



## Agenda

### Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board Meeting

September 22, 2022, 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<br><i>(please limit audience comments to five minutes)</i>                                      |             |         |
| 4. Consent Agenda   | Action      |         |
| a. Approval of Agenda   |             | Page 1  |
| b. Approval of Minutes from the August 25, 2022, Meeting  |             | Page 3  |
| c. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report   |             | Page 8  |
| 5. Approval of Expenses   | Action      | Page 9  |
| 6. Business Items   |             |         |
| a. Public Hearing to Receive Comments on and Adoption of the Amendment to the Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan Implementation Section | Action      | Page 10 |
| b. Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Performance Review and Assistance Program Draft Report   | Information | Page 33 |
| c. Candidate consideration and appointment to the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission  | Action      | Page 68 |
| 6. Staff Reports  |             |         |
| 7. Adjourn  | Action      |         |

**Please note**, the September 22, 2022 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board meeting will take place **in-person** in Conference Room A at the Extension and Conservation Center, 4100 220<sup>th</sup> Street West, Farmington Minnesota **and via teleconference** on the web-based application, Microsoft Teams.

## Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer, mobile app or room device**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)



Meeting ID: 223 840 965 080

Passcode: tt8CnG

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

**Or call in (audio only)**

[+1 651-273-3070,,649298229#](#) United States, St. Paul

Phone Conference ID: 649 298 229#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)



[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

### Other Information

Next Meeting Date: **October 27, 2022**, 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

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

---

Date



## 2022 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Treasurer's Report

September 2022 - Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board Meeting

	<u>Budget Amounts</u>	<u>Expenses to Date</u>	<u>Expenses Pending</u>	<u>Account Balance</u>
A. Administration & Operations (217002-0000)	\$ 240,500.00	\$ 100,115.75	\$ 12,092.35	\$ 128,291.90
B. Research & Planning (217002-0130)	\$ 18,600.00	\$ 17,907.14	\$ 255.96	\$ 436.90
C. Monitoring & Assessment (217002-0230)	\$ 157,400.00	\$ 37,291.47	\$ 3,933.17	\$ 116,175.36
D. Public Communications & Outreach (217002-0330)	\$ 166,150.00	\$ 94,648.68	\$ 11,004.47	\$ 60,496.85
E. Irrigation and Audit (217002-0431)	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 32,074.86	\$ -	\$ (12,074.86)
F. Regulation (217002-0530)	\$ 55,900.00	\$ 21,750.67	\$ 2,568.21	\$ 31,581.12
G. Coordination & Collaboration (217002-0531)	\$ 42,600.00	\$ 11,623.31	\$ 1,751.37	\$ 29,225.32
H. Feasibility/Preliminary Studies (217002-0631)	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 60,577.19	\$ 7,907.38	\$ 151,515.43
I. Capital Improvement Projects (217092-0130)	\$ 491,850.00	\$ 43,461.22	\$ 7,283.74	\$ 441,105.04
J. FY2019 - Watershed Funding Grant (217002-0848)	\$ 17,700.00	\$ 4,326.70	\$ 81.06	\$ 13,292.24
K. CWF Grant - Middle Creek Restoration (217002-0852)	\$ -	\$ 81.06	\$ -	\$ (81.06)
L. WBIF Grant (BWSR) 2020-2023 North Creek Stabilization (217002-0853)	\$ 387,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 387,500.00
M. WBIF Grant 2020-2023 Farmington Direct Drainage (217002-0854)	\$ 30,030.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,030.00
N. WBIF Grant (BWSR) 2020-2023 Hastings Direct Drainage (217002-0855)	\$ 30,030.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,030.00
O. WBIF Grant (BWSR) 2020-2023 Ravenna Basins Restoration (217002-0856)	\$ 85,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85,000.00
P. WBIF Grant (BWSR) 2020-2023 Rosemount Anti-Icing (217002-0857)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Q. CWF Grant - (BWSR) Foxborough TSS (217002-0859)	\$ 203,250.00	\$ 121.58	\$ -	\$ 203,128.42
R. CWF Grant - (BWSR) Ravenna Trail (217002-0860)	\$ 297,500.00	\$ 81.06	\$ -	\$ 297,418.94
S. Wetland Bank (217002-0930)	\$ 117,216.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 116,716.00
<b>VRW JPO Revised Budget Expense TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,581,226.00</b>	<b>\$ 424,560.69</b>	<b>\$ 46,877.71</b>	<b>\$ 2,109,787.60</b>

Budget Funding Sources

Scott County Levy	\$ 32,500.00
Dakota County Levy	\$ 967,500.00
Expected 2019 Carryover (Fund Balance)	\$ 686,000.00
Special Use Permit	\$ 1,000.00
CWF Grant (BWSR)	\$ 420,750.00
2019-2021 CWF Grant 1W1P (BWSR)	\$ -
2020-2023 CWF Grant WBIF (BWSR)	\$ 243,600.00
Met Council Grant	\$ -
CIP Reserve	\$ 246,000.00
CIP Reserve Grant Match	\$ 84,000.00
Investment Earnings	\$ 12,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,693,350.00</b>





**Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization**

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

**Date:** September 22, 2022  
**To:** Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board  
**From:** Staff  
**Subject:** Joint Powers Organization Expenses

**Agenda Item 5**  
**September 2022**

Expenses from the invoices submitted between July 14, 2022 and August 13, 2022 totalled \$84,464.70

The invoices submitted between August 14, 2022 and September 13, 2022 total:

<u>Invoice</u>	<u>Vendor</u>		<u>Amount</u>
	DC Staff	\$	38,171.19
44743	DC Legal Fees	\$	394.60
22-10800-15	144Design	\$	95.00
IN28680	Scott County	\$	709.72
1972829	Stantec	\$	2,058.25
907279	ECM Publishers	\$	123.20
31000	Moore Engineering	\$	2,567.50
1/4/2435	Stantec	\$	1,753.25
34747c	MNL Corp (MN Native Landscapes)	\$	1,005.00
<b>Total expense as approved on September 22, 2022</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>46,877.71</b>

**Action Requested: Approve all above expenses as presented on September 22, 2022**

---

**6a. Public Hearing to Receive Comments on and Adoption of the Amendment to the Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan Implementation Section**

---

Meeting Date: 9/22/2022  
Item Type: Regular-Action  
Contact: Travis Thiel  
Telephone: 952-891-7546  
Prepared by: Travis Thiel

**PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED**

- Public hearing to receive comments on and adoption of the amendment to the Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan Implementation Section

**SUMMARY**

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) staff have prepared a VRWJPO Watershed Management Plan (Plan) Amendment that revises the Implementation Plan section. The revised Implementation Plan section incorporates additional activities from the Vermillion River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) that were not originally incorporated when the Plan was adopted 2016. Other revisions include updates to reflect additional information and studies completed since the Plan was adopted, provide additional specificity to existing Implementation Plan activities, and assumptions regarding future Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) grants revenues.

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) has indicated this project should follow the process for a minor plan amendment as written in Minnesota Rule 8410.0140 (Rule). The Rule requires that the organization must send copies of the amendments to the plan review authorities for review and comment allowing at least 30 days for receipt of comments. At its July 28, 2022 meeting, the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Power Board (VRWJPB) approved the release of the proposed Plan Amendment to plan review authorities for a 30-day review and comment.

No substantive or negative comments have been received to date. At its August 25, 2022 meeting, the VRWJPB authorized staff to schedule a public hearing for the proposed Plan Amendment at its September 22, 2022 VRWJPB meeting.

Staff requests the VRWJPB conduct the public hearing and adopt the amendment to the Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan Implementation Section.

**RESOLUTION**

**6a. Public Hearing on and Adoption of the Amendment to the Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan Implementation Section**

**WHEREAS**, the VRWJPO adopted its current Watershed Management Plan (Plan) in 2016 and is required to implement the plan over a ten-year period; and

**WHEREAS**, amendments to the plan are required to accommodate changes to the Plan over the course of implementation during the ten-year period; and

**WHEREAS**, staff have identified the need to amend the Plan to incorporate changes to the Implementation Plan section of the plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Implementation Plan section of the Plan is being revised to incorporate additional activities from the Vermillion River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) that were not originally incorporated when the Watershed Plan was adopted 2016, plus other revisions that include updates to reflect additional information and studies completed since the Plan was adopted, provide additional specificity to existing Implementation Plan activities, and assumptions regarding future Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) grants revenues; and

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) has indicated it should follow the minor amendment process; and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Rule 8410.0140, Subpart 2 requires that the organization must send copies of the amendments to the plan review authorities for review and comment allowing at least 30 days for receipt of comments; and

**WHEREAS**, the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) approved the release of the proposed Plan amendment to plan review authorities for a 30-day review and comment period at its July 28, 2022 meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, no substantive or negative comments have been received to date; and

**WHEREAS**, the VRWJPB authorized staff to schedule a public hearing for the proposed Plan Amendment at its September 22, 2022 VRWJPB meeting.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board adopts the amendment to the Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan Implementation Section.

# Section 7: Implementation Plan

## 7.0 Introduction

This section describes the Implementation Plan, as well as how activities were selected for implementation within the 10-year timeframe of the 2016-2025 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan.

The implementation section of the Plan identifies specific, measurable actions necessary to achieve goals identified in Section 6: Goals, Objectives, and Actions.

These actions were suggested during the public involvement process or taken from the Vermillion River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS), geomorphic assessments, subwatershed assessments, partner Capital Improvement Plans (CIPs), and other previously completed planning documents.

The process of “blending” action steps from so many different sources into a coherent implementation plan was a challenge. An implementation table

containing all recommended actions individually would be exhaustive, duplicative, and lacking in focus and priority.

The VRWJPO contracted with Emmons & Olivier Resources (EOR) to develop a process for an implementation plan. The VRWJPO wanted an implementation plan that would be true to source materials (WRAPS, geomorphic assessments, etc.) as well as the priorities expressed by stakeholders and the public.

Figure 7.0.1: VRWJPO Implementation Plan Development Process summarizes the steps taken to achieve the implementation plan.

An action in Section 6: Goals, Objectives, and Actions in the Implementation Plan are statements of intent by the VRWJPO. Implementation depends on future decisions by the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB), which budgets for and authorizes initiatives. In many cases, implementation requires participation of other parties.

The VRWJPO is committed to regular evaluation of its programs, projects, and capital improvements. The VRWJPO will periodically (at least every two years) review its progress towards

implementing this Plan. In response to feedback, new information, changes in priorities, or new technical approaches, the VRWJPO may revise or amend the Implementation Plan.

In 2022, VRWJPO staff reviewed the implementation activities for each subwatershed and made adjustments to each subwatershed management plan to reflect items that were not originally incorporated from the WRAPS, outcomes of new assessments and studies, and other knowledge gained as the Plan was implemented up until 2022. These changes demonstrate flexibility and adaptation based on the needs of the water resources in the VRWJPO.

Figure 7.0.1: VRWJPO Implementation Plan Development Process

Step 1: Compile Potential Implementation Activities	Step 2: Evaluate Implementation Activities	Step 3: Identify Watershed-wide Implementation Activities	Step 4: Develop Subwatershed Management Plans	Step 5: Prioritize Implementation Activities
Populated table with implementation activities found in the Goals, Objectives, and Actions (GOA), WRAPS, geomorphic assessments, Vermillion River Headwaters assessment, and others.	Sorted implementation activities by VRWJPO role: Administration and Operations; Coordination and Collaboration; Land and Water Treatment; Monitoring and Assessment; Public Communication and Outreach; Regulation; and Research and Planning.	Implementation activities that could occur anywhere within the watershed are included in the Implementation Plan Summary (“the big table”).	Implementation activities that are unique to a specific area were identified in individual subwatershed management plans.	Implementation activities in individual subwatershed were prioritized by the VRWJPO. Estimates were made of the percentage of VRWJPO funding and effort that would be expended on each subwatershed.
Evaluated whether specific activities had been implemented; if yes, removed them from the table.	Made certain that implementation activities (now sorted by VRWJPO role) were assigned a goal and objective to track its origins in the GOA.	Implementation activities that are currently being performed or are ongoing responsibilities were grouped in one line item in “the big table” – Staff Function.	Implementation activities identified in geomorphic assessments were cross-referenced with projects in member communities’ CIP to see if there was overlap and an opportunity to partner.	Ensured that all implementation activities had been evaluated, prioritized, and included in “the big table,” with cost estimates based on the VRWJPO’s annual budget projections over the next 10 years.
Contacted member communities (cities, counties) to request Capital Improvement Plans to identify opportunities for collaboration.		Implementation activities assumed to be new functions or projects of the VRWJPO are listed separately in “the big table.”	After filling in each subwatershed management plan, total annual costs for implementation activities was calculated for that subwatershed and included in “the big table.”	

## 7.1 Subwatershed Management Plans

The development of specific subwatershed management plans allows the VRWJPO to prioritize its projects among various subwatersheds based on resource conditions, impacts on other subwatersheds, or other issues. For example, a water quality improvement project implemented in an upstream subwatershed will benefit the resources downstream.

The VRWJPO staff developed a prioritization for subwatersheds based on these factors. (See Figure 7.1.1: Subwatershed Priorities.) The priority factor is the percentage of available project funding to be allocated for projects in specific subwatersheds to fund identified projects.

**Figure 7.1.1: Subwatershed Priorities**

Subwatershed	Priority Factor
Upper Main Stem	25
South Creek	20
North Creek	15
South Branch Vermillion	15
Middle Creek	10
Middle Main Stem	7
Lower Main Stem	5
Mississippi River Direct	3

Implementation projects depend on a variety of factors, including partner participation, opportunity, and available staff time. The annual budget allocations for projects in each subwatershed are contingent on VRWJPB approvals.

After implementing the Plan for five years, the subwatershed management plans were adjusted in 2022 to reflect challenges with project opportunities, challenges and opportunities finding cooperative landowners, newly identified projects based on current data, and new grant funding sources.

This adjustment to the subwatershed management plans results in changes in the proposed funding allocation for each subwatershed. The proposed funding allocation does not fully align with the priorities identified in Figure 7.1.1 based on challenges with project opportunities in each subwatershed.

The subwatershed management plans (Figures 7.2 through 7.9) consist of all of the potential projects that have been identified for the given subwatershed. The categories highlighted in beige represent those projects identified in geomorphic or subwatershed assessments. For example, Figure 7.3 South Creek Subwatershed, includes a category “Culvert/crossing” that includes several specific projects identified in the South Creek geomorphic assessment. The projects in white are those that are recommended in the WRAPS, partner CIP plans, projects identified in a subwatershed assessment, or other planning documents.

Clearly, the VRWJPO will not be able to complete all of the projects listed in the subwatershed plans within its current budget structure. Each of the subwatershed management plan figures includes funding estimates based on:

- ≈ All potential projects that have been identified within the subwatershed.
- ≈ ~~A prioritized list of projects to be completed within the subwatershed given a \$500,000 annual capital improvement budget.~~
- ≈ A prioritized list of projects to be completed within the subwatershed given the VRWJPO’s existing annual budget, after watershed-wide initiatives have been allocated.

It should be noted that the costs for activities identified as nutrient management practices and agricultural BMPs anticipated to be just a fraction of the costs required for these practices and will need to be supplemented by State or other local funding.

Consultants and staff developed cost estimates for each activity in the subwatershed plans. Cost estimates were identified in the geomorphic assessments; the VRWJPO used the mid-range of the cost estimates in the subwatershed management plans. To reduce project costs, the VRWJPO will continue to collaborate with partners.

Consultants and staff reviewed the capital improvement programs or other planning documents of local partners to determine where work within the watershed is being proposed.

Some proposed partner projects – such as road reconstruction, facility upgrades, or residential developments – can be significantly improved by installing stormwater management or treatment practices concurrently. Partners can incorporate BMPs that protect infrastructure, reduce impacts of new impervious surface, reduce and treat stormwater, build resilience to weather events, and add landscape interest.

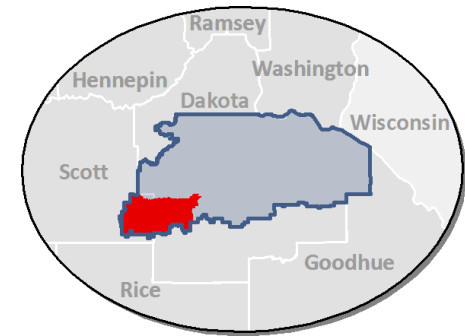
VRWJPO cost share funding can provide partners these benefits at a reduced cost. At the same time, the VRWJPO achieves its water and land improvement goals while working efficiently and economically in concert with activities already underway.

## 7.2 Upper Main Stem Subwatershed

The Upper Main Stem Subwatershed is the top priority for implementation projects. The subwatershed includes two reaches of the Vermillion River (520 and 517). Potential projects are shown in Figure 7.2.1: Upper Main Stem Subwatershed Management Plan.

Figure 7.2.1: Upper Main Stem Subwatershed Management Plan

Upper Main Stem Subwatershed Management Plan	Original Scenario (All Activities)	500K Annual Scenario 1	Current Balance Scenario
Vermillion Headwaters Subwatershed Assessment BMPs	\$ 137,720	\$ 137,720	\$ 137,720
Bemis Wetland Project	\$30,000		
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$ 137,720	\$ 137,720	\$ 137,720
<i>Culverts/crossings</i>	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,112,280	\$ 406,030
<i>Riparian buffers</i>	\$ 250,000		
<i>Natural Channel Restoration</i>	\$ 250,000		
<i>Streambank stabilization</i>	\$ 750,000		
<i>Additional projects identified in future geomorphic assessment</i>	\$ 500,000		
<i>Future Geomorphic Subtotal</i>	\$ 2,250,000		
<b>Ten Year Total Budget (25% of total)</b>	<b>\$ 2,417,720</b>	<b>\$ 1,250,000</b>	<b>\$ 543,750</b>



Upper Main Stem Subwatershed Management Plan (2022 Amendment)	Estimated Cost
Vermillion Headwaters Subwatershed Assessment BMPs	\$125,000
Wetland restoration and water storage practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bemis Wetland Project</li> </ul>	\$50,000
Bacteria reduction practices (e.g. septic, livestock, etc.)	\$20,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$195,000</b>
Stream channel improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Culverts/crossings</li> <li>Riparian buffers</li> <li>Natural Channel Restoration</li> <li>Streambank stabilization</li> <li>Additional projects identified in future geomorphic</li> </ul>	\$300,000
<b>Budget Total</b>	<b>\$495,000</b>

A geomorphic assessment has not been conducted for this subwatershed, so dollar amounts shown for these activities (shaded beige in the figure) were estimated based on expenditures found in other, similar subwatersheds. ~~Note that the dollar amount to be spent on projects~~



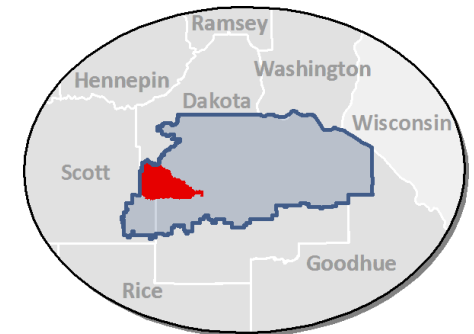
identified in the geomorphic assessments is lumped for the two budget scenarios. The specific geomorphic assessment projects to be conducted will be determined based on the evaluation criteria and priorities established within the assessment.

## 7.3 South Creek Subwatershed

The South Creek Subwatershed was identified as one of the top priorities for implementation projects. The subwatershed includes impaired reach 527 and Lake Marion. Potential projects are identified in Figure 7.3.1.: South Creek Subwatershed Management Plan.

