



Agenda

Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission

January 12, 2022 – 4:00 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. Approval of Agenda Action
5. Approval of Minutes from the November 17, 2021 Meeting Action
6. Business Items
 - a. Presentation on the Replacement of the Hastings Wastewater Treatment Plant Information
 - b. Recommendation to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Scott Soil and Water Conservation District for Services in 2022 Action
 - c. Recommendation to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District for Services in 2022 Action
7. Updates
 - a. Chairperson's Report
 - b. Staff Updates
8. Adjourn Action

Please note, the January 12, 2022 Watershed Planning Commission 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 Hamrick will be attending the meeting via interactive technology from his home at 17987 Kettle River Ct, Lakeville, MN.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://dakotacountymn.zoom.us/j/92503874560?pwd=OG9rMnVNbmdwOFI2VVFhZ2N2SEVWQT09>

Meeting ID: 925 0387 4560

Passcode: 540378

One tap mobile

+16513728299,,92503874560#,,,,*540378# US (Minnesota)



Dial by your location

+1 651 372 8299 US (Minnesota)

Meeting ID: 925 0387 4560

Passcode: 540378

Find your local number: <https://dakotacountymn.zoom.us/j/92503874560>

Other Information

Next Meeting Date: **February 9, 2022** at 4:00 p.m.

Please confirm your attendance by contacting Mark Zabel at 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

November 17, 2021 – 4:00 p.m.

In-person and Zoom Videoconference

WPC Members in Attendance

Mark Henry Chuck Clanton
Josh Borton James Kotz
Ken Betzold Stephen Hamrick
Andy Riesgraf Tony Wotzka

Staff in Attendance

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

Others in Attendance

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by Chair Henry at 4:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call

All members present except Carolyn Miller. Tony Wotzka and Stephen Hamrick were observing via teleconference and not voting.

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 approved by a 6-0 vote.

5. Approval of Minutes

Chair Henry requested any adjustments to the minutes as presented. Commissioner Betzold noted that Chair Henry convened the October 13, 2021 meeting not Vice-Chair Betzold and asked the minutes be corrected. Chair Henry called for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2021 meeting of the WPC, as corrected.

Motion by Commissioner Clanton, second by Commissioner Kotz, to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2021, meeting, as corrected. The minutes were approved by a 6-0 vote.

6. Business Items

a. Presentation of Riparian Landowner Survey Report

Amit Pradhananga shared his screen for presentation of the “Landowner conservation beliefs and behaviors in the Vermillion River watershed” report. Amit is with the University of Minnesota Forestry Department, Center for Changing Landscapes. There was a survey of landowners in 2011 and now again in 2021. Amit is presenting the findings from the 2021 survey but also some comparison to the 2011 survey.

The purpose of the study is to try to understand landowner beliefs, norms, and behaviors associated with water resource conservation. This study was performed through a survey mailed to a randomly selected list of one-thousand riparian landowners in the Vermillion River Watershed. Two hundred fifty-three landowners responded (approximately 25% response rate). The survey inquired about water resource protection, perspectives on conservation practices, and current and potential future conservation practices. Unlike in 2011, researchers also asked questions about how landowners used or valued water. Most respondents identified that water resources need better protection and that conservation practices link to water quality and habitat benefits. Amit presented some specific responses about buffers referencing their habitat value and potential impacts on land values.

Commissioner Clanton asked if this information indicated whether the respondent was an agricultural or residential user. Amit stated about 20% of the landowners surveyed identified as farmers. Commissioner Riesgraf inquired about the process for selecting who received the survey. Amit responded that it was a random sample of one thousand. Mark Zabel explained the VRWJPO supplied a list of riparian landowners developed using the Counties’ geographical information systems (GIS) applying a buffer along Vermillion River streams and tributaries from which the random sample was drawn.

The survey asked who respondents think should be responsible for protecting water quality. Most respondents indicated personal, landowner, or local government responsibility, i.e. a local responsibility, but that responsibility is distributed among locals.

Overall, the findings reflect that landowners value clean water, they are concerned about water quality and pollution, and they believe there is a personal obligation and responsibility to protect water. Landowners generally see the benefits of conservation and knowing more about practice benefits may motivate practice adoption.

After concluding his presentation, Amit asked if there were any additional questions. Commissioner Riesgraf asked how many respondents were repeat respondents from the 2011 survey. Amit stated that the researchers had not analyzed for that. It would require additional work with name and address matching to determine repeat responders. Commissioner Riesgraf offered that if there were enough of those there would be some opportunity for direct change comparison between 2011 and 2021 responses, which could be interesting. Commissioner Henry asked if there was significant change between 2011 and 2021 in perceptions of buffer requirements. Commissioner Henry noted that Dakota County had begun enforcing its ordinance provisions and later the State of Minnesota initiated buffer

provision requirements that may have had an influence of perceptions about buffers. Amit acknowledged that it could have changed some perceptions, but the survey did not ask about the State mandates themselves. The survey did ask about perceptions about buffers but did not see significant changes between 2011 and 2021 in answers to those questions. Mark Ryan asked if there was a breakout of land ownership that could be compared between 2011 and 2021. Travis Thiel added that it would also be interesting to evaluate not only the ownership but also the size of ownership and there might be an interest in differences for large farmland holdings versus small land holdings. It might be a comparison on a per acre basis. Amit will consider some of these suggestions for further analysis.

Amit offered to receive any follow-up suggestions after the meeting.

b. Final Draft VRWJPO Budget

Chair Henry introduced the item and referred to Mark Zabel for the presentation of the Final Draft 2022 VRWJPO Budget. Mark Zabel pointed out changes that had occurred to the budget compared to the original draft presented in August of 2021. Some funds have been allocated from the general CIP cost-share line item to supplement cash match to several grant and partner funded projects. These allocations are necessary as final project costs become firm in comparison to original estimates. An additional \$31,250 was allocated to match for the North Creek Stabilization Project and an additional \$20,000 was allocated to match for the Ravenna Basins Restoration Project. \$15,000 was reallocated to CIP from Vermillion Stewards. These reallocations do not affect the total expenses and thus do not impact the overall budget for the year. That means the levy remains the same as well.

Motion by Commissioner Borton, second by Commissioner Kotz, to recommend approval of the Final Draft 2022 VRWJPO Budget. Passed on a 6-0 vote.

c. Wetland Health Evaluation Program

Chair Henry introduced the item and referred to Paula Liepold for presentation. Paula noted that the VRWJPO has been contributing funds to the Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP) over several years. Paula asked members if they had any questions about the WHEP. Commissioner Riesgraf asked what information has been reported from the collection of data over the years. Paula responded that the data is collected and reported annually by Fortin Consulting. The goals of the program are to engage and train volunteers in implementing the program and engaging them with the resources. Paula identified the term of the agreement as a five-year agreement. Participation is determined annually. Each Spring Paula reaches out to all communities who have entered into the agreement informing them of the fees and requirements to determine if and to what level they want to participate. Mark Zabel noted that the agreement enables the VRWJPO to participate in the program but does not necessarily commit the VRWJPO to form teams and allocate funds as part of this agreement. If the VRWJPO were to choose to identify wetlands and form a team for the program, funds would then need to be allocated to support the team's participation. Chair Henry asked what staff were requesting of the WPC. Mark Zabel stated that staff were requesting the WPC recommend to the VRWJPB to enter into the WHEP agreement.

Commissioner Clanton asked if Paula or Fortin Consulting could provide a presentation on the conditions of wetlands reported through WHEP. Paula indicated that a presentation on the wetlands evaluated within the participating communities in the watershed would be possible. Commissioner Riesgraf expressed an interest in trends over time for wetlands that have been evaluated. Paula commented that the annual report does show trends for individual wetlands that have been monitored more than once

as well as the scoring for the wetland for the program year. To view the report online you can go to MNWHEP.org to access the reports.

Motion by Commissioner Botzold, second by Commissioner Clanton to recommend approval of the Joint Powers Agreement for the Wetland Health Evaluation Program. Passed on a 6-0 vote.

d. Meeting Schedule for 2022

Chair Henry introduced the item and referred to Mark Zabel for presentation. Mark Zabel presented the proposed meeting schedule for 2022, which matches with the traditional schedule for the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission (WPC) as applied in the past as shown here:

- January 12
- February 9
- March 9
- April 13
- May 11
- June 8
- July 13
- August 10
- September 14
- October 12
- November 16

The WPC regularly meets the second Wednesday of the month with the exceptions of November and December. The WPC holds its last meeting of the year in November two weeks before the last meeting of the year for the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board.

Motion by Commissioner Clanton, Second by Commissioner Riesgraf to approve the meeting schedule for 2022 as presented. Passed on a 6-0 vote.

e. Model Ordinance Update

Chair Henry introduced the item and referred to Mark Ryan for presentation. Mark Ryan commented that VRWJPO staff have been working on developing a model ordinance to guide local communities in updating their local ordinances to implement the updated VRWJPO Standards. Staff will be working with the local units of government who implement the VRWJPO Standards through their local ordinances to update their ordinances to ensure current VRWJPO Standards are included. To help with this, staff began developing a model ordinance based on the one that was developed in 2010 for the Dakota County Rural Collaborative Towns and Townships updating it to match the current VRWJPO Standards. Staff are hoping this will help streamline the updating and adoption of changes to local ordinances.

Commissioner Clanton commented that within the VRWJPO Standards and the model ordinance we refer to storm events for purposes of design of practices. Commissioner Clanton suggests that we simply list the rainfall amount as opposed to the design storm event as the watershed is small enough that there is little difference across the watershed. Mark Ryan commented that it is something we could consider in future Standards updates. Travis Thiel looked up the Atlas 14 information for the 100-year, 24-hour rain event; the difference across the watershed between Elko-New Market and Hastings is 0.10 inches of rainfall, with 7.29 inches in Elko-New Market and 7.39 inches in Hastings. Mark Zabel added that Atlas 14 applied probability mapping around the gaging stations to establish the rainfall values for

design storm events. Travis Thiel mentioned that someone who would perform the modeling of these storm events would either have a model that pulls the correct design storm information based on the location of the project or would look directly on the Atlas 14 website to identify the design storm for the specific location.

f. Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission Member Terms and Status

Chair Henry introduced the item and referred to Mark Zabel for presentation. Mark Zabel displayed a table showing the terms and eligibility for member's service on the WPC. Mark Zabel acknowledged that Commissioner Betzold's eligibility ends at the end of the year, so this is his last meeting. Brita then presented Commissioner Betzold with a rain gage in recognition of his long-time service as a member of the WPC. Mark Zabel then went through the list of members noting when their individual terms end and the extent of their eligibilities. Mark Zabel also noted that Carolyn Miller's term and Tony Wotzka's term end at the end of this year. Both have chosen not to continue. Chair Henry acknowledged Ken Betzold's service on the WPC and his commitment to conservation. Chair Henry also acknowledged the need to recruit new members. Mark Zabel noted the challenge of only having six current active members and five members are needed for a quorum for a meeting. Chair Henry encouraged members to encourage others to serve. Chair Henry also acknowledged the service of Carolyn and Tony.

7. Updates

a. Chairperson's Report

Chair Henry reported there are several monitoring wells being drilled locally. Chair Henry hopes the VRWJPO will be able to access data collected from those wells. Mark Ryan commented that much of that activity is coordinated between the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and Dakota County Environmental Resources Groundwater Unit, and so the information will be available to the VRWJPO.

Commissioner Clanton reported there had been a meeting on the Agricultural Chemical Reduction Effort (ACRE) program by Dakota County. The County is providing financial incentives to support what the Soil and Water Conservation District and United States Department of Agriculture through the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Farm Service Agency are doing to encourage reduced agricultural chemical applications. The morning's session was something of a brainstorming to address issues. The group discussed rewarding those who are currently implementing practices rather than providing incentives to correct poor practices. If doing carbon sequestering, you should be rewarded for it. Most programs don't address small operations of less than 40 acres, and the County targeting some of these small acreages. They also discussed multiple topics for improvement:

- How to improve irrigation water management.
- Getting more plant tissue testing used for managing nitrogen.
- Testing crops and finding efficiencies.
- Getting more varying crops into the landscape like small grains and forage crops.
- How to handle absentee landowners.
- Possible limited land retirement programs like CRP.

Commissioner Clanton suggested possibly having County and/or SWCD staff associated with the ACRE program give a presentation to the WPC.

b. Staff Updates

Brita Moore-Kutz reported going through the landowner survey report and incorporating strategies into the VRWJPO Communications Plan based on information provided. Brita noted that she had done some tabling at events. Brita attended the Minnesota Water Resources Conference and BWSR Academy

trainings. Brita and Mark Zabel met with staff from Friends of the Mississippi River to discuss how we might coordinate and collaborate on efforts of mutual benefit and interest.

Travis Thiel reported that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has released their final impaired waters draft listings for 2022. There are thirteen new impairments listed for the Vermillion River Watershed. Twelve of those on stream reaches and one on Lake Rebecca in the City of Hastings. Lake Rebecca has a new impairment listing for PFOS, a “forever chemical” used in non-stick cookware and fabric treatments by companies like 3M and Dupont. Many of the stream impairments aren’t really new as they have been discussed but MPCA needed to collect more information. The South Branch has three new impairments but those are mainly a result of the reclassification of the stream from 2B warmwater stream to 2A coldwater stream. Commissioner Kotz asked to clarify that there are 13 new impairments. Travis confirmed that there are 13 new impairments for the watershed. Commissioner Riesgraf commented that Lake Rebecca is really a backwater of the Mississippi River. Mark Zabel confirmed that conditions for Lake Rebecca are directly influenced by conditions within the Mississippi River. Travis commented that staff are drafting comments to the specific draft listings for the watershed. Some of the changes leading to listings are due to changes in classifications for the stream, changes in the standard, or new additional sampling. There was a great deal of discussion around the draft listing for Aluminum and what the source of Aluminum leading to a listing might be. Commissioner Kotz asked if the VRWJPO has implemented projects that could benefit the areas where these impairments occur. Mark Zabel replied that the work of the VRWJPO has been focused on partnering on projects that address impairments or that try to protect waters from becoming impaired. The VRWJPO has participated in projects to reduce total suspended solids (TSS) in various reaches of the stream, has done projects to reduce delivery of phosphorus to lakes with Total Maximum Daily Load requirements, etc. Mark Zabel noted that staff have talked about conditions in the stream and the concept of a site specific standard as the South Branch now has a draft listing for fish when Chair Henry reported just last month about talking with a fisherman on the South Branch who had just caught a 24 inch brown trout. Chair Henry asked what the draft impairments were for the South Branch. Travis responded that draft listing for the South Branch are TSS, Fish, and Macroinvertebrates. Chair Henry commented that historical modifications in the upper watershed of the South Branch may have had, and continue to have, a negative impact. Mark Zabel commented that when the public sees thirteen new draft listings for impairments in the Vermillion River watershed, they are likely to think that water quality is significantly degrading when that is really not the case. Commissioners discussed how we might best communicate about this.

Paula Liepold messaged that she has been appointed to serve on the Advisory Committee for the North Cannon River Watershed Management Organization for their Plan development effort.

8. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Betzold, second by Commissioner Kotz, to adjourn the meeting at 5:43 p.m. The motion passed on an 6-0 vote.

6a. Presentation on the Replacement of the Hastings Wastewater Treatment Plant

Meeting Date: 1/12/2022
Item Type: Information
Contact: Mark Zabel
Telephone: 952-891-7011
Prepared by: Mark Zabel



PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

- Presentation on the Replacement of the Hastings Wastewater Treatment Plant

SUMMARY

Staff from the Metropolitan Council will provide a presentation describing plans for the replacement of the Hastings Wastewater Treatment Plant. The current plant will be closed and replaced with a lift pump station which will transfer materials to a newly located and constructed wastewater treatment plant. The new plant will be located southeast of the City of Hastings near Ravenna Trail and Glendale Road. Effluent from the plant will be discharged to the Mississippi River.

6b. Recommendation to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Scott Soil and Water Conservation District for Services in 2022

Meeting Date: 1/12/2022
Item Type: Action
Contact: Troy Kuphal
Telephone: 952-492-5425
Prepared by: Mark Zabel
Reviewed by: N/A

N/A



PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

- Recommendation to execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for Services in 2022.

SUMMARY

Each of the tasks in the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District’s (SWCD) proposed work plan and budget (Attachment A) is included as line items in the 2022 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) budget. The largest proposed spending is in the Capital Improvement Project category for cost share and financial incentives for approved best management practices (BMPs). Rather than developing VRWJPO cost-sharing programs that duplicate existing efforts, the VRWJPO relies on Scott SWCD’s established cost-share programs to efficiently implement water-quality improvement projects. The VRWJPO provides Scott SWCD with funds to cost-share BMPs in urban and rural areas throughout the Scott SWCD portion of the watershed.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission recommend executing a Joint Powers Agreement with Scott SWCD for Services in 2022.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT

Total not to exceed \$43,950.

Supporting Documents:

Attachment A: Scott SWCD 2022 Work Plan and Budget

Previous Board Action(s):

RESOLUTION

6b. Recommendation to Execute Joint Powers Agreement with Scott Soil and Water Conservation District for Services in 2022

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

WHEREAS, Scott SWCD is proposing to assist the VRWJPO with similar tasks in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the tasks in the Scott SWCD proposed work plan and budget are each included as line items in the VRWJPO 2022 Budget in various categories; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission recommends the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Scott SWCD in an amount not to exceed \$43,950 as presented to the VRWJPB at its meeting on January 27, 2022; subject to approval by the Dakota County Attorney's Office as to form.

EXHIBIT 1

2022 SCOTT SWCD WORK PLAN AND BUDGET - DRAFT

Activity	Detail	Line Item		TOTAL	
		2021	2022	2021	2022
Water Quality Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor water quality at one station (V24) to include: equipment set-up and take-down; flow measurements; base flow and grab samples collection; programming; thermal monitoring; data processing and management; planning and coordination. 	\$5775	\$5800	\$9,775	\$9,800
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment maintenance, repair and replacement expenses 	\$1,500	\$1,500		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lab, data line, and courier expenses 	\$2,500	\$2,500		
Public Outreach and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation, stormwater and youth education, as detailed in the Scott Clean Water Education Program 2019 Work Plan. Includes but not limited to community events/expos, library displays, news releases, Outdoor Education Day; and workshops 	\$1,300	\$1,500	\$1,300	\$1,500
Capital Improvement Program¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project development: Prepare subwatershed assessments (SWA) to identify potential projects; identify, contact and meet with landowners with potential projects, including but not limited to the ones identified in the SWA. 	\$2,200	\$7,000	\$41,300	\$31,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project design and engineering: feasibility investigations; surveys; project design and conservation plan preparation; construction inspections and certification; cost share contract administration. Eligible projects to include but not limited to: wetland restoration, streambank stabilization, filter strips, bioretention, nutrient management, cover crops, closed tile intakes, grade stabilization structures, grassed and lined waterways, and water and sediment control basins. 	\$8,400	\$8,000		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost share and financial incentives for approved project applications 	\$30,700	\$16,000		
Regulatory Program Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research, investigations, and corrective action follow-up related to wetland, feedlot, and buffer law compliance. 	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900
Management and Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage work, planning, budget and financial recordkeeping • Prepare and administer Service agreement • Attend Board, TAG and other JPB-sponsored meetings • Identify and develop recommendations regarding JPO programs and policies 	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$750
GRAND TOTAL:				\$54,025	\$43,950

¹ To the maximum extent practical, other local, state, federal cost-share funds will be utilized to implement conservation practices before, or in conjunction with, the use of VRWJPO funds. By approval of this work plan, the VRWJPO authorizes the Scott SWCD to utilize funding under this line item to provide financial assistance to landowners and occupiers in the watershed for the implementation of approved practices, as set forth in applicable 2020 cost share and incentive program policies as adopted by Scott SWCD Board of Supervisors. If insufficient CIP funds are available to approve one or more priority project(s), the SWCD will coordinate with JPO staff to request a budget amendment.

6c. Recommendation to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District for Services in 2022

Meeting Date: 1/12/2022
Item Type: Regular-Action
Contact: Brian Watson
Telephone: 651-480-7777
Prepared by: Mark Zabel
Reviewed by: N/A

N/A



PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

- Recommendation to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for Services in 2022

SUMMARY

Each of the tasks in Dakota County SWCD’s proposed work plan and budget (Attachment A) is included as line items in the 2022 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) budget. The largest proposed spending is in the Capital Improvement Project category. Rather than developing VRWJPO cost-sharing programs that duplicate existing efforts, the VRWJPO relies on the established cost-share programs implemented by Dakota County SWCD to efficiently implement water-quality improvement projects. The VRWJPO provides Dakota County SWCD with funds to cost-share best management practices (BMPs) in urban and rural areas throughout the watershed.

Staff requests the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission recommend authorization to execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County SWCD for Services in 2022.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT

Total not to exceed \$257,000.

Supporting Documents:

Attachment A: Scott SWCD 2022 Work Plan and Budget

Previous Board Action(s):

RESOLUTION

6a. Recommendation to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District for Services in 2022

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

WHEREAS, the Dakota County SWCD is proposing to assist the VRWJPO with similar tasks in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the tasks outlined in the Dakota County SWCD proposed work plan and budget are each included as line items in the VRWJPO 2022 Budget in various categories; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission hereby recommends authorization to execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County SWCD for a total not to exceed \$257,000 as presented to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board at its meeting on January 27, 2022; subject to approval by the Dakota County Attorney’s Office as to form.

Exhibit 1
2022 Dakota County SWCD Work Plan and Budget to
the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers
Organization

Evaluation and Policy

- Incentive program policy assistance for programs to install voluntary conservation practices

\$1,600

Subtotal \$1,600**Feasibility/Preliminary Studies**

- Preliminary design, technical assistance and marketing of voluntary conservation practices

\$40,000

Subtotal \$40,000**Capital Improvement Projects**

- Install water quality projects under SWCD Cost Share Programs
- Implement Landscaping for Clean Water Grant Program (LCW)

\$61,250¹\$18,750²**Subtotal \$80,000****Public Outreach and Communication**

- Coordinate tasks under the Vermillion River Watch Program
- Conduct Landscaping for Clean Water Workshops (up to 19 total)
- Presentations for Grades 3-12 (up to 5 total)

\$ 6,000

\$30,400

\$4,000

Subtotal \$40,400**Inventories and Assessments**

- Provide GIS mapping support

\$5,000

Subtotal \$5,000**Monitoring and Data Analysis**

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

\$39,000

\$17,000

\$19,000

\$ 8,000

\$ 7,000

Subtotal \$90,000**Total Not To Exceed Amount:****\$257,000**

1 25% technical and administrative costs will be invoiced for each contracted project installed

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