



# Meeting Minutes

**Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board Meeting**  
July 28, 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  
Dakota County Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg, Secretary/ Treasurer

## **Others in Attendance**

Bruce Johnson, Dakota County SWCD, Supervisor  
Melissa Bokman-Ermer, Scott County, Watershed Co-administrator  
Paul Beaumaster, Assistant Dakota County Attorney, VRWJPO Counsel  
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

## **1. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

## **2. Roll Call**

Commissioners Slavik, Holberg, and Wolf were in attendance.

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

There were no comments from the audience.

## **4. Approval of Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of Agenda
- b. Approval of Minutes from the July 28, 2022, Meeting
- c. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
- d. Authorization to Schedule a Public Hearing for the Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan Amendment

*Res. No. VRW 22-16: Motion by Commissioner Holberg, Second by Commissioner Wolf and passed on a 3-0 vote to approve the consent agenda.*

## **5. Approval of Expenses**

Travis Thiel presented the current expenses for approval as shown on item 5.

*Res. No. VRW 22-17: Motion by Commissioner Holberg, Second by Commissioner Wolf and passed on a 3-0 vote to approve the expenses totaling \$84,464.70 incurred between July 14, 2022 and August 13, 2022.*

## **Business Items**

### **6a. Public Hearing to Receive Comments on and Adoption of the Draft Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization 2023 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy**

Travis Thiel presented an overview of the proposed Draft Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization 2023 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District in summary before the opening of the public hearing. Travis described the overall levy as remaining the same as 2022 and discussed the changes in estimated tax capacities, impacts, and rates for the Dakota County and Scott County portions of the watershed. Tax capacities and valuations increased, impacts remained steady, and rates went down. Commissioners commented that the preliminary levy request set in this budget establishes the levy maximum. That does allow for some potential changes to the budget between now and December when a final budget and levy are adopted, but limits a levy request to be no higher than what is adopted at this meeting and by the respective County Boards at their upcoming meetings.

Chair Slavik opened the public hearing and asked staff if any written comments had been submitted. Travis Thiel noted that Mark Zabel had communicated that no comments were submitted to him as Administrator and Travis noted that no comments were received by himself or other VRWJPO staff. Chair Slavik asked if anyone present wished to provide comment. There were none.

*Res. No. VRW 22-18: Motion by Commissioner Wolf, Second by Commissioner Holberg and passed on a 3-0 vote to close the Public Hearing on the Draft Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization 2023 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy at 1:05p.m.*

*Res. No. VRW 22-19: Motion by Commissioner Holberg, Second by Commissioner Wolf and passed on a 3-0 vote to adopt the Draft Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization 2023 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy.*

### **6b. Presentation of activity funding requests for Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Fiscal Years 2022-2023 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF)**

Travis Thiel presented information on the amount of funding allocated to the watershed through the Watershed Based Implementation Funding program and the projects proposed for funding using those funds. The WBIF program is administered through the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources using funds allocated from the Clean Water Fund. \$673,331 were allocated to the Vermillion River watershed for implementing projects eligible under the WBIF program. Staff held several "Convene" meetings to coordinate with eligible entities in the

development and evaluation of projects for submittal under the WBIF program criteria. Projects developed applied all the funds allocated to the watershed. Six projects fall under the “Projects and Practices” category which are capital improvement type projects. Two projects fall under “Assessment and Engineering” which are oriented toward investigations that develop future implementation (CIP) projects. Travis went through a brief description of each of the eight proposed projects.

Commissioner Holberg asked about the non-State match portion of the project costs. Travis noted that match for projects as proposed is being provided by project sponsors (Cities and Dakota SWCD) with the VRWJPO providing match for one project (Alimagnet Lake Alum Treatment Feasibility Study).

Commissioner Slavik asked if this represented all the proposed projects or if there were others that did not make the list. Travis commented that this list is all the projects proposed. Travis added that this reflects the developments related to the WBIF program for the Vermillion River watershed where projects being developed are anticipating this funding source. Commissioner Slavik also asked about the potential for projects in the Scott County portion of the watershed. Melissa Bokman-Ermer commented that the Scott SWCD is currently proceeding with a Subwatershed Analysis/ Assessment that is expected to identify some potential projects that may be up for consideration in future rounds of WBIF funding.

Mark Ryan noted that the final application and budget request will occur after the proposed plan amendment is adopted because some of the proposed activities are connected to that amendment.

### **Staff Reports**

Melissa Bokman-Ermer

Melissa provided an update regarding a wetland issue that had been brought to the Joint Powers Board Members’ attention earlier this year. A landowner had undertaken activities impacting a wetland and ditch including placing fill, grading/ excavation, and placing stream crossing culverts that would restrict flow. A Restoration Order has been issued for which the landowner is required to come into compliance by September 16, 2022. In the process staff discovered that this is actually a repeat of activity which occurred in 2005 for which a restoration order was issued at that time.

Melissa also mentioned that she had reached out to all New Market Township officials seeking applicants for the Watershed Planning Commission (WPC), without response. Commissioner Holberg mentioned conversations with people from the Air Lake area in Lakeville also trying to recruit interest in serving on the WPC.

Brita Moore-Kutz

Provided a report about outreach activities she and other VRWJPO provided at the Dakota County Fair along with collaboration with other Dakota County Environmental Resources units. Brita highlighted the We Are Water Tent where staff hosted a “water bar”. Brita also wrote a post for “Adopt-A-Drain” for the City of Rosemount. Brita mentioned that she would be at the State Fair for Adopt-A-Drain as well.

Paul Beaumaster

Paul reported that he has been working on landowner agreements for projects.

Mark Ryan

Mark reported that quotes were received for work to be completed on the repair/ maintenance at the 78-06 wetland project. Low bid was from MN Dirt Works at \$41,834. Work is expected to be completed this Fall before the snow and freeze up. The VRWJPO and Dakota SWCD have been working together with the Conservation Corps to do some tree work/ snag removal at the park area in Empire Township where some flow stagnation and bank erosion was occurring. The crew will be returning to place some cedar revetments in to provide some bank protection in the park area.

Travis Thiel

Travis reported receiving a complaint about manure storage and spreading in the Middle Creek area. Travis notified the complainant that the VRWJPO does not regulate the activity, but upon request, he assisted the complainant in filing a complaint with the Duty Officer for any official action by the State of MN (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency). Travis also reported that a potential project for a fish barrier on East Lake in Lakeville that was identified for 2024 in the Draft CIP Planning Document has been forwarded for a Clean Water Fund Grant application for possible funding. The VRWJPO will know if the application is successful later this year.

**Adjourn**

*Motion by Commissioner Wolf, Second by Commissioner Holberg and passed on a 3-0 vote to adjourn the meeting at 1:20 p.m.*

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, August 25, 2022, 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.

Respectfully submitted by

Mark Zabel

Administrator for the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

Attest

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Secretary/ Treasurer

9.22.22 -  
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Date