Figure 7.3.1: South Creek Subwatershed Management Plan

South Creek Subwatershed Management Plan	Original Scenario- (All Activities)	500K Annual Scenario-1	Current Balance- Scenario
Bacteria Feasibility Study	\$ 25,000		
Bacteria Project	\$ 125,000		
BMP retrofits Lakeville downstream of Marion Lake-	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000
BMPs for Hamburg Ave. re-construction in reaches 570, 715	\$ 150,000		
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$ 600,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000
<i>Bank Stabilization</i>	\$ 18,750	\$ 700,000	\$ 135,000
<i>Culvert/crossing</i>	\$ 131,250		
<i>Infrastructure/Bank Stabilization</i>	\$ 18,750		
<i>Infrastructure</i>	\$ 393,750		
<i>Natural Channel Restoration</i>	\$ 2,343,750		
<i>Riparian Management</i>	\$ 1,087,500		
<i>Geo Morph Subtotal</i>	\$ 3,993,750		
<b>Ten Year Total Budget (20% of total)</b>	<b>\$ 4,593,750</b>	<b>\$ 1,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 435,000</b>



South Creek Subwatershed Management Plan (2022 Amendment)	Estimated Cost
South Creek BMP retrofits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BMP retrofits from South Creek Downtown/ Industrial Park SWA</li> <li>BMPs for Hamburg Ave. re-construction</li> </ul>	\$200,000
Lake Marion Protection Stormwater Improvements	\$50,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>
Stream channel improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bank Stabilization</li> <li>Culvert/crossing</li> <li>Infrastructure/Bank Stabilization</li> <li>Infrastructure</li> <li>Natural Channel Restoration</li> <li>Riparian Management</li> <li>Geo Morph Subtotal</li> </ul>	\$391,200
<b>Budget Total</b>	<b>\$641,200</b>

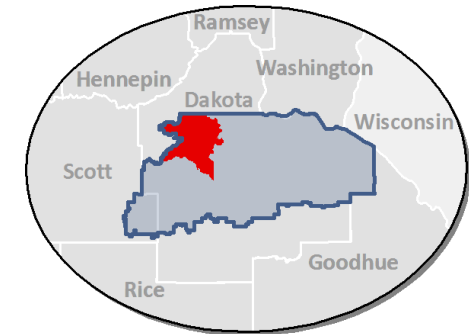
The projects highlighted in beige were identified in the [geomorphic assessment that was done for South Creek](#), available on the VRWJPO website. ~~Note that the dollar amount to be spent on projects identified in the geomorphic assessments is lumped for the two budget scenarios.~~ The specific geomorphic assessment projects to be conducted will be determined based on the evaluation criteria established within the assessment.

## 7.4 North Creek Subwatershed

The North Creek Subwatershed was identified as one of the top priorities for implementing projects. The subwatershed includes three impaired reaches of North Creek (545, 670 and 671). Potential projects are identified in Figure 7.4.1: North Creek Subwatershed Management Plan.

Figure 7.4.1: North Creek Subwatershed Management Plan

North Creek Subwatershed Management Plan	Original Scenario (All Activities)	500K Annual Scenario 1	Current Balance Scenario
Bacteria Feasibility Study	\$ 25,000		\$-
Bacteria Project	\$ 75,000		\$-
SW Storage in Headwaters	\$ 300,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000
SW Retrofits: Pilot Knob	\$ 275,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000
Assess weirs/dams and backwaters	\$ 85,000	\$ 85,000	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 760,000</b>	<b>\$ 360,000</b>	<b>\$ 275,000</b>
Bank Stabilization	\$ 37,500	\$ 390,000	\$ 51,250
Crossing/culvert	\$ 937,500		
Grade Stabilization	\$ 281,250		
Infrastructure	\$ 150,000		
Natural Channel Restoration	\$ 731,250		
Riparian Management	\$ 187,500		
Geo Morph Subtotal	\$ 2,512,500		
<b>Ten Year Total Budget (15% of total)</b>	<b>\$ 3,085,000</b>	<b>\$ 750,000</b>	<b>\$ 326,250</b>



North Creek Subwatershed Management Plan (2022 Amendment)	Estimated Cost
<u>Alimagnet Lake External Load Phosphorus Reduction BMPs</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Enhanced Street Sweeping</u></li> <li><u>Public land water quality improvements</u></li> <li><u>Stormwater retrofits</u></li> </ul>	<u>\$25,000</u>
<u>Alimagnet Lake Internal Load Phosphorus Reduction BMPs</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Lake Alum or Drawdown Feasibility Study</u></li> <li><u>Lake Alum Treatment or Lake Drawdown</u></li> <li><u>Fisheries Management</u></li> <li><u>Lake Shoreline and Buffer Improvements</u></li> </ul>	<u>\$400,000</u>
<u>East Lake External Load Phosphorus Reduction BMPs</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Stormwater Improvement or retrofit BMPs from North Creek/East Lake SWAs</u></li> <li><u>Enhanced Street Sweeping</u></li> <li><u>Lake Shoreline and Buffer Improvements</u></li> </ul>	<u>\$100,000</u>

<u>East Lake Internal Load Phosphorus Reduction BMPs</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Fisheries Management</u></li> <li>• <u>Fish barrier</u></li> <li>• <u>Lake Alum Feasibility Study</u></li> <li>• <u>Lake Alum Treatment</u></li> </ul>	
<u>North Creek Stormwater Improvement BMPs</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Stormwater Improvement BMPs from North Creek/East Lake SWA</u></li> <li>• <u>Dodd Blvd Stormwater Treatment BMP</u></li> <li>• <u>Foxborough Park Area Stormwater Retrofit Projects</u></li> <li>• <u>Buffer Improvements</u></li> </ul>	<u>\$75,000</u>
<u>Long/Farquar Lake stormwater improvements BMPs</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Stormwater improvement BMPs from Long/Farquar TMDL Implementation Plan</u></li> </ul>	<u>\$100,000</u>
<b><u>Subtotal</u></b>	<b><u>\$900,000</u></b>
<u>Stream channel improvements</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Bank Stabilization</u></li> <li>• <u>Culvert/crossing</u></li> <li>• <u>Infrastructure/Bank Stabilization</u></li> <li>• <u>Infrastructure</u></li> <li>• <u>Natural Channel Restoration</u></li> <li>• <u>Riparian Management</u></li> <li>• <u>Geo Morph Subtotal</u></li> </ul>	<u>\$50,000</u>
<b><u>Budget Total</u></b>	<b><u>\$950,000</u></b>

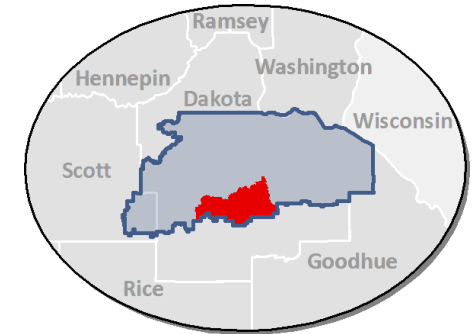
The projects highlighted in beige were identified in the [geomorphic assessment that was done for North Creek](#) and its tributaries, available on the website. ~~Note that the dollar amount to be spent on projects identified in the geomorphic assessments is lumped for the two budget scenarios.~~ The specific geomorphic assessment projects to be conducted will be determined based on the evaluation criteria established within the assessment.

## 7.5 South Branch Vermillion Subwatershed

The South Branch Vermillion Subwatershed was identified as one of the top priorities for implementing projects. The subwatershed includes South Branch reach 707. Potential projects are identified in Figure 7.5.1: South Branch Vermillion Subwatershed Management Plan.

Figure 7.5.1: South Branch Vermillion Subwatershed Management Plan

South Branch Vermillion Subwatershed Management Plan	Original Scenario (All Activities)	500K Annual Scenario 1	Current Balance Scenario
Woodchip bioreactors and other N removal BMPs	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
Riparian Buffers	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 125,625
Natural Channel Restoration	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 125,625
Culverts/crossings	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
<b>Ten Year Total Budget (15% of total)</b>	<b>\$ 475,000</b>	<b>\$ 475,000</b>	<b>\$ 376,250</b>



South Branch Vermillion Subwatershed Management Plan (2022 Amendment)	Estimated Cost
Woodchip bioreactors and other N removal BMPs	\$75,000
Nutrient management practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cover crops</li> <li>Perennial crops</li> </ul>	\$15,000
Best management practices identified in South Branch Vermillion SWA	\$134,700
Wetland Restoration and Water Storage Practices	\$244,400
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$469,100</b>
Stream channel improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Riparian buffers</li> <li>Natural Channel Restoration</li> <li>Culverts/Crossings</li> </ul>	\$136,700
<b>Budget Total</b>	<b>\$605,800</b>

A geomorphic assessment has not been conducted for this subwatershed yet so the dollar amounts shown for these activities (shaded beige in the figure) were estimated based on expenditures found in other, similar subwatersheds. The specific geomorphic assessment projects to be conducted will be determined based on the evaluation criteria and priorities established within the assessment.

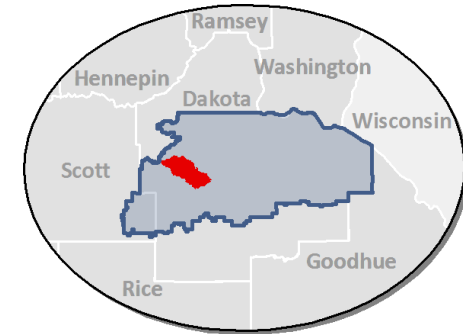
A geomorphic assessment was conducted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in 2020. The assessment was not conducted in the same manner as other geomorphic assessments conducted by the VRWJPO that focus on project identification, and this assessment primarily focused stream classification based on field surveys and visual observations. As a result, it is more difficult to develop an implementation plan for stream channel improvements, but VRWJPO staff identified potential projects and estimated costs based on the information available.

## 7.6 Middle Creek Subwatershed

The Middle Creek Subwatershed was identified as a lower priority for implementing projects. The subwatershed includes two impaired reaches of Middle Creek (548 and 668). Potential projects are identified in Figure 7.6.1: Middle Creek Subwatershed Management Plan.

Figure 7.6.1: Middle Creek Subwatershed Management Plan

<b>Middle Creek Subwatershed Management Plan</b>	<b>Original Scenario (All Activities)</b>	<b>500K Annual Scenario 1</b>	<b>Current Balance Scenario</b>
Headwater Stream Ponds (upstream of 195th St)	\$ 200,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Bacteria Feasibility Study	\$ 25,000		0
Bacteria Project	\$ 125,000		0
Headwaters Cost Share	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	0
Connect re-constructed area in reach 547 downstream of 195th Street	\$—	0	0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 375,000</b>	<b>\$ 125,000</b>	<b>\$ 100,000</b>
<i>Bank Stabilization</i>	<i>\$ 56,250</i>	<b>\$ 375,000</b>	<b>\$ 117,500</b>
<i>Crossing/culvert</i>	<i>\$ 356,250</i>		
<i>Grade Stabilization</i>	<i>\$ 262,500</i>		
<i>Infrastructure</i>	<i>\$ 37,500</i>		
<i>Natural Channel Restoration</i>	<i>\$ 1,068,750</i>		
<i>Riparian Management</i>	<i>\$ 112,500</i>		
<i>Geo Morph Subtotal</i>	<i>\$ 1,893,750</i>		
<b>Ten Year Total Budget (10% of total)</b>	<b>\$ 2,268,750</b>	<b>\$ 500,000</b>	<b>\$ 217,500</b>



<b>Middle Creek Subwatershed Management Plan (2022 Amendment)</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
Wetland Restoration and Water Storage Practices	<u>\$75,000</u>
Headwater Improvement Cost Share	<u>\$25,000</u>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b><u>\$100,000</u></b>
Stream channel improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Bank Stabilization</u></li> <li>• <u>Crossing/culvert</u></li> <li>• <u>Grade Stabilization</u></li> <li>• <u>Infrastructure</u></li> <li>• <u>Natural Channel Restoration</u></li> <li>• <u>Riparian Management</u></li> </ul>	<u>\$260,000</u>
<b>Budget Total</b>	<b><u>\$360,000</u></b>

The projects highlighted in beige were identified in the [geomorphic assessment that was done for Middle Creek](#) and its tributaries, available on the website. ~~Note that the dollar amount to be spent on projects identified in the geomorphic assessments is lumped for the two budget scenarios.~~ The specific geomorphic assessment projects to be conducted will be determined based on the evaluation criteria established within the assessment.

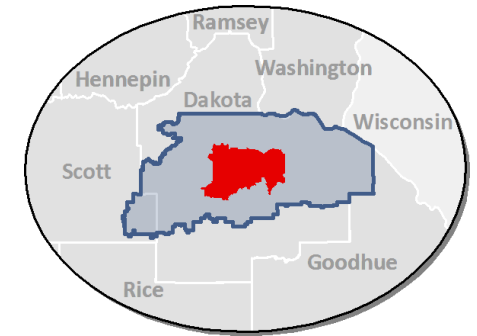


## 7.7 Middle Main Stem Subwatershed

The Middle Main Stem Subwatershed was identified as a lower priority for implementing projects. The subwatershed includes Vermillion River reach 507. Potential projects are identified in Figure 7.7.1.: Middle Main Stem Subwatershed Management Plan.

Figure 7.7.1: Middle Main Stem Subwatershed Management Plan

Middle Main Stem Subwatershed Management Plan	Original Scenario (All Activities)	500K Annual Scenario 1	Current Balance Scenario
Study to determine SW pond temperature	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
<i>Bank Stabilization</i>	\$ 337,500	\$ 325,000	\$ 127,250
<i>Culvert/crossing</i>	\$ 637,500		
<i>Infrastructure</i>	\$ 131,250		
<i>Natural Channel Restoration</i>	\$ 2,231,250		
<i>Riparian Management</i>	\$ 600,000		
<i>Geo Morph Subtotal</i>	\$ 3,937,500		
<b>Ten-Year Total Budget (7% of total)</b>	<b>\$ 3,962,500</b>	<b>\$ 350,000</b>	<b>\$ 152,250</b>



Middle Main Stem Subwatershed Management Plan (2022 Amendment)	Estimated Cost
<u>Stormwater Volume and/or Pollutant Reduction BMPs</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stream temperature reduction BMPs</li> <li>SW pond temperature reduction BMPs</li> <li>Urban stormwater BMPs</li> </ul>	\$125,000
<u>Nutrient management practices</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cover crops</li> <li>Perennial crops</li> </ul>	\$15,000
<u>Agricultural BMPs</u>	\$25,000
<u>Wetland Restoration and Water Storage Practices</u>	\$75,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$240,000</b>
<u>Stream channel Improvements</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bank Stabilization</li> <li>Culvert/crossing</li> <li>Infrastructure</li> <li>Natural Channel Restoration</li> <li>Riparian Management</li> </ul>	\$50,000
<b>Budget Total</b>	<b>\$290,000</b>

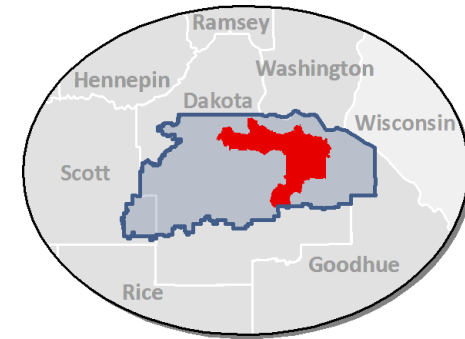
The projects highlighted in beige were identified in the [geomorphic assessment that was done in the Empire Flowages](#), available on the website. Note that the dollar amount to be spent on projects identified in the geomorphic assessments is lumped for the two budget scenarios. The specific geomorphic assessment projects to be conducted will be determined based on the evaluation criteria established within the assessment.

## 7.8 Lower Main Stem Subwatershed

The Lower Main Stem Subwatershed was identified as a lower priority for implementing projects. The subwatershed includes Vermillion River reach 692. Potential projects are identified in Figure 7.8.1.: Lower Main Stem Subwatershed Management Plan.

Figure 7.8.1: Lower Main Stem Subwatershed Management Plan

Lower Main Stem Subwatershed Management Plan	Original Scenario (All Activities)	500K Annual Scenario 1	Current Balance Scenario
Riparian Buffers	\$ 250,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 54,375
Urban BMP retrofit opportunities in residential areas of Hastings	\$ 450,000	\$ 150,000	
Streambank Stabilization	\$ 250,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 54,375
<b>Ten Year Total Budget (5% of total)</b>	<b>\$ 950,000</b>	<b>\$ 250,000</b>	<b>\$ 108,750</b>



Lower Main Stem Subwatershed Management Plan (2022 Amendment)	Estimated Cost
Urban BMP retrofit opportunities	\$37,750
Wetland Restoration and Water Storage Practices	\$10,000
Nutrient management practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cover crops</li> <li>Perennial crops</li> </ul>	\$15,000
Best management practices identified in Lower Mainstem South SWA	\$45,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$107,750</b>
Stream channel Improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bank Stabilization</li> <li>Infrastructure</li> <li>Riparian Management</li> </ul>	\$55,250
<b>Budget Total</b>	<b>\$163,000</b>

A geomorphic assessment has not been conducted for this subwatershed yet so the dollar amounts shown for these activities (shaded beige in the figure) were estimated based on expenditures found in other, similar subwatersheds. The specific geomorphic assessment projects to be conducted will be determined based on the evaluation criteria and priorities established within the assessment.

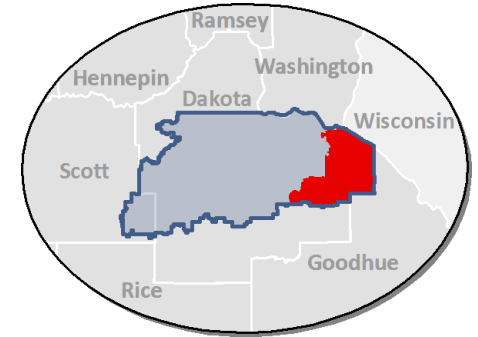
The projects highlighted in beige were identified in the geomorphic assessment that was done in the Lower Mainstem, available on the website. Note that the dollar amount to be spent on projects identified in the geomorphic assessments is lumped for the two budget scenarios. The specific geomorphic assessment projects to be conducted will be determined based on the evaluation criteria established within the assessment.

## 7.9 Mississippi River Direct Subwatershed

The Mississippi River Direct Subwatershed was identified as a lower priority for implementing projects. The subwatershed includes the Ravenna Coulees. Potential projects are identified in Figure 7.9.1: Mississippi River Direct Subwatershed Management Plan.

