



Agenda

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board Meeting

April 27, 2023, 1 p.m., in-person and teleconference via Microsoft Teams

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Audience Comments on Items Not on the Agenda
(please limit audience comments to five minutes)
4. Consent Agenda Action
 - a. Approval of Agenda Page 1
 - b. Approval of Minutes from the March 23, 2023, Meeting Page 3
 - c. Acceptance of Treasurer's Reports Page 9
5. Approval of Expenses Action Page 10
6. Business Items
 - a. Approval of proposed amendments to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) 2023 Budget Action Page 11
 - b. Authorization to submit 2022 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Action Page 20
 - c. Authorization to amend the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the City of Rosemount (City) for irrigation system audits and improvements Action Page 66
7. Staff Reports
8. Adjourn Action

Please note, the April 27, 2023, Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board meeting will take place **in-person** in Conference Room A at the Extension and Conservation Center, 4100 220th Street West, Farmington Minnesota **and via teleconference** on the web-based application, Microsoft Teams.



_Microsoft Teams meeting

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Other Information

Next Meeting Date: **May 25, 2023**, 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

March 23, 2023, 1 p.m., In-person and Teleconference using Microsoft Teams

Board Members in Attendance

Dakota County Commissioner Bill Droste

Dakota County Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland

Scott County Commissioner Tom Wolf

Others in Attendance

Bruce Johnson, Dakota County SWCD, Supervisor

Brian Watson, Dakota County SWCD, Manager

Nikki Stewart, Dakota County, Environmental Resources Department Director (virtual)

Valerie Neppl, Dakota County, Groundwater Protection Supervisor

Paul Beaumaster, Assistant Dakota County Attorney, VRWJPO Counsel

Emily, Dakota County Attorney's Office, Legal Assistant

Melissa Bokman-Ermer, Scott County, VRWJPO Co-administrator

Travis Thiel, Dakota County, VRWJPO Senior Watershed Specialist

Brita Moore-Kutz, Dakota County, VRWJPO Communications and Outreach Specialist

Paula Liepold, Dakota County, Water Resources Education Specialist (virtual)

Mark Zabel, Dakota County, VRWJPO Administrator

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Wolf, Hamann-Roland, and Droste were in attendance.

3. Audience Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

There were no audience comments.

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Agenda
- b. Approval of Minutes from the January 26, 2023, Meeting
- c. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report

- d. Delegation of a Limited Authority for Contracts and Purchase Agreements to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Administrator and Co-administrator

Res. No. VRW 23-05: Motion by Commissioner Hamann-Roland, Second by Commissioner Droste and passed on a 3-0 vote to approve the consent agenda, excepting Commissioner Droste abstained on approval of minutes.

5. Approval of Expenses

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

Res. No. VRW 23-06: Motion by Commissioner Hamann-Roland, Second by Commissioner Droste and passed on a 3-0 vote to approve the expenses totaling \$199,783.29 incurred between January 1, 2023, and March 14, 2023.

Business Items

6a. Candidate Consideration and Appointment to the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission

Mark Zabel informed the Board members that Brad Blackett had applied to serve on the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission (WPC). Mr. Blackett is an Apple Valley resident in the watershed living near Alimagnet Lake. Mr. Blackett is also a Minnesota Water Steward. Zabel also noted that Mr. Blackett's application was reviewed by the WPC with a recommendation for appointment. Commissioner Hamann-Roland noted that Mr. Blackett is known to her and is an informed and engaged citizen of Apple Valley and she recommended his appointment.

Res. No. VRW 23-07: Motion by Commissioner Hamann-Roland, Second by Commissioner Droste and passed on a 3-0 vote to appoint Brad Blackett to the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission with his first appointed term fulfilling the current vacant term ending December 31, 2025.

