



Agenda

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board Meeting

October 28, 2021, 1 p.m., in-person and 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. Consent Agenda Action
 - a. Approval of Agenda Page 1
 - b. Approval of Minutes from the September 23, 2021, Meeting Page 3
 - c. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report Page 5
5. Approval of Expenses Action Page 6
6. Business Items
 - a. Presentation of Riparian Landowner Survey Report Information Page 7
 - b. Presentation of a Draft Format for 5-year Capital Improvement Program Information Page 9
7. Staff Reports
8. Adjourn Action

Please note, the October 28, 2021 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board meeting will take place **in-person** in Conference Room A at the Extension and Conservation Center, 4100 220th Street West, Farmington Minnesota **and via teleconference** on the web-based application, Zoom. Due to the increase in cases of COVID 19 in our area, Dakota County requires masks to be worn inside all Dakota County facilities.

Commissioner Wolf will be attending the meeting via interactive technology from his home at 19225 Fox Field Dr., Prior Lake, MN. Commissioner Wolf intends to continue attendance via interactive technology while masks are required to be worn at the regular meeting location. Notice will be provided of his location for future meetings.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://dakotacountymn.zoom.us/j/94167854311?pwd=eFd1dGpwUEVIYThEWURlCTZaSVNlZz09>

Meeting ID: 941 6785 4311

Passcode: 065290

One tap mobile

+16513728299,,94167854311#,,, *065290# US (Minnesota)



Dial by your location

+1 651 372 8299 US (Minnesota)

Meeting ID: 941 6785 4311

Passcode: 065290

Find your local number: <https://dakotacountymn.zoom.us/j/94167854311>

Other Information

Next Meeting Date: **December 2, 2021**, at 1 p.m.

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



Meeting Minutes

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board Meeting

September 23, 2021, 1 p.m., In-person and Teleconference using Zoom

Board Members in Attendance

Dakota County Commissioner Mike Slavik, Chair

Dakota County Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland, Secretary/ Treasurer

Others in Attendance

Mark Zabel, Dakota County, VRWJPO Administrator

Travis Thiel, Dakota County, VRWJPO Senior Watershed Specialist

Mark Ryan, Dakota County, VRWJPO Watershed Engineer

Brita Moore-Kutz, Dakota County, VRWJPO Communications and Outreach Specialist

Helen Brosnahan, Dakota County, Assistant County Attorney

Curt Coudron, Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District

Bruce Johnson, Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District, Supervisor

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Slavik and Hamann-Roland were in attendance.

3. Audience Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

There were no audience comments.

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Agenda
- b. Approval of Minutes from the August 26, 2021, meeting
- c. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
- d. Approval of Expenses
- e. Board member site visits of two completed projects immediately following the meeting

Res. No. VRW 21-23: Motion by Commissioner Hamann-Roland, Second by Commissioner Slavik and passed on a 2-0 vote to approve the consent agenda.

Staff Reports

None.

Adjourn

With no other business Chair Slavik adjourned the meeting at 1:01 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, Oct. 28, 2021, at 1 p.m. in Conference Room A at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center, 4100 220th Street West, Farmington, MN.