Figure 7.9.1: Mississippi River Direct Subwatershed Management Plan

<b>Mississippi Direct Subwatershed Management Plan</b>	<b>Original Scenario- (All Activities)</b>	<b>500K Annual Scenario 1</b>	<b>Current Balance- Scenario</b>
Ag BMPs in Upstream Areas	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
<i>Riparian Buffers</i>	<i>\$ 50,000</i>	<i>\$ 50,000</i>	<i>\$ 50,000</i>
Urban BMP retrofit opportunities in residential areas of Hastings	\$ 300,000		
<i>Ravenna Coulee 1, West Drainage, PP01 Grade Stabilization</i>	<i>\$ 25,000</i>	<i>\$ 25,000</i>	
<b>Ten Year Total Budget (3% of total)</b>	<b>\$ 400,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 100,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 75,000.00</b>



<b>Mississippi Direct Subwatershed Management Plan (2022 Amendment)</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
<u>Water Storage in Upstream Areas</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>
<u>Urban BMP retrofit opportunities</u>	<u>\$37,750</u>
<u>Nutrient management practices</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Cover crops</u></li> <li><u>Perennial crops</u></li> </ul>	<u>\$15,000</u>
<u>Agricultural BMPs</u>	<u>\$15,000</u>
<b><u>Subtotal</u></b>	<b><u>\$77,750</u></b>
<u>Stream channel Improvements</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Riparian Buffers</u></li> <li><u>Etter Creek improvement and ravine stabilization projects</u></li> <li><u>Other ravine stabilization projects</u></li> </ul>	<u>\$75,000</u>
<b><u>Budget Total</u></b>	<b><u>\$152,750</u></b>

The projects highlighted in beige were identified in the [geomorphic assessment that was done in the Etter Creek/ Ravenna Coulees](#), available on the website. Note that the dollar amount to be spent on projects identified in the geomorphic assessments is lumped for the two budget scenarios. The specific geomorphic assessment projects to be conducted will be determined based on the evaluation criteria established within the assessment.

## 7.10 Implementation Plan Table

Figure 7.10.1: Implementation Plan Table uses the VRWJPO roles and Watershed Plan goals to provide cost estimates for the Section 6 actions not included in the subwatershed plans.

Those actions that can be taken by VRWJPO staff as part of current operations are included in the “Staff Function” line in the Implementation Plan Table. An annual budget of \$240,000 over each of the next 10 years for staff functions encompasses many of the actions listed in Section 6.

Those actions that require additional resources (planning, development, policy, consultation, etc.) are specifically listed in the table, with cost estimates. The subwatershed plan costs are summarized and listed in the Land and Water Treatment category.

Where implementation activities are dependent upon one another (e.g. water quality improvement project dependent upon the completion of a feasibility study and/or modeling effort), the relationship is reflected in the schedule.

Implementation activities and cost estimates are taken from previous studies or projects. In other cases, the costs are estimates based on current

understanding of the activity’s scope. Cost estimates are shown as either a one-time cost (typical of feasibility studies and capital improvement projects) or as annual costs for ongoing programs. In general, the Implementation Plan provides a planning-level projection that can be used as a starting point for the detailed annual budgeting process.

The implementation plan table is organized by the roles of the VRWJPO as defined in Section 6: Goals, Objectives, and Actions. For each of the VRWJPO roles, the plan table provides a budget for general staff functions.

## 7.11 VRWJPO Financing

Dakota and Scott counties jointly fund the administration and activities of the VRWJPO, as specified in the Joint Powers Agreement (see Appendix A). The funding is provided through the counties’ annual property tax levies, using the following process:

- ≈ Dakota and Scott counties provide the VRWJPO with estimates of Vermillion River Watershed Management Tax District tax capacity.
- ≈ In August, the VRWJPO staff submits a preliminary annual budget and Vermillion River Watershed

Management Tax District Levy for the subsequent year to the VRWJPB.

- ≈ The VRWJPB holds a public hearing and adopts the proposed budget and levy amounts for the next year.
- ≈ In September, the Dakota County and Scott County Boards certify the preliminary levy amounts allocated to the portions of the watershed in each County according to tax capacity.
- ≈ In December, as the annual budget cycle ends, the VRWJPO staff updates the proposed budget to a final version for the subsequent year. The VRWJPB adopts the final budget and levy.
- ≈ In December, the Dakota County and Scott County Boards certify the final Vermillion River Watershed Management Tax District levy.

The Vermillion River Watershed Management Tax District levy is a primary, but not the only, source of funding for VRWJPO activities. The VRWJPO also pursues grant opportunities, partnerships, or coordinated efforts that align with Watershed Plan goals and needs. The VRWJPO may also pursue other alternative funding options as identified in Minnesota Statutes 103B, if these options are consistent with the Joint Powers Agreement.

Figure 7.10.1: Implementation Plan Table

VRW/JPO Roles and Goals	Implementation Initiatives	Grant Eligibility	Costs										10-Year Total
			2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Administration and Operations			\$ 245,000	\$ 245,000	\$ 240,000	\$ 240,000	\$ 240,000	\$ 240,000	\$ 240,000	\$ 240,000	\$ 240,000	\$ 240,000	\$ 2,410,000
	Staff Function		\$ 240,000	\$ 240,000	\$ 240,000	\$ 240,000	\$ 240,000	\$ 240,000	\$ 240,000	\$ 240,000	\$ 240,000	\$ 240,000	\$ 2,400,000
Goal F	Establish a riparian habitat improvement program that includes tree shading in trout stream reaches	Yes	\$ 5,000.00	Tree shading efforts are included within each of the individual subwatershed management plans									5000
Goal A	Use restorable wetland tools and inventories to develop partnerships and implement restoration projects.	Yes	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00									5000
Coordination & Collaboration			\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 210,000
Goal A	Staff Function		See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	\$ -
	Collaborate with Dakota and Scott County Land Conservation staff to identify high priority riparian habitat and assist in easement acquisition and restoration or protection through cost-share and incentives		See previous item #1 under Climate Change above	See previous item #1 under Climate Change above	See previous item #1 under Climate Change above	See previous item #1 under Climate Change above	See previous item #1 under Climate Change above	See previous item #1 under Climate Change above	See previous item #1 under Climate Change above	See previous item #1 under Climate Change above	See previous item #1 under Climate Change above	See previous item #1 under Climate Change above	\$ -
	Work with partners and landowners to protect wetlands and restore wetlands with strategic value in flood protection and pollutant filtration through conservation easement, fee title, tile removal, revegetation, and other techniques		See following item	See following item	See following item	See following item	See following item	See following item	See following item	See following item	See following item	See following item	\$ -
	Assist Dakota County and Scott County Land Protection programs in acquiring permanent conservation easements in riparian areas in the Vermillion River Watershed												
			\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 200,000
	Work with landowners and other agencies to eliminate fencing across public waters and associated potential liabilities (e.g., Vermillion River and tributaries).		See item under L&WT, WQ	See item under L&WT, WQ	See item under L&WT, WQ	See item under L&WT, WQ	See item under L&WT, WQ	See item under L&WT, WQ	See item under L&WT, WQ	See item under L&WT, WQ	See item under L&WT, WQ	See item under L&WT, WQ	\$ -
	Consider developing stormwater management system maintenance guidance for watershed communities		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000
	Assist with buffer acquisition, riparian plantings, shoreline restoration, acquisition and/or removal of structures that degrade the corridor		See previous item #1 under Climate Change above	See previous item	See previous item	See previous item	See previous item	See previous item	See previous item	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Land and Water Treatment			\$ 243,475	\$ 278,475	\$ 313,475	\$ 293,475	\$ 283,475	\$ 313,475	\$ 288,475	\$ 268,475	\$ 268,475	\$ 268,475	\$ 2,819,750
Land and Water Treatment			\$ 385,775	\$ 420,775	\$ 455,775	\$ 435,775	\$ 425,775	\$ 455,775	\$ 430,775	\$ 410,775	\$ 410,775	\$ 410,775	\$ 4,242,750
	Staff Function		See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	\$ -
Goal A	<a href="#">Implement activities identified in the North Creek Subwatershed Management Plan</a>	Yes	\$ 32,625	\$ 32,625	\$ 32,625	\$ 32,625	\$ 32,625	\$ 32,625	\$ 32,625	\$ 32,625	\$ 32,625	\$ 32,625	\$ 326,250
	<a href="#">Implement activities identified in the Middle Creek Subwatershed Management Plan</a>	Yes	\$ 21,750	\$ 21,750	\$ 21,750	\$ 21,750	\$ 21,750	\$ 21,750	\$ 21,750	\$ 21,750	\$ 21,750	\$ 21,750	\$ 217,500
	<a href="#">Implement activities identified in the South Creek Subwatershed Management Plan</a>	Yes	\$ 43,500	\$ 43,500	\$ 43,500	\$ 43,500	\$ 43,500	\$ 43,500	\$ 43,500	\$ 43,500	\$ 43,500	\$ 43,500	\$ 435,000
	<a href="#">Implement activities identified in the Upper Mainstem Subwatershed Management Plan</a>	Yes	\$ 54,375	\$ 54,375	\$ 54,375	\$ 54,375	\$ 54,375	\$ 54,375	\$ 54,375	\$ 54,375	\$ 54,375	\$ 54,375	\$ 543,750
	<a href="#">Implement activities identified in the South Branch Vermillion Subwatershed Management Plan</a>	Yes	\$ 37,625	\$ 37,625	\$ 37,625	\$ 37,625	\$ 37,625	\$ 37,625	\$ 37,625	\$ 37,625	\$ 37,625	\$ 37,625	\$ 376,250
	<a href="#">Implement activities identified in the Middle Mainstem Subwatershed Management Plan</a>	Yes	\$ 15,225	\$ 15,225	\$ 15,225	\$ 15,225	\$ 15,225	\$ 15,225	\$ 15,225	\$ 15,225	\$ 15,225	\$ 15,225	\$ 152,250
	<a href="#">Implement activities identified in the Lower Mainstem Subwatershed Management Plan</a>	Yes	\$ 10,875	\$ 10,875	\$ 10,875	\$ 10,875	\$ 10,875	\$ 10,875	\$ 10,875	\$ 10,875	\$ 10,875	\$ 10,875	\$ 108,750
	<a href="#">Implement activities identified in the Mississippi River Direct Subwatershed Management Plan</a>	Yes	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 75,000
	Conduct Subwatershed Assessments		\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 140,000
Goal A	<a href="#">Implement activities identified in the North Creek Subwatershed Management Plan</a>	Yes	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 950,000
	<a href="#">Implement activities identified in the Middle Creek Subwatershed Management Plan</a>	Yes	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 360,000
	<a href="#">Implement activities identified in the South Creek Subwatershed Management Plan</a>	Yes	\$ 64,120	\$ 64,120	\$ 64,120	\$ 64,120	\$ 64,120	\$ 64,120	\$ 64,120	\$ 64,120	\$ 64,120	\$ 64,120	\$ 641,200
	<a href="#">Implement activities identified in the Upper Mainstem Subwatershed Management Plan</a>	Yes	\$ 49,500	\$ 49,500	\$ 49,500	\$ 49,500	\$ 49,500	\$ 49,500	\$ 49,500	\$ 49,500	\$ 49,500	\$ 49,500	\$ 495,000
	<a href="#">Implement activities identified in the South Branch Vermillion Subwatershed Management Plan</a>	Yes	\$ 60,580	\$ 60,580	\$ 60,580	\$ 60,580	\$ 60,580	\$ 60,580	\$ 60,580	\$ 60,580	\$ 60,580	\$ 60,580	\$ 605,800
	<a href="#">Implement activities identified in the Middle Mainstem Subwatershed Management Plan</a>	Yes	\$ 29,000	\$ 29,000	\$ 29,000	\$ 29,000	\$ 29,000	\$ 29,000	\$ 29,000	\$ 29,000	\$ 29,000	\$ 29,000	\$ 290,000
	<a href="#">Implement activities identified in the Lower Mainstem Subwatershed Management Plan</a>	Yes	\$ 16,300	\$ 16,300	\$ 16,300	\$ 16,300	\$ 16,300	\$ 16,300	\$ 16,300	\$ 16,300	\$ 16,300	\$ 16,300	\$ 163,000
	<a href="#">Implement activities identified in the Mississippi River Direct Subwatershed Management Plan</a>	Yes	\$ 15,275	\$ 15,275	\$ 15,275	\$ 15,275	\$ 15,275	\$ 15,275	\$ 15,275	\$ 15,275	\$ 15,275	\$ 15,275	\$ 152,750
	Conduct Subwatershed Assessments		\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 140,000
Goal D	Identify urban/suburban developed areas without adequate or any stormwater controls				\$ 25,000								\$ 25,000
	Develop outreach and cost-share incentives for homeowners, homeowners' associations and businesses in areas without stormwater controls to install stormwater rate and volume control BMPs		0	10000	10000	15000	15000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	150000
	Research and make recommendations about BMPs suitable for ultra-urban conditions (no room to integrate most BMPs).		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000

	Provide cost-share or other incentives for producers using cover crops or nutrient management plans		--	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 225,000
--	---	--	----	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	------------

Figure 7.10.1: Implementation Plan Table

VRWIPO Roles and Goals	Implementation Initiatives	Grant Eligibility	Costs										10-Year Total
			2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Goal C	Research strategies for water use, re-use, or infiltration that minimize groundwater use at mining sites			\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,000
Monitoring and Assessment			\$ 202,500	\$ 202,500	\$ 227,500	\$ 202,500	\$ 192,500	\$ 232,500	\$ 192,500	\$ 192,500	\$ 192,500	\$ 192,500	\$ 2,030,000
	Staff Function		See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	\$ -
Goal A	Add continuous dissolved oxygen (DO) monitoring to Monitoring Network sampling for reaches listed as impaired for DO		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,000
	Collect and analyze surface water quality monitoring data and report annually on condition, trends, and recommendations for improvement		\$ 192,500	\$ 192,500	\$ 192,500	\$ 192,500	\$ 192,500	\$ 192,500	\$ 192,500	\$ 192,500	\$ 192,500	\$ 192,500	\$ 1,925,000
	Complete geomorphic assessments on the South Branch and Lower Main stem Vermillion River (Hwy 52 to Hastings).		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65,000
Public Communication and Outreach			\$ 221,000	\$ 226,000	\$ 231,000	\$ 226,000	\$ 226,000	\$ 221,000	\$ 226,000	\$ 226,000	\$ 221,000	\$ 221,000	\$ 2,245,000
	Staff Function		\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 2,200,000
Goal E	Host VRWIPO watershed tours for elected and appointed officials to highlight demonstrations of innovative technology, successful water quality and quantity improvement practices, and restoration activities		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 10,000
Goal B	Collaborate with partners on turf and fertilizer management workshops for facility managers of businesses, parks, schools, and others	Yes			\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000			\$ 5,000			\$ 15,000
	Continue to promote and support workshops on ice/snow management and turfgrass maintenance			\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000			\$ 5,000				\$ 15,000
	Consider facilitating a watershed- or county-wide outreach and education campaign to increase awareness about the urban and rural land use contributions to nitrate contamination of groundwater	Yes			\$ 5,000								\$ 5,000
Goal A	Implement outreach activities identified in the WRAPS Civic Engagement Plan												\$ -
Regulation			\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,000,000
	Staff Function		\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,000,000
Research and Planning			\$ 10,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 165,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 160,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 595,000
	Staff Function		See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	See initial Staff Function	\$ -
Goal G	Propose demonstration or research projects that have the potential to protect the brown trout population from thermal impacts	Yes											
						\$ 150,000			\$ 150,000			\$ 150,000	\$ 450,000
Goal E	Conduct a follow-up of watershed landowners in 2017 (five years after the University of Minnesota survey).		\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000
Goal B	Coordinate with other agencies to monitor condition and trends in groundwater levels and contaminant concentrations		\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000		\$ 50,000
Goal A	Evaluate need for new Watershed Standards on aggregate mining, if research shows potential water resource impacts	Yes	\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000
	Review existing research on aggregate mining impacts on water and groundwater, in conditions comparable to the watershed.	Yes		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000
	Discuss research needs to evaluate cumulative landscape-scale impacts of aggregate mining in the watershed with partners	Yes	See previous item	See previous item	See previous item	See previous item	See previous item	See previous item	See previous item	See previous item	See previous item	See previous item	\$ -
	Explore implementation of BWSR's "One Watershed, One Plan" principles as a means of addressing watershed-wide needs.		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Goal C	Consider developing Water Conservation Standards for the watershed		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000
	Review 2006 inventory of groundwater recharge areas and update, if needed		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000
ANNUAL TOTALS			\$ 1,041,975	\$ 1,106,975	\$ 1,151,975	\$ 1,246,975	\$ 1,106,975	\$ 1,136,975	\$ 1,236,975	\$ 1,046,975	\$ 1,051,975	\$ 1,191,975	\$ 11,309,750
TOTALS FUNDED THROUGH LEVY			\$ 1,041,975	\$ 1,081,975	\$ 1,151,975	\$ 1,096,975	\$ 1,096,975	\$ 1,136,975	\$ 1,076,975	\$ 1,046,975	\$ 1,051,975	\$ 1,041,975	\$ 10,824,750
TOTALS FUNDED THROUGH GRANTS			\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ 485,000
ANNUAL TOTALS			\$ 1,184,275	\$ 1,249,275	\$ 1,294,275	\$ 1,389,275	\$ 1,249,275	\$ 1,279,275	\$ 1,369,275	\$ 1,189,275	\$ 1,194,275	\$ 1,334,275	\$ 12,732,750
TOTALS FUNDED THROUGH LEVY			\$ 1,184,275	\$ 1,224,275	\$ 1,294,275	\$ 1,239,275	\$ 1,239,275	\$ 1,279,275	\$ 882,775	\$ 852,775	\$ 819,275	\$ 809,275	\$ 10,824,750
TOTALS FUNDED THROUGH GRANTS			\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 486,500	\$ 336,500	\$ 375,000	\$ 525,000	\$ 1,908,000



---

**6b. Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Performance Review and Assistance Program Draft Report**

Meeting Date: 9/22/2022  
Item Type: Regular-Information  
Contact: Mark Zabel  
Telephone: 952-891-7011  
Prepared by: Mark Zabel

**PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED**

- Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Performance Review and Assistance Program Draft Report.

**SUMMARY**

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) implements the Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) as a means of evaluating performance of local units of government responsible for the conservation of water and related land resources. The PRAP was authorized through State legislation adopted into law in 2007 (Minnesota Statutes 103B.102). An organizational assessment is performed with a local government unit (LGU) at least once every ten years evaluating operational effectiveness, partner relationships, and achievement in the implementation of LGU planning efforts (watershed management plan).

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources has completed a PRAP review of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. BWSR staff will present the draft report including findings, conclusions and recommendations for consideration by the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization.

**EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT**

None.

**Supporting Documents:**

Attachment A: Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) Draft  
Report for the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

**Previous Board Action(s):**

- ;

**RESOLUTION****6b. Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Performance Review and Assistance Program Draft Report**

Information only.

# Organizational Assessment

**Vermillion River**

**Watershed Management Organization**

**Local Government Unit Review**

**Draft Report**

**September 6, 2022**

---

**Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources**

520 Lafayette Road North

St. Paul, MN 55155

651-296-0768

[www.bwsr.state.mn.us](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us)

*This page was intentionally left blank.*

## Table of Contents

Introduction .....	1
Executive Summary .....	2
Findings .....	4
Findings Part 1: Planning .....	4
Findings Part 2: Performance Standards .....	5
Findings Part 3: Internal and External Surveys .....	6
Internal Survey: Self-Assessment by VRWJPO staff and board members .....	6
External Survey: Assessment of VRWJPO by Partners .....	8
General Conclusions .....	9
Commendations .....	9
Action Items .....	9
Recommendations .....	10
LGU Comments and BWSR Responses .....	11
Appendix A. Plan Accomplishments .....	12
Appendix B. Performance Standards .....	22
Appendix C. Summary of External Survey Results .....	23
Appendix D. Comment Letter .....	27
Appendix E. Program Data .....	28

This report has been prepared for **Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization** by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) in partial fulfillment of the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.102, Subd.3.

Prepared by Jennifer Mocol-Johnson ([jennifer.mocol-johnson@state.mn.us](mailto:jennifer.mocol-johnson@state.mn.us); 507-344-2820).

