-2170920130</b>	2 CIP construction oversight, maintenance/ repair staff costs	\$25,000	1.0%	\$25,000	
<b>Subtotal Maintenance</b>		<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
<b>Feasibility/Preliminary Studies</b>	1 Preliminary Design, Technical Assistance and Marketing for Capital Improvements (Dakota SWCD)	\$40,000	1.6%	\$40,000	1.6%
<b>-2170020631</b>	2 Preliminary Design, Technical Assistance and Marketing for Capital Improvements	\$200,000	8.0%	\$100,000	4.0%
<b>Subtotal Feasibility/Preliminary Studies</b>		<b>\$240,000</b>	<b>9.6%</b>	<b>\$140,000</b>	<b>5.6%</b>
<b>Irrigation Audit and Cost Share Program</b>	1 Irrigation Audits	\$5,000	0.2%	\$5,000	0.2%
	2 Irrigation Cost-Share	\$5,000	0.2%	\$5,000	0.2%
<b>Subtotal Irrigation Audit and Cost Share</b>		<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>0.4%</b>

## VRWJPO Draft Revised 2021 Budget

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<b>CWF Grant (BWSR) Middle Creek Highview</b>						
	1	Middle Creek Restoration	\$370,000	14.8%	\$380,000	15.2%
	-2170020852 2	VRWJPO cash match	\$50,000	2.0%	\$50,000	2.0%
<b>Subtotal CPL Grant Middle Creek/ Pinnacle Reserve</b>			<b>\$420,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$430,000</b>	<b>17.1%</b>
<b>CWF Grant (BWSR) Erickson Park Stormwater Improvement</b>						
	1	Erickson Park Stormwater Improvement	\$114,300	4.6%	\$114,300	4.6%
	-2170020841 2	VRWJPO cash match	\$50,000	2.0%	\$50,000	2.0%
<b>Subtotal CWF Grant Erickson Park Stormwater Improvement</b>			<b>\$164,300</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$164,300</b>	<b>6.6%</b>
<b>CWF Grant (BWSR) Aronson Park Stormwater Reuse</b>						
	1	Aronson Park Stormwater Reuse Project	\$10,000	0.4%	\$7,050	0.3%
	-2170020843 2	VRWJPO cash match	\$0	0.0%	\$2,950	0.1%
<b>Subtotal CWF Grant Aronson Park Stormwater Reuse</b>			<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
<b>CWF Grant (BWSR) Webster Wetland Restoration</b>						
	1	Webster Wetland Restoration	\$67,000	2.7%	\$67,000	2.7%
	-2170020844 2	VRWJPO cash match	\$0	0.0%	\$0	0.0%
<b>Subtotal CWF Grant Webster Wetland Restoration</b>			<b>\$67,000</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>\$67,000</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
<b>CWF Grant (BWSR) Technical Assistance and Cost Share</b>						
	1	Technical Assistance and Cost Share (TACS)	\$17,700	0.7%	\$17,700	0.7%
	-2170020845 2	VRWJPO cash match	\$1,800	0.1%	\$1,800	0.1%
<b>Subtotal CWF Grant Technical Assistance and Cost Share Program</b>			<b>\$19,500</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>\$19,500</b>	<b>0.8%</b>
<b>CWF Grant (BWSR) Imminent Health Threat Septic Upgrades</b>						
	1	Imminent Health Threat Septic Upgrades	\$8,000	0.3%	\$8,000	0.3%
	-2170020846 2	VRWJPO cash match	\$0	0.0%	\$0	0.0%
<b>Subtotal CWF Grant Imminent Health Threat Septic Upgrades</b>			<b>\$8,000</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>	<b>0.3%</b>

## VRWJPO Draft Revised 2021 Budget

<u>Category</u>		<u>Budget Items</u>	<u>2021 Draft Revised Budget Amount</u>	<u>Budget % of Total</u>	<u>2021 Final Budget Amount</u>	<u>Budget % of Total</u>
<b>CWF Grant (BWSR) 21st Street Ravine Outlet</b>						
	1	21st Street (Hastings) Ravine Outlet Modification	\$0	0.0%	\$36,900	1.5%
	-2170020850 2	VRWJPO cash match	\$0	0.0%	\$36,900	1.5%
<b>Subtotal CWF Grant 21st Street Ravine Outlet</b>			<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>\$73,800</b>	<b>2.9%</b>
<b>CWF Grant (BWSR) Vermillion Falls Park Bioretention</b>						
	1	Vermillion Falls Park Bioretention Basin	\$0	0.0%	\$7,475	0.3%
	-2170020851 2	VRWJPO cash match	\$0	0.0%	\$11,025	0.4%
<b>Subtotal CWF Grant Vermillion Falls Park Bioretention</b>			<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>\$18,500</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
<b>2020-2023 WBIF Grant (BWSR) North Creek Stabilization</b>						
	1	North Creek Stabilization	\$168,750	6.8%		
	-2170020853 2	VRWJPO cash match	\$18,750	0.8%		
<b>Subtotal 2020-2023 WBIF Grant North Creek Stabilization</b>			<b>\$187,500</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>2020-2023 WBIF Grant (BWSR) Farmington Direct Drainage</b>						
	1	Farmington Direct Drainage Assessment	\$13,300	0.5%		
	-2170020854 2	VRWJPO cash match	\$3,330	0.1%		
<b>Subtotal 2020-2023 WBIF Grant Hastings/ Farmington Direct Drainage Assessment</b>			<b>\$16,630</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>2020-2023 WBIF Grant (BWSR) Hastings Direct Drainage</b>						
	1	Hastings Direct Drainage Assessment	\$13,300	0.5%		
	-2170020855 2	VRWJPO cash match	\$3,330	0.1%		
<b>Subtotal 2020-2023 WBIF Grant Hastings/ Farmington Direct Drainage Assessment</b>			<b>\$16,630</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>2020-2023 WBIF Grant (BWSR) Ravenna Basins Restoration</b>						
	1	Ravenna Basins Restoration	\$29,500	1.2%		
	-2170020856 2	VRWJPO cash match	\$6,000	0.2%		
<b>Subtotal 2020-2023 WBIF Grant Ravenna Basins Restoration</b>			<b>\$35,500</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

VRWJPO Draft Revised 2021 Budget

<u>Category</u>		<u>Budget Items</u>	<u>2021 Draft Revised Budget Amount</u>	<u>Budget % of Total</u>	<u>2021 Final Budget Amount</u>	<u>Budget % of Total</u>
2020-2023 WBIF Grant (BWSR)						
Rosemount Anti-Icing	1	Rosemount Anti-Icing	\$15,000	0.6%		
-2170020857	2	VRWJPO cash match	\$0	0.0%		
Subtotal 2020-2023 WBIF Grant Ravenna Basins Restoration			\$15,000	0.6%	\$0	0.0%
CWF Grant (BWSR)	1	WBF Grant Admin	\$23,700	0.9%	\$12,500	0.5%
-2170020848						
Subtotal WBF Grant Admin			\$23,700	0.9%	\$12,500	0.5%
Subtotal of Expenditures			\$2,297,510	92.0%	\$2,306,150	92.0%
Cash Reserve			\$200,390	8.0%	\$201,250	8.0%
TOTAL Annual Expenses			\$2,497,900	100.0%	\$2,507,400	100.0%

VRWJPO Draft Revised 2021 Budget

Category	Budget Items	2021 Draft Revised Budget Amount	Budget % of Total	2021 Final Budget Amount	Budget % of Total
REVENUE					
	CIP Reserve	\$205,900	8.2%	\$220,000	8.8%
	CIP Reserve Grant Match	\$101,800	4.1%	\$152,950	6.1%
	Fund Balance from Underspending in Previous Year	\$336,000	13.5%	\$225,000	9.0%
	CPL Grant (DNR) South Creek at Hamburg	\$0	0.0%	\$0	0.0%
	CWF Grant (BWSR)	\$370,000	14.8%	\$380,000	15.2%
	CWF Grant WBIF (BWSR) 2019-2021	\$218,100	8.7%	\$263,350	10.5%
	CWF Grant WBIF (BWSR) 2020-2023	\$243,600	9.8%	\$243,600	9.7%
	Dakota County AIS Grant	\$0	0.0%	\$0	0.0%
	City of Lakeville AIS grant match	\$0	0.0%	\$0	0.0%
	Fees for Permitting Activities	\$2,500	0.1%	\$2,500	0.1%
	Dakota County Levy	\$966,650	38.7%	\$966,650	38.6%
	Scott County Levy	\$33,350	1.3%	\$33,350	1.3%
	Investment Earnings	\$20,000	0.8%	\$20,000	0.8%
	TOTAL Annual Revenue	\$2,497,900	100.0%	\$2,507,400	100.0%

**DAKOTA COUNTY  
MINNESOTA**

**GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCE SHEET AND  
GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES - STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
VERMILLION RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT  
DECEMBER 31, 2020**

**Assets**

Cash and investments	\$ 1,268,336
Taxes receivable	
Current	54,964
Prior - net	469
Due from other governments	<u>1,850</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u><u>\$ 1,325,619</u></u></b>

**Liabilities**

Current liabilities	
Accounts payable	<u>\$ 187,337</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b><u>\$ 187,337</u></b>

**Fund Balance/Net Position**

Unrestricted	<u>\$ 1,138,282</u>
<b>Total Fund Balance/Net Position</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,138,282</u></b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance/Net Position</b>	<b><u><u>\$ 1,325,619</u></u></b>

There are no capital assets nor long term liabilities. There is no difference to reconcile between modified and full accrual.

**DAKOTA COUNTY  
MINNESOTA**

**GOVERNMENTAL FUND STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE  
AND GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES - STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
VERMILLION RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020**

**Revenues**

Taxes	\$ 962,136
License and permits	20
Intergovernmental	450,354
Investment earnings	16,123
Miscellaneous	2,511
	<hr/>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,431,144</u></b>

**Expenditures/Expenses****Current**

Conservation of natural resources	<b><u>\$ 1,411,767</u></b>
-----------------------------------	----------------------------

**Net Change in Fund Balance/  
Net Position**

**\$ 19,377**

**Fund Balance/Net Position - January 1**

**1,118,905**

**Fund Balance/Net Position - December 31**

**\$ 1,138,282**

There are no capital outlays nor revenues that are not current financial resources. There is no difference to reconcile between modified and full accrual.



## 6b. Pathways to Projects in the Vermillion River Watershed

Meeting Date: 4/14/21  
Item Type: Information  
Contact: Mark Ryan  
Telephone: 952-891-7596  
Prepared by: Mark Ryan



### PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

- Background information on the project development process at the VRWJPO

### SUMMARY

One of the main roles of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) is to develop and construct capital improvement projects that improve water quality and provide other benefits to the watershed. Much of this work is completed with project partners, whether local municipalities, County government and Soil and Water Conservation Districts, or private parties. This informational presentation discusses the guiding documents that shape and target the projects that the VRWJPO pursues, the various assessments that are completed to develop project ideas, and the various pathways through which projects materialize with our partners.