Mark Zabel

Administrator for the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

Attest

Commissioner Hamann-Roland

Secretary/ Treasurer

Date



2021 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Treasurer's Report

October 2021 - Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board Meeting

| | | <u>Budget Amounts</u> | <u>Expenses to Date</u> | <u>Expenses Pending</u> | <u>Account Balance</u> | <u>Budget Funding Sources</u> | |
|---|--|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--|------------------------|
| I. | Administration & Operations (217002-0000) | \$ 240,500.00 | \$ 117,065.29 | \$ 13,568.18 | \$ 109,866.53 | Scott County Levy | \$ 33,350.00 |
| II. | Research & Planning (217002-0130) | \$ 65,600.00 | \$ 34,868.84 | \$ - | \$ 30,731.16 | Dakota County Levy | \$ 966,650.00 |
| III. | Monitoring & Assessment (217002-0230) | \$ 157,400.00 | \$ 28,630.68 | \$ 16,142.50 | \$ 112,626.82 | Expected 2019 Carryover (Fund Balance) | \$ 336,000.00 |
| IV. | Public Communications & Outreach (217002-0330) | \$ 192,450.00 | \$ 102,981.48 | \$ 14,265.16 | \$ 75,203.36 | Special Use Permit | \$ 2,500.00 |
| V. | Regulation (217002-0530) | \$ 65,900.00 | \$ 24,741.39 | \$ 3,024.76 | \$ 38,133.85 | CWF Grant (BWSR) | \$ 370,000.00 |
| VI. | Coordination & Collaboration (217002-0531) | \$ 45,600.00 | \$ 14,068.72 | \$ 1,038.47 | \$ 30,492.81 | 2019-2021 CWF Grant 1W1P (BWSR) | \$ 218,100.00 |
| VII. | Feasibility/Preliminary Studies (217002-0631) | \$ 240,000.00 | \$ 84,377.80 | \$ 6,716.89 | \$ 148,905.31 | 2020-2023 CWF Grant WBIF (BWSR) | \$ 243,600.00 |
| VIII. | Capital Improvement Projects (217092-0130) | \$ 296,300.00 | \$ 49,318.17 | \$ 4,038.23 | \$ 242,943.60 | Met Council Grant | \$ - |
| VIX. | CWF Grant - South Branch (217002-0838) | \$ - | \$ 39.85 | \$ - | \$ (39.85) | CIP Reserve | \$ 205,900.00 |
| X. | CWF Grant - Erickson Park St (217002-0841) | \$ 164,300.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 164,300.00 | CIP Reserve Grant Match | \$ 101,800.00 |
| XI. | CWF Grant - Aronson Park Storm (217002-0843) | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ - | \$ - | Investment Earnings | \$ 20,000.00 |
| XII. | CWF Grant - Webster Wetland (217002-0844) | \$ 67,000.00 | \$ 64,585.98 | \$ - | \$ 2,414.02 | Total | \$ 2,497,900.00 |
| XIII. | CWF Grant - Technical Assistance (217002-0845) | \$ 19,500.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 19,500.00 | | |
| XIV. | CWF Grant - Imminet Health T (217002-0846) | \$ 8,000.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 8,000.00 | | |
| XV. | CPL Grant - South Creek at Hamburg (217002-0847) | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | | |
| XVI. | FY2019 - Watershed Funding Grant (217002-0848) | \$ 23,700.00 | \$ 3,795.77 | \$ 1,607.29 | \$ 18,296.94 | | |
| XXXIII. | CWF Grant - Middle Creek Restoration (217002-0852) | \$ 420,000.00 | \$ 2,654.85 | \$ 420,443.83 | \$ (3,098.68) | | |
| XXXIV. | Irrigation and Audit (217002-0431) | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ 6,687.50 | \$ - | \$ 3,312.50 | | |
| XXXV. | WBIF Grant (BWSR) 2020-2023 North Creek Stabilization (217002-0853) | \$ 187,500.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 187,500.00 | | |
| XXXVI. | WBIF Grant 2020-2023 Farmington Direct Drainage (217002-0854) | \$ 16,630.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 16,630.00 | | |
| XXXVII. | WBIF Grant (BWSR) 2020-2023 Hastings Direct Drainage (217002-0855) | \$ 16,630.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 16,630.00 | | |
| XXXVIII. | WBIF Grant (BWSR) 2020-2023 Ravenna Basins Restoration (217002-0856) | \$ 35,500.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 35,500.00 | | |
| XXXIV. | WBIF Grant (BWSR) 2020-2023 Rosemount Anti-Icing (217002-0857) | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 15,000.00 | | |
| VRW JPO Revised Budget Expense TOTAL | | \$ 2,297,510.00 | \$ 543,816.32 | \$ 480,845.31 | \$ 1,272,848.37 | | |



Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

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

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

Agenda Item 5
October 2021

Expenses from the invoices submitted between August 13, 2021 and September 12, 2021 totalled \$104,262.19

The invoices submitted between September 13, 2021 and October 12, 2021 are listed below:

| <u>Invoice</u> | <u>Vendor</u> | | <u>Amount</u> |
|--|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| | Dakota Staff Time | \$ | 41,114.07 |
| IN27413 | Scott County | \$ | 1,212.60 |
| 1832537 | Stantec | \$ | 15,313.66 |
| 9/17/2021 | 2021 WHEP | \$ | 3,000.00 |
| 21-163009b | 144Design | \$ | 95.00 |
| K46828/F | Pellicci Ace | \$ | 9.98 |
| 31739 | City of Lakeville | \$ | 420,000.00 |
| PCard Zabel | Salt Symposium | \$ | 100.00 |
| Total expense as approved on September 23, 2021 | | \$ | 480,845.31 |

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

6a. Presentation of the Report on the University of Minnesota Riparian Landowner Survey

Meeting Date: 10/28/2021
Item Type: Information
Contact: Mark Zabel
Telephone: 952-891-7011
Prepared by: Mark Zabel

**PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED**

- Presentation of the Report on the University of Minnesota Riparian Landowner Survey

SUMMARY

The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) contracted with the University of Minnesota (UM) to complete a riparian landowner survey in 2010. The purpose of the survey was to evaluate attitudes and behaviors associated with aquatic resources and their conservation. The VRWJPO contracted with the UM in 2020 to repeat the survey to assess changes that may have occurred over the 10 years between surveys and to obtain information that the VRWJPO can apply as we engage people in implementing our conservation mission.

Amit Pradhananga, Research Associate at the UM Department of Forest Resources - Center for Changing Landscapes, and team leader on this project will present the survey and its findings.

Executive Summary

This report describes a social science-based assessment of landowner conservation behavior in the Vermillion River Watershed of present-day Minnesota. The study was conducted by the Center for Changing Landscapes, University of Minnesota (UMN), in collaboration with the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO). The purpose of this study was to understand landowner values, attitudes, and behaviors associated with water resources and conservation practices. Study findings will assist water resource professionals in land use planning and evaluating program outcomes. Data were collected through a self-administered mail survey of a random sample of 1000 landowners who live within the Vermillion River Watershed in present-day Minnesota. Overall, 253 landowners completed and returned the survey for a response rate of 24.5%.

Key Findings

- Landowners surveyed place a high value on clean water and view themselves as environmental stewards. Most landowners also feel a personal obligation to do whatever they can to prevent water pollution and use conservation practices.
- Most landowners draw links between water pollution and its impacts on public health and quality of life, and believe that water resources in Minnesota need better protection. Most landowners also agree that conservation practices protect aquatic life and contribute to quality of life in their community.
- Landowners believe that streamside buffers help to improve water quality but were unsure whether buffers reduce land values.
- Landowners feel a sense of personal as well as collective responsibility to protect water and believe that it is important to protect and restore Minnesota's waters for various values and uses.
- On average, the most trusted individuals or organizations were family, the county's Soil and Water Conservation District, MN Department of Natural Resources, local watershed management organization, and a University of Minnesota Extension agronomist/ag advisor.
- The most widely used conservation practices among landowners were minimizing use of fertilizers/pesticides on lawns and gardens, pollinator friendly plantings, and native plants or shrubs in their yards.
- Only half of the landowners surveyed feel obligated to engage in civic actions (e.g., work with other community members to protect the environment or talk to others about conservation practices). Less than half of the landowners surveyed intend to take civic actions to protect water resources.
- A comparison of 2011 and 2021 respondents indicates that landowners' engagement in civic actions has increased. However, levels of engagement remain generally low.
- Overall, compared with 2011 landowners, those surveyed in 2021 place more responsibility on landowners and local government for water quality protection.
- Compared with 2011 landowners, those surveyed in 2021 agree to greater extent that the effects of water pollution on public health are worse than we realize.

6b. Presentation of a Draft Format for 5-year Capital Improvement Program Planning

Meeting Date: 10/28/2021
Item Type: Information
Contact: Mark Ryan
Telephone: 952-891-7596
Prepared by: Mark Ryan

**PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED**

- Presentation of a draft format for 5-year Capital Improvement Program planning

SUMMARY

The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) manages a capital improvement program (CIP) to develop and construct projects that improve water quality and provide additional benefits to the watershed. Through the years, the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) has asked whether it is feasible to develop a longer-term plan associated with the CIP. Projecting which water quality projects will go forward can be challenging due to the work often requiring private partners and the reliance on grant dollars to supplement local dollars for CIP costs. With the development of Watershed Based Initiative Funding (WBIF) grants, funding is slightly more predictable, though still heavily dependent on grants and partners. In response to this directive from the VRWJPB, staff have created a draft structure for a five-year planning effort for the CIP.