BWSR is reducing printing and mailing costs by using the Internet to distribute reports and information to wider audiences. This report is available in alternative formats upon request.

Organizational Assessment Report Summary	Vermillion River Watershed Joint Power Organization
<p><b>What is a PRAP Performance Review?</b></p> <p>The Board of Water and Soil Resources supports Minnesota's counties, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, and soil and water conservation districts that deliver water and related land resource management projects and programs. In 2007, the Board established a program (PRAP) to systematically review the performance of these local units of government to ensure their effective operation. Each year BWSR staff conduct routine reviews of several of these local conservation delivery entities. This document reports the results of one of those reviews.</p>	<p><b><u>Key Findings and Conclusions</u></b></p> <p>The Vermillion River Watershed JPO is commended for their education/outreach efforts, having strong technical capacity, and implementing projects within their Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.</p> <p>The results of the performance standards checklist indicate the WD is compliant with 13 of 13 basic performance standards.</p> <p><b><u>Resource Outcomes</u></b></p> <p>The Vermillion River Watershed JPO adopted the 2016-2025 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan which was reviewed in this process</p> <p><b><u>Action Items:</u></b></p> <p>Vermillion River Watershed JPO has no action items to address</p> <p><b><u>Commendations</u></b></p> <p>The Vermillion River Watershed JPO is commended for meeting 10 out of 12 High Performance Standards (applicable to the WD)</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p><b>Recommendation 1:</b> Create/Distribute Customer Service Survey to implementers</p> <p><b>Recommendation 2:</b> Develop orientation and continuing education plan for board members and staff and keep records of trainings attended</p> <p><b>Recommendation 3 –</b> Evaluate Needs of Partner Municipalities</p>

## Introduction

This is an informational document prepared by the staff of the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. It reports the results of a routine performance review of this organization's water management plan implementation and overall organizational effectiveness in delivery of conservation projects and programs. The findings and recommendations are intended to give local government units (LGUs) constructive feedback they can use to enhance their joint and individual delivery of conservation services.

For this review, BWSR has analyzed the LGU's reported accomplishments of their management plan action items, determined the organization's compliance with BWSR's Level I and II performance standards, and surveyed members of the organization and their partner organizations for feedback.

This routine evaluation is neither a financial audit nor an investigation and it does not replace or supersede other types of governmental review of local government unit operations.

While the performance review reported herein has been conducted under the authority granted to BWSR by Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103B.102, this is a staff report and has not been reviewed or approved by the BWSR board members.

## What is PRAP?

PRAP is an acronym for BWSR's Performance Review and Assistance Program. Authorized by the 2007 Minnesota legislature, the purpose of PRAP is to support local delivery of conservation and water management by periodically reviewing and assessing the performance of local units of government that deliver those services. These include soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, and the local water management functions of counties.

The PRAP program includes an Annual Statewide Summary, and three types of assessments. Depending on the program mandates and needs of the local government unit, review types include both routine and specialized. The Annual Statewide Summary annually tabulates all local governmental units' compliance with basic planning and reporting requirements.

Organizational Assessments, conducted by BWSR once every ten years for each local government unit, evaluate operational effectiveness, partner relationships, and whether the LGU has achieved county water plan, watershed management plan, and/or SWCD comprehensive plan implementation goals. This assessment also evaluates compliance with performance standards, and the Wetland Conservation Act, where applicable.

Watershed-based Assessments are routine reviews conducted with partnerships of local governments working together to implement comprehensive watershed management plans (CWMPs) developed through the One Watershed One Plan Program. This review evaluates progress on plan implementation and analyzes partners working relationships.

Special Assessments are conducted with LGUs experiencing significant obstacles or performance deficiencies and may include BWSR Board action to assign penalties as authorized by statute.

More details can be found on the BWSR PRAP webpage.



## Executive Summary

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) staff met with the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) administrator to discuss an evaluation of the water management function of the VRWJPO in July 2022. The findings in this document represent the data collected over the course of approximately 60 days of review and the recommendations are a result of the observations and conclusions we have made based on that data. There are four distinct parts of an Organizational Assessment conducted via the BWSR Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) as authorized by M.S. 103B.102, the VRWJPO was subject to only three as the VRWJPO does not implement the Wetlands Conservation Act.

Part 1: Evaluation of the progress made by water management entities toward goals stated in their approved and adopted local water management plans.

Part 2: Review of the entities' adherence to Level I and II standards as directed by statutes, policies, and guidelines via a performance standards certification checklist.

Part 3: Board member and staff surveys as well as partner surveys to assess internal and external perceptions of performance, communication, partnerships, and delivery of conservation programs and customer service.

Part 4 (not applicable): Wetlands Conservation Act (WCA) spot check to evaluate WCA program performance and delivery.

This Organizational Assessment of the Vermillion River Watershed JPO did not include Part 4. The Wetland Conservation Act Spot Check (Part 4) does not apply to the VRWJPO as they have no authority under the Minnesota Wetlands Conservation Act.

During an Organizational Assessment, BWSR staff thoroughly review data and feedback from an organization and their partners and develop a list of Actions and Recommendations to help guide the water management entities in their continued growth of program delivery. We do this to ensure they continue to meet basic standards as established in statutes and policy. We also develop a list of commendations for the great work these entities do as our partners in delivering conservation across the varied landscapes of Minnesota. Each of the above listed parts of the review are described in the findings section of this document, and the completed documents can be found in the notated appendices for further review. This report will be summarized in conjunction with other PRAP Annual Statewide Summary and Organizational Assessment reports collected in 2022 to be used as the official BWSR PRAP report delivered to the legislature as part of our reporting requirement under M.S. 103B.102.

### Key Findings and Conclusions

The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) is commended for their work in providing education and outreach, having strong technical capacity, and implementing projects within the watershed. The board and staff are viewed favorably by their partners and have made significant progress toward executing the activities within their watershed management plan.

Ongoing water management challenges in the metro area have created the necessity to forge stronger working relationships among partners to improve local water management within the watershed.

The VRWJPO is commended for meeting all applicable basic performance standards including completing required annual reports, maintaining an updated management plan, and keeping a dedicated website up to-date on projects and programs. They are also commended for meeting most high-performance standards, including monitoring hydrologic trends and maintaining cooperative partnerships.

### **Summary of Recommendations**

The following recommendations were developed after analyzing the data and information collected during this review. BWSR relies heavily on our relationships with local government staff and representatives as well as the input of partners and board members to make sure we provide recommendations that are relevant, timely, and helpful for the LGUs to implement and improve their operations. The full text of the recommendations can be found in the conclusions section of this report.

#### **Recommendation 1 – Create/Distribute Customer Service Survey to implementers**

**Recommendation 2: Develop orientation and continuing education plan for board members and staff and keep records of trainings attended**

#### **Recommendation 3 – Evaluate Needs of Partner Municipalities**

## Findings

This section describes what BWSR learned about the performance of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) via the various collection methods as outlined below.

### Findings Part 1: Planning

The findings in this section describe the Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan and action items and the accomplishments to-date.

As part of this review, the administrator for the VRWJPO prepared a table (See Appendix A) listing the accomplishments to-date for each of the action items for which they are responsible. The table contains a progress rating verified by BWSR to each item indicating whether it has been completed or its target was met, whether progress has been made and work is continuing, or whether it was dropped or not started yet.

In reviewing the Watershed Management Plan for VRWJPO, a total of 239 action items listed. A total of seven goals were established, which form the foundation of actions within the plan. The goals are:

- Protect or restore water quality in lakes, streams and wetlands
- Protect and restore groundwater quality
- Maintain a sustainable water supply
- Address more intense fluctuations (up and down) in river flow rate and volume
- Improve public awareness and stewardship of water resources
- Improve watershed resilience to changing precipitation and temperature patterns
- Protect or restore sensitive biological resources, such as plants, fish, insects, and wildlife

Within the plan, each goal includes sub-goals, objectives, and actions to identify how the goal would be addressed.

Typically, fewer action items in a long-range plan denote more broad, continuous activities and fewer specific goals. Conversely plans with a long list of action items may be too specific to be achievable within the plan timeframe. With regards to metro watershed management plans, the VRWJPO Watershed Management Plan appears to fall towards high detail, greater number of action items. A great number of activities are listed as continuous, and because of that, do not identify the desired measurable outcomes that the VRWJPO hopes to accomplish by the end of 10-year plan life (example language, *coordinate* or *collaborate with*). Plan goals tend to be broad high level, and the specific actions and objectives to address larger goals provide more specific clarity. Of the total 239 actions within the plan, 71 were identified as to be completed/worked on in the future. We found that 36 action items had been completed which is fairly consistent with plans of this type and age which have numerous ongoing activities.

The BWSR verified version of the Plan Progress Evaluation Table submitted by Vermillion River Watershed JPO staff is contained in Appendix A, **pages 12-21.**

## Findings Part 2: Performance Standards

BWSR has developed a set of performance standards that describe both basic requirements and high-performance best management practices related to the overall operation of water management organizations. These standards are different depending on the type of LGU. Each set of standards addresses four areas of operation: administration, planning, execution, and communication/coordination. The basic standards describe practices that are either legally required and defined by state statute or fundamental to watershed management organization operations as determined by BWSR board policies. Each year BWSR tracks all of Minnesota's water management LGUs' compliance with a few of the basic standards to make sure our partners stay in compliance with statutory or other legislative requirements. These typically include annual report submittals for BWSR grant activities, website reporting requirements, and financial reporting requirements as well.

The high-performance standards describe practices that reflect a level of performance that exceeds the required practices and may be items found within BWSR guidance materials or best practices recommendations. While all local government water management entities should be meeting all of the basic standards, the more ambitious LGUs will also meet several high-performance standards. The performance standards checklists submitted and reviewed for Vermillion River Watershed JPO are contained in [Appendix B, pages 22.](#)

For this Organizational Assessment, VRWJPO reports compliance with 13 of 13 applicable basic standards, and 10 of 12 applicable high-performance standards. The high achievements noted include:

- Track progress for Information and Education objectives in Plan
- Coordination with County, SWCD, City and Township officials
- Partnerships: cooperative projects/tasks with neighboring organizations, such as counties, SWCDs, WDs, tribal governments, Non-Government Organizations
- Water quality trends tracked for key water bodies
  - Biomonitoring program
- Watershed hydrologic trends monitored / reported

## Findings Part 3: Internal and External Surveys

Part 3 of this performance assessment is based on responses to an on-line survey of LGUs' staff and board and an online survey to partner organizations. The board and staff were asked different survey questions than the partners. The survey questions are designed to elicit information about LGU successes and difficulties and assess the extent and quality of partnerships with other related organizations.

### Internal Survey: Self-Assessment by VRWJPO staff and board members

A total of 10 staff and board members of the VRWJPO were invited to take the online survey, and six responses were provided (60%).

***Please note: Information in this section has been analyzed and paraphrased to keep responses anonymous.***

**Survey participants were asked which programs or projects they consider to be particularly successful over the past few years. Examples given for VRWJPO were:**

- Cost sharing for improvements in water quality at various locations within the watershed
- Networking, keeping everybody in the loop at the same time
- Irrigation Audit
- Cost Share Program
- Wetland Bank (x3)
- Stormwater Reuse project
- Stream restorations
- CIP Projects (x2)
- Irrigation water reduction project
- Work plans/contracts with SWCDs to provide technical and financial assistance with landowner BMPs
- 

**When asked why these projects and programs were successful, the following examples were given:**

- Partnership with Dakota County SWCD
- Paid staff, their ability to work and communicate
- Coordination with partners
- Communication and partnership with cities
- On the ground results and solid return on investment

**The Vermillion River Watershed JPO staff and Board were asked to provide examples of areas where the agencies' work has been difficult to implement, as well as potential explanations for the difficulties. Answers provided are summarized below.**

Identified Difficulty	Examples/Causes provided in survey ( <i>paraphrased</i> )
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Master water stewards</i></li> <li>• <i>Volunteer engagement program</i></li> <li>• <i>Finding Planning Commissioners</i></li> <li>• <i>Bacteria source identification and mitigation</i></li> <li>• <i>Large rainwater capture/reuse project</i></li> <li>• <i>Recreational enhancements (access development, recreational channel passage)</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Recruiting</i></li> <li>• <i>“Competing” with other organizations</i></li> <li>• <i>Finding public members for being commissioners</i></li> <li>• <i>Bacteria- difficult and expense of clearly identifying source and lack of local landowner participation</i></li> <li>• <i>Rainwater capture- Partner in grant funded project reassigned</i></li> <li>• <i>Recreational enhancements- low priority under authorities of organization</i></li> <li>• <i>Cost and level of effort</i></li> </ul>

**VRWJPO staff and Board were asked to list partners they had good working relationships with:**

- Dakota County SWCD
- Dakota County
- Cities (x4)- mention Lakeville, Rosemount, Appley Valley, Hastings
- Most regional and state agencies (x3)
- Some NGOs

**The survey also asked participants to identify organizations with whom they would like to collaborate with more often:**

- Townships in the watershed (x4)
- City of Farmington
- BWSR
- NGO
- Anything dealing with the legislature

**Finally, the Vermillion River Watershed JPO staff and board were also asked to identify ways to improve the effectiveness of their organizations. Responses are summarized below:**

- *We periodically review the status of our goals, objectives, and actions to make sure we are on target and reassess if needed*
- *Would like to see more effort put into budgets that addresses the VRWJPO’s Plan and needs rather than budgets that focus most on addressing fiscal concerns*
- *Organization is taking steps to enhance its communication and outreach efforts which is intended to improve civic engagement and public awareness.*

The full content of internal and external survey responses can be found in Appendix C, **pages 23-26.**

### External Survey: Assessment of VRWJPO by Partners

**Vermillion River Watershed JPO Partners Survey:** BWSR was provided a list of 46 partners by VRWJPO staff. Twenty-six partners responded to the survey, a 57% response rate. The partners reported a wide range of interaction with the JPO over the past 2-3 years: A total of 38.5% of the respondents reported they interacted with the JPO *several times a year*. Another 23.1% indicated *monthly*, 34.6% stated *almost every week*, while the remaining 3.9% stated *daily*. 80.8% of respondents indicated that the amount of interaction they had with the VRWJPO was *about right*, while 19.2% indicated that there may be room for more collaboration in the future.

The partners were asked to assess their interactions with the VRWJPO in five operational areas within the survey. The partners' rating of the organization's work in these areas was largely "strong" or "good" indicating a very strong working relationship between the partners and VRWJPO. There was one single rating of *acceptable* and one of *poor* which was in relation to the VRWJPO's communication. Based off the rankings, the VRWJPO appears to be either meeting or exceeding their partners' expectations.

Performance Area	VRWJPO Partner Ratings (percent)				
	Strong	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Don't Know
Communication	57.7%	34.6%	3.9%	3.9%	0.0%
Quality of Work	69.2%	30.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Customer Relations	57.7%	42.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Initiative	69.2%	30.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Timelines/ Follow through	65.4%	30.8%	0.0%	0.0%	3.9%

The partners' overall rating of their working relationship with the VRWJPO was largely *powerful* (46.2%) or *strong* (42.3%). The JPO did receive scores stating *it could be better* (11.5%), indicating a potential area of growth.

When partners were asked for additional thoughts about how the VRWJPO could be more effective, responses received were as follows:

- The VRWJPO is one of the most technical and high functioning organizations I have worked with. With that approach, comes challenges of collaboration and engagement on competing priorities at times. They do well to integrate their local knowledge and perspective into larger state sponsored topics and programs.
- Travis Thiel and Mark Ryan are outstanding to work with
- The VRWJPO is very effective organization- they are proactive, and have great community partnership
- VRWJPO is a top-notch organization, led by capable, professional staff
- Our city is a closed basin. Very little drains to the Vermillion River and the plan over time is to outlet to the Mississippi River. We appreciate the efforts the Watershed has made in recent years to include us in watershed wide efforts and programs, but these programs are limited. We certainly understand why the focus of this organization has been on resource restoration. At the same time, it does sting a bit that more funding and assistance does not come back to the programs and projects within our boundaries. It would be helpful for the Watershed to continue to develop new and existing watershed wide education, grant, and technical assistance programs.

## General Conclusions

After a thorough review of the provided information including water plan progress, performance standards, and reviewing the survey inputs we have developed some recommendations for the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO).

In brief review, the VRWJPO reports compliance with 13 of 13 applicable basic performance standards, and 10 of 12 applicable high-performance standards. The VRWJPO has demonstrated clear progress toward their plan goals and actions, effectiveness in implementation of projects and is a strong, reliable partner. The VRWJPO should continue to build upon their strong working relationships with partners to meet the water management and conservation challenges in the watershed. The 239 actions within the plan were reviewed and progress has been strong with 36 items reported as complete, 132 items ongoing, and the remaining 71 to be completed in the future.

## Commendations

Commendations are based on achievement of BWSR's high performance standards (see Findings, Part 2 and Appendix B, page 22). These practices reflect above average operational effectiveness and level of effort.

***The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization is commended for:***

- Water quality trends tracked for key waterbodies
  - Biomonitoring efforts
- Staff training: orientation and continuing education plan and record for each staff
- Operational guidelines for fiscal procedures and conflicts of interest exist and are current
- Coordination with County Board, SWCD Board, City/Township officials
- Meeting the High-Performance Standards identified in Appendix B

## Action Items

Action items are based on compliance with BWSR's basic practice performance standards (see Findings, Part 2 and Appendix B, page 22). Action Items address lack of compliance with one or more basic standards.

**The VRWJPO has no action items to address at this time due to their successful implementation of all applicable basic standards. Continue to work with your Board Conservationist to maintain this level of performance.**



## Recommendations

This section contains recommendations offered by BWSR to the board and administrator of the VRWJPO. The intention of these recommendations is to enhance the organization's delivery of effective water and related land resource management and service to the residents of the watershed. BWSR financial assistance may be available to support the implementation of some of these recommendations.

### **Recommendation 1 – Create/Distribute Customer Service Survey to implementers**

Offering implementers within the watershed an opportunity to evaluate the assistance they were provided is a great opportunity for self-reflection and adaptation as necessary. Potential options for groups to distribute to, may include Municipalities, Townships, and TAC members. Distribution options could be as simple as providing a link within emails or mailing a post card requesting input after assistance was provided.

### **Recommendation 2 – Develop orientation and continuing education plan for board members and keep records of trainings attended**

There are many training opportunities available for board members. A simple training plan provides a means of ensuring that members can continue to build the knowledge and skills necessary to carry out their respective duties. For example, board members maybe interested in attending educational training through AMC, which includes day training, conferences, or webinars located on the AMC website.

### **Recommendation 3 – Evaluate Needs of Partner Municipalities**

While the majority of partner survey responses indicated that the amount of work they do with the VRWJPO is *about* right, 19% did indicate a desire to work together more often. *Of those same respondents*, there was a clear level of respect for the work of the JPO. Consider working with municipalities and other partners to identify activities that would be most beneficial to them, including watershed wide education initiatives, grant, and technical assistance programs.

## **LGU Comments and BWSR Responses**

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization board members and staff were invited to comment on the findings, conclusions and recommendations in the draft version of this report. The VRWJPO has/nt provided a comment letter which can be found in Appendix D (pg. 27).

## Appendix A. Plan Accomplishments

Indicator symbol for Progress Rating: Not Started/Dropped/Future

Ongoing progress

Completed/target met

Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan 2016-2025: Section 6 - mid point implementation evaluation ranked by SUM (highest to lowest)

Goal	Sec. 6 page#	Role	Item ID	Status	MODE	SUM	Level of Effort	Action	Objective
A	5	Regulation	Reg 9a	Ongoing	3	20	H	Ensure that VRWJO regulations minimize water quality impacts from land-disturbing activities.	Ensure that local governments include the VRWJO Standards in Local Water Management Plan revisions and implement them through official controls.
D	14	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 6b	Future	3	20	H	Collaborate with SWCDs, federal, State and local programs to cost share for stream bank restoration projects	Mitigate the impact of past increases in stormwater discharge on downstream conveyance systems
A	6	Research and Planning	R&P 14e	Ongoing	3	20	M	Apply and partner with others to apply for grant funding to implement high-priority restoration and protection projects.	Coordinate with partners in grant applications implementing high-priority restoration and protection projects.
F	19	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 6c	Future	3	19	H	Work with partners and landowners to protect and restore wetlands with strategic value in flood protection and pollutant filtration through conservation easements, restoration, revegetation, and other techniques	Preserve and restore the Vermillion River watershed's pre-development hydrology to the extent practicable
F	19	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 6b	Ongoing	3	19	H	Work with partners and landowners to restore straightened river or stream reaches through re-meandering projects, streambank stabilization, buffers, revegetation, habitat improvement or other techniques	Preserve and restore the Vermillion River watershed's pre-development hydrology to the extent practicable
G	20	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 3c	Ongoing	3	19	H	Collaborate with other partners, agencies and groups (Pheasants Forever, Trout Unlimited, DNR, for example) to identify high priority riparian habitat and assist with restorations or protection by providing technical assistance, volunteers, cost-share, or incentives	Coordinate with partners to identify, prioritize, protect, connect, restore, and maintain lands with impacts or connectivity to riparian habitat
A	5	Regulation	Reg 9c	Ongoing	3	19	M	Require local governments to submit proposed land alteration plans to the VRWJO for review and comment, prior to issuing a permit, if plans include any of the following: 1. Variances from local ordinances that affect surface water or impact surface water/groundwater interactions 2. Diversions 3. Intercommunity flows (to or from) 4. Project site size of 40 acres or more 5. Activities directly adjacent to the Vermillion River, its tributaries, a lake, or protected wetland.	Ensure that local governments include the VRWJO Standards in Local Water Management Plan revisions and implement them.
A	8	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 26a	Ongoing	3	18	H	Assist with buffer acquisition, riparian plantings, shoreline restoration, acquisition and/or removal of structures that degrade the corridor	Work with public agencies and landowners to improve the ecological quality of the Vermillion River corridor and main tributaries
F	19	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 6a	Ongoing	3	18	H	Work with partners and landowners to preserve and protect healthy meandered river and stream reaches through conservation easement, buffers/filter strips, invasive species control, and other stabilization practices	Preserve and restore the Vermillion River watershed's pre-development hydrology to the extent practicable
F	19	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 3c	Ongoing	3	18	H	Cost-share in-stream restorations that increase shade, dissolved oxygen, and bank stability, such as riffles, root wads,unker structures, toe wood, refuge pools, and other features	Increase resilience of the river system to changing precipitation and temperature patterns through riparian buffers/filter strips, shading, in-stream restorations, and shoreland/floodplain management
G	20-21	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 3d	Ongoing	3	18	H	Collaborate with other agencies, organizations, and private landowners to develop fish and wildlife habitat corridors that connect open spaces, lakes, wetlands, stream corridors, and other critical habitat	Coordinate with partners to identify, prioritize, protect, connect, restore, and maintain lands with impacts or connectivity to riparian habitat
A	5	Regulation	Reg 10a	Ongoing	3	18	M	Enforce buffer standards tied to changes in land use in rural areas.	Increase lake and riparian shoreline miles with managed vegetated buffers/filter strips to mitigate stormwater runoff impacts.
F	19	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 6d	Ongoing	3	18	M	Encourage cities and developers to integrate LID practices when feasible	Preserve and restore the Vermillion River watershed's pre-development hydrology to the extent practicable
B	9	Research and Planning	R&P 1a	Ongoing	3	18	L	Coordinate with other agencies to monitor condition and trends in groundwater levels and contaminant concentrations	Help advance research on the watershed's groundwater system and groundwater management strategies
D	14	Regulation	Reg 3c	Ongoing	3	18	L	Ensure that local water management plans incorporate consensus solutions to intercommunity flow issues	Address known flooding/erosion/flow diversion or alteration problems that cross community boundaries
A	4	Administration and Operations	A&O 3c	Ongoing	3	17	H	Facilitate acquisition and restoration of restorable wetlands suitable for wetland banking	Simplify VRWJO procedures for working with partners in other levels of government
A	4	Administration and Operations	A&O 4a	Ongoing	3	17	M	Apply (solely or in partnership) for grants to conduct special projects, studies, and demonstrations, and fund best management practices	Use VRWJO dollars to leverage additional funding for watershed management
A	7	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 20b	Ongoing	3	17	M	Target projects to water resources that have problems that are urgent, pose potential health risks, threaten public infrastructure, or adversely affect people, property, or natural resources	Optimize cost share funding to achieve the greatest benefits for the least expenditure of public money
A	5	Regulation	Reg 8b	Future	3	17	M	Consider new watershed standards to respond to changes in legislation, new scientific information, or altered conditions.	Update, adopt, and enforce VRWJO Standards/Rules.
B	10	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 2b	Future	3	17	M	Collaborate with Scott County on groundwater monitoring for the Scott County portion of the watershed	Assist federal, state, and local partners in monitoring, restoring, and maintaining groundwater quality
D	14	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 6a	Ongoing	3	17	M	Identify bank stabilization projects and restore damaged banks at priority locations	Mitigate the impact of past increases in stormwater discharge on downstream conveyance systems
D	13	Regulation	Reg 2a	Ongoing	3	17	M	Require local governments to enforce ordinances that are consistent with VRWJO Standards	Support requirements for local governments to identify, protect, and reconnect floodplains
A	6	Research and Planning	R&P 13b	Ongoing	3	17	L	Maintain contacts with agencies developing or revising statutes or rules, pollutant standards, detection limits, testing recommendations, grant opportunities, or information resources.	Track emerging issues, legislation, trends, and technologies with potential watershed management impacts.
C	13	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 6d	Ongoing	3	17	M	Promote cover crops, no-till, conservation tillage, conservation cropping rotation, and other BMPs that help maintain water in the soil	Assist partners in promoting and cost-sharing practices that conserve groundwater in agricultural settings
F	18	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 4b	Future	3	17	L	Work with media outlets to call attention to demonstration projects with significant benefits or results	Develop, implement, and promote demonstration projects of BMPs that help mitigate high flows, flooding, high temperatures, drought, and severe weather events

## Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan 2016-2025: Section 6 - mid point implementation evaluation ranked by SUM (highest to lowest)

Goal	Sec. 6 page#	Role	Item ID	Status	MODE	SUM	Level of Effort	Action	Objective
F	19	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 5a	Ongoing	3	17	L	Promote the benefits of buffers/filter strips for water quality improvement and watershed resilience to landowners along the river and tributaries	Increase resilience of the river system to changing precipitation and temperature patterns through riparian buffers/filter strips, shading, in-stream restorations, and shoreland/floodplain management
E	16	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 5c	Future	2	17	H	Assist Vermillion Stewards, a coordinated volunteer program to raise awareness of the importance of watershed protection; involve community members in stewardship and education activities; and provide a recognition program for volunteers	Recognize and celebrate stewardship in the Vermillion River Watershed
A	8	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 22e	Ongoing	2	17	M	Assist Dakota County and Scott County Land Protection programs in acquiring permanent conservation easements in riparian areas in the Vermillion River Watershed	Refer individuals and organizations to other federal, state, regional, or local agencies with services or resources not available from the VRWJO.
G	20	Regulation	Reg 1a	Ongoing	2	17	M	Require local water management plans (and comprehensive wetland management plans, where existing) to take reasonable measures to avoid impacts of land-disturbing activities on known sensitive habitats and communities and rare species	Protect sensitive habitats and communities, and rare species
G	20	Regulation	Reg 1b	Ongoing	2	17	M	Review projects and plans for land-disturbing activities within the VRWJO's jurisdiction for potential impacts on sensitive habitats and communities and rare species, and propose reasonable measures to avoid the impacts	Protect sensitive habitats and communities, and rare species
A	9	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 29b	Future	2	17	L	Foster partnerships with groups and individuals working closely with farmers using broadly based civic engagement methods	Build partnerships, exchange ideas, and problem-solve with agricultural producers to improve water quality
E	16	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 5d	Future	2	17	M	Publish stories recognizing stewardship activities online, in the newsletter, and other public venues	Recognize and celebrate stewardship in the Vermillion River Watershed
A	8	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 23c	Future	3	16	H	Work with livestock owners and public agencies to eliminate direct livestock access to natural water bodies (e.g., wetlands, rivers, streams).	Collaborate to reduce non-point source pollution from agricultural activities
C	12	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 4c	Future	3	16	H	Consider cost-share of demonstration projects that re-use treated industrial or municipal wastewater	Promote and cost-share BMPs that conserve water
F	19	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 7	Future	3	16	H		Collaborate with local and regional land-use planning partners to address potential cumulative impacts of specific land-use changes that affect Vermillion River Watershed water resources or natural hydrology (e.g., expansive aggregate mining, widespread drainage management practices, impervious cover expansion)
F	19	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 5d	Future	3	16	H	Consider options for re-routing treated wastewater effluent to supplement base flow during drought conditions	Increase resilience of the river system to changing precipitation and temperature patterns through riparian buffers/filter strips, shading, in-stream restorations, and shoreland/floodplain management
A	4	Administration and Operations	A&O 2c	Ongoing	3	16	M	Fund high-priority projects using VRWJO CIP dollars, cost-sharing with partners, grant funding or a combination of strategies	Prepare a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) annually that focuses resources on highest-priority subwatershed problems
A	7	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 20a	Ongoing	3	16	M	Prioritize projects that provide multiple benefits, multiple pollutant reductions, system-wide improvement, or synergy with other projects	Optimize cost share funding to achieve the greatest benefits for the least expenditure of public money
A	8	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 23a	Ongoing	3	16	L	Assist agencies that provide information and technical assistance on point and non-point source pollution prevention and remediation to feedlot operators and agricultural landowners	Collaborate to reduce non-point source pollution from agricultural activities
F	18	Administration and Operations	A&O 1a	Future	3	16	L	Develop procedures to operate wetland banks and sustain wetland restorations in the Vermillion River Watershed, creating a revolving fund that rolls fees from purchasers back into further wetland restorations	Establish wetland banks in the watershed
F	19	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 5e	Ongoing	3	16	L	Encourage and promote alternative perennial crops and cover crops in agricultural areas of the watershed	Increase resilience of the river system to changing precipitation and temperature patterns through riparian buffers/filter strips, shading, in-stream restorations, and shoreland/floodplain management
A	5	Regulation	Reg 5b	Future	2	16	H	Consider an "above and beyond" Stormwater Management certification for (re-) development interests seeking documentation of higher performance (e.g., conserve water or meet a sustainability goal).	Ensure that local governments include the VRWJO Standards in Local Water Management Plan revisions and implement them through official controls.
D	14	Regulation	Reg 3a	Future	2	16	H	Continue to document intergovernmental hydrology through use and maintenance of the watershed hydrologic model	Address known flooding/erosion/flood diversion or alteration problems that cross community boundaries
G	20	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 5a	Ongoing	2	16	H	Collaborate with Dakota Land Conservation staff to identify and prioritize riparian and upland habitat and assist in easement acquisition and restoration or protection through cost-share and incentives	Coordinate with partners to identify, prioritize, protect, connect, restore, and maintain lands with impacts or connectivity to riparian habitat
A	8	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 23b	Ongoing	2	16	M	Coordinate with other agencies to identify potential agricultural point and non-point pollution sources	Collaborate to reduce non-point source pollution from agricultural activities
A	6	Research and Planning	R&P 14a	Ongoing	2	16	M	Integrate WRAPS recommendations for high-priority restoration and protection projects into the VRWJO's CIP	Complete and implement the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS)
C	13	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 6b	Ongoing	2	16	M	Assist federal, state and local partners in promoting irrigation water management and BMPs	Assist partners in promoting and cost-sharing practices that conserve groundwater in agricultural settings
D	15	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 10b	Future	2	16	M	Implement a targeted program to inform landowners about liabilities associated with artificial river blockages located on or originating from private land	Work with partners to ensure that the Vermillion River and its tributaries are managed properly for large debris, beaver dams, and other channel blocking features to avoid flooding with property/ infrastructure damage, and other flow related issues
E	17	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 6a	Future	2	16	M	Build capacity among individuals and groups interested in watershed protection and improvement to participate in, lead, or develop civic engagement actions	Support and create opportunities for people to work together on projects that will improve water quality, water quantity, or habitat
E	17	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 6b	Ongoing	2	16	L	Support and participate in the Scott Clean Water Education Program	Support and create opportunities for people to work together on projects that will improve water quality, water quantity, or habitat

## Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan 2016-2025: Section 6 - mid point implementation evaluation ranked by SUM (highest to lowest)

Goal	Sec. 6 page#	Role	Item ID	Status	MODE	SUM	Level of Effort	Action	Objective
E	17	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 6c	Ongoing	2	16	L	Assist Scott and Dakota counties in planning and implementing their respective Outdoor Education Days	Support and create opportunities for people to work together on projects that will improve water quality, water quantity, or habitat
A	4	Administration and Operations	A&O 2b	Ongoing	3	15	M	Develop an approved project list with input from potential partners and stakeholders.	Prepare a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) annually that focuses resources on highest-priority subwatershed problems
A	8	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 22c	Ongoing	3	15	M	Assist Dakota County, the MPCA, and cities in implementing the Wetland Health Evaluation Program	Refer individuals and organizations to other federal, state, regional, or local agencies with services or resources not available from the VRWJPO.
A	9	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 28	Ongoing	3	15	M		Build partnerships with professionals engaged in land-use change (developers, planners, environmental consultants, lenders, builders, real estate agents, development agencies, and others) to achieve water-quality improvements in development and redevelopment that add value or benefit to property
A	7	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 20c	Ongoing	3	15	M	Measure project outcomes in reducing pollutants and estimate derived benefits	Optimize cost share funding to achieve the greatest benefits for the least expenditure of public money
B	11	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 8g	Future	3	15	M	Consider outreach on nutrient management practices to turf-intensive developments, such as homeowners associations, golf courses, business campuses, and other urban/suburban users of fertilizers	Collaborate with partners to promote nutrient management practices that protect groundwater from nitrate contamination while maintaining viable agricultural production and urban landscapes
C	12	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 3a	Ongoing	3	15	M	Promote and cost share bio-infiltration BMPs for new development, redevelopment, and stormwater retrofits	Continue policies and programs to conserve groundwater by use of plant species' drought and water tolerances
D	14	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 5b	Ongoing	3	15	M	Evaluate developed areas to prioritize those with the greatest impacts on flow and volume fluctuations	Target and prioritize cost-share, incentives, and outreach activities for retrofits in developed areas, to reduce stormwater flow rates and volumes
D	13	Regulation	Reg 2b	Ongoing	3	15	M	Require cities and townships to obtain easements for flood, flood drainage, maintenance access, and emergency overflow routes during development and/or building permit processes	Support requirements for local governments to identify, protect, and reconnect floodplains
A	4	Administration and Operations	A&O 3a	Ongoing	3	15	L	Develop annual budgets with levy requests based on a transparent public process	Adopt VRWJPO budgets that are transparent, allocate levy amounts fairly, and include accountability measures. (applies to all goals)
A	4	Administration and Operations	A&O 3b	Ongoing	3	15	L	Develop annual budgets with levy requests based on the watershed tax capacity in each county	Adopt VRWJPO budgets that are transparent, allocate levy amounts fairly, and include accountability measures. (applies to all goals)
A	4	Administration and Operations	A&O 4b	Ongoing	3	15	L	Report on leveraged federal, state and local dollars in cost-share	Use VRWJPO dollars to leverage additional funding for watershed management
D	14	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 5a	Ongoing	3	15	L	Identify urban/suburban developed areas without adequate stormwater infrastructure	Target and prioritize cost-share, incentives, and outreach activities for retrofits in developed areas, to reduce stormwater flow rates and volumes
D	13	Regulation	Reg 2c	Ongoing	3	15	L	Assist responsible government units in ensuring that structures are properly located relative to the floodplain before permits are issued	Support requirements for local governments to identify, protect, and reconnect floodplains
D	13	Regulation	Reg 2d	Ongoing	3	15	L	Limit floodplain alterations to obtain "no net loss" of floodplain storage, and preserve, restore and manage floodplain wetlands	Support requirements for local governments to identify, protect, and reconnect floodplains
G	20	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 4c	Ongoing	3	15	L	Incorporate potential BMPs for sediment-load reduction in the CIP	Identify and implement sediment-reducing BMPs in the highest sediment-yielding subwatersheds
E	16-17	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 3f	Ongoing	2	15	H	Consider establishing kiosks, signs, or other location-specific educational displays at VRWJPO CIP projects, public access, and open spaces	Recognize and celebrate stewardship in the Vermillion River Watershed
G	20	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 5b	Ongoing	2	15	H	Collaborate with Scott County Land Conservation staff to identify high priority riparian habitat and assist in easement acquisition and restoration or protection through cost-share and incentives	Coordinate with partners to identify, prioritize, protect, connect, restore, and maintain lands with impacts or connectivity to riparian habitat
C	12	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 4a	Ongoing	2	15	M	Promote and cost-share BMPs that infiltrate stormwater and replenish groundwater, where feasible and not a threat to groundwater quality	Promote and cost-share BMPs that conserve water
D	15	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 10a	Future	2	15	M	Work with partners to develop assessment techniques for channel blockages, define appropriate criteria for potential removal/ management, and identify funding sources to achieve identified removal/ management activities. Ensure that removing blockages does not adversely affect river pattern, structure, wildlife, or habitat	Work with partners to ensure that the Vermillion River and its tributaries are managed properly for large debris, beaver dams, and other channel blocking features to avoid flooding with property/ infrastructure damage, and other flow related issues
E	17	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 12b	Ongoing	2	15	M	Promote and support Vermillion Stewards hands-on educational events/workshops	Increase resilience of the watershed through direct preparedness, outreach, and engagement efforts
A	4	Administration and Operations	A&O 6a	Ongoing	2	15	L	Meet routinely with "key leaders" in water resource management to exchange information, solve problems, identify opportunities, or streamline processes	Seek recommendations, solutions, and balanced representation from advisory groups
A	8-9	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 27	Ongoing	2	15	L		Evaluate impacts of proposed land uses on surface water and groundwater when commenting on environmental reviews prepared by local governments, such as Environmental Assessment Worksheets (EAW), Alternative Urban Area Reviews (AUAR), and Environmental Impact Statements (EIS).
A	7	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 19e	Future	2	15	L	Annually review the cost-share program to ensure that identified priorities are being addressed	Provide cost-share and other incentives to watershed landowners implementing best management practices
A	5	Regulation	Reg 10c	Future	2	15	L	Provide information on riparian easements and buffer benefits, requirements, and incentives on the VRWJPO website.	Increase lake and riparian shoreline miles with managed vegetated buffers/filter strips to mitigate stormwater runoff impacts.



## Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan 2016-2025: Section 6 - mid point implementation evaluation ranked by SUM (highest to lowest)

Goal	Sec. 6 page#	Role	Item ID	Status	MODE	SUM	Level of Effort	Action	Objective
E	16	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 3c	Ongoing	2	15	L	Assist science teachers conducting field education classes or projects in the watershed	Assist in public education and civic engagement regarding the fish, macroinvertebrates, plants, and wildlife in the Vermillion River Watershed
E	16	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 4a	Ongoing	2	15	L	Employ existing communication channels (VRWJPB, WPC, TAG, Dakota and Scott Counties, Agricultural Outreach, newsletters, website, other) to update key stakeholders about groundwater quality issues of importance to the watershed	Assist state and local partners in providing information and education on protecting groundwater quality and quantity
E	17	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 7b	Ongoing	2	15	L	Promote the recreational opportunities and other initiatives to increase appreciation and enjoyment of the Vermillion River system	Increase public awareness of the Vermillion River and its major tributaries as a valued resource
F	19	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 3a	Ongoing	3	14	H	Assist partners in acquisition of shoreland easements along the Vermillion River corridor	Increase resilience of the river system to changing precipitation and temperature patterns through riparian buffers/filter strips, shading, in-stream restorations, and shoreland/floodplain management
A	8	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 23b	Future	3	14	M	Consider providing stormwater management system maintenance guidance for watershed communities	Work with local government units to ensure that stormwater infrastructure is maintained and functions effectively over time
D	14	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 7a	Ongoing	3	14	M	Identify and prioritize gully erosion problems using geomorphic or other relevant assessments	Address gully erosion problems in the watershed
G	20	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 4a	Ongoing	3	14	M	Collect data from the Vermillion River Monitoring Network annual sampling regime to identify sensitive species, analyze TSS, and locate sediment sources from the highest sediment-yielding subwatersheds	Identify and implement sediment-reducing BMPs in the highest sediment-yielding subwatersheds
G	20	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 4b	Ongoing	3	14	M	Target locations where implementing BMPs would effectively reduce sediment loading	Identify and implement sediment-reducing BMPs in the highest sediment-yielding subwatersheds
A	8	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 22d	Ongoing	3	14	L	Continue to support agricultural outreach by the counties, MDA, University of Minnesota Extension and other partners	Refer individuals and organizations to other federal, state, regional, or local agencies with services or resources not available from the VRWJPO.
A	8	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 23e	Ongoing	3	14	L	Promote participation in conservation programs, such as Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Dakota County Land Protection, and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and others.	Collaborate to reduce non-point source pollution from agricultural activities
A	8	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 24c	Ongoing	3	14	L	Assist state and local programs in preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species (e.g., zebra mussels).	Assist local governments in management of recreational lakes in the watershed
A	3	Research and Planning	R&P 13a	Ongoing	3	14	L	Remain engaged in professional water management networks that discuss issues, trends, and technology.	Track emerging issues, legislation, trends, and technologies with potential watershed management impacts.
B	10	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 3a	Ongoing	3	14	L	Support and consult partners (MPCA, MDA for fertilizer and pesticides) when historical land uses (spills, leaks, dump sites) may pose a threat to groundwater or surface water in the watershed	Continue contributing to groundwater information networks tracking current and emerging issues and trends.
B	10	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 3b	Ongoing	3	14	L	Consult hazardous waste and remediation resources to ensure that land-disturbing BMPs for which the VRWJPO is providing cost share do not have a documented history of site contamination	Continue contributing to groundwater information networks tracking current and emerging issues and trends.
B	10	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 3a	Ongoing	3	14	L	Assist in identifying potential impacts on public or private drinking water supplies during plan and permit reviews	Assist state and local agencies in managing wells (installation, testing, placement, or sealing) to protect groundwater quality
B	11	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 6b	Ongoing	3	14	L	Support use of appropriate stormwater best management practices in wellhead protection areas	Assist MDH and other agencies in implementing wellhead protection programs and plans in the watershed
B	11	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 8e	Future	3	14	L	Assist partners in assessing nitrogen application rates in high infiltration areas of the watershed and promoting nitrogen application rate reductions	Collaborate with partners to promote nutrient management practices that protect groundwater from nitrate contamination while maintaining viable agricultural production and urban landscapes
E	16	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 3b	Ongoing	3	14	L	Host VRWJPO watershed tours for elected and appointed officials to highlight demonstrations of innovative technology, successful water quality and quantity improvement practices, and restoration activities	Recognize and celebrate stewardship in the Vermillion River Watershed
E	17	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 9	Ongoing	3	14	L		Publish a VRWJPO e-newsletter at least once a year
E	17	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 12a	Ongoing	3	14	L	Promote and support programs to learn about, design, and install residential raingardens and shoreline restorations	Increase resilience of the watershed through direct preparedness, outreach, and engagement efforts
A	8	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 23d	Future	2	14	H	Work with landowners and other agencies to eliminate fencing across public waters and associated potential liabilities (e.g., Vermillion River and tributaries).	Collaborate to reduce non-point source pollution from agricultural activities
C	12	Research and Planning	R&P 1a	Future	2	14	H	Consider developing Water Conservation Standards for the watershed	Assist partners in preventing reductions to the river's base flow and to normal levels in lakes and wetlands
E	17	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 8f	Ongoing	2	14	H	Facilitate multi-partner solutions to water quality or habitat restoration issues	Support and create opportunities for people to work together on projects that will improve water quality, water quantity, or habitat
A	4	Administration and Operations	A&O 6c	Ongoing	2	14	M	Discuss critical watershed issues and seek recommendations from the citizen advisory Watershed Planning Commission (WPC)	Seek recommendations, solutions, and balanced representation from advisory groups
A	8	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 23a	Future	2	14	M	Initiate discussions with local government units about barriers to stormwater infrastructure maintenance	Work with local government units to ensure that stormwater infrastructure is maintained and functions effectively over time

## Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan 2016-2025: Section 6 - mid point implementation evaluation ranked by SUM (highest to lowest)

Goal	Sec. 6 page#	Role	Item ID	Status	MODE	SUM	Level of Effort	Action	Objective
A	8	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 22b	Ongoing	2	14	M	Consult or partner with cities, townships, or other public entities on applications for public and private grants.	Refer individuals and organizations to other federal, state, regional, or local agencies with services or resources not available from the VRWJPO.
A	7	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 18b	Ongoing	2	14	M	Provide technical assistance or referrals to assistance providers to watershed landowners that contact the VRWJPO.	Ensure that technical assistance is available to landowners considering BMPs for water quality or habitat improvement.
A	7	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 21a	Ongoing	2	14	M	Estimate soil loss, sediment, and phosphorus reduction from practices that reduce sheet and rill erosion; stabilize gully, stream bank, or ditch erosion; or act as filter strips or buffers.	Use standard pollutant-reduction calculators to estimate cost-effectiveness of BMPs installed or cost-shared by the VRWJPO.
A	5	Regulation	Reg 11b	Ongoing	2	14	M	Require annual reporting on permits and inspections from non-MS4 communities fully or partly within the watershed.	Establish procedures to review implementation of local water management ordinances.
C	12	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 4b	Ongoing	2	14	M	Promote and cost-share BMPs that use stormwater for irrigating urban landscapes.	Promote and cost-share BMPs that conserve water.
D	14	Regulation	Reg 3b	Ongoing	2	14	M	Coordinate mediation with affected local government units to find practical and equitable solutions.	Address known flooding/erosion/flow diversion or alteration problems that cross community boundaries.
E	16	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 3b	Ongoing	2	14	M	Collaborate with county and city parks on programs, classes, and activities that focus attention on the fish, macroinvertebrates, plants, and wildlife in the watershed.	Assist in public education and civic engagement regarding the fish, macroinvertebrates, plants, and wildlife in the Vermillion River Watershed.
A	8	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 22a	Ongoing	2	14	L	Promote existing information on programs, funding, and resources for best management practices (e.g. MDA's Ag BMP Handbook).	Refer individuals and organizations to other federal, state, regional, or local agencies with services or resources not available from the VRWJPO.
A	8	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 24a	Ongoing	2	14	L	Review the status of lake water quality and management plans on at least a five-year basis as part of VRWJPO planning.	Assist local governments in management of recreational lakes in the watershed.
A	7	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 19d	Future	2	14	L	Consider cost-share or other incentives to fund the long-term operation and maintenance of BMPs.	Provide cost-share and other incentives to watershed landowners implementing best management practices.
B	10	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 4a	Future	2	14	L	Assist the MPCA in requiring communities to implement a septic system inventory, inspection, and upgrade program.	Collaborate to reduce levels of fecal coliform/E. coli bacteria, nitrate, and other pollutants in groundwater and surface water through improved management of septic systems in the watershed.
B	10	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 4b	Future	2	14	L	Assist Dakota County's efforts to inventory failing/noncompliant systems, prioritize areas for upgrades, and use cost-share or loans to fund upgrades if the state delegates this authority to the county.	Collaborate to reduce levels of fecal coliform/E. coli bacteria, nitrate, and other pollutants in groundwater and surface water through improved management of septic systems in the watershed.
B	11	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 8f	Ongoing	2	14	L	Collaborate with partners on turf and fertilizer management workshops for facility managers of businesses, parks, schools, and others.	Collaborate with partners to promote nutrient management practices that protect groundwater from nitrate contamination while maintaining viable agricultural production and urban landscapes.
E	17	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 10	Future	2	14	L		Submit articles on the watershed and its activities to publications of partners (e.g., MPCA Water Line, Scott County Scene) and news media (newspapers, magazines).
E	17	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 6e	Ongoing	2	14	L	Develop and maintain a VRWJPO presence at community events with relevance to the watershed (Earth Week events, clean-up events, lake association meetings, community festivals, park opening events, for example).	Support and create opportunities for people to work together on projects that will improve water quality, water quantity, or habitat.
E	17	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 7a	Ongoing	2	14	L	Continue working with Watershed Partners to educate the general public (through publications, ads, television, and other media) on water resources and stewardship behaviors and choices.	Increase public awareness of the Vermillion River and its major tributaries as a valued resource.
E	17	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 12c	Ongoing	2	14	L	Consider continuing workshops on ice/snow management and turfgrass maintenance.	Increase resilience of the watershed through direct preparedness, outreach, and engagement efforts.
A	6	Monitoring and Assessment	M&A 16a	Ongoing	3	13	H	Conduct synoptic surveys to pinpoint specific pollution sources and target prevention or restoration activities.	Update the VRWJPO's surface water quality monitoring program to assess conditions and track trends.
A	6	Monitoring and Assessment	M&A 16b	Ongoing	3	13	M	Collect and analyze surface water quality monitoring data and report annually on condition, trends, and recommendations for improvement.	Update the VRWJPO's surface water quality monitoring program to assess conditions and track trends.
A	6	Research and Planning	R&P 14d	Future	3	13	M	Provide townships and MS4 communities with waste load allocations an annual summary of BMPs installed using VRWJPO cost share (including Landscaping for Clean Water program projects) and estimated pollutant reduction.	Complete and implement the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS).
A	6	Research and Planning	R&P 14c	Ongoing	3	13	M	Provide MS4s with technical assistance, cost-share, or grant funding to install best management practices (BMPs) identified in the WRAPS and/or the CIP.	Complete and implement the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS).
B	10	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 3c	Ongoing	3	13	L	Consult databases of confirmed remediation sites, industrial wastewater permits, and other point sources of pollution when investigating groundwater and surface water incidents or complaints.	Continue contributing to groundwater information networks tracking current and emerging issues and trends.
F	18	Administration and Operations	A&O 2	Future	2	13	H		Establish a riparian habitat improvement program that includes tree shading in critical reaches.
A	3-4	Administration and Operations	A&O 1d	Ongoing	2	13	M	Report outcomes for key indicators in the annual activity report, financial statement, and other reports.	Define outcome measures for waterbodies or stream reaches in each sub-watershed, based on statutory classifications, designated uses, impairments, current conditions, and in consultation with local governments and partners.
A	7	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 21b	Ongoing	2	13	M	Estimate water use reduction from various water conservation actions.	Use standard pollutant-reduction calculators to estimate cost-effectiveness of BMPs installed or cost-shared by the VRWJPO.
A	9	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 31	Ongoing	2	13	M		Provide opportunities for Vermillion Stewards volunteers on targeted watershed priorities.

## Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan 2016-2025: Section 6 - mid point implementation evaluation ranked by SUM (highest to lowest)

Goal	Sec. 6 page#	Role	Item ID	Status	MODE	SUM	Level of Effort	Action	Objective
E	15-16	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 2b	Future	2	13	M	Collaborate with educators, including DNR's Project WET, to determine an appropriate role for the VRWJPO in water education	Identify and develop an appropriate role for the VRWJPO in K-12 education in cooperation with teachers, environmental educators, and other key education stakeholders
E	15	Research and Planning	R&P 1a	Ongoing	2	13	M	Incorporate appropriate recommendations from "Perspectives on Minnesota Water Resources: A Survey of Sand Creek and Vermillion River Watershed Landowners," a University of Minnesota 2012 survey; WRAPS civic engagement plan; and annual Dakota County Residential Survey into the VRWJPO communication plan	Update the VRWJPO communication plan
G	20	Research and Planning	R&P 2b	Future	2	13	M	Propose demonstration or research projects that have the potential to protect the brown trout population from thermal impacts	Research emerging scientific information and technology for reducing thermal impacts to streams from stormwater runoff to protect species sensitive to elevated temperature or low dissolved oxygen conditions
A	7	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 18a	Ongoing	2	13	L	Coordinate with county SWCDs to provide technical assistance to landowners in the Dakota and Scott County portions of the watershed	Ensure that technical assistance is available to landowners considering BMPs for water quality or habitat improvement
A	6	Monitoring and Assessment	M&A 16e	Ongoing	2	13	L	Provide surface water quality monitoring data online and summarize data for public information	Update the VRWJPO's surface water quality monitoring program to assess conditions and track trends
A	5	Regulation	Reg 11a	Ongoing	2	13	L	Meet annually with M54 communities to review implementation of local water management plan.	Establish procedures to review implementation of local water management ordinances.
A	6	Research and Planning	R&P 13c	Ongoing	2	13	L	Maintain contact with educational/research institutions studying watershed management, developing new technologies, or providing conferences, demonstrations, and training.	Track emerging issues, legislation, trends, and technologies with potential watershed management impacts.
A	6	Research and Planning	R&P 13d	Ongoing	2	13	L	Maintain contact with environmental education, communication, civic engagement, and survey research professionals to be more informed about effective approaches.	Track emerging issues, legislation, trends, and technologies with potential watershed management impacts.
B	11	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 8a	Ongoing	2	13	L	Assist Dakota County's agricultural outreach program activities (Crop Days, Field Days, and newsletter) that focus on economically optimal nitrogen rates in rural communities	Collaborate with partners to promote nutrient management practices that protect groundwater from nitrate contamination while maintaining viable agricultural production and urban landscapes
C	12	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 3c	Ongoing	2	13	L	Require certified native seed mixes where appropriate for VRWJPO-funded restoration projects	Continue policies and programs to conserve groundwater by use of plant species' drought and water tolerances
E	16	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 4c	Future	2	13	L	Collaborate with partners to develop a consistent message on the low cost of groundwater protection and the high cost of groundwater remediation	Assist state and local partners in providing information and education on protecting groundwater quality and quantity
E	17	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 11	Future	2	13	L		Continue to implement targeted education programs on responsible land use and stewardship for elected officials, inspectors, real-estate professionals, and other key groups
G	21	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 7b	Future	2	13	L	Encourage DNR to consider the potential to stock native cold-water species in suitable habitat reaches of the Vermillion River	Work with state agencies to review the applicability of specific standards and classifications to the Vermillion River and its tributaries
G	21	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 6b	Future	1	13	M	Work with partners to develop and fund a cooperative strategy to manage beavers and remove dams that create poor conditions in cold-water reaches for sensitive biological communities	Coordinate with partners to protect and enhance refuge areas in the Vermillion River trout streams.
B	11	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 8c	Ongoing	1	13	L	Assist in implementation of MDA's Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan	Collaborate with partners to promote nutrient management practices that protect groundwater from nitrate contamination while maintaining viable agricultural production and urban landscapes
A	9	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 29a	Future	3	12	H	Consider implementing demonstration projects with VRWJPO funds to bring attention to promising innovative technologies and BMPs for water quality improvement	Build partnerships, exchange ideas, and problem-solve with agricultural producers to improve water quality
C	12	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 4d	Future	3	12	M	Research strategies for water use, re-use, or infiltration that minimize groundwater use at mining sites	Promote and cost-share BMPs that conserve water
C	13	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 7	Future	3	12	M		Work with partners to develop a public outreach campaign designed to mitigate drought conditions for implementation during persistent drought
E	18	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 13b	Future	3	12	M	Develop or adapt a "by-topic" web-based tool to refer landowners and other stakeholders to the appropriate agency or organization to answer questions about regulations, permits, or resources	Provide clear information to landowners and other stakeholders on how to navigate the multiple layers of water governance
F	19	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 8	Future	3	12	M		Increase awareness and understanding of the benefits of maintaining natural hydrology
A	6	Research and Planning	R&P 15b	Future	3	12	L	Discuss research needs to evaluate cumulative landscape-scale impacts of aggregate mining in the watershed with partners	Study how aggregate mining affects surface water and groundwater quality, quantity, or inflow in the Vermillion River and its tributaries
B	10	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 5b	Ongoing	3	12	L	Assist partners in identifying natural and constructed conduits from the ground surface to the groundwater (e.g., karst features, improperly abandoned wells) with potential to introduce pollutants into drinking water	Assist state and local agencies in managing wells (installation, testing, placement, or sealing) to protect groundwater quality
B	10	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 5d	Ongoing	3	12	L	Assist Dakota and Scott counties with increasing landowner awareness of well information and participation in well sealing programs	Assist state and local agencies in managing wells (installation, testing, placement, or sealing) to protect groundwater quality
E	16	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 4d	Ongoing	3	12	L	Collaborate with partners to develop public awareness about the connectivity of groundwater and surface water	Assist state and local partners in providing information and education on protecting groundwater quality and quantity
D	14	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 3c	Future	2	12	H	Develop outreach and cost-share incentives for homeowners, homeowners' associations and businesses in areas without stormwater controls to install stormwater rate and volume control BMPs	Target and prioritize cost-share, incentives, and outreach activities for retrofits in developed areas, to reduce stormwater flow rates and volumes



## Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan 2016-2025: Section 6 - mid point implementation evaluation ranked by SUM (highest to lowest)

Goal	Sec. 6 page#	Role	Item ID	Status	MODE	SUM	Level of Effort	Action	Objective
E	16	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 4e	Future	2	12	H	Develop a consistent message about protecting areas sensitive to groundwater contamination from land-use impacts and practices	Assist state and local partners in providing information and education on protecting groundwater quality and quantity
E	17	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 12d	Future	2	12	H	Work with partners to develop a watershed-wide education and outreach effort on preparing property to achieve flood/storm resilience	Increase resilience of the watershed through direct preparedness, outreach, and engagement efforts
A	3	Administration and Operations	A&O 1c	Future	2	12	M	Estimate changes resulting from sub-watershed BMPs installed the previous year	Define outcome measures for waterbodies or stream reaches in each sub-watershed, based on statutory classifications, designated uses, impairments, current conditions, and in consultation with local governments and partners.
A	7	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 19b	Ongoing	2	12	M	Promote cost-share funding and other incentives to targeted audiences, including cities; townships; homeowners associations; and public, business, and agricultural landowners	Provide cost-share and other incentives to watershed landowners implementing best management practices
A	5	Regulation	Reg 11c	Ongoing	2	12	M	Spot check individual permits for compliance with VRWJPO Standards. Where deficiencies exist, investigate why and determine solutions.	Establish procedures to review implementation of local water management ordinances.
A	6	Research and Planning	R&P 14b	Ongoing	2	12	M	Assist communities with municipal separate storm sewer system permits (MS4s) to meet required pollutant load reductions to impaired waters	Complete and implement the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS)
B	11	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 6a	Future	2	12	M	Assist communities in assessing septic systems in wellhead protection areas and upgrading, replacing, or removing noncompliant systems	Assist MDH and other agencies in implementing wellhead protection programs and plans in the watershed
B	11	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 8d	Ongoing	2	12	M	Consider agricultural demonstrations of bio-reactors in tiled land and saturated buffers. Partner with County and Extension outreach to introduce demonstrations via Field Days, Crop Days, and the Ag News	Collaborate with partners to promote nutrient management practices that protect groundwater from nitrate contamination while maintaining viable agricultural production and urban landscapes
C	13	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 3a	Ongoing	2	12	M	Promote water-use assessment/audits to help permitted high-volume users identify strategies that would conserve water and save money	Assist state and local partners in promoting and implementing water conservation
C	12	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 3b	Ongoing	2	12	M	Promote and cost share infiltration and native species planting through raingarden programs	Continue policies and programs to conserve groundwater by use of plant species' drought and water tolerances
D	14	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 9	Ongoing	2	12	M		Continue collaboration with SWCDs and communities to include and cost-share Low Impact Development (LID) features that may include Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS)
D	14	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 7b	Future	2	12	M	Consider proposals to work with Goodhue County to resolve gully and erosion problems that originate in Goodhue County but have infrastructure and property impacts in Dakota County	Address gully erosion problems in the watershed
D	14	Regulation	Reg 4a	Ongoing	2	12	M	Assess public outreach and communication needs of MS4 permit holders and identify gaps or opportunities for collaboration	Assist cities and counties in meeting MS4 permit requirements
F	18	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 4c	Ongoing	2	12	M	Promote and cost share BMPs that manage stormwater through disconnection of stormwater from impervious surfaces	Develop, implement, and promote demonstration projects of BMPs that help mitigate high flows, flooding, high temperatures, drought, and severe weather events
A	4	Administration and Operations	A&O 6d	Ongoing	2	12	L	Discuss and resolve technical or scientific issues affecting the watershed in consultation with the TAG.	Provide information to and seek recommendations from the public in developing VRWJPO policies, plans, and programs.
E	15	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 2a	Ongoing	2	12	L	Support Dakota and Scott Counties' role and participation in the annual Children's Water Festival	Identify and develop an appropriate role for the VRWJPO in K-12 education in cooperation with teachers, environmental educators, and other key education stakeholders
E	16	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 3a	Ongoing	2	12	L	Support Dakota County, local communities, and volunteers participating in the Wetland Health Evaluation Program	Assist in public education and civic engagement regarding the fish, macroinvertebrates, plants, and wildlife in the Vermillion River Watershed
E	16	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 4b	Ongoing	2	12	L	Update existing public information and education materials on groundwater, private well testing, and the connection between land use and groundwater quality	Assist state and local partners in providing information and education on protecting groundwater quality and quantity
G	21	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 9	Ongoing	2	12	L		Provide educational materials to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species
G	20	Research and Planning	R&P 2a	Future	2	12	L	Review recommendations from prior VRWJPO research on thermal trading and thermal reduction BMPs	Research emerging scientific information and technology for reducing thermal impacts to streams from stormwater runoff to protect species sensitive to elevated temperature or low dissolved oxygen conditions
D	14	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 3d	Future	1	12	L	Research and make recommendations about BMPs suitable for ultra-urban conditions (no room to integrate most BMPs).	Target and prioritize cost-share, incentives, and outreach activities for retrofits in developed areas, to reduce stormwater flow rates and volumes
D	14	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 8	Future	2	11	H		Request state agencies to evaluate the impacts of increased drain tiling on river flows and develop a strategy with stakeholders to minimize the impacts
A	3	Administration and Operations	A&O 1b	Future	2	11	M	Set baseline measures reflecting current data for high and low flows.	Define outcome measures for waterbodies or stream reaches in each sub-watershed, based on statutory classifications, designated uses, impairments, current conditions, and in consultation with local governments and partners.
A	4	Administration and Operations	A&O 6b	Future	2	11	M	Convene one-time "summits" or short-term task forces that engage people with specific skills, knowledge, or interests to advise the VRWJPO staff or VRWJPO on unique watershed issues or problems (e.g., Water Monitoring Summit, WRAPS Watershed Engagement Team)	Seek recommendations, solutions, and balanced representation from advisory groups
A	4	Administration and Operations	A&O 7	Ongoing	2	11	M		Seek representative and timely consultation with the public in developing VRWJPO policies, plans, and programs
A	8	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 24b	Ongoing	2	11	M	Collaborate with existing programs to cost-share landowner lakeshore restoration projects	Assist local governments in management of recreational lakes in the watershed
B	10	Research and Planning	R&P 1b	Future	2	11	M	Assist partners in study of groundwater/surface water interactions in the watershed	Help advance research on the watershed's groundwater system and groundwater management strategies
C	13	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 6a	Future	2	11	M	Promote consultations between producers and irrigation experts (such as the UM Extension Irrigation specialist) on technological advances in irrigation management and scheduling	Assist partners in promoting and cost-sharing practices that conserve groundwater in agricultural settings

## Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan 2016-2025: Section 6 - mid point implementation evaluation ranked by SUM (highest to lowest)

Goal	Sec. 6 page#	Role	Item ID	Status	MODE	SUM	Level of Effort	Action	Objective
C	12	Research and Planning	R&P 1b	Future	2	11	M	Facilitate discussions with appropriate agencies (e.g., DNR and Southwest Metro Groundwater Workgroup) about well interference water appropriation conflicts, and groundwater management	Assist partners in preventing reductions to the river's base flow and normal levels in lakes and wetlands
E	16	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 4f	Ongoing	2	11	M	Provide education opportunities to local governments and residents regarding the hydrologic cycle, groundwater, groundwater/surface water interactions, groundwater recharge areas, and groundwater conservation	Assist state and local partners in providing information and education on protecting groundwater quality and quantity
E	18	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 13c	Future	2	11	M	Encourage local governments and interested parties to coordinate a review meeting at one time and place for projects with potential water resource impacts	Provide clear information to landowners and other stakeholders on how to navigate the multiple layers of water governance
F	18	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 4a	Future	2	11	M	Consider providing 100 percent capital costs of BMPs not commonly used or well-understood by landowners that have high potential to mitigate flow, precipitation, or temperature extremes	Develop, implement, and promote demonstration projects of BMPs that help mitigate high flows, flooding, high temperatures, drought, and severe weather events
G	21	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 8	Ongoing	2	11	M		Assist federal, state, and local public health agencies to address water-related health and safety issues, such as high bacteria levels or toxic algae blooms in recreational waters
A	6	Monitoring and Assessment	M&A 16d	Ongoing	2	11	L	Coordinate with the MN DNR for flow-gaging assistance to develop and maintain rating curves	Update the VRWJPO's surface water quality monitoring program to assess conditions and track trends
B	10	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 5c	Future	2	11	L	Assist Dakota and Scott counties with inventory, assessment, and sealing of abandoned wells	Assist state and local agencies in managing wells (installation, testing, placement, or sealing) to protect groundwater quality
B	11	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 9a	Future	2	11	L	Provide the well-owner's handbook (or link) on the VRWJPO website	Collaborate with the Dakota County Groundwater Unit to promote the MDH's well-owner handbook
C	12	Research and Planning	R&P 2a	Future	2	11	L	Review 2006 inventory of groundwater recharge areas and update, if needed	Identify and protect groundwater recharge areas in the watershed
E	16	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 5e	Ongoing	2	11	L	Write and post CIP project fact sheets on the VRWJPO website	Recognize and celebrate stewardship in the Vermillion River Watershed
E	17	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 8b	Ongoing	2	11	L	Post all major proposed plans and projects and request public comment through published notices and news releases	Maintain and expand the VRWJPO website as a comprehensive information source about the watershed and the VRWJPO
B	11	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 8h	Future	1	11	M	Consider facilitating a watershed- or county-wide outreach and education campaign to increase awareness about the urban and rural land use contributions to nitrate contamination of groundwater	Collaborate with partners to promote nutrient management practices that protect groundwater from nitrate contamination while maintaining viable agricultural production and urban landscapes
A	9	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 30a	Future	2	10	H	Identify and suggest partnerships with organizations or community leaders representing Southeast Asian, Hispanic/Latino, and other cultural groups that farm or rent land in the watershed	Develop contacts and networks inclusive of all ages, cultural backgrounds, educational attainment, economic status, or faith to participate in watershed management planning, events, or initiatives
A	7	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 21c	Ongoing	2	10	M	Estimate thermal reductions from volume or temperature control BMPs	Use standard pollutant-reduction calculators to estimate cost-effectiveness of BMPs installed or cost-shared by the VRWJPO
E	16	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 5a	Future	2	10	M	Consult with local community leaders on appropriate methods to build community pride in water quality achievements	Recognize and celebrate stewardship in the Vermillion River Watershed
E	18	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 13a	Future	2	10	M	Update water resource management governance diagram to illustrate and concisely explain the roles of various government organizations in water resource management in the Vermillion River Watershed	Provide clear information to landowners and other stakeholders on how to navigate the multiple layers of water governance
A	4	Administration and Operations	A&O 3c	Ongoing	2	10	L	Provide expense and treasurer's reports on the website and in the full packet for each VRWJPB meeting	Adopt VRWJPO budgets that are transparent, allocate levy amounts fairly, and include accountability measures. (applies to all goals)
A	6	Monitoring and Assessment	M&A 16c	Ongoing	2	10	L	Coordinate with the USGS for maintenance of the Empire monitoring station	Update the VRWJPO's surface water quality monitoring program to assess conditions and track trends
E	17	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 8c	Ongoing	2	10	L	Post all progress, activity, and financial reports	Maintain and expand the VRWJPO website as a comprehensive information source about the watershed and the VRWJPO
A	7	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 18c	Future	1	10	L	Assist Dakota County in its agricultural outreach	Ensure that technical assistance is available to landowners considering BMPs for water quality or habitat improvement
B	12	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 9c	Future	2	9	L	Consider outreach to visitors' bureaus and "welcome" organizations to include in information packets for new homeowners with a private well	Collaborate with the Dakota County Groundwater Unit to promote the MDH's well-owner handbook
A	9	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 30b	Future	1	9	M	Collaborate with park agencies to identify how different populations use public natural resources for fishing, swimming, or recreation	Develop contacts and networks inclusive of all ages, cultural backgrounds, educational attainment, economic status, or faith to participate in watershed management planning, events, or initiatives
E	17	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 8a	Ongoing	1	8	L	Post all VRWJPB, WPC, and TAG agendas, background materials and meeting minutes	Maintain and expand the VRWJPO website as a comprehensive information source about the watershed and the VRWJPO

## Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan 2016-2025: Section 6 - mid point implementation evaluation ranked by SUM (highest to lowest)

Goal	Sec. 6 page#	Role	Item ID	Status	MODE	SUM	Level of Effort	Action	Objective
B	11-12	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 9a	Future	1	7	L	Consider outreach to real estate agents, to distribute the handbook to purchasers of property with a private well	Collaborate with the Dakota County Groundwater Unit to promote the MDH's well-owner handbook
A	3	Administration and Operations	A&O 1a	Done				Identify key indicators for sub-watershed water resources (e.g., phosphorus loading reduction in Lake Alimagnet or nitrate reduction in South Branch).	Define outcome measures for waterbodies or stream reaches in each sub-watershed, based on statutory classifications, designated uses, impairments, current conditions, and in consultation with local governments and partners.
A	4	Administration and Operations	A&O 2a	Done				Identify and prioritize projects using the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS), geomorphic assessments, restorable wetlands inventory, and the Vermillion River Monitoring Network.	Prepare a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) annually that focuses resources on highest-priority subwatershed problems
A	4	Administration and Operations	A&O 3a	Done				Develop capacity to hold webinars and videoconferences to plan, consult, and share information with partners.	Simplify VRWJO procedures for working with partners in other levels of government
A	4	Administration and Operations	A&O 3b	Done				Develop the website capacity to include more partner information	Simplify VRWJO procedures for working with partners in other levels of government
A	4	Administration and Operations	A&O 3d	Done				Facilitate development of a wetland bank, using income from wetland credit sales for further wetland restoration	Simplify VRWJO procedures for working with partners in other levels of government
A	4	Administration and Operations	A&O 3e	Done				Use restorable wetland tools and inventories to develop partnerships and implement restoration projects	Simplify VRWJO procedures for working with partners in other levels of government
A	7	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 19a	Done				Update and clarify the VRWJO's cost-share policy's eligibility requirements, types of BMPs covered, cost-share percentages, application process, selection criteria, and other details	Provide cost-share and other incentives to watershed landowners implementing best management practices
A	7	Land and Water Treatment	L&WT 19c	Done				Cost-share or stack incentives for demonstrations of new or innovative BMPs that are potentially more effective at reducing impacts to surface waters, less expensive, or easier to maintain	Provide cost-share and other incentives to watershed landowners implementing best management practices
A	7	Monitoring and Assessment	M&A 17a	Done				Complete geomorphic assessments on priority subwatersheds	Complete assessments of all Vermillion River reaches and tributary sub-watersheds within 10 years to identify potential improvement projects
A	7	Monitoring and Assessment	M&A 18c	Done				Develop prioritization criteria for restoration projects identified through the assessments and integrate highest priority restoration projects into the VRWJO's CIP.	Complete assessments of all Vermillion River reaches and tributary sub-watersheds within 10 years to identify potential improvement projects
A	9	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 30c	Done				Consider developing social media for the Vermillion River Watershed to engage younger audiences	Develop contacts and networks inclusive of all ages, cultural backgrounds, educational attainment, economic status, or faith to participate in watershed management planning, events, or initiatives
A	3	Regulation	Reg 8a	Done				Update Standards to ensure that requirements minimize land disturbance impacts on water resources and adopt updated Standards as part of Plan adoption.	Update, adopt, and enforce VRWJO Standards/Rules.
A	3	Regulation	Reg 10b	Done				Support consistent enforcement of existing state and local government buffer regulations.	Increase lake and riparian shoreline miles with managed vegetated buffers/filter strips to mitigate stormwater runoff impacts.
A	3	Research and Planning	R&P 12a	Done				Review updates of Dakota and Scott County Comprehensive Plans for potential conflicts or synergies with the Vermillion River Watershed Plan.	Review relevant planning documents for potential conflicts or synergies with the Vermillion River Watershed Plan.
A	3	Research and Planning	R&P 12b	Done				Review updates of Dakota County Groundwater Plan for potential conflicts or synergies with the Vermillion River Watershed Plan.	Review relevant planning documents for potential conflicts or synergies with the Vermillion River Watershed Plan.
A	6	Research and Planning	R&P 13e	Done				Explore implementation of BWSR's "One Watershed, One Plan" principles as a means of addressing watershed-wide needs.	Track emerging issues, legislation, trends, and technologies with potential watershed management impacts.
A	6	Research and Planning	R&P 15a	Done				Review existing research on aggregate mining impacts on water and groundwater, in conditions comparable to the watershed.	Study how aggregate mining affects surface water and groundwater quality, quantity, or inflow in the Vermillion River and its tributaries
A	6	Research and Planning	R&P 15c	Done				Evaluate need for new Watershed Standards on aggregate mining, if research shows potential water resource impacts	Study how aggregate mining affects surface water and groundwater quality, quantity, or inflow in the Vermillion River and its tributaries
B	10	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 2a	Done				Continue support for Dakota County's ambient groundwater monitoring program	Assist federal, state, and local partners in monitoring, restoring, and maintaining groundwater quality
B	11	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 7a	Done				Request that county GIS managers obtain MDH data on wellhead protection, management zones and drinking water supply management zones and incorporate into local data layers	Work with Dakota and Scott County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) managers on improving data access to help users to identify areas sensitive to groundwater contamination.
B	11	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 7b	Done				Make local data layers including wellhead protection and drinking water supply management zones available to GIS users	Work with Dakota and Scott County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) managers on improving data access to help users to identify areas sensitive to groundwater contamination.
B	11	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 8a	Done				Provide cost-share or other incentives for producers using cover crops or nutrient management plans	Collaborate with partners to promote nutrient management practices that protect groundwater from nitrate contamination while maintaining viable agricultural production and urban landscapes
B	10	Research and Planning	R&P 1c	Done				Seek partnerships to develop and implement collaborative groundwater projects and programs (e.g., Hastings Area Nitrate Study future phases, Vermillion River Headwaters Groundwater Study)	Help advance research on the watershed's groundwater system and groundwater management strategies
C	13	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 5b	Done				Review and comment on DNR groundwater appropriation permits with potential impacts on the watershed's water resources	Assist state and local partners in promoting and implementing water conservation
C	13	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 6c	Done				Consider cost-sharing improvements to irrigation equipment to gain water efficiency	Assist partners in promoting and cost-sharing practices that conserve groundwater in agricultural settings
C	12	Research and Planning	R&P 2b	Done				Request County GIS to create a DCGIS layer for groundwater recharge areas identified in the inventory	Identify and protect groundwater recharge areas in the watershed
D	13	Regulation	Reg 1	Done					Use Vermillion River Hydrologic Model to set intercommunity flow Standards that are consistent and science-based to prevent conflicts about water flows among neighboring jurisdictions

## Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan 2016-2025: Section 6 - mid point implementation evaluation ranked by SUM (highest to lowest)

Goal	Sec. 6 page#	Role	Item ID	Status	MODE	SUM	Level of Effort	Action	Objective
D	13-14	Regulation	Reg 2e	Done				Encourage local governments to require compensatory storage at 2:1 level for filling in floodplain	Support requirements for local governments to identify, protect, and reconnect floodplains
D	14	Regulation	Reg 4b	Done				Promote Stewardship Grants to help cities or local groups undertake one time water quality improvement projects that would help in meeting MS4 permit requirements	Assist cities and counties in meeting MS4 permit requirements
E	17	Public Communication and Outreach	PC&O 6d	Done				Promote and implement the Stewardship Grant program for short-term events and activities that educate and engage people to improve or protect water quality	Support and create opportunities for people to work together on projects that will improve water quality, water quantity, or habitat
E	15	Research and Planning	R&P 1b	Done				Conduct a follow-up of watershed landowners in 2017 (five years after the University of Minnesota survey).	Update the VRWJPO communication plan
F	18	Research and Planning	R&P 3	Done					Use the VRWJPO hydrologic model in planning decisions with local communities to prevent adverse impacts to intercommunity flows
G	21	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 6a	Done				Support and cost-share projects to protect and enhance refuge areas for in-stream restorations (such as stream remnants).	Coordinate with partners to protect and enhance refuge areas in the Vermillion River trout streams.
G	21	Coordination and Collaboration	C&C 7a	Done				Consult the MPCA for the potential to include brown trout as a native cold-water species equivalent in development, application, and calculation of the Index of Biological Integrity (IBI) for fish within the Vermillion River Watershed	Consult with state agencies in review of the Index of Biotic Integrity metrics as applied to the Vermillion River and its tributaries
G	20	Monitoring and Assessment	M&A 3a	Done				Consider modifying monitoring frequency after sufficient fish and macroinvertebrate trends have been identified	Update and continue implementing the VRWJPO Biomonitoring Plan
G	20	Monitoring and Assessment	M&A 3b	Done				Continue partnerships with the DNR, volunteers, students, and others to sample fish and macroinvertebrates	Update and continue implementing the VRWJPO Biomonitoring Plan



## Appendix B. Performance Standards

PRAP Organizational Assessment

Part 2-Performance Standards

2022

### METRO WATERSHED DISTRICT and WMO PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

**LGU Name:** Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

Performance Area	Performance Standard						Level of Review			Rating	
	★ High Performance standard	■ Basic practice or statutory requirement (see instructions for explanation of standards)	I Annual Compliance	II BWSR Staff Review & Assessment (1/10 yrs.)	Yes, No, or Value						
					YES	NO					
Administration	■ Activity report: annual, on-time		I		X						
	■ Financial report & audit completed on time		I		X						
	■ Drainage authority buffer strip report submitted on time		I		N/A						
	■ eLINK Grant Report(s): submitted on time		I		X						
	■ Rules: date of last revision or review – Please enter month/year (i.e., 01/20)		II		02/20						
	■ Personnel policy: exists and reviewed/updated within last 5 years		II		N/A						
	■ Data practices policy: exists and reviewed/updated within last 5 years		II		X						
	■ Manager appointments: current and reported		II		N/A						
	■ Consultant RFP: within 2 yrs. for professional services		II		X						
	■ WD/WMO has resolution assuming WCA responsibilities and appropriate delegation resolutions as warranted (N/A if not LGU)		II		N/A						
	■ WD/WMO has knowledgeable & trained staff that manages WCA program or has secured qualified delegate. (N/A if not LGU)		II		N/A						
	★ Administrator on staff		II		X						
	★ Board training: orientation and continuing education plan, record for each board member		II			X					
	★ Staff training: orientation and continuing education plan and record for each staff		II		X						
	★ Operational guidelines for fiscal procedures and conflicts of interest exist and current		II		X						
	★ Public drainage records: meet modernization guidelines		II		N/A						
Planning	■ Watershed management plan: up-to-date		I		X						
	■ City/twp. local water plans not yet approved		II			X					
	■ Capital Improvement Program: reviewed every 2 years		II		X						
	★ Strategic plan or self-assessment completed in last 5 years		II		X						
	★ Strategic plan identifies short-term priorities		II		X						
Execution	■ Engineer Reports: submitted for DNR & BWSR review		II		N/A						
	■ WCA decisions and determinations are made in conformance with all WCA requirements. (if delegated WCA LGU)		II		N/A						
	■ WCA TEP reviews & recommendations appropriately coordinated. (if delegated WCA LGU)		II		N/A						
	★ Certified wetland delineator on staff or retainer		II			X					
	■ Total expenditures per year (past 10 yrs.)		II		see below						
	★ Water quality trends tracked for key water bodies		II		X						
	★ Watershed hydrologic trends monitored / reported		II		X						
Communication & Coordination	■ Website: contains information as required by MR 8410.0150 Subpart 3a, i.e. as board meeting, contact information, water plan, etc.		II		X						
	■ Functioning advisory committee(s): recommendations on projects, reports, 2-way communication with Board		II		X						
	■ Communication piece: sent within last 12 months		II		X						
	Communication Target Audience:										
	★ Track progress for Information and Education objectives in Plan		II		X						
	★ Coordination with County Board, SWCD Board, City/Township officials		II		X						
	★ Partnerships: cooperative projects/tasks with neighboring organizations, such as counties, SWCDs, WDs, tribal governments, Non-Government Organizations		II		X						
Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Expenditures	\$908,950	\$883,230	\$988,020	\$937,530	\$1,778,830	\$1,425,150	\$2,021,280	\$1,360,530	\$1,411,770	\$1,530,200	

## Appendix C. Summary of Survey Results

### Internal Survey

#### Vermillion River Watershed JPO Board and Staff Questions and Responses

How often does your organization use your current management plan to guide decisions about what you do? (response percent)	
Always	83.3%
Usually	16.7%
Seldom	0.0%
Never	0.0%

- Always a starting point but might have slight changes as each site and application is specific and unique.
- Staff use the plan as their guiding document to identify where programs, projects, and policies will go. If the plan needs to be updated to reflect changes needed as more is learned, staff then pursue plan amendments as needed.

#### List your organization's most successful programs and projects during the past 3-5 years.

- Wetland bank in Castle Rock township
- Cost sharing for improvements in water quality at various locations within the watershed. Networking, keeping everybody in the loop at the same time.
- Irrigation Audit
- Cost-Share Program
- Wetland Bank
- Stormwater Reuse projects
- Stream restorations
- CIP projects (x2)
- Irrigation water reduction project
- Work plans/contracts with SWCDs to provide technical and financial assistance with landowner BMPs
- Braun wetland bank partnership

#### What helped make these projects and programs successful?

- Partnership with Dakota County SWCD
- Paid staff, their ability to work and communicate
- Coordination with Partners
- Communication and Partnership with Cities
- On the ground results and solid return on investment

#### During the past 3-5 years, which of your organization's programs or projects have shown little progress or been on hold?

- Master water stewards and volunteer engagement program
- Bacteria source identification and mitigation
- Large rainwater capture/reuse project
- Recreational enhancements (access development, recreational channel passage)
- Finding planning commission members

**List the reasons why the organization has had difficulty with these projects and programs.**

- Finding public members for being commissioners
- Recruiting and finding Master Water Stewards has been a challenge, and we often only find Stewards from outside the organization who perform work within our boundaries. With the volunteer engagement program, we're trying to develop a new program and "competing" with an organization has an established program in our watershed. It creates confusion and identify problems, aside from finding the participants necessary to implement a successful volunteer program.
- Bacteria- difficulty and expense of clearly identifying source and lack of local landowner participation
- Rainwater capture- Partner in grant funded project reassigned
- Use of project footprint area
- Recreational enhancements- low priority under authorities of organization, costs and level of effort

**Regarding the various organizations and agencies with which you could cooperate on projects or programs...****List the ones with which you work well already**

Dakota County SWCD

Dakota County

Cities (x4)- mention Lakeville, Rosemount, Apple Valley and Hastings

Most regional and state agencies (x3)

Some NGOs

**List the ones with which better collaboration would benefit your organization**

Townships in the watershed (x4)

City of Farmington

BWSR

NGO

Anything dealing with the legislature

**If you don't know much about your organization's working relationships with partners, enter "I don't know"****What steps could your organization take to increase your effectiveness in accomplishing your plan goals and objectives?**

- Unsure (x4)
- Organization is taking steps to enhance its communication and outreach efforts which is intended to improve our level of civic engagement and public awareness. The goal of these efforts is to improve participation in actions on both a personal and public level to assist in accomplishing plan goals and objectives
- More effort put into budgets that addresses the VRWJPO's Plan and needs rather than the budgets that focus most on addressing fiscal concerns.

**How long have you been with the organization?****(response percent)****Less than 5 years**

16.7%

**5 to 15 years**

83.3%

**More than 15 years**

0.0%

## External Survey

### Vermillion River Watershed JPO Partner Organization Questions and Responses

Question: How often have you interacted with this organization during the past two to three years? Select the response closest to your experience. (response percent)	
Not at all	0.0%
A few times	0.0%
Several times a year	38.5%
Monthly	23.1%
Almost every week	34.6%
Daily	3.9%

Is the amount of work you do in partnership with this organization...	(percent)
Not enough, there is potential for us to do more together	19.2%
About right	80.8%
Too much, they depend on us for work they should be doing for themselves	0.0%
Too much, we depend on them for work we should be doing ourselves or with others	0.0%

Based on your experience working with them, please rate the organization in the following areas:					
Performance Characteristic	Rating (percent of responses)				
	Strong	Good	Acceptable	Poor	I don't know
<b>Communication</b> (they keep us informed; we know their activities; they seek our input)	57.7%	34.6%	3.9%	3.9%	0.0%
<b>Quality of work</b> (they have good projects and programs; good service delivery)	69.2%	30.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Relationships with Customers</b> (they work well with landowners and clients)	57.7%	42.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Initiative</b> (they are willing to take on new projects, try new ideas)	69.2%	30.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Timelines/Follow-through</b> (they are reliable and meet deadlines)	65.4%	30.8%	0.0%	0.0%	3.9%

How is your working relationship with this organization? (percent)	
Powerful, we are more effective working together	46.2%
Strong, we work well together most of the time	42.3%
Good, but it could be better	11.5%
Acceptable, but a struggle at times	0.0%
Poor, there are almost always difficulties	0.0%
Non-existent, we don't work with this organization	0.0%

- We need to figure out how to be a better partner to the watershed. This comment is more reflective on our deficiencies, not the JPOs



- The VRWJPO does well to balance a variety of formal and informal interactions with MPCA. At times, some topics may be challenging or displeasing to either side, the VRWJPO still engages in the conversation to ensure a working relationship continues through it all and collaborative work moving forward where appropriate. Since my involvement, I would say overall we are more effective working together.

#### Do you have additional thought about how the “subject” organization could be more effective?

- The VRWMPO is one of the most technical and high functioning organizations I have had the pleasure of working with. With that approach comes challenges of collaboration and engagement on competing priorities at times, but they do well to integrate their extensive local knowledge and perspective into larger state sponsored topics and programs. The VRWJPO effectively keeps water resources paramount to their work and the constituents in the watershed in mind.
- Travis Thiel and Mark Ryan are outstanding to work with. We are constantly working on projects together. We have done many projects over the years, and they are a great resource and always provide valuable feedback and direction. We have done miles of stream restoration in the city along with many other water conservation and WQ projects
- VRWJPO is very effective. They are proactive and have great community partnerships.
- VRWJPO is a top-notch organization led by very valuable, professional staff. We love them.
- Our city is a closed basin. Very little of the City actually drains to the Vermillion River and the plan over time is to outlet to the Mississippi River. Additionally, we do not currently have any impaired waters (other than the Mississippi River theoretically) that we drain to. It means our residents are paying taxes for programs and projects that largely do not benefit them. We appreciate the efforts the Watershed has made in recent years to include us in watershed wide efforts and programs, but these programs are limited. We certainly understand why the focus of this organization has been on resource restoration. At the same, it does sting a bit that more funding and assistance does not come back to programs and projects within our boundaries. For our situation, it would be helpful for the Watershed to continue to develop new and existing watershed wide education, grant, and technical assistance programs.

How long have you been with your current organization?	(response percent)
Less than 5 years	30.8%
5 to 15 years	38.5%
More than 15 years	30.8%

## **Appendix D. Comment Letter**

## Appendix E. Program Data

### Time required to complete this review

VRWJPO Staff: xx Hours

BWSR Staff: 80 Hours

### Schedule of Organizational Assessment Review

#### BWSR PRAP Performance Review Key Dates

- July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022: Initial meeting with VRWJPO staff
- July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022: Initial meeting with VRWJPO board
- August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022: Survey of board, staff, and partners
- September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022: Presentation of Draft Report
- October xx, 2022: Transmittal of Final Report to LGU

NOTE: BWSR uses review time as a surrogate for tracking total program costs. Time required for PRAP performance reviews is aggregated and included in BWSR's annual PRAP report to the Minnesota Legislature.

**6c. Candidate Consideration and Appointment to the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission (WPC)**

Meeting Date: 9/22/22  
Item Type: Regular-Action  
Contact: Mark Zabel  
Telephone: 952-891-7011  
Prepared by: Mark Zabel  
Reviewed by: N/A

N/A

**PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED**

- Candidate consideration and appointment to the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission

**SUMMARY**

The Joint Powers Agreement governing the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) established a nine-member advisory Watershed Planning Commission (WPC) composed of citizens of the watershed, including eight from Dakota County and one from Scott County. Currently, vacancies exist for two citizens from Dakota County and one from Scott County.

Linda Larson, a resident of the City of Rosemount, Dakota County, within the Vermillion River Watershed (Attachment A) applied to serve on the WPC. The Applicant Review Panel (Chairs of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) and the Watershed Planning Commission (WPC) and the VRWJPO Administrator reviewed the application and forwarded a recommendation of Linda Larson for consideration by the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board for appointment to the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission.

**EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT**

Members of the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission are eligible to receive a per diem of \$35 per meeting attended. Members may choose to deny receipt of per diem at their discretion.

**Supporting Documents:**

Attachment A: Linda Larson WPC Application

**Previous Board Action(s):**

- ;

**RESOLUTION**

**6c. Candidate Consideration and Appointment to the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission (WPC)**

WHEREAS, the Joint Powers Agreement establishing the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) authorized the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) to establish a nine-member advisory Watershed Planning Commission (WPC) composed of citizens of the watershed, eight from Dakota County and one from Scott County; and

WHEREAS, under the Joint Powers Agreement, the VRWJPB is authorized to make appointments to the WPC by resolution; and

WHEREAS, a WPC member is eligible to complete the incumbent vacant term plus two consecutive three-year terms; and

WHEREAS, Linda Larson has applied and been determined eligible to be appointed to serve as a Commissioner on the WPC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the VRWJPB hereby appoints Linda Larson to the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission with her first appointed term fulfilling the current vacant position term ending December 31, 2024.



Open Appointments Application for  
Citizen Advisory Committees/Commissions/Boards

Part 1: Applicant Information

Applicant Name:

Last Name LARSON

First Name LINDA M.I. D.

☐ Mr. ☒ Mrs. ☐ Ms.

Home Address:

Street Address 12485 BLANCA AVE W

City RDSEMOUNT

MN  
State MN Zip 55068

County of Residence DAKOTA

Commissioner District: \_\_\_\_\_ (Leave blank if you do not know the number of your commissioner district.)

Telephone:

Cell 612-554-9963 Business N/A

Home 612-554-9963

E-mail Address: DCFUNews@gmail.com

Part 2: Committee Selection

Indicate below the name of the committee(s) for which you are seeking appointment. If more than one, number them according to preference (1 being your first choice). All applicants: complete Parts 3-7. Review Parts 8-10 and complete only those that apply to the committee(s) you select below.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Board of Appeal and Equalization                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extension Committee                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library Advisory Committee               | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning Board of Adjustment                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Other:  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Art Citizen Advisory Committee    |  |

Part 3: Your Rights as a Subject of Data/Applicant Declaration

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13, Dakota County informs you that the following information which you are asked to provide in this application is private data: telephone numbers, fax number, residential street address, email address, business/financial interest, status as recipient of human services, and criminal record. Unless and until you are appointed to an advisory committee, this information will be available only to you and county officials who need it to perform their job duties. Furnishing this information is voluntary. Failure to provide the information requested in Parts 4-10 of this application may disqualify you from appointment to one or more advisory committees. The remainder of the information in this application is public.

State law requires your residential street address and either your email address or telephone number be made public if you are appointed to an advisory committee. Unless you indicate otherwise, Dakota County will make your email address public. If you do not have an email address, Dakota County will make your home telephone number public. You may request that both be made public or that your business telephone number instead of your home telephone number be made public.

If appointed, I request that Dakota County make public (check all that apply):

- ☐ Cell phone number:  
☐ Business phone number:  
☐ Home phone number:  
☒ E-mail address:

Linda D Larson  
Signature of Applicant

Aug. 31, 2022  
Date

**Part 4: Per Diem**

Most County Board citizen advisory committee appointees, who are not representing a governmental unit, receive \$35 per diem (but no additional expense reimbursement) for attendance at regular and special meetings of the committee. Exceptions are appointees to the Personnel Board of Appeals (\$35 per diem plus expense reimbursement for attendance), and Special Board of Appeal and Equalization (\$175 per day or \$87.50 per half-day plus mileage reimbursement). Applicants may choose to decline the per diem at the time of application.

Please check this box if you wish to decline the per diem: ☐ Decline

**Part 5: Affiliation with Dakota County**

Dakota County employees are not eligible for appointment to any citizen advisory committee, unless otherwise provided by law.

Are you an employee of Dakota County?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Individuals affiliated with Dakota County are eligible for appointment to any citizen advisory committee but do not receive preference in the appointment process and are not automatically disqualified, unless otherwise provided by law. For purposes of this policy, affiliated means (1) has a contract with Dakota County, or (2) is employed by a Dakota County contractor.

Are you currently under contract with or employed by a contractor of Dakota County?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, which contractor?

**Part 6: Statement of Qualifications (You may supplement this section by attaching a resume or additional information.)**

**PLEASE NOTE:** In accordance with County policy, no paid employee of Dakota County is eligible to be appointed as a member of any citizen advisory committee unless otherwise specified by law.

Business/Employer: RETIRED SINCE AUGUST 2014

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip County

Job Title:

Current Responsibilities:

Previous Work Experience:

UPS driver : 1997-2014  
former farmer - left the farm in 1991.

Vocational/Educational Background:

currently enrolled in college to complete bachelor's degree,  
(Senior citizen rate is pretty nice!)

Community Service:

Farmers Union at county, state, and national levels, 2000-present  
Toastmasters Intl, 1992-present

Describe your interest in serving on a citizen advisory committee:

As my knowledge of climate change and environmental challenges have grown, my interest in being part of the solution has also grown.

PLEASE NOTE: Some committees require additional information from applicants.  
Review Parts 8-10, and complete only those that apply to the committee(s) you selected in Part 2.

**Part 7: Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board Applicants Only**

Minn. Stat. § 268.666, subd. 3, requires that local workforce councils include as members representatives of the private sector (owners of business concerns, chief executives or chief operating officers of nongovernmental employers, or other private sector executives who have substantial management or policy responsibility), organized labor, workforce and community-based organizations, educational agencies that are representative of all educational agencies within the workforce service area, vocational rehabilitation agencies, public assistance agencies, economic development agencies, and public employment service agencies.

Private sector applications must be accompanied by a letter of support from a general purpose business organization (e.g. chamber of commerce). Public sector applications must be accompanied by a letter of support from the parent agency. For further information on the Workforce Development Board, please call Dakota County Workforce Services at 651-554-5633.

Nominating Agency:

Which do you represent: (Check all that apply.)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private Sector/Small Business                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Economic Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private Sector/Large Business (>500 employees) | <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Education            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private Sector/Minority Business               | <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Labor                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Apprentice                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Public Assistance    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Community Based                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Public Employment    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Rehabilitation       |

**Part 8: Planning Commission Applicants Only**

Minnesota Statutes Section 394.30, subdivision 1, the statutory authority under which the Dakota County Planning Commission has been created, requires that: "No voting member of the commission shall have received, during the two years prior to appointment, any substantial portion of income from business operations involving the development of land within the county for urban or urban related purposes."

During the last two years, have you received any substantial portion of your income from business operations involving the development of land within Dakota County for urban or urban related purposes?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

**Part 9: Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission Applicants Only**

The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board, consisting of commissioners from Dakota and Scott Counties, makes appointments to the Watershed Planning Commission. Qualified applicants must reside in the watershed (residency will be verified upon receipt of this application) and may be elected officials. Employees of local governments located in the watershed are not eligible for appointment.

1. Are you an elected official?  
☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, for what government entity?
2. Do you have personal or employment experience in a field related to watershed management?  
☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, please specify relevant experience:



**THANK YOU!**

**Return completed form to:**

Sr. Administrative Coordinator to the Board  
Administration Center  
1590 Highway 55  
Hastings, MN 55033

Email: [board@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:board@co.dakota.mn.us)  
Fax: (651) 438-4405

Office Use Only	
Date Received: _____	Appointment Date: _____
Date Entered: _____	Term Ended Date: _____
Appointed: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Retention Date: _____
Committee: _____	