# Pathways to Projects in the Vermillion River Watershed

Watershed Planning Commission

4/14/2021 Meeting

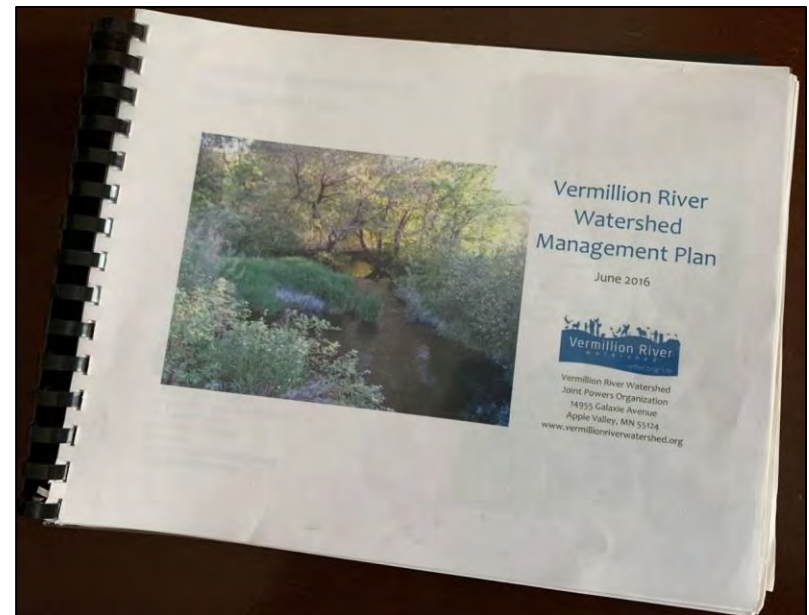


# Introduction

- Watershed Plan is the guiding document
- Numerous studies and methods form where and how projects get done
- Individual projects may come in through partners and other collaboration

# Watershed Plan Overview

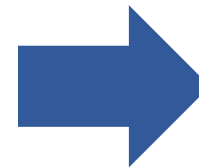
- The Watershed Management Plan guides all work done by the VRWJPO
- Goals, Objectives, and Actions sections
- Implementation Plan tables



Goal A: Protect or restore water quality in lakes, streams, and wetlands

Sub-goals

- ≈ Restore impaired waters and protect those currently not impaired.
- ≈ Reduce non-point source pollution, erosion and sedimentation



*Land and Water Treatment*

18. Ensure that technical assistance is available to landowners considering BMPs for water quality or habitat improvement.
- a. Coordinate with county SWCDs to provide technical assistance to landowners in the Dakota County and Scott County portions of the watershed.

# Implementation Table Example

## 7.3 South Creek Subwatershed

The South Creek Subwatershed was identified as one of the top priorities for implementation projects. The subwatershed includes impaired reach 527 and Lake Marion. Potential projects are identified in Figure 7.3.1.: South Creek Subwatershed Management Plan.

Figure 7.3.1: South Creek Subwatershed Management Plan

South Creek Subwatershed Management Plan	Original Scenario (All Activities)	500K Annual Scenario 1	Current Balance Scenario
Bacteria Feasibility Study	\$ 25,000		
Bacteria Project	\$ 125,000		
BMP retrofits Lakeville downstream of Marion Lake.	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000
BMPs for Hamburg Ave. re-construction in reaches 570, 715	\$ 150,000		
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$ 600,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000
<i>Bank Stabilization</i>	\$ 18,750	\$ 700,000	\$ 135,000
<i>Culvert/crossing</i>	\$ 131,250		
<i>Infrastructure/Bank Stabilization</i>	\$ 18,750		
<i>Infrastructure</i>	\$ 393,750		
<i>Natural Channel Restoration</i>	\$ 2,343,750		
<i>Riparian Management</i>	\$ 1,087,500		
<i>Geo Morph Subtotal</i>	\$ 3,993,750		
<b>Ten Year Total Budget (20% of total)</b>	<b>\$ 4,593,750</b>	<b>\$ 1,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 435,000</b>



The projects highlighted in beige were identified in the [geomorphic assessment that was done for South Creek](#), available on the VRWJPO website. Note that the dollar amount to be spent on projects identified in the geomorphic assessments is lumped for the two budget scenarios. The specific geomorphic assessment projects to be conducted will be determined based on the evaluation criteria established within the assessment.

# Watershed Wide Reports

- Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS)
  - Restoration is for impaired waters
  - Protection is for those meeting but potentially degrading
- Identifies JPO and partner obligations

## Vermillion River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) Report

Mississippi River – Lake Pepin Major Watershed

September 2015



wq-ws4-14a



# Watershed Wide Reports

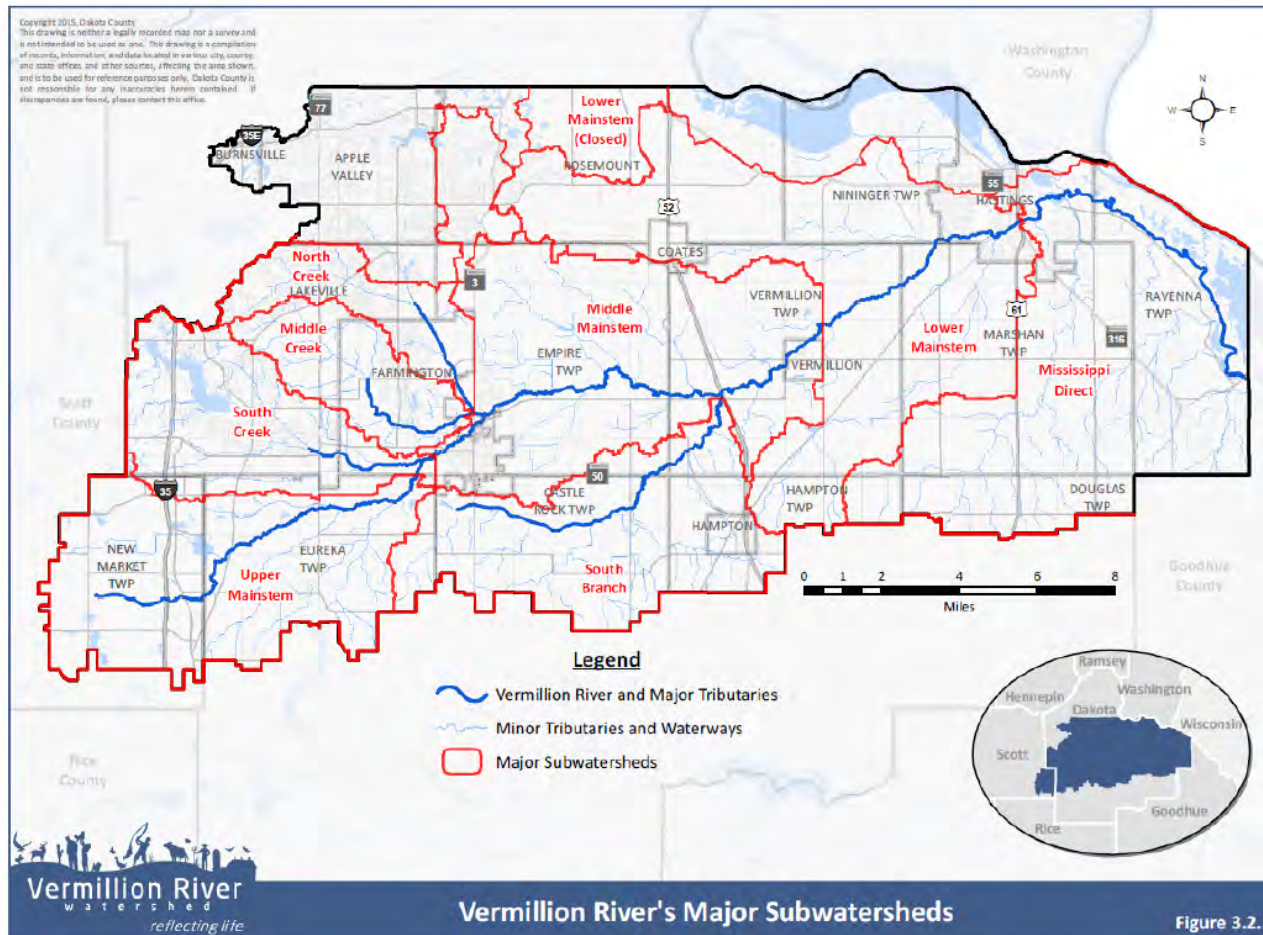
Table 10. North Creek Sub-watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies.

Key for shading: Red = Restoration Strategies; Green = Protection Strategies.

Key for Government Unit Responsibilities: P= Primary/Lead role; S = Secondary role; A = Assist as Needed.

Major Subwatershed	Waterbody and Location		Parameter (incl. non-pollutant stressors)	Water Quality		Strategies (see Table 10)	Strategy types and estimated scale of adoption needed to meet final water quality target	Interim 10-yr Milestones	Governmental Units with Primary Responsibility												Estimated year to Achieve Water Quality Target
	Waterbody (ID)	Location and Upstream Influence Counties; Cities and other MS4s		TMDL Baseline Conditions	TMDL Goals / Targets and Estimated % Reduction				Vermillion River JPO	Dakota County	Dakota County SWCD	MPCA	DNR	City of Burnsville	City of Apple Valley	City of Lakeville	City of Farmington	MNDOT	Lake Associations		
North Creek	Long Lake (19-0022)	Dakota Co.; Apple Valley		508 lbs/yr	123 lbs/yr 76% reduction	Detailed strategies have been developed for Long Lake and Farquar Lake through the Long and Farquar Lakes Nutrient TMDL (2009) and Implementation Plan (2010). These documents are approved by the EPA and available through the MPCA website: <a href="http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/minnesotas-impaired-waters-and-tmdls/tmdl-projects/lower-mississippi-river-basin-tmdl/project-long-farquar-lakes-excess-nutrients.html">http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/minnesotas-impaired-waters-and-tmdls/tmdl-projects/lower-mississippi-river-basin-tmdl/project-long-farquar-lakes-excess-nutrients.html</a>		Monitor (once every 3 years)	A			P	S	S							
	Farquar Lake (19-0023)	Dakota Co.; Rosemount, Apple Valley		792 lbs/yr	263 lbs/yr 67% reduction			Complete feasibility study (5 years) implement findings (within 10 years)	A		A	A	P	P				S			
	Alimagnet Lake (19-0021)	Dakota Co.; Burnsville, Apple Valley, MNDOT		386 lbs/yr	230 lbs/yr 43% reduction	Reduce in-water loading (TP)	Continue monitoring; develop vegetation management plan	Monitor (annually), complete vegetation mgt. plan (3 years)	A			S	P	P			S				
							Enhanced street sweeping program throughout watershed. Target direct watershed, areas near the lake, and DCIAs (estimated to achieve 5% of the TP load reduction)	Develop enhanced sweeping plan and implement (3 years)	A	P			P	P		P					
							Conduct subwatershed BMP retrofit assessment study. Implement 5-10 SW retrofit projects (estimated to achieve 15% of the TP load reduction)	Study to ID potential areas and develop plans (3 years), implement 5 BMPs (10 years)	P			S	S								
East Lake (19-0349)	Improve urban SW mgt. (TP)				Enhanced street sweeping program throughout watershed. Target direct watershed, areas near the lake, and DCIAs (estimated to achieve 5% of the TP load reduction)	Develop enhanced sweeping plan and implement (3 years)															
Conduct subwatershed BMP retrofit assessment study. Implement 5-10 SW retrofit projects (estimated to achieve 15% of the TP load reduction)					Study to ID potential areas and develop plans (3 years), implement 5 BMPs (10 years)																
Inspect and evaluate major ponds in watershed, pond improvements as necessary (sizing, dredging, iron enhanced sand filters) (estimated to achieve 15% of the TP load reduction)					Inspect and evaluate major ponds (3 years), 1-2 pond improvements (10 years)																

# VRWJPO Subwatersheds





# Subwatershed Assessments

- Identify projects for a targeted area and/or pollutant
- Either by entire subwatershed or a smaller drainage area  
(we just don't call them sub-subwatersheds)

## Alimagnet Lake Subwatershed Assessment Report



April 2016



VRWJPO  
14955 Galaxie Avenue  
Apple Valley, MN 55124  
Phone: 651-437-3191

Prepared for:

**Vermillion River Watershed  
Joint Powers Organization**



**Apple  
Valley**

City of Apple Valley  
7100 147th St W  
Apple Valley, MN 55124  
Phone: 952-933-2500



Prepared by:

WENCK Associates, Inc.  
1800 Pioneer Creek Center  
Maple Plain, MN 55359  
Phone: 763-479-4200  
Fax: 763-479-4242



City of Burnsville  
100 Civic Center Pkwy  
Burnsville, MN 55337  
Phone: 952-895-4400