Staff are providing a table as a draft format for structuring how CIP dollars can be planned over a five-year period, with the 2021-2025 period being used in the example draft. This format could then be updated each year moving forward based on whether grants have been obtained and as staff identify additional projects. Staff propose that the CIP plan be finalized each year in about April or May when the outcomes of grants are known and when the revised final budget is completed. As provided in Attachment A, the plan shows the specific projects in the top portion as well as the revenue items used to pay for them. In some cases, revenue is built up prior to construction, so each year does not have matching amounts between revenue and expenses. Staff expect that they could use the 'placeholder' rows to possibly allocate dollars to certain subwatersheds if a specific project has not been identified.

Staff are looking for VRWJPB feedback on the format of the proposed CIP planning document, the proposed timeline for presentation, and the form of approval by the VRWJPB, as applicable.

Attachment A - 2021-2025 VRWJPO Capital Improvement 5-Year Plan

(2021-2025 version is a template plan to be used for planning in future years)

v. 10/18/2021

| Project Name | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|--|-----------|-------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Upper Main Stem | | | | | |
| Bemis Wetland Outlet Restoration | | | \$100,000 | | |
| Generic Stormwater/Infrastructure | | | | | |
| Generic Habitat/Restoration | | | | | |
| South Creek | | | | | |
| Adelman/Peterson Area Restoration | | | \$300,000 | | |
| Generic Stormwater/Infrastructure | | | | | |
| Generic Habitat/Restoration | | | | | |
| North Creek | | | | | |
| North Creek Stream Restoration | \$50,000 | \$306,250 | | | |
| Foxborough Park Stormwater | | \$30,000 | \$346,500 | | |
| East Lake Fish Barrier | | \$430,000 | | | |
| Apple Valley Pond Retrofits | | | \$100,000 | | |
| East Lake Priority Project Placeholder | | | \$50,000 | \$125,000 | |
| Generic Stormwater/Infrastructure | | | | | |
| Generic Habitat/Restoration | | | | | |
| South Branch | | | | | |
| Nitrate Removal Project | | | \$5,000 | \$50,000 | |
| Generic Stormwater/Infrastructure | | | | | |
| Generic Habitat/Restoration | | | | | |
| Middle Creek | | | | | |
| Generic Stormwater/Infrastructure | | | | | |
| Generic Habitat/Restoration | | | | | |
| Middle Main Stem | | | | | |
| Rosemount Anti-Icing Equip. | \$15,000 | | | | |
| Farmington Direct Drainage | \$30,000 | | | | |
| Farmington Streets Project | | | \$340,000 | | |
| Generic Stormwater/Infrastructure | | | | | |
| Generic Habitat/Restoration | | | | | |
| Lower Main Stem | | | | | |
| Hastings Direct Drainage | | \$30,000 | | | |
| Generic Stormwater/Infrastructure | | | | | |
| Generic Habitat/Restoration | | | | | |
| Mississippi Direct | | | | | |
| Almquist Sediment Basins | | \$65,000 | | | |
| CR-54 Ravine Stabilization | | \$50,000 | \$495,000 | | |
| Generic Stormwater/Infrastructure | | | | | |
| Generic Habitat/Restoration | | | | | |
| Watershed Wide | | | | | |
| Unallocated Grant Placeholder | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$50,000 | \$225,000 |
| Unallocated Match Placeholder | \$0 | \$0 | \$30,000 | \$0 | \$22,500 |
| CIP Cost-Share (General/Reserve) | \$125,000 | \$100,000 | \$100,000 | \$100,000 | \$100,000 |
| Total Project Expenses | \$220,000 | \$1,011,250 | \$1,866,500 | \$325,000 | \$347,500 |
| Revenue Source | | | | | |
| Levy Portion - CIP (Match/Reserve) | \$156,408 | \$210,000 | \$200,000 | \$125,000 | \$122,500 |
| 2021-22 WBIF Grant (BWSR) | \$232,421 | \$232,421 | | | |
| 2023-24 WBIF Grant (BWSR) | | | \$225,000 | \$225,000 | |
| 2025-26 WBIF Grant (BWSR) | | | | | \$225,000 |
| CWF Competitive Grant (BWSR) | | \$841,500 | \$300,000 | | |
| CPL Grant (MNDNR) | | \$400,000 | \$275,000 | | |
| Total Project Revenues | \$388,829 | \$1,683,921 | \$1,000,000 | \$350,000 | \$347,500 |
| 5-Year Totals | | | \$3,770,250 | | |