6b. Authorization to Begin Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan Update

Mark Zabel described the process set out in the Request for Board Action with the timeline beginning with the authorization from the Board with a target end date of February 2026. The process described is lengthy mirroring that which was applied for the 2016-2025 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan update. The first step after authorization is to send notice to review agencies and stakeholders requesting their input on issues and priorities for the Vermillion River Watershed for the next ten years. The contacts are allowed sixty days to respond. After the sixty-day response period the VRWJPO will hold an initial planning meeting to kickoff the planning process. Staff are requesting authorization to begin the Plan update process.

Res. No. VRW 23-08: Motion by Commissioner Droste, Second by Commissioner Hamann-Roland and passed on a 3-0 vote to authorize staff to begin the planning process for the update for the 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan.

6c. Presentation on Groundwater Levels in Dakota County

Valerie Neppel provided a presentation about groundwater levels in Dakota County. This presentation was recently provided to the Dakota County SWCD Board to provide information of interest regarding water levels in the area. Valerie described 15 wells which were recently (2021-2022) installed for the purposes of measuring changes in shallow groundwater (water table) and sampling for water quality. Dakota County has developed a public facing dashboard that will convey well and sampling information to the public. Most of these new wells sampled since their installation have shown water levels falling during last year's drought. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture installed 13 wells within the Hastings Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA) and Dakota County staff are working to get the data from those wells posted to the dashboard. Commissioner Hamann-Roland asked if this is the extent of information available or is there data that can provide information on trends especially regarding drought. Valerie stated that the information presented so far was about shallow wells and groundwater there is also a cooperative network of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) observation wells that collect groundwater level information. Valerie selected a few wells from that network in the area that have a longer record. Commissioner Droste asked if Dakota County is collecting local weather data. Valerie commented that the weather information available has not been included on the dashboard but that is something that could possibly be added in the future. There are weather stations collecting data in Dakota County that is linked with the Groundwater Site but it is not currently linked with the dashboard data and noted that the dashboard data only reflects one year. Valerie then provided graphics describing water levels in each selected well over time. Overall wells in the metro area are rising, especially shown in wells in the eastern parts of Dakota County. These trends correlate with precipitation trends and higher amounts of rainfall in recent years. The water levels in wells also signal reductions as a result of droughts. Commissioner Wolf asked how long it takes for groundwater to recharge. Valerie responded that the answer to that question is dependent on local conditions, depth of aquifer, and where recharge occurs. Commissioner Hamann-Roland asked about trends. Zabel noted that the State Climatologist has identified that climatic changes being experienced in Minnesota are warmer winters, especially warmer overnight temperatures, and wetter with more rainfall overall, but rainfall is coming in more intense storm events. Valerie shared that the Metropolitan Council is doing some scenario modeling of groundwater for different possible climatic conditions. Commissioner Droste commented that it would be interesting to track city groundwater use over time as the area develops so as to track the multiple factors associated with groundwater.

6d. Discussion of Elko-New Market Water Appropriations

Mark Zabel briefly described the proposal by Niagara Bottling for their water bottling facility and the current request by the City of Elko-New Market amend their groundwater appropriations permit to increase from 135 million gallons per year to 365 million gallons per year, in part to accommodate the Niagara Bottling proposal. Staff are asking for Board direction and input regarding the potential to comment on the permit amendment request as the DNR has opened a thirty-day comment period for this. Zabel also provided examples of estimating city delivery of water on a per capita basis and recent agricultural groundwater appropriation

permit requests for comparison. Brian Watson noted that appropriation permits levels are set as a “not to exceed” amount and agricultural irrigators may not reach their allocated maximum, it depends on their water needs for that year. Commissioners discussed the potential to comment, what has been the VRWJPO’s past practice of commenting on these permits, and who has authority in this area. Zabel suggested some topic areas of possible comment, pumping test, conservation measures, or addressing uses, or the VRWJPO could choose not to comment. Commissioner Hamann-Roland suggested that comments could be generalized regarding policies of the VRWJPO. Commissioners discussed cities serving growth of residences and businesses in general and that water is provided to these users. Commissioners decided that ultimately the decision associated with an amendment to an appropriations permit is with the DNR and commenting is unlikely to affect that decision. No action was taken; staff will not provide comment.