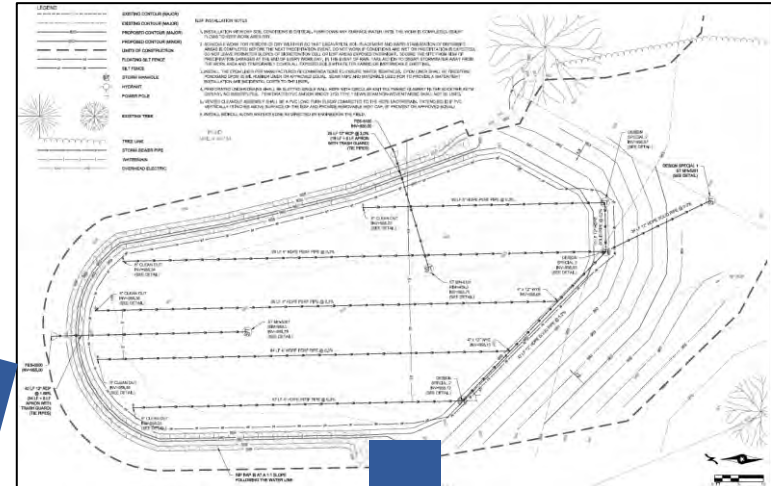
# Assessment Concept to Project

## POND LA2-A

County Parcel ID:	Drainages:
037-021985000020	146.1 acres
TP Reduction to Lake:	<1% Apple Valley
16.1 lbs/yr	90% Burnsville
Volume Reduction:	5% Dakota Co.
N/A	4% MNDOT
Construction Cost:	Percent Public:
\$246,730	22%
Life Cycle Cost:	Percent Private:
\$321,730	78%
Life Cycle / Pound TP:	
\$666	
Percent Impervious:	
34%	



**Pond LA2-A** - presents an opportunity to install an iron-enhanced filter bench to filter runoff from a large portion of the Alimagnet Lake watershed. The regional pond LA2-A receives runoff from 146 acres. The proposed filter bench is one of the more cost effective options because it filters runoff from that large watershed. Because it is located near the downstream end of the watershed, the filter bench will vary in effectiveness with the number of BMPs installed upstream.





# Assessment Concept Review

- Not every concept works or costs what is estimated
- Feasibility studies may be needed to flesh out concept for design

This storm sewer is 20 feet deep!

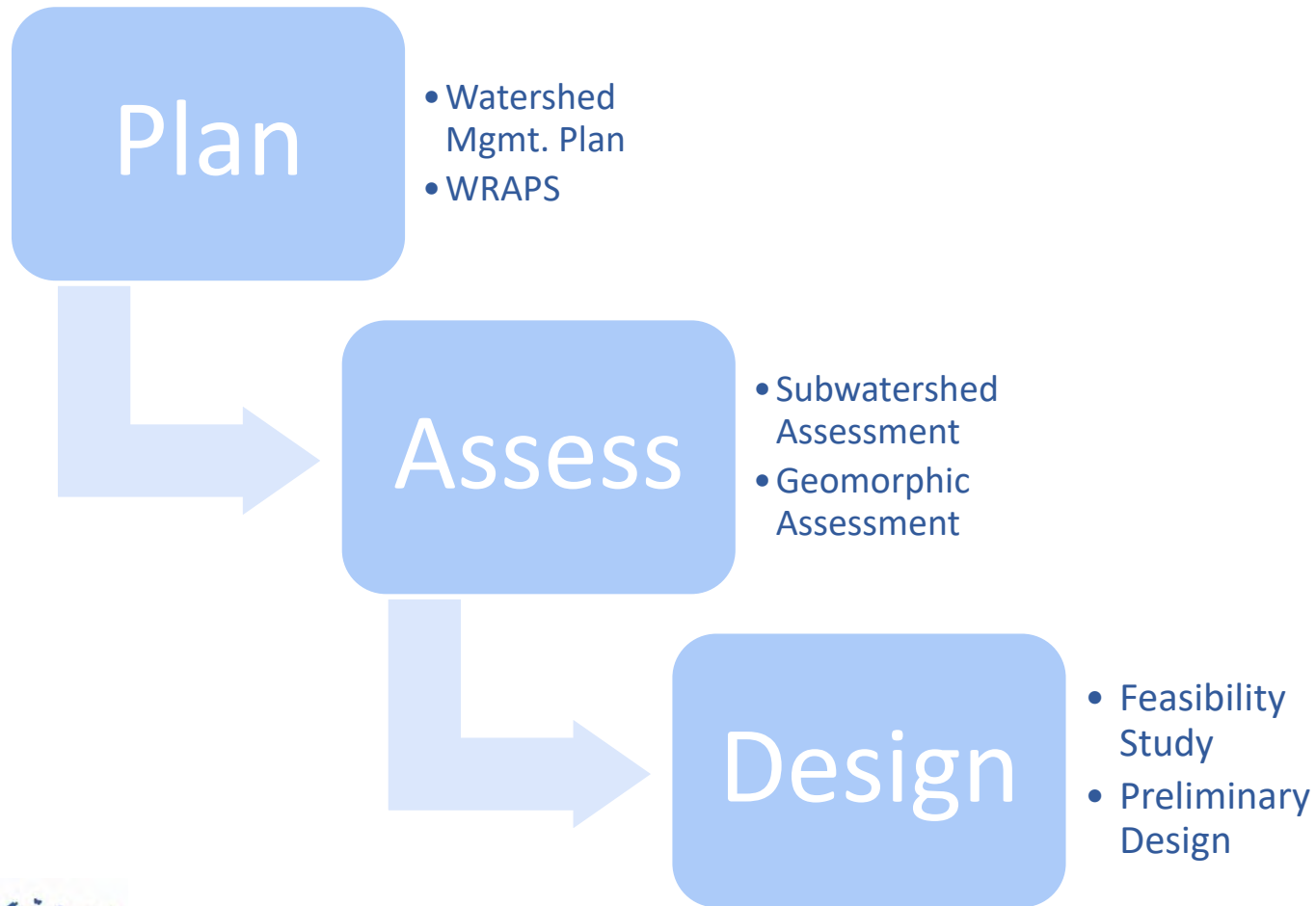


# Geomorphic Assessments

- Similar to subwatershed assessments, but for river and stream reaches
- Identify water quality and habitat improvement projects (e.g. bank stabilization)



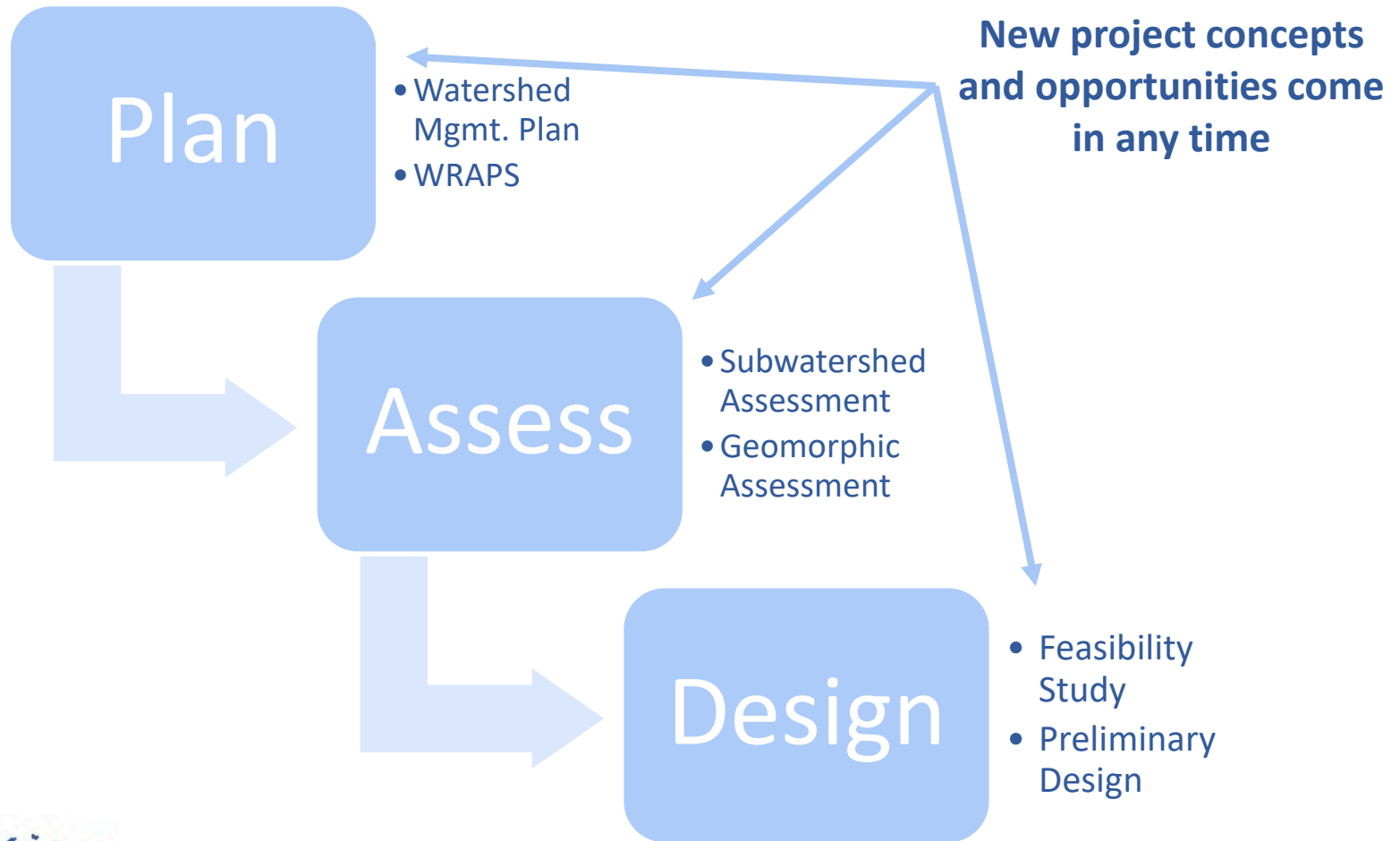
# General Project Process



# Project Ideas and Sources

- What happens when projects come in from local partners, landowners, and other sources?
  - Landowners / SWCD relationships
  - Partner cities and townships
  - Development and “projects of opportunity”
  - Businesses, non-profits, schools

# Projects Come in at All Points





# VRWJPO Cost-Share Policy

- Projects and partnerships are encouraged and shall adhere to the established cost-share policy
- Lays out factors and priorities, percentages of cost contribution, etc.

## **Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) Implementation Project Funding Policy**

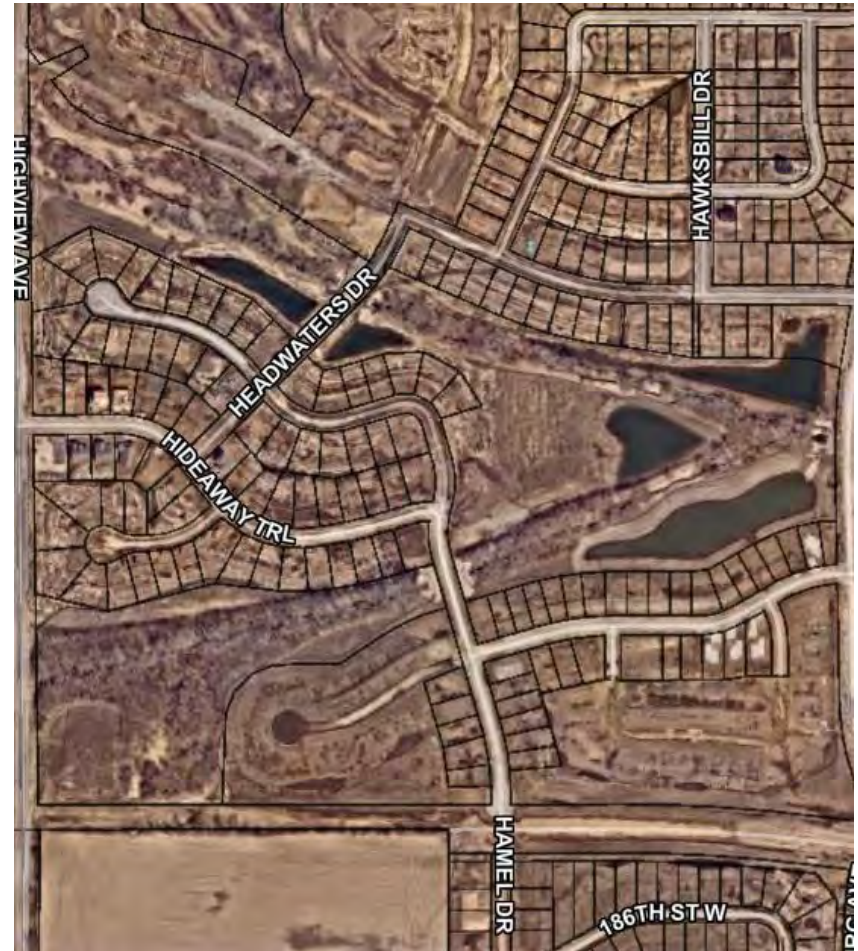
The implementation section of the 2016-2025 Draft Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan (Watershed Plan) outlines many capital improvements using VRWJPO funding, grants, and partnerships to restore or protect the watershed's natural resources. Partnerships will be pursued to the extent possible, which lessens the financial burden to the VRWJPO when implementing projects of mutual interest with partners. While partnerships typically allow for benefits to accrue for all those involved, the VRWJPO recognizes its primary role in protection and improvement of water resources and will lead certain implementation efforts to accomplish the goals identified in the Watershed Plan.