Blue text indicates that amount is tied to a grant for which staff have applied or is an estimate of WBIF total with some uncertainty

Green text indicates that amount is tied to a grant in the future with a higher degree of uncertainty



Minutes

Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission Meeting

October 13, 2021 – 4 p.m.

In-person and Zoom Videoconference

WPC Members in Attendance

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

Staff in Attendance

Mark Ryan, VRWJPO
Brita Moore-Kutz, VRWJPO
Travis Thiel, VRWJPO
Paula Liepold, Dakota County

Others in Attendance

Curt Coudron, Dakota County SWCD

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by Chair Henry at 4 p.m.

2. Roll Call

All members present except Tony Wotzka and Stephen Hamrick. Commissioners Riesgraf and Miller were present virtually while five commissioners were present in person.

3. Audience Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

None.

4. Approval of Agenda

Chair Henry asked for approval of the agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Borton, second by Commissioner Betzold, to approve the agenda. The agenda was unanimously approved by a 7-0 vote.

5. Approval of Minutes

Chair Henry requested any adjustments to the minutes as presented. Upon hearing none, Chair Henry called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2021, meeting of the WPC.

Motion by Commissioner Clanton, second by Commissioner Kotz, to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2021, meeting, as distributed. The minutes were approved by a 5-0 vote. Commissioners Henry and Miller abstained.

6. Business Items

a. VRWJPO Draft CIP Plan Document and Project Information

Mark Ryan described an initiative by the VRWJPO to develop long term planning for Capital Improvements as requested by the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB). The VRWJPB is requesting this to plan for long term expenditures on CIP especially for larger scale projects. Two challenges that are encountered are: one, we don't know that we will have budget for all projects; and two, funding for many of our projects comes through grants and we cannot anticipate availability of applicable grant funding. What is being presented is a draft format outlining CIP for a five-year period. Mark presented a table showing the five-year CIP Plan showing projects broken out by subwatershed and showing the expected year of implementation/expenditure. Some amounts shown are estimates to guide identifying future projects. Mark referred to grant applications for 2022 shown in the table for \$841,500 that are pending from Clean Water Fund (CWF) Competitive Grant funding through the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). Mark described the Watershed Based Implementation Fund Grant through BWSR that is Clean Water Funds allocated to the Vermillion River watershed area every two years through the life of the Legacy Amendment and assumptions for those funds in the CIP Plan. Commissioner Clanton asked if staff are relatively assured of the revenues identified in the Draft CIP Plan. Mark Ryan responded that the projected revenues are not guaranteed and so there is some uncertainty associated with those numbers. Commissioner Clanton suggested color coding to identify the levels of uncertainty. Commissioner Kotz asked if there was a certain time of year when grants are open for application. Mark and Travis Thiel responded that we generally look to apply to two grant opportunities and those generally happen at two different times, CWF Competitive late Summer and Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) which has two application periods, late Summer and Winter. Commissioner Kotz asked if those grants were all related to the Legacy funding. Travis replied that all CWF is Legacy funding through the Clean Water portion and CPL is also Legacy funding through the Outdoor Heritage portion. Travis described the CPL grant application for East Lake for Carp and Goldfish control. Commissioner Clanton asked if the VRWJPO ever applies for Federal Funding such as Section 319 funds through the Federal Clean Water Act. Mark and Travis identified that the VRWJPO has not recently applied for Federal Grant funds in part due to higher match requirements.

Mark then opened a second attachment (B) which outlined project expenditures by subwatershed, the amount of that project funding that came directly from VRWJPO funds, and what was identified for target expenditure in the Vermillion River Watershed Plan Implementation Section. Commissioner Clanton asked what the Watershed Plan column represented for expenditures. Mark commented that the column represents the planned target expenditures for the 10-year duration of the Plan. The Project Costs column reflects the expenditures to date (i.e. the first five years of the Plan). Mark noted that the diminishing amounts in the Watershed Plan column reflect the priority applied to those subwatersheds going from upstream to downstream applying the concept that improvements upstream would support improvement going downstream. Mark went on to describe some of the challenges encountered in implementing projects in different areas of the watershed. Commissioner Clanton asked where the watershed was split between the Upper, Middle, and Lower Mainstem. Mark called up a map showing the division. Commissioner Miller asked why more attention isn't being paid to the Upper Mainstem such as stream restorations or other projects. Mark responded that Scott SWCD is pursuing an updated subwatershed assessment through WBIF funding. Mark also identified that some of the challenges in that area are in coordination and cooperation with private landowners in that area as much of the ditches and waterways are privately owned. Commissioner Miller expressed her hope that there will be opportunities for restorations in that area especially providing a return toward a more naturalized

environment. Curt Coudron asked if the plan accounts for grant funding or other dollars for CIP. Mark responded that the Plan does not include grant funding due to its uncertainty. Travis added that the Plan does identify the overall funding need and then identified what is a reasonable target for expenditures. Grant funding allows an acceleration of targeted expenditure. Travis was asking for input from the Watershed Planning Commission members on where priorities should be set for future CIP. Mark also asked for input on how we can overcome barriers that might be impacting getting projects in certain areas. Commissioner Henry asked if there is any interest or planning for reestablishing meanders in the South Branch. This may be possible if working with a willing partner. That type of work would require an easement if done with a CPL grant. Commissioner Kotz asked to review how subwatershed priorities were set. Travis described the consideration for watershed improvement overall based on subwatershed position and the potential impact to downstream areas and noted that this prioritization strategy can be revisited with the next plan update.

7. Updates

a. Chairperson's Report

Chair Henry reported that he had a conversation with a fisherman from Winona who was fishing near a bridge on the South Branch. Commissioner Henry asked why he might be fishing here. The fisherman told him that he fishes all over southeast Minnesota and the largest trout he has caught has been out of the Vermillion River.

Commissioner Henry is seeing more cover crop applied in the watershed.

b. Staff Updates

Brita Moore-Kutz reported tabling at the Dakota County Fair and at the State Fair with Metro Watershed Partners promoting the Adopt-A-Drain Program. Brita is tabling with Confluence of Stewards in Fridley with Freshwater (Society) and recruiting Minnesota Water Stewards for the program in the Vermillion River Watershed. WPC member Kotz and Riesgraf are certified MN Water Stewards through the program. Brita will be at the City of Lakeville's "A Day Without Water" on October 22 at the City's Water Treatment Plant providing information about protecting water. Brita will be speaking with the Farmington Rotary Club on October 21 about volunteer opportunities in the watershed in general, but particularly in Farmington. Brita will be attending the Minnesota Water Resources Conference October 19 and 20 along with other VRWJPO staff and Dakota County staff. The Fall VRWJPO Newsletter is out. Brita is developing an RFQ for interpretive signs for select projects. Brita was at Whitetail Woods taking some pictures at the open house. The VRWJPO is beginning to explore the development of our own volunteer program(s).

Commissioner Clanton mentioned an Agricultural Chemical Reduction Effort meeting scheduled for Monday.

Mark Ryan opened a map/ air photo showing Erickson Park where a water quality improvement project is being implemented. A portion of the park that was providing minimal stormwater treatment is being converted to a wet pond that bounces up to an overflow to a sand filter filtration basin during runoff events.

Mark Ryan reported to the WPC on Open Meeting Law requirements under Section M.S. 13D.02. Since the Emergency Declaration on the COVID-19 Pandemic in Minnesota has been lifted, attendance remotely by interactive technology is limited to only qualified participants as identified in the Statute.

8. Adjourn

*Motion by Commissioner Betzold, second by Commissioner Clanton, to adjourn the meeting at 5:11 p.m.
The motion passed on an 7-0 vote.*

DRAFT