



# Meeting Minutes

## Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board Meeting

October 28, 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

Scott County Commissioner Tom Wolf, Vice Chair via teleconference

### Others in Attendance

Mark Zabel, Dakota County, VRWJPO Administrator

Melissa Bokman-Ermer, Scott County, Watershed Co-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

### 1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1 p.m.

### 2. Roll Call

Commissioners Slavik, Hamann-Roland, and Wolf 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 September 23, 2021, meeting
- c. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report

*Res. No. VRW 21-24: Motion by Commissioner Hamann-Roland, Second by Commissioner Wolf and passed on a 3-0 vote to approve the consent agenda.*

### 5. Approval of Expenses

Mark Zabel presented the current expenses for approval as shown on item 5.

Commissioners Slavik and Hamann-Roland Inquired about the budgeted amounts in the Treasurer's Report and expected expenses coming to the end of the year. Staff provided information about potential budget impacts through the end of the year.

*Res. No. VRW 21-25: Motion by Commissioner Wolf, Second by Commissioner Hamann-Roland and passed on a 3-0 vote to approve the expenses as presented.*

#### **Business Items**

*Res. No. VRW 21-26: Motion by Commissioner Hamann-Roland, Second by Commissioner Wolf and passed on a 3-0 vote to amend the agenda to remove item 6a.*

#### **6a. Presentation of Riparian landowner Survey Report**

Amit Pradhananga was unable to present. The presentation was deferred to the next meeting of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board.

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

Mark Ryan presented a table summarizing a draft 5-year capital improvement program plan. The current draft of the plan includes projects identified with actual potential for implementation. The plan is organized by subwatershed matching the approach for implementation presented in the 2016-2025 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan. Projects listed in the plan show costs for completion in 2021. Those identified for 2022 have had grant applications submitted and funding pending. Projects beyond 2022 are more speculative but are included for planning purposes. A discussion of some projects and potential future project funding ensued.

#### **Staff Reports**

**Melissa Bokman-Ermer** reported that she had drafted a potential request for an extension of the 2019 WBIF grant. Additional time is needed for developing a potential project with a landowner and to identify additional funding for the Imminent Health Septics project. Whether a formal request for an extension will be submitted will be determined when more information is available.

**Brita Moore-Kutz** reported that the month has been filled with education and training as well as some community engagement. Trainings included the Minnesota Water Resources Conference and the BWSR Academy She also attended a training on the "Watershed Game" which is a board game produced by the Minnesota Sea Grant Program based out of Duluth MN. Dakota County was selected as a site for the "We Are Water Minnesota" Exhibit which will be hosted at the Hastings Public Library and at the Lebanon Hills Regional Park Visitor Center. Brita will collaborate with Paula Liepold and other Dakota County staff on supporting the outreach with the exhibit. Brita attended the "Confluence of Stewards" event hosted by Freshwater, tabling for the VRWJPO and in support of their Minnesota Water Stewards Program. Brita also tabled at the City of Lakeville Public Works "Imagine a Day Without Water" event. Brita spoke to the Farmington Rotary Club about the watershed, what they could do to protect it, and how they might engage in water-oriented events. Commissioner Hamann-Roland suggested possibly coordinating something with the Apple Valley Chamber of Commerce Home and Garden Show. Brita indicated she would be happy to explore that opportunity.

**Travis Thiel** reported on the Erickson Park Project in Apple Valley. The project is currently under construction and substantially complete. This was a flood retention area with an existing pollinator garden. Commissioner Hamann-Roland asked if there was any special recognition for projects like this. This is a site where the VRWJPO may put up an interpretive sign, which isn't exactly a celebration, but conveys information about the project and its purpose.

**Mark Zabel** updated the VRWJPB on the reallocation of funds within the Draft 2022 VRWJPO Budget. The transfers do not affect the overall expenses in the budget or the proposed levy request. Mark Zabel also updated the VRWJPB on the WBIF funds allocated to the Vermillion Rive Watershed and how the allocations are likely to proceed in the future. Commissioner Slavik would like to see a greater level of trust for Local Governmental Units on the part of State Agencies in these grant funded efforts.

Commissioner Slavik requested staff investigate holding the December 2, 2021 meeting at a location other than a Dakota County Facility as an option. The Elko-New Market Public Library was suggested as a proposed meeting location. This is a request as an option but does not preclude continuing with the optional teleconference approach.

**Adjourn**

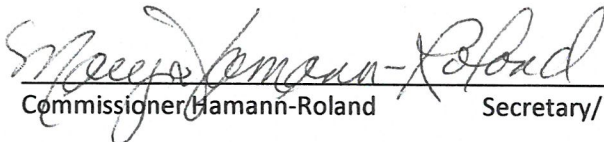
*Motion by Commissioner Hamann-Roland, Second by Commissioner Wolf and passed on a 3-0 vote to adjourn the meeting at 1:52 p.m.*

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 1 p.m. in Conference Room A at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center, 4100 220<sup>th</sup> Street West, Farmington, MN.

Mark Zabel

Administrator for the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

Attest

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Hamann-Roland      Secretary/ Treasurer

2/11/22  
Date