# Project Example

- Middle Creek Stream Restoration
- Project of opportunity (development)
- Urgency for changing surroundings
- Attractive for grant applications



# Plan Review: Implementation

## 7.6 Middle Creek Subwatershed

The Middle Creek Subwatershed was identified as a lower priority for implementing projects. The subwatershed includes two impaired reaches of Middle Creek (548 and 668). Potential projects are identified in Figure 7.6.1.: Middle Creek Subwatershed Management Plan.

Figure 7.6.1: Middle Creek Subwatershed Management Plan

Middle Creek Subwatershed Management Plan	Original Scenario (All Activities)	500K Annual Scenario 1	Current Balance Scenario
Headwater Stream Ponds (upstream of 195th St)	\$ 200,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Bacteria Feasibility Study	\$ 25,000		0
Bacteria Project	\$ 125,000		0
Headwaters Cost Share	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	0
Connect re-constructed area in reach 547 downstream of 195th Street	\$ -	0	0
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$ 375,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 100,000
Bank Stabilization	\$ 56,250	\$ 375,000	\$ 117,500
Crossing/culvert	\$ 356,250		
Grade Stabilization	\$ 262,500		
Infrastructure	\$ 37,500		
Natural Channel Restoration	\$ 1,068,750		
Riparian Management	\$ 112,500		
Geo Morph Subtotal	\$ 1,893,750		
<b>Ten Year Total Budget (10% of total)</b>	<b>\$ 2,268,750</b>	<b>\$ 500,000</b>	<b>\$ 217,500</b>



The projects highlighted in beige were identified in the [geomorphic assessment that was done for Middle Creek](#) and its tributaries, available on the website. Note that the dollar amount to be spent on projects identified in the geomorphic assessments is lumped for the two budget scenarios. The specific geomorphic assessment projects to be conducted will be determined based on the evaluation criteria established within the assessment.

# Plan Review: Restoration Strategies

- From WRAPS, Middle Creek Strategies (P.52)

(668)			cfu/100mL	33% - 86% reduction		
Middle Creek (668)	Dakota Co.; Farmington, Lakeville	Fish & Macro IBI	Stressors: Turbidity/TSS, Habitat		Improve riparian vegetation ( <i>E. coli</i> , IBI, protection)  Restore/enhance channel (IBI, DO)	Increase riparian buffers and enforce buffer initiative on 100% of streams and tributaries. Target riparian buffers and plantings along main-stem and tributaries to reaches 546 and 548 upstream of 195 <sup>th</sup> St  Connect re-constructed area in reach 547 downstream of 195 <sup>th</sup> St Extend channel re-construction and re-meandering, and/or restore in-channel wetland in reach 547 downstream of current re-constructed section Explore opportunities to extend channel re-construction and re-meandering into reaches 546, 548, and/or other areas upstream of current re-constructed section

- Feasibility study: annual benefit of 63 tons total suspended solids and 38 pounds of phosphorus



# Project Design and Construction



# Plan Amendments

- The Watershed Management Plan can be amended to include specific projects or other categories if not identified
- Example: January/February 2021 for the Bemis Wetland project in Scott County

# Other Factors of Project Review

- Overall project cost/percentage of JPO budget required
- Maintenance ownership or agreements
- Type of partner contributions

# Planning and Grants

- Steadier grant funding (Watershed Based Implementation Funding) - > better planning
- JPB goal of a 5-year CIP plan or similar
- Can be challenging to plan out to do need for grants and landowner/partner commitment (not akin to owning highway ROW)
- Preserve general “cost-share” dollars



**6c. Recommend Authorization to Submit 2020 VRWJPO Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement to the Board of Water and Soil Resources**

Meeting Date: 4/14/2021  
Item Type: Action  
Contact: Mark Zabel  
Telephone: 952-891-7011  
Prepared by: Paula Liepold  
Reviewed by: N/A

N/A



**PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED**

- Recommend Authorization to Submit 2020 VRWJPO Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)

**SUMMARY**

According to Minnesota Rule (M.R. 8410.0150), watershed management organizations must submit an activity report, financial statement, and an audit report to BWSR within 120 days following the end of the watershed management organization's preceding fiscal year. The draft 2020 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement has been prepared according to BWSR requirements and is included as Attachment A. The Audit Report is sent to BWSR separately when it is made available to the VRWJPO.

The 2020 Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement includes:

- Listing of VRWJPB members, WPC members and VRWJPO staff;
- Summary of water quality monitoring data;
- Review of outreach programs, education and communications;
- Description of capital improvement projects and feasibility studies;
- Overview of the VRWJPO's 2021 Work Plan;
- Assessment of overall annual budget;
- Review of evaluation, regulation and permit programs; and
- Board actions.

The report must be submitted to the BWSR on or before April 30, 2021. Staff requests the Watershed Planning Commission recommend authorization to submit the 2020 VRWJPO Annual Activity Report and Financial to BWSR on or before the deadline.

**EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT**

No fiscal impact.

**RESOLUTION**

**6c. Recommend Authorization to Submit 2020 VRWJPO Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement to the Board of Water and Soil Resources**

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Rule 8410.0150 requires watershed management organizations to submit an annual activity report and financial statement to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) within 120 days following the end of the watershed management organization's fiscal year; and



**WHEREAS**, the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) staff has prepared a draft 2020 Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement in compliance with Minnesota Rule 8410.0150 for review; and

**WHEREAS**, the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission (WPC) has reviewed the draft 2020 Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement and the comments provided by WPC members have been incorporated; and

**WHEREAS**, the Audit Report will be sent to the BWSR when made available to the VRWJPO.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the VRWPC recommends the VRWJPB authorize staff to submit the 2020 Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement, as amended, to the BWSR on or before April 30, 2021.



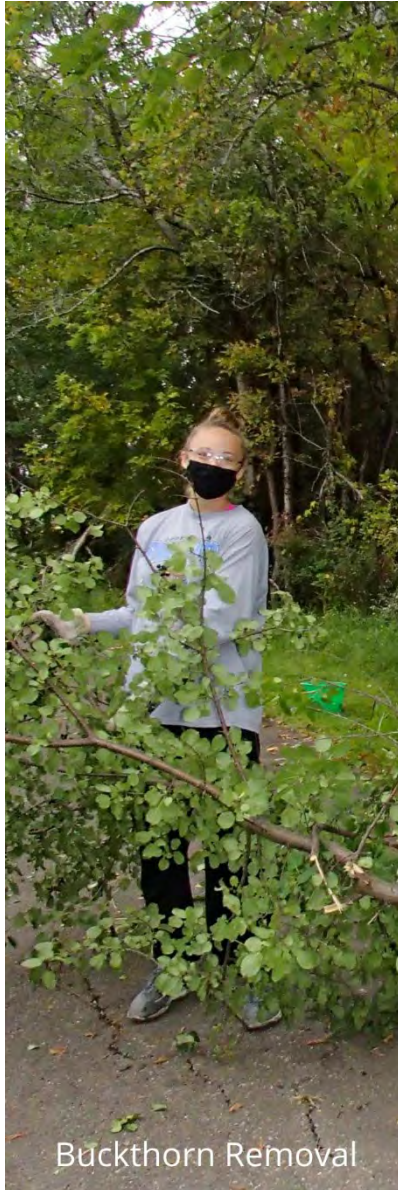


## 2020 Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement





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The mission of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization is to collaboratively provide education, science, and support to restore and protect the Vermillion River Watershed's natural resources for all who live, work, and play within its boundaries.

Vermillion River Watershed  
Joint Powers Organization  
4100 220<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 103  
Farmington, MN 55024  
Phone: 952-891-7000



# Introduction

The Vermillion River and its tributaries wind through rural, suburban, and urban landscapes from the headwaters in Scott County to two confluences with the Mississippi River near the cities of Hastings and Red Wing. The Vermillion River Watershed covers 335 square miles of land over all or portions of 20 cities and townships. It is the largest watershed in the seven-county Twin Cities Metropolitan area.

Approximately 49 miles of the Vermillion River's main stem and tributaries are Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) designated trout streams. The Vermillion River Watershed's self-sustaining population of brown trout makes the river a rare natural resource in a growing metropolitan area.

The river and watershed are managed according to a Joint Powers Agreement signed by Dakota and Scott counties in 2002. This agreement formed the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO), to manage the watershed as required by Minnesota law (Minn. Stat. Chapter 103B.201-253). Dakota and Scott counties established special tax districts within their portions of the watershed to provide the primary funding for watershed planning and activities.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented unique challenges; the VRWJPO adapted to keep staff and partners safe while successfully delivering programs and practices as it has in past years. This *2020 Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement* summarizes the VRWJPO's 2020 activities and its 2021 plans to protect and improve the Vermillion River Watershed.

## Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board

The VRWJPO is governed by the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB), which consists of two Dakota County Commissioners and one Scott County Commissioner. The VRWJPB directs watershed administration, policy, budget, and implementation of the [Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan](#) (Plan). The VRWJPB met nine times in 2020. The VRWJPB members included:

Commissioner Mike Slavik, Dakota County District 1 (Chair), Hastings  
Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg, Dakota County District 6 (Vice-chair), Lakeville  
Commissioner Tom Wolf, Scott County District 2 (Secretary/Treasurer), Prior Lake

## Watershed Planning Commission

A nine-member Watershed Planning Commission (WPC) consists of citizens of the watershed. These members are appointed by the VRWJPB under authority of the Joint Powers Agreement to advise the Board on policy, programs, or other matters that may come before the Board. The WPC is responsible for guiding implementation of the Watershed Plan, annual work plan, and budget. In 2020, the WPC met four times. The WPC members in 2020 included:

Mark Henry, Castle Rock Township, Chair  
Carolyn Miller, Elko New Market, Vice-chair  
Ken Betzold, Castle Rock Township  
Josh Borton, Apple Valley  
Chuck Clanton, Hampton Township

Bruce Rydeen, Lakeville  
Brian Rohrenbach, Rosemount  
Tony Wotzka, Lakeville  
Steve Hamrick, Lakeville

## Technical Advisory Group

The VRWJPO consults with a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) that consists of local, regional, state, and federal government partners and non-profits with expertise and interest in watershed issues. The group meets to discuss emerging scientific, technical, and policy impacts on the Vermillion River Watershed. The TAG generally meets two times annually to discuss projects and policies from a scientific and technical perspective, though only one meeting was held in 2020 due to the pandemic. Representatives include, but are not limited to:

Cities and townships within the Vermillion River Watershed	Minnesota Department of Health
Dakota and Scott counties	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Dakota and Scott County Soil and Water Conservation Districts	Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
Metropolitan Council	Prairie Island Indian Community
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	University of Minnesota Extension
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	Environmental consulting firms
	Environmental groups
	Other interested parties

## VRWJPO Administrators and Staffing

The VRWJPO is housed under Dakota County's Environmental Resources Department at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center. The VRWJPO is staffed with an administrator from Dakota County and a co-administrator from Scott County; other Dakota and Scott county employees provide support for specific projects. Staff in 2020 included:

Mark Zabel, VRWJPO Administrator, Dakota County  
Melissa Bokman Ermer, VRWJPO Co-administrator, Scott County  
Travis Thiel, Senior Watershed Specialist, Dakota County  
Paula Liepold, Water Resources Specialist – Education and Outreach, Dakota County  
Mark Ryan, Water Resources Engineer, Dakota County  
Jen Dillum, Public Outreach and Communications Specialist, Dakota County

The counties' respective Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)s provide monitoring and technical assistance services for the VRWJPO. District Managers for the SWCDs in 2020 were:

Brian Watson, Manager, Dakota County SWCD  
Troy Kuphal, Manager, Scott SWCD

## Legal Consultant

The Joint Powers Agreement for the VRWJPO provides for consultation from the Dakota County Attorney's Office on legal and contractual matters. In 2020, the attorney assigned to the VRWJPO was:

Helen Brosnahan, Assistant Dakota County Attorney

## Consultants

The VRWJPO enters into contracts with consultants to provide engineering and environmental professional services for water resources management projects. The approved consultant list for 2020-2021 follows.

Company	Address	City
Alliant Engineering, Inc.	233 Park Avenue S, Ste 300	Minneapolis
Applied Ecological Services, Inc.	21938 Mushtown Rd	Prior Lake
Barr Engineering Company	4300 MarketPointe Drive, Suite 200	Minneapolis
Cardno	7157 Commerce Circle South	Fridley
Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc.	7030 6th St. North	Oakdale
Houston Engineering	7550 Meridian Circle North, Suite 120	Maple Grove
Inter-Fluve	2121 Randolph Ave, Second Floor	St. Paul
KLJ	370 Wabasha St., Suite 300	St. Paul
Landbridge Ecological	670 Vandalia Street	St. Paul
Limno-Tech, Inc.	7300 Hudson Blvd., Suite 295	Oakdale
Minnesota Native Landscapes, Inc.	8740 77th Street Northeast	Otsego
Native Resource Preservation	260 Wentworth Ave. E.	West St. Paul
SRF Consulting Group, Inc.	One Carlson Parkway North, Suite 150	Minneapolis
TKDA	444 Cedar Street, Suite 1500	St. Paul
Wenck Associates, Inc.	1800 Pioneer Creek Center, PO Box 249	Maple Plain
WSB	701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 300	Minneapolis

## Awarded Contracts

The VRWJPO also entered into several contracts because the projects required solicitation in 2020 as noted below.

Request for Quotes – Vegetation Management | Applied Ecological Services  
Request for Quotes – Wetland Swale Addition and Outlet Structure Install | BKJ Excavating  
Request for Quotes – Records Trail Grade Stabilization Project | Standard Contracting, Inc.  
Request for Quotes – Irrigation Audit Services | Conserva Irrigation  
Request for Proposals – Engineering and Technical Services for Stream Restoration | EOR, Inc.  
Sole Source – Master Water Stewards 2019-2020 program year | Freshwater Society  
Sole Source – Vermillion River Watershed Stewards Outreach Program | FMR  
Request for Proposals – Feasibility Study for Water Reuse Project | SRF Consulting Group  
Sole Source – Fish Monitoring Services | Wenck Associates

# 2020 Work Plan Activities

The VRWJPO had another successful year of implementation. In 2020, the VRWJPO assessed progress in completing tasks outlined in the Watershed Management Plan. The 10-year Plan was adopted in June 2016. The Plan includes 239 implementation initiatives in several categories: **Administration and Operations; Regulation; Research and Planning; Monitoring and Assessment; Land and Water Treatment; Coordination and Collaboration; and Public Communications and Outreach**. These categories are comparable to those used by the VRWJPO to budget, develop work plans, and classify current activities. Of the 239 initiatives, 199 (83%) were completed or ongoing.

## Administration and Operations

Administrative responsibilities include staff training and supervision; coordinating and documenting VRWJPB meetings, decisions, and directions; coordinating and documenting WPC and TAG meetings, decisions, and recommendations; managing the budget; setting priorities and developing work plans; managing contracts; reporting; and seeking funding. See Appendix A for VRWJPB actions taken throughout the year.

## Research and Planning

The VRWJPO develops strategic approaches for managing water resources through monitoring emerging issues, evaluating data, and engaging the public, stakeholders, and partners in planning and policy issues. In 2020, the VRWJPO researched the following:

### Dakota County Plans

VRWJPO staff assisted with three Dakota County plans. Staff reviewed and commented on the Land Conservation Plan, Groundwater Plan and the Aquatic Invasive Species Plan. By participating in this effort, water quality, water quantity, and natural resources of the Vermillion River Watershed were represented and included in planning efforts.

## Monitoring and Assessment

Water quality and quantity monitoring data are essential for effective management of the Vermillion River Watershed. Surface water and groundwater monitoring allow the VRWJPO to determine the current condition of the resource, any trends occurring over time, the highest priorities for protection and restoration, and effectiveness of water-quality improvement projects. The following activities reflect the VRWJPO's commitment to evidence-based watershed management.

### Vermillion River Monitoring Network

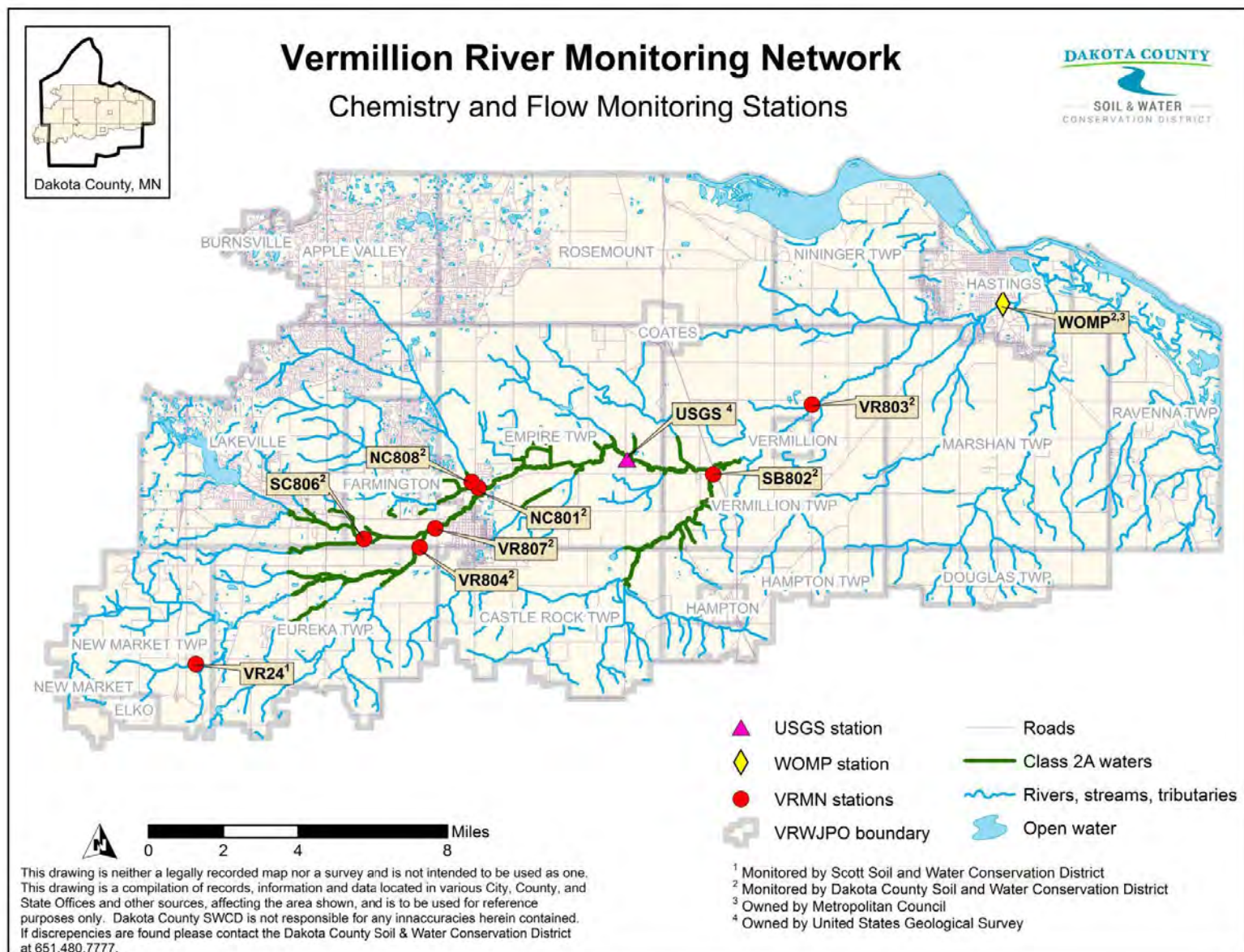
The Vermillion River Monitoring Network (VRMN) assesses water quality and quantity in the Vermillion River Watershed. These data, which include a combination of chemical, physical, and biological parameters and assessments, enable local agencies to determine the health of the stream and implement appropriate management strategies. Analysis shows that many of the water monitoring parameters meet state water quality standards and indicate a generally healthy condition in the Vermillion River and its tributaries.

### Chemistry:

Nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>; a form of nitrogen) levels were quite low, except at the one station on the South Branch Vermillion River (SB802), which has a significant nitrate load compared to others in the network. High levels of nitrate in drinking water pose a human health risk and are likely related to the soils, drainage



management practices, and agricultural land use that is predominant in the South Branch Vermillion River subwatershed. Monitoring locations downstream of the confluence with South Branch have elevated nitrate levels in comparison to sites higher in the watershed (above South Branch).



The other primary nutrient monitored in the watershed is phosphorus, an essential life element for plants growth. Excess phosphorus can lead to eutrophication and increased algae growth in lakes and rivers. The median level for all sites is below the state standard during baseflow conditions. Elevated concentrations were recorded during runoff and snowmelt events at all monitoring events throughout the season. Highest variability is seen at VR24 (most upstream site), SB802, and VR803 (most downstream site monitored by the VRWJPO).

Low dissolved oxygen concentrations following runoff events were common at several sites. The median dissolved oxygen levels met the standard for both 2A and 2B stream sites during baseflow conditions.

NC801 and NC808 have the lowest recorded levels during baseflow, but the median level above the standard (adequate oxygen levels) at similar levels to other sites. Median levels at the two sites on North Creek were below the standard (low oxygen levels) during runoff sampling and levels at SC806 (South Creek) were at the standard; individual event violations occur at several sites during runoff conditions.

High levels of total suspended solids (contributing to turbid, cloudy, water) following runoff events were also common at several sites. In conversation with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) staff, it was determined that the 2B warmwater sites in the Vermillion River watershed should be assessed using the Central River Nutrient Region total suspended solids standard (30 mg/L) instead of the South River Nutrient Region standard (65 mg/L) as was previously done. Sample medians were at or below (meeting) the state standard at all stations during baseflow conditions. Standard exceedances occurred during runoff conditions at all monitoring water sites, particularly at VR24 and SB802. None of the eight sites had exceedances during snowmelt events.

#### Temperature:

The Vermillion River watershed includes stream reaches with both coldwater and warmwater use designations meaning that temperature standards are applied to the middle watershed (coldwater) but are not applicable to the reaches in the upper and lower parts of the watershed (warmwater). The coldwater reaches of the Vermillion River and its tributaries are home to a self-sustaining brown trout population, so there is great interest in reducing or maintaining water temperatures suitable for a healthy brown trout fishery.

Continuous temperature data, measured in 15-minute intervals, has been collected annually starting in 2005 for many of the sentinel monitoring stations in the Vermillion River monitoring network. The temperature data for 2020 for NC801 and NC808 (Farmington) shows temperature maximums were measured in the resistance range ( $> 20^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) during all summer months with the highest median water temperatures observed in July.

#### Biological and Habitat Assessments:

The MPCA developed biological indices to evaluate the health of the macroinvertebrate community in the Vermillion River. In 2020, nine sites were monitored in various parts of the watershed. The macroinvertebrate index of biological integrity (MIBI) scoring data is not available currently.

Habitat assessments were completed using the MPCA's Minnesota Stream Habitat Assessment protocol to further evaluate and understand the biological integrity of stream reaches. Of the sites monitored in 2020, eight sites had a 'fair' score and one site scored 'good'.

#### Bacteria Sampling:

Some parameters have been measured at undesirable levels. *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) bacteria levels are high in many streams of southeast Minnesota, and the Vermillion River and its tributaries are no exception. Monitoring results in 2020 show numerous low-level exceedances during the season at all sites in the network and the geometric mean at each site had less variability than in 2019.

*E. coli* levels at VR24 continue to be higher than samples collected at other monitoring sites within the watershed. In 2020, the geometric mean for *E. coli* samples at VR24 was twelve times more than the

standard, whereas other sites were between two to nine times higher than the standard (most sites were two to three times higher).

### **Agency Monitoring**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) continues its monitoring effort in response to potential impacts to the quantity of water within the Vermillion River from groundwater withdrawals through appropriations. The DNR maintains responsibility for twelve stream gaging stations within the watershed as part of this effort.

The VRWJPO continues to provide cost share for the operation of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Blaine Avenue gaging station, which has the longest continuous record of flow in the watershed. Real-time stage and flow data are available from the USGS station. This information can be accessed at [USGS National Weather Information System](#).

Continuous temperature monitoring was conducted at the eight stream gaging stations the Dakota County SWCD, Scott SWCD, and DNR operate, as well as at the Metropolitan Council's Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP) station in Hastings.

### **Public Communications and Outreach**

Communicating the value of clean water is an essential part of the VRWJPO's mission, and in recent years, civic engagement has taken on greater importance in watershed processes. Among the outreach and communication programs wholly or partially funded by the VRWJPO in 2020 were:

#### **Landscaping for Clean Water Workshops**

Raingarden installation engages watershed residents in hands-on water quality and landscape improvements. The VRWJPO maintained its support in 2020 for [Landscaping for Clean Water](#). After four in-person trainings, the Dakota County SWCD changed programming to a virtual format in response to COVID-19. Countywide, 613 individuals participated in the introduction class and 105 participants attended the brand-new maintenance workshop. Within the Watershed, nine rain gardens and eight native gardens were installed and funded by the VRWJPO in 2020.





### **Vermillion Stewards**

The [Vermillion Stewards](#) program is executed by the Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) through funding provided in part by the VRWJPO. Volunteers participate in hands-on stewardship and educational programs throughout the Vermillion River Watershed. During what began as a difficult year for in-person volunteering due to COVID-19, FMR organized five VRWJPO-sponsored program events. VRWJPO events attracted 89 volunteers contributing 158 volunteer hours to programs such as buckthorn removal, rain garden maintenance, and a rain barrel “make and take” workshop.



### **Vermillion River Watch Program**

In 2020, the VRWJPO continued support of Dakota County SWCD’s work with educators and students at Rosemount and Hastings High Schools to collect macroinvertebrates and habitat data, identify macroinvertebrates, and compare species type and abundance to biological metrics. This is a successful way to interest students in scientific disciplines and engage them in protecting and improving water resources.

### **Scott Clean Water Education Program**

In 2020, the [Scott Clean Water Education Program](#) (SCWEP) focused activities and outreach on the overall theme of “Clean Water Starts with Me!” Multiple initiatives helped Scott County residents make choices for clean water second nature. One Vermillion River Watershed resident attended a Restore your Shoreline webinar, and one Vermillion River Watershed resident attended a webinar on Winter Maintenance to Reduce Salt Pollution. Other programs and activities in 2020 included: a Cover Crop 101 workshop, a Lawns to Legumes webinar and a Plant Native Prairie webinar, all of which are available for free viewing on the Scott SWCD YouTube channel.

The annual Outdoor Education Days event was unfortunately canceled for 2020, but SCWEP is excited to debut its new Conservation in the Classroom (CIC) program. CIC will bring personalized conservation lessons to students in a safe, efficient manner and will benefit the students in Eagle View Elementary School and all other students in Scott County for years to come. SCWEP also writes and distributes news releases in various outlets including the Scott County SCENE and on partner websites. In 2020, 37 articles relating to the topic of clean water were published.

### **Summer and Winter Maintenance Workshops**

The VRWJPO provided in-kind support for MPCA workshops taught by Fortin Consulting, Inc., on turf grass maintenance, winter road maintenance and winter parking lot and sidewalk maintenance. These workshops reached 111 employees that maintain parks, city, county, church, or school grounds representing public entities and private companies.

### **Social Media**

The VRWJPO continues to maintain its presence on social media. The Watershed has been successful in generating original content and sharing news from partners, while gaining followers on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#). In 2020, the VRWJPO created a [YouTube](#) channel to host videos for the public.

### **Publications**

The VRWJPO provides an electronic newsletter to interested residents in the watershed twice a year ([Spring](#) and [Fall](#) 2020 issues) as required by Minn. Rules Part 8410.0100, Subpart 4.

### **Coordination and Collaboration**

In cooperation with groups, the VRWJPO works to eliminate duplication of efforts, leverage resources, instill consistency, share knowledge and expertise, and make each public dollar go further in achieving water quality, quantity, and safety goals.

### **Adopt-a-Drain**

In 2020, the VRWJPO supported the Metro Watershed Partners, a coalition of watershed organizations, cities, and interest groups providing effective water-oriented messages to the public. Drain adoption in the [Adopt-a-Drain](#) program increased by nearly 40 percent in 2020; more than 7,500 participants have adopted more than 14,000 storm drains in the metro area. This resulted in more than 319,000 pounds of debris collected. In the Vermillion River Watershed, 134 drains were adopted by 64 participants who kept a reported 788.4 pounds of debris out of our local waterbodies. (A total of 137 participants have adopted 271 drains.)





### **Minnesota Water Stewards**

The [Minnesota Water Stewards](#) (MWS) program (formerly Master Water Stewards) invites residents to become leaders protecting local waterways from pollution and educating their neighbors on clean water issues. The MWS program provides training and opportunities for stewards to build projects in their neighborhoods to prevent polluted stormwater from entering lakes or streams. In 2020, two stewards graduated after learning about hydrology and stormwater basics, water and environmental policy, community engagement, and best management practice planning, evaluation, and maintenance. These stewards will volunteer 50 hours in 2021 to maintain their certification. MWS is coordinated by Freshwater.

### **Wetland Health Evaluation Program**

The VRWJPO continues financial support of the Wetland Health Evaluation Program ([WHEP](#)), engaging citizen volunteers to monitor wetlands in their community. The program turns volunteers into “citizen scientists” and is an excellent opportunity for environmental education and natural resource information gathering. In 2020, many changes were made to the program due to COVID-19 including no cross checks and macroinvertebrate identification by teams (resulted in fewer hours and reduced potential for close contact). Five teams in the watershed with 94 WHEP volunteers donated more than 730 hours to monitor 14 different wetlands in the Vermillion River Watershed.



### **Metro Children’s Water Festival**

Dakota County staff took a leadership role in the Metro Children’s Water Festival planning and implementation and provided financial support for schools to participate in the popular event. The event was virtual this year and was a great success.

### **Community Event Participation and School Outreach**

As were many things in 2020, community events were canceled or altered. Due to the global pandemic, the VRWJPO did not participate in annual events that were attended in the past. There is an expectation that the VRWJPO will, once again, be able to safely engage the public at in-person events in 2021.



## Capital Improvement Projects

The VRWJPO continues to ensure that Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects with direct and observable benefits to water quality and quantity and aquatic habitat are identified and developed. The VRWJPO provides assistance and incentives through cost-share programs for Local Government Units and other partners seeking effective solutions to local water-quality or quantity problems. To find out more about cost-share programs, review the VRWJPO's [project funding policy](#). Individual projects constructed in 2020 included:

### **Records Trail Grade Stabilization – Ravenna Township**

The Etter Creek area of the Mississippi Direct subwatershed struggles with drainage and sedimentation issues coming from upland, intensive land use, and increased volumes of water from overland runoff, steep topography, and highly erodible soils. The drainage continues to create channel and bank stability problems increasing sedimentation to the Lower Vermillion River. A severely eroding ravine along Records Trail in Ravenna Township was fitted with bank and head cut stabilization best management practices to prevent further erosion. Partial funding for this project was provided through a Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) grant from the Minnesota Board and Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

### **Vermillion River Park Conservation Area Streambank Restoration Project – Empire Township**

The VRWJPO contracted with Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc. (EOR) to complete stream survey work and bank restoration design for a project on the mainstem Vermillion River at Dakota County's Vermilion River Park Conservation Area in Empire Township. VRWJPO staff worked with the consultant to develop the designs for the project and work with nearby landowners in 2020. The project was completed with staff time contributions from the VRWJPO and construction costs from Dakota County.

### **Nitrate Treatment Woodchip Bioreactor – Castle Rock**

The VRWJPO constructed a nitrate treatment project that will treat drain tile water from an adjacent agricultural field. The project is designed to reduce the concentration of nitrate in the water that would eventually end up in the South Branch Vermillion River. The South Branch Vermillion River subwatershed is an area of concern for nitrate, as concentrations of nitrate in surface water are near water quality standard thresholds and the area contributes to drinking water contamination in groundwater aquifers in the eastern portion of the Watershed.



Castle Rock Bioreactor

**Webster Wetland Restoration – Elko New Market**

The VRWJPO and the City of Elko New Market worked in partnership on a wetland restoration project within the City of Elko New Market. The Webster Wetland Project placed a permanent, non-perforated pipe in the wetland to allow upstream drainage to continue unabated while the wetland water level will be modified to restore wetland hydrology and benefit water quality downstream by capturing sediment and nutrients.

**Aronson Park Stormwater Reuse – Lakeville**

The VRWJPO secured a WBIF grant from BWSR to assist in the implementation of a stormwater reuse irrigation system at Aronson Park. A stormwater basin north of Aronson Park supplies water to a pump and irrigation system for the ball fields at Aronson Park. The stormwater reuse and irrigation system will benefit the VRWJPO and City by reducing nutrients and excess stormwater runoff from reaching South Creek, which is impaired for fish and macroinvertebrates and will reduce use of approximately 510,000 gallons of groundwater each year.

**Hastings 21<sup>st</sup> Street Stormwater Improvement Projects – Hastings**

Three stormwater best management practices located near 21<sup>st</sup> Street and Vermillion Falls Park in the City of Hastings received a WBIF grant to assist in their implementation. The projects included the construction of a biofiltration area located adjacent to Vermillion Falls Park to treat stormwater from 21<sup>st</sup> Street and the surrounding area. A second project stabilized eroding soils and provided for storage of stormwater in a basin located at the end of a large ravine that drains to the Vermillion River adjacent to the Vermillion Falls Park area. The third project was the installation of a hydrodynamic separator (an underground water quality structure) to capture and treat stormwater runoff from 21<sup>st</sup> St. These projects are intended to reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients entering the Vermillion River.



Hastings Ravine Stabilization

### Dakota County SWCD Cost Share Programs

Besides Landscaping for Clean Water, the Dakota County SWCD received funding from the VRWJPO for their [Conservation Initiative Funding and Incentive Payment Practice Programs](#).

2020 Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District Projects					
Project	Practice Installed	Jurisdiction	Cost Share Amount*	Landowner	Pollutant Reduction/Year
Steve Meyers	Water & Sediment Control Basins	Douglas Twp.	\$3,172	\$1,057	57 tons sediment 19 lbs phosphorus
Nicholas Stein	Grassed Waterway & Field Border	Hampton Twp.	\$17,964	\$5,988	1.9 tons sediment 3.8 tons soil loss 1.9 lbs phosphorus
Jacob Marthaler	Water & Sediment Control Basins	Marshan Twp.	\$11,100	\$5,302	8 tons sediment 46 tons soil loss 8 lbs phosphorus
Dennis Kimmes	Cover Crop	Nininger Twp.	\$1,700	\$0	109 tons sediment 21 lbs phosphorus
Duane Kimmes	Cover Crop	Marshan Twp.	\$1,525	\$0	88 tons sediment 87 lbs phosphorus
Pat Maher	Cover Crop	Marshan Twp.	\$1,500	\$0	2 tons sediment 4 lbs phosphorus
Sorg Farms	Cover Crop	Nininger Twp.	\$1,450	\$0	3 tons sediment 5 lbs phosphorus
Sorg Farms	Cover Crop	Nininger Twp.	\$2,450	\$0	2 tons sediment 5 lbs phosphorus
Bryce Kimmes	Cover Crop	Marshan Twp.	\$2,500	\$0	26 tons sediment 41 lbs phosphorus
Sorg Farms	Cover Crop	Ravenna Twp.	\$1,300	\$0	2 tons sediment 3 lbs phosphorus
Sorg Farms	Cover Crop	Ravenna Twp.	\$1,075	\$0	1 tons sediment 2 lbs phosphorus
Sorg Farms	Cover Crop	Nininger Twp.	\$2,200	\$0	31 tons sediment 49 lbs phosphorus
Charlie Schaffer	Grassed Waterways & Critical Area Planting	Hampton Twp.	\$9,869	\$3,290	30 tons sediment 36 lbs phosphorus

\*May include other funding besides VRWJPO. Technical assistance costs not included.



### Scott SWCD Cost Share Programs

Besides the Scott Clean Water Education Program, the Scott SWCD received funding from the VRWJPO for their [Technical Assistance and Cost Share Program](#).

2020 Scott Soil and Water Conservation District Projects					
Project	Practice Installed	Jurisdiction	VRWJPO*	Landowner	Pollutant Reduction/Year
Bruce & Susanne Heimerl	Conservation Cover	New Market Twp.	\$750	\$0	0.01 tons sediment 0.02 lbs phosphorus 0.11 acre ft runoff volume
Tracy Kipp	Well Decommissioning	New Market Twp.	\$500	\$748	Groundwater protection
Brian Smith	Conservation Cover	New Market Twp.	\$10,664	\$1,650	8.5 tons soil erosion 2.3 tons sediment 4.1 lbs phosphorus 2.1 acre ft runoff volume
Dan Thompson	Filter Strip	New Market Twp.	\$5,400	\$0	0.5 tons soil erosion 30.7 tons sediment 37.9 lbs phosphorus

\*additional technical assistance costs not included

### Maintenance

The VRWJPO provides maintenance on past projects based on evaluations of need to ensure they continue to function as designed. Project maintenance is also a requirement identified in project agreements and contracts.

#### Vermillion River Watershed Native Planting Maintenance

The VRWJPO hired a contractor to perform mowing and herbicide treatment at the South Branch nitrate treatment constructed wetland near County Highway 78 and 235<sup>th</sup> St. W. Two visits were made to mow and set back undesirable vegetation and two visits were made to spot treat undesirable vegetation with herbicide. Reed canary grass and cattails were the primary undesirable vegetation targeted by the mowing and herbicide treatments.

### Feasibility/Preliminary Studies

Projects relying upon VRWJPO funds or support often require feasibility or preliminary studies to determine whether they are practical, cost effective, and implementable. Projects in 2020 included:

#### East Lake Fish Barrier Feasibility Study – Lakeville

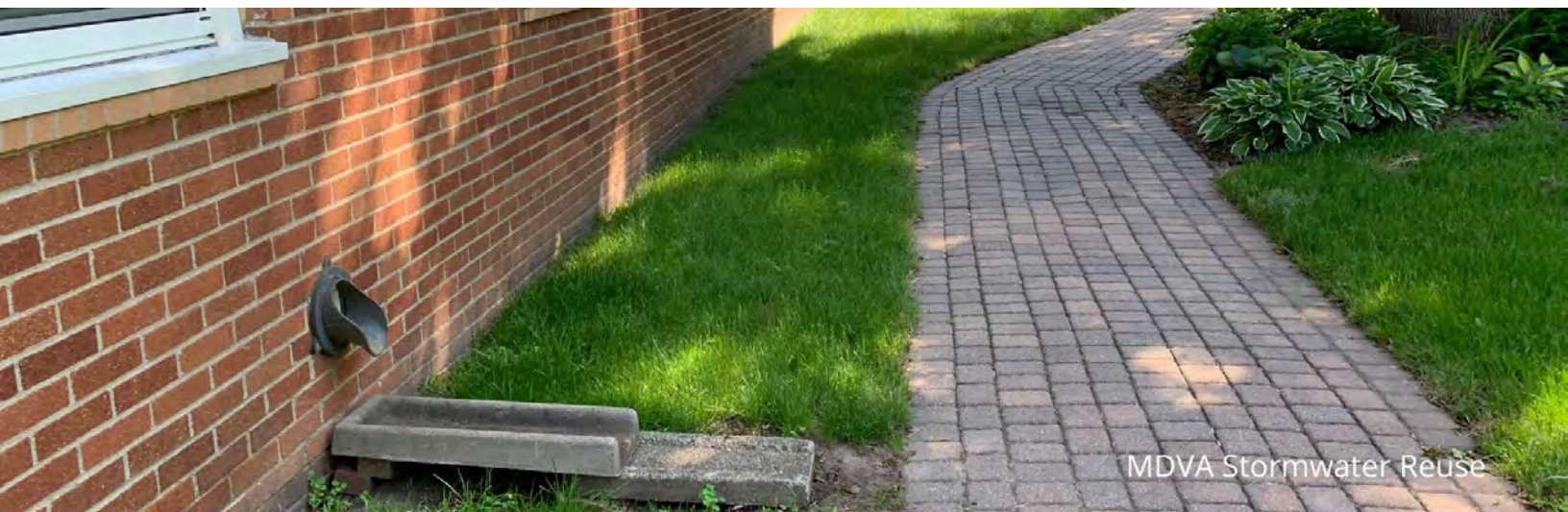
East Lake is a 40-acre basin located within East Community Park in northeastern Lakeville. The lake drains to North Creek, a tributary of the Vermillion River. Assessments determined that common carp, an aquatic invasive species, are present in East Lake and are contributing to the internal nutrient loading

and the lake's nutrient impairment. Common carp are a widespread aquatic invasive species that can have deleterious effects on lake ecosystems by uprooting aquatic vegetation, resuspending lake bottom sediments, and increasing available nutrient that fuel algal growth leading to ecosystem degradation.

The City of Lakeville contracted Wenck Associates, Inc. to evaluate the feasibility of design alternatives for barriers to control future access for common carp to East Lake. The study area for the project is from the outlet of East Lake at 170th Street south to where the North Creek channel crosses under 173rd Street.

#### **Department of Veteran Affairs Stormwater Water Reuse - Hastings**

The VRWJPO accepted funding from the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) to partner on a stormwater reuse feasibility study at the MDVA Hastings' facility. MDVA is interested in potential sustainability improvements focused on reducing groundwater use at the Hastings' facility. MDVA staff obtained permission from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and staff also evaluated the adjacent MnDOT facility to see if stormwater reuse is a reasonable option at that facility, or in combination with a system at the MDVA facility. MDVA staff have identified toilet flushing at either facility and/or vehicle washing at the MnDOT facility as the desired end uses. Based on site visit findings and desired end uses, staff believe potential exists for stormwater reuse at either facility or a combination of the two. Reducing groundwater use would help achieve MDVA sustainability goals. Reducing groundwater use would also help achieve the VRWJPO's Watershed Plan goal of maintaining a sustainable water supply.



#### **Irrigation Efficiency – Lakeville**

The VRWJPO, in partnership with the City of Lakeville, completed four Irrigation Audits with townhome associations in the City. The audits included review of overall system function, current scheduling practices, sprinkler alignment, water distribution, head failures requiring repair, smart controller capability, and an inventory of component types. After the audits were complete, a report was generated for each association that included: a narrative of basic system components, a map including failures requiring repair, areas of inappropriate water distribution, and a list of recommended actions including costs to implement. This project will reduce municipal water use once improvements are made to the irrigation systems.



### **Almquist Sediment Retention Basins' Rehabilitation – Ravenna Township**

The VRWJPO, in partnership with Dakota County SWCD, evaluated restoring capacity in two sediment retention basins in Ravenna Township. Two existing basins, constructed in the late 1960's, are full of sediment and fully-grown trees are established in the basins. This results in having no capacity to capture and treat stormwater runoff; the basins are passing all water received downstream to Etter Creek. Etter Creek has historically had significant flooding and sediment deposition issues and restoring capacity within these two basins would allow for capture of sediment and metering the rate of water sent downstream to Etter Creek. VRWJPO and Dakota County SWCD staff surveyed the basins, developed preliminary designs and cost estimates, discussed the basin rehabilitation process and any in-kind contributions with the landowner, and applied for grant funding to offset local costs for the basin rehabilitation.

### **Regulation**

The VRWJPO works with the cities and townships in the Watershed to ensure adoption of the Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan (Plan) and local implementation. Annual work to verify adoption of the Plan includes the Standards Evaluation program through which the VRWJPO documents community permitting activities and reviews some example projects. This program was started in 2017 and continues to be adapted to fit community and VRWJPO needs.

All local water management plans from the 2018-19 cycle have been reviewed and commented on as of March 2020. While comments were submitted by the VRWJPO for all plans, one local water management plan reviewed in early 2020 and one plan covering a group of communities may still require official Board approval in 2021 (no notice of regional approval of these plans was given to the VRWJPO).

Communities implementing the Standards through local ordinance are required to update their ordinances in response to the Standards amendment (and the Comprehensive Plan updates). These updates did not occur in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the delay in issuance of the State of Minnesota Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit, which has similar requirements that need to be blended with the VRWJPO Standards. MS4 communities have until November 2021 (one year from issuance of the updated MS4 General Permit) to revise ordinances, so it is expected that communities will complete this process in the coming year.

The Watershed includes all or part of 20 separate jurisdictions, 19 of which have land-use planning and zoning authority. These local government units implement the VRWJPO Standards through local ordinance and apply their own permit and enforcement program. In 2020, the VRWJPO continued permitting and enforcement in Eureka Township where the township retains land use planning and zoning authority but does not implement the VRWJPO Standards. The VRWJPO issued two permits for land disturbance activities in Eureka Township in 2020 under the updated 2019 VRWJPO Standards, and no variances were issued.

In addition to the VRWJPO permits noted above, the VRWJPO reviewed and provided comment on the following development projects permitted under local ordinances and environmental studies:

- Hastings Senior Living – Headwaters Development (Residential)
- Adelman Family Property AUAR in Elko New Market (Business Park) – informal comments through Scott County team members

- Vermillion AMA (Kummer) Improvements EAW in Vermillion Township (DNR Stream Restoration)
- Northern Natural Gas Willmar Pipeline, South Creek Crossing in Farmington (Pipeline Replacement) – comments through Dakota County
- Cove at Farquar Lake in Apple Valley (Residential) – informal comments provided in 2020; ongoing in 2021

## 2020 Financial Statement

**Governmental Fund Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Balance and  
Governmental Activities – Statement of Activities  
Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization for the Year Ended December 31, 2020**

<b>Revenues</b>	Taxes	\$926,126
	License and permits	\$20
	Intergovernmental	\$450,354
	Investment earnings	\$16,123
	Miscellaneous	\$2,511
	<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,431,144</b>
<b>Expenditures/ Expenses Current</b>	Conservation of natural resources	\$1,411,767
<b>Net Change</b>	<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$19,377</b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>January 1, 2020</b>	<b>\$1,118,905</b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>December 31, 2020</b>	<b>\$1,138,282</b>

# 2021 Work Plan and Activities

Category	Budget Items	Budget Amount
<b>Administration and Operations</b>	Dakota County VRW Staff	\$175,000
	Scott County VRW Staff	\$13,500
	Other Dakota County Staff Time	\$12,000
	Legal Support	\$25,000
	Miscellaneous Expenses (per diems, mileage, postage, etc.)	\$6,000
	Training, Conferences, and Certifications	\$2,000
	<b>Subtotal Administrative</b>	<b>\$233,500</b>
<b>Research and Planning</b>	Dakota SWCD Incentive Program Policy Assistance	\$1,600
	Scott County Staff	\$2,000
	VRW Staff	\$12,000
	Conservation Attitudes and Behavior Survey	\$50,000
	<b>Subtotal Research and Planning</b>	<b>\$65,600</b>
<b>Monitoring and Assessment</b>	VR Monitoring Network in Dakota County: Staff Time for Sample Collection, Equipment Installation, Maintenance, Downloading	\$39,000
	VR Monitoring Network in Dakota Co: Data analysis, database management, data reporting, FLUX modeling, reporting	\$17,000
	VR Monitoring Network in Dakota Co: Water Quality Sample Analysis and QA/QC samples	\$19,000
	VR Monitoring Network in Dakota Co: Equipment and Supplies	\$8,000
	Vermillion River Monitoring Network in Scott Co	\$9,800
	USGS Cost Share for Blaine Ave. Station	\$8,900
	DNR Flow Gaging Assistance	\$9,700
	Biological and Habitat Assessments	\$7,000
	Electrofishing	\$16,000
	Monitoring Programs Review and Evaluation	\$15,000
	General GIS support (Dakota SWCD)	\$5,000
	Nitrate Treatment Practice Sampling	\$1,000
	Iron Enhanced Sand Filter Performance Sampling	\$2,000
	East Lake Carp Assessment	\$3,200
	<b>Subtotal Monitoring and Data Analysis</b>	<b>\$160,600</b>
<b>Public Communications and Outreach</b>	Communication and Outreach Staff	\$110,000
	Wetland Health Evaluation Program Cost Share	\$3,000
	Vermillion River Watch Program	\$6,000
	Vermillion River Stewards	\$20,000
	Scott County Outreach Efforts	\$2,050

	Vermillion River Watershed Projects Signage and Map Updates	\$5,000
	Newsletter, Mailings, Website, General Communication Materials	\$10,000
	Landscaping for Clean Water Workshop Program	\$30,400
	K-12 Classroom Presentations (Dakota SWCD)	\$4,000
	Children's Water Festival Support	\$600
	Watershed Partners	\$5,000
	Master Water Stewards	\$12,500
	Local Standards/ Ordinance and Turf/Salt Workshops	\$3,500
	<b>Subtotal Public Outreach and Communication</b>	<b>\$213,550</b>
<b>Regulations</b>	Scott SWCD Assistance with Plan Review	\$900
	Engineering Assistance and Review	\$45,000
	VRW Staff Local Program Assistance	\$20,000
	<b>Subtotal Regulation</b>	<b>\$65,900</b>
<b>Coordination and Collaboration</b>	Coordination VRW Staff	\$25,000
	<b>Subtotal Coordination and Collaboration</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Projects</b>	Rosemount Cost Share JPA	\$58,000
	Cost Share Programs in Dakota County (SWCD)	\$80,000
	Cost Share Programs in Scott County (SWCD)	\$41,300
	Cost Share	\$325,000
	WBIF Grant Match	\$34,100
	<b>Subtotal Capital Improvement Projects</b>	<b>\$538,400</b>
<b>Maintenance</b>	Past projects maintenance/ repair	\$25,000
	CIP Construction oversight, maintenance/repair staff costs	\$25,000
	<b>Subtotal Maintenance</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>Feasibility/Preliminary Studies</b>	Preliminary Design, Technical Assistance and Marketing for Capital Improvements (Dakota SWCD)	\$40,000
	Preliminary Design, Technical Assistance and Marketing for Capital Improvements	\$100,000
	<b>Subtotal Feasibility/Preliminary Studies</b>	<b>\$140,000</b>
<b>Irrigation Audit and Cost Share Program</b>	Irrigation Audits	\$5,000
	Irrigation Cost Share	\$5,000
	<b>Subtotal Irrigation Audit and Cost Share</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>CWF Grant (BWSR) Middle Creek Highview</b>	Middle Creek Restoration	\$380,000
	VRWJPO cash match	\$50,000
	<b>Subtotal CWF Grant Middle Creek Highview</b>	<b>\$430,000</b>
<b>CWF Grant (BWSR) Alimagnet Lake</b>	Alimagnet Lake Stormwater Improvement Projects	
	VRWJPO cash match	
	<b>Subtotal CWF Grant Alimagnet Lake</b>	
<b>CWF Grant (BWSR) Erickson Park Stormwater</b>	Erickson Park Stormwater Improvement	\$114,300
	VRWJPO cash match	\$50,000
	<b>Subtotal CWF Grant Erickson Park Stormwater</b>	<b>\$164,300</b>

<b>Improvements</b>	<b>Improvements</b>	
<b>CWF Grant (BWSR)</b>	Aronson Park Stormwater Reuse Project	\$7,050
<b>Aronson Park</b>	VRWJPO cash match	\$2,950
<b>Stormwater Reuse</b>	<b>Subtotal CWF Grant Aronson Park Stormwater Reuse</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>CWF Grant (BWSR)</b>	Webster Wetland Restoration	\$67,000
<b>Webster Wetland</b>	VRWJPO cash match	\$0
<b>Restoration</b>	<b>Subtotal CWF Grant Webster Wetland Restoration</b>	<b>\$67,000</b>
<b>CWF Grant (BWSR)</b>	Technical Assistance and Cost Share Program (TACS)	\$17,700
<b>Technical Assistance</b>	VRWJPO cash match	\$1,800
<b>and Cost Share</b>	<b>Subtotal CWF Grant Technical Assistance and Cost Share</b>	
<b>Program</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>\$19,500</b>
<b>CWF Grant (BWSR)</b>	Imminent Health Threat Septic Upgrades	\$8,000
<b>Imminent Health</b>	VRWJPO cash match	\$0
<b>Threat Septic Upgrades</b>	<b>Subtotal CWF Grant Imminent Health Threat Septic</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>
	21 <sup>st</sup> Street (Hastings) Ravine Outlet Modification	\$36,900
<b>CWF Grant (BWSR) 21<sup>st</sup></b>	VRWJPO cash match	\$36,900
<b>Street Ravine Outlet</b>	<b>Subtotal CWF Grant 21<sup>st</sup> Street Ravine Outlet</b>	
	<b>Modification</b>	<b>\$73,800</b>
<b>CWF Grant (BWSR)</b>	Vermillion Falls Park Bioretention	\$7,475
<b>Vermillion Falls Park</b>	VRWJPO cash match	\$11,025
<b>Bioretention</b>	<b>Subtotal CWF Grant Vermillion Falls Park Bioretention</b>	<b>\$18,500</b>
<b>CWF Grant (BWSR)</b>	WBF Grant Administration	\$12,500
	<b>Subtotal WBF Grant Administration</b>	<b>\$12,500</b>
	<b>Subtotal of Expenditures</b>	<b>\$2,306,150</b>
	<b>Cash Reserve</b>	<b>\$201,250</b>
	<b>TOTAL Annual Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,507,400</b>



# Appendix A: 2020 Resolutions

## January

Res. No. VRW 20-00: Election of Officers

Res. No. VRW 20-01: Approval of Consent Agenda

Approval of Agenda

- Approval of Minutes from the December 5, 2019, Meeting
- Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
- Approval of Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission Reappointments
- Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District for Services in 2020
- Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Scott Soil and Water Conservation District for Services in 2020

Res. No. VRW 20-03: Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Lakeville for 2020 Irrigation System Audit and Improvement Program

Res. No. VRW 20-04: Appointment of VRWJPO Staff as Representative to the Watershed Based Implementation Funding Convening Committee for the Vermillion River Watershed and Authorize VRWJPO as Fiscal Agent for WBIF Grant

## February

Res. No. VRW 20-05: Approval of Consent Agenda

Approval of Agenda

- Approval of Minutes from the January 23, 2020, Meeting
- Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
- Authorization to Release RFQ for 2020-2021 VRWJPO Consultants List

Res. No. VRW 20-07: Public Hearing to Receive Comments and Adopt Proposed Amendments to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Rules

Res. No. 20-08: Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Apple Valley for Additional Funding for the Alimagnet Lake Stormwater Improvement Project

## March

Res. No. VRW 20-09: Res. Approval of Consent Agenda

Approval of Agenda

- Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
- Approval of Expenses
- Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Lakeville for the Middle Creek at Highview Avenue Streambank and Grade Stabilization Project

- Acknowledgement of Agreement Termination Letter from Minnesota Zoo and Authorization for Staff to Initiate Termination of Metropolitan Council Agreement for Minnesota Zoo Rainwater Harvesting Project
- Authorization to Proceed with Social Media Outreach Using YouTube

## April

Res. No. VRW 20-10: Approval of Consent Agenda

### Approval of Agenda

- Approval of Minutes from the March 26, 2020, Meeting
- Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
- Approval of Expenses
- Authorization to Approve an Agreement with a Property Owner for the Connection of the Property Owner's Field Tile Outlets to a Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Nitrate Treatment Project
- Authorization to Execute an Easement Agreement with Castle Rock Township for the Use of Township Property for a Nitrate Treatment Project
- Authorization to Submit 2019 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement to the Board of Water and Soil Resources
- Approval of Proposed Amendments to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization 2020 Budget
- Approval of Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Consultant List for 2020-2021
- Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County for the 78-10 Nitrate Treatment Project
- Authorization to Change the Current Official Newspaper of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization
- Authorization to Execute Grant Agreement with BWSR for Middle Creek Stream Restoration Project

## June

Res. No. VRW 20-11: Approval of Consent Agenda

### Approval of Agenda

- Approval of Minutes from the April 23, 2020, meeting
- Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
- Approval of Expenses
- Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Lakeville for the East Lake Fish Barrier Feasibility Study
- Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Rosemount for an Irrigation Audit Program
- Appointment of Stephen Hamrick to the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission

## July

Res. No. VRW 20-12: Approval of Consent Agenda

### Approval of Agenda

- Approval of Minutes from the June 25, 2020, Meeting
- Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
- Approval of Expenses
- Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs for the Hastings' Facility Stormwater Reuse Feasibility Study
- Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Elko New Market for the Restoration of the Webster Wetland

Res. No. VRW 20-13: Schedule a Public Hearing to Receive Comments on the Draft VRWJPO 2021 Budget and Special Tax District Levy

## August

Res. No. VRW 20-14: Approval of Consent Agenda

### Approval of Agenda

- Approval of Minutes from the July 23, 2020, meeting
- Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
- Approval of Expenses
- Summary of the Vermillion River Monitoring Network 2019 Report
- Summary of Fish Sampling Results from 2019 as Part of the VRWJPO Biomonitoring Plan
- Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Scott County to support a cost-share program for failing septic system replacement
- Authorization to Amend the VRWJPO 2020 Budget to Increase the Amount of the Feasibility/Preliminary Studies Budget Category
- Authorization to Reallocate FY2019-20 Watershed Based Implementation Funding Budget Between Selected Project
- Authorization to Execute Contract with Standard Contracting, Inc. for Construction of the Records Trail Grade Stabilization Project

Res. No. VRW 20-15: Public Hearing and Adoption of Draft VRWJPO 2021 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy

## October

Res. No. VRW 20-16: Approval of Consent Agenda

### Approval of Agenda

- Approval of Minutes from the August 27, 2020, Meeting
- Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
- Approval of Expenses
- Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County for the Wetland Health Evaluation Program
- Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Lakeville for the Jaguar Avenue Stormwater Basin Enhancement Project

## December

Res. No. VRW 20-17: Approval of Consent Agenda

### Approval of Agenda

- Approval of Minutes from the October 22, 2020, meeting
- Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
- Approval of Expenses
- Approval of Dates for 2021 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board Meetings

Res. No. VRW 20-18: Adoption of VRWJPO 2021 Final Draft Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy

Res. No. VRW 20-19: 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