



Meeting Minutes

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board Meeting

February 24, 2022, 1 p.m., In-person and Teleconference using Zoom

Board Members in Attendance

Dakota County Commissioner Mike Slavik, Chair

Scott County Commissioner Tom Wolf, Vice Chair via teleconference

Dakota County Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg, Secretary/ Treasurer

Others in Attendance

Al Full, Citizen

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

Mary Hamann-Roland, Dakota County Commissioner, VRWJPB Alternate via teleconference

Mark Zabel, Dakota County, VRWJPO Administrator

Melissa Bokman-Ermer, Scott County, Watershed Co-administrator via teleconference

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

Paul Beaumaster, Dakota County, Assistant County Attorney

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Slavik, Holberg, and Wolf were in attendance.

3. Audience Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

Al Full appeared and addressed the Board about his concern with drainage in the area around Biscayne Avenue and 190th Street. Chair Slavik indicated that the meeting will be short as the decision items are on Consent Agenda and that this issue could be addressed in staff reports.

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Agenda
- b. Approval of Minutes from the January 27, 2022, meeting
- c. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
- d. Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Lakeville and Dakota County for Foxborough Park Sediment Reduction Project

- e. Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County for the Ravenna Ravines Stabilization Project
- f. Authorization to Execute a Grant Agreement with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources for a Clean Water Fund Grant for the Foxborough Park and Ravenna Ravines Projects

Res. No. VRW 22-03: Motion by Commissioner Holberg, 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.

Res. No. VRW 22-04: Motion by Commissioner Holberg, Second by Commissioner Wolf and passed on a 3-0 roll call vote to approve the expenses totaling \$169,727.27 incurred between January 14, 2022 and February 15, 2022.

Staff Reports

Paul Beaumaster

Paul reported that he was present as counsel in replacement of Helen Brosnahan who had been appointed to the Washington County District Court Bench.

Mark Ryan

Mark reported that staff have been working on closing out some Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) grants and completing required reporting on grants. Mark also reported that he had sent letters to local units of government regarding updating ordinances and received some questions on clarifications but no requests for attending meetings. Mark is planning for the Township Officer's Meeting coming up next month and expects there may be some follow up after that meeting. Mark commented to Mr. Full's concerns in regard to the 190th Street and Biscayne area drainage that he met with Dakota County Planning to discuss any long-term planning for that area including any plans for access and drainage related to the Wetland Management Area. Chair Slavik asked Mark to look into information for clarification on the potential role of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers based on Mr. Full's comments on what he was hearing from Empire Township representatives.

Melissa Bokman-Ermer

Melissa reported on a situation involving a wetland in New Market Township. Melissa provided background on the issue stating that in 2020 there was an Adelman Farms Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) for the Adelman Property which is planned for development. The VRWJPO provided comment to the AUAR identifying that in 2014 the VRWJPO approved CIP dollars for wetland restoration toward development of a wetland bank. Since there appears to be substantial wetlands on the area to be developed comments suggested this may be an opportunity to explore. The City of Elko New Market responded that they will consider exploring this opportunity. The area in question is not expected to develop in the near term and so there is an opportunity to explore this further.

Travis Thiel

Travis reported that nine irrigation audits had been completed in 2021; six in Lakeville, three in Rosemount. The City of Apple Valley has expressed interest in the program and is planning for audits in 2022. The VRWJPO is tentatively planning for participation with twelve irrigation audits in 2022; up to six in Lakeville, up to three in Rosemount, and up to three in Apple Valley. Travis is still working through

coordination on this program and wanted to inform the Board as there may be consideration for these developments in budgeting.

Brita Moore-Kutz

Brita reported working on the “We Are Water” exhibit. Paula Liepold, Brita, and Lindsey Albright from the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District are working together with a Dakota County working group in coordinating development of the display(s) and events. Brita has been working on development of interpretive signs for projects coordinating with a design contractor on the project for completion of six interpretive signs. Completed signs will be placed at project sites in locations readily accessible to the public. Brita is also working on completing the Annual Activity Report for the VRWJPO to be submitted to BWSR at the end of April.

Mark Zabel

Mark reported having received a call from a consultant asking if the VRWJPO would be interested in participating in a large wetland bank project in the watershed. The potential wetland restoration area is a large area, approximately 100 acres. Mark indicated to the consultant that such a project may be too large for the VRWJPO alone and directed the caller to Dakota County Environmental Resources Department as there may be opportunity through their CIP program to develop water storage to reduce downstream flows. This would be another opportunity similar to what was discussed earlier in the Elko-New Market area. As these opportunities develop, we will need to look at our budget and consider to what level we may wish to participate. The area is a former sod farm off Blaine Avenue. Georg Fischer acknowledged having been contacted by the consultant and mentioned that Dakota County will entertain those opportunities as they arise and will evaluate restorations within programs and their fit to goals of Dakota County. Where wetland credits can be developed at reasonable cost to the County they may be pursued. Mark also mentioned that Brian Watson, Manager for the Dakota County SWCD, had mentioned that there is a private wetland bank that may be in development in the watershed which would be really great as it creates another wetland bank in the watershed.

Mark also mentioned that he would be sending a letter to all local units of government in the watershed that implement the requirements of the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) informing them of the availability of wetland credits from the newly created wetland bank. Chair Slavik asked if the information provided regarding wetland banking differs between Cities and Townships. Mark Zabel responded that most of the Townships within the watershed have delegated authority for implementing WCA to the SWCD. The responsibility for actions implementing the requirements of WCA lie in whether the Township or City choose to retain that responsibility themselves or choose to delegate that to the SWCD. Chair Slavik then asked about water retention and storage asking what has been awarded and the source of those funds. Georg Fischer responded that Dakota County had applied for State funding from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund for programs managed through the Dakota County Land Conservation Program that could address water retention and storage. Chair Slavik asked about credits that have been developed through wetland banking and their status. Mark Zabel noted that 5.1066 acres credits have been allocated to the VRWJPO for public sale, and none have been sold to date. Georg indicated that almost all the credits available from the Jordan Bank (outside the Vermillion River Watershed) have been used by Dakota County mainly for Greenway projects. Georg indicated that credits from the Braun Bank (In the Vermillion River Watershed) have not been used yet. Mark indicated that the credits available are the first release and that more credits will become available as performance milestones are completed.

Chair Slavik noted that as of March 1, 2022 masks in County buildings become optional.

Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Holberg, Second by Commissioner Wolf and passed on a 3-0 vote to adjourn the meeting at 1:39 p.m.

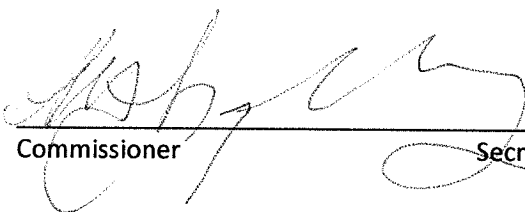
Next Meeting Date: Thursday, March 24, 2022, at 1 p.m. in Conference Room A at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center, 4100 220th Street West, Farmington, MN.

Respectfully submitted by

Mark Zabel

Administrator for the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

Attest

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'M. Holberg', is written over a horizontal line.

Commissioner

Secretary/ Treasurer

Date