6e. Presentation of Proposed Amendments to VRWJPO 2023 Budget

Mark Zabel described the need for budget amendments that normally occurs early in the fiscal (calendar) year after the VRWJPO receives information on the status of finances in the end-of-year financial report. This year, due to the transition of Dakota County Finance, which is the fiscal agent for the VRWJPO, to a new data base management system, the end-of-year financial report is delayed. The VRWJPO is using the best information currently available which is that provided through our final Treasurer’s Report for 2022 to make proposed amendments to the VRWJPO 2023 Budget. The presentation provided here is information only and intended to give the Board an opportunity to review and provide input to this process. There will be a request for Board action brought to the April 2023 VRWJPB meeting for approval of proposed amendments presented at that meeting. Zabel then presented the changes in line items where an increase or decrease in expenses is proposed. Zabel also presented changes in revenues. Overall, the proposed amendments to the 2023 budget result in total revised budgeted expenditures of \$3,750,680 with revenues of \$3,966,750, leaving a budgeted fund balance/cash reserve of \$216,070.

6f. Watershed Tour Planning for 2023

Mark Zabel noted that the VRWJPO has been providing a watershed tour for invited officials highlighting completed projects on odd numbered years. Thus, this year is a tour year and staff have discussed planning for this year’s tour. Paula Liepold has led the planning and coordination for our past tours and will lead our discussion today for potential options for this year’s tour. Paula led discussion about specific logistics regarding time-of-day and potential dates. Commissioners suggested the tour be held September 28th, perhaps scheduling the VRWJPB meeting for 11 a.m. and holding the tour in the afternoon. Invitees usually include County Board Members from Dakota and Scott Counties, SWCD Board Members from Scott and Dakota County SWCDs, City and Township officials, SWCD managers, and some state agency staff interested in specific projects. Commissioner Hamann-Roland suggested getting a date set so we have a target and consider adjustments if needed as we get closer to the event. Paula confirmed that we would schedule a tentative date and work on the arrangements such as contracting for the bus later. Commissioners agreed with going forward with that plan. Paula then suggested that staff have discussed a potential western tour or eastern tour. Paula

covered the potential site stops for the western tour and site stops for an eastern tour. Commissioners were in favor of a western tour. Paula thanked the Commissioners for their input and confirmed that staff would begin exploration and development for a western tour.

Staff Reports

Paul Beaumaster

Paul reported that he is working on amendments to some Joint Powers Agreements that should be coming before the Board at future meetings.

Travis Thiel

Travis mentioned the project at Foxborough Park in Lakeville and that the contractor bid came in under the engineer estimate so that project will go forward with construction anticipated this coming Summer.

Valerie Neppi

Valerie reported that private well testing is being offered by Dakota County in Eureka Township and Inver Grove Heights (outside the VRWJPO) this year. Valerie mentioned working with Metropolitan Council and MnDNR on planning for potential drought response.

Brita Moore-Kutz

Brita mentioned that the VRWJPO switched the email platform to try to improve open rate of email newsletters. That includes an increase in frequency of release of newsletters to quarterly. Commissioner Hamann-Roland asked about addressing emails and how that is processed. Brita mentioned she is also planning a special (non-cycle) earth month newsletter to include promotion of local earth day activities. Brita mentioned that she will be tabling at the City of Lakeville's Earth Day event. The 2022 VRWJPO Annual Report is being compiled and will be presented at next month's VRWJPB meeting. The VRWJPO is completing six interpretive signs which are currently in fabrication. The signs will be placed this Spring at selected sites that have public access. Commissioner Hamann-Roland noted that the Water Resources Engineer position had been posted with the Apple Valley Eco-advocates and that she also posted it on her Dakota County site.

Mark Zabel

Mark reported on his and Valerie Neppi's attendance at a meeting coordinated by Metropolitan Council staff for Subregional Water Supply Planning held 3/15/23. The meeting was held as part of Metropolitan Council's efforts for updating the Water Section of their 2050 planning. Attendees were grouped at tables representing their subregions and were tasked with identifying issues, priorities, and management needs for their specific subregions.

Commissioner Droste commented that he is excited to be participating on the VRWJPB.

Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Hamann-Roland, Second by Commissioner Droste and passed on a 3-0 vote to adjourn the meeting at 2:41 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. in Conference Room A at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center, 4100 220th Street West, Farmington, MN.

Respectfully submitted by

Mark Zabel

Administrator for the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

Attest

Commissioner

Secretary/ Treasurer

Date



2023 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Treasurer's Report

April 2023 - 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 (601-5010001-00000000) | \$ 240,500.00 | \$ 29,012.77 | \$ 11,702.69 | \$ 199,784.54 |
| B. Research & Planning (601-5010001-50100130) | \$ 18,600.00 | \$ 964.31 | \$ 952.57 | \$ 16,683.12 |
| C. Monitoring & Assessment (601-5010001-50100230) | \$ 157,400.00 | \$ 26,261.09 | \$ 1,243.12 | \$ 129,895.79 |
| D. Public Communications & Outreach (601-5010001-50100330) | \$ 166,150.00 | \$ 21,876.02 | \$ 16,624.61 | \$ 127,649.37 |
| E. Irrigation and Irrigation Audit (601-5010001-50100431) | \$ 20,000.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 20,000.00 |
| F. Regulation (601-5010001-50100530) | \$ 55,900.00 | \$ 2,823.39 | \$ 866.11 | \$ 52,210.50 |
| G. Coordination & Collaboration (601-5010001-50100531) | \$ 42,600.00 | \$ 3,279.75 | \$ 1,496.90 | \$ 37,823.35 |
| H. Feasibility/Preliminary Studies (601-5010001-50100631) | \$ 220,000.00 | \$ 14,347.28 | \$ 4,603.86 | \$ 201,048.86 |
| I. Capital Improvement Projects (601-5020001-50200130) | \$ 526,300.00 | \$ 56,525.99 | \$ 282.14 | \$ 469,491.87 |
| J. CWF BWSR- Watershed Grant (601-5010001-50100848) | \$ 17,700.00 | \$ 3,970.74 | \$ 1,181.98 | \$ 12,547.28 |
| K. WBIF Grant (BWSR) 2020-2023 North Creek (601-5010001-50100853) | \$ 387,500.00 | \$ - | \$ 163.03 | \$ 387,336.97 |
| L. WBIF Grant (BWSR) 2020-2023 Farmington Direct (601-5010001-50100854) | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| M. WBIF Grant (BWSR) 2020-2023 Hastings Direct (601-5010001-50100855) | \$ 30,030.00 | \$ 896.68 | \$ - | \$ 29,133.32 |
| N. WBIF Grant (BWSR) 2020-2023 Ravenna Basins (601-5010001-50100856) | \$ - | \$ 81.51 | \$ - | \$ (81.51) |
| O. Lakeville East Lake Restoration (601-5010001-50100858) | \$ 90,000.00 | \$ 39,010.12 | \$ - | \$ 50,989.88 |
| P. CWF Comp Grant (BWSR) Foxborough TSS (601-5010001-50100859) | \$ 376,500.00 | \$ 733.64 | \$ - | \$ 375,766.36 |
| Q. CWF Comp Grant (BWSR) Ravenna Trail (601-5010001-50100860) | \$ 545,000.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 545,000.00 |
| R. Wetland Bank (601-5010001-50100930) | \$ 189,800.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 189,800.00 |
| VRW JPO Revised Budget Expense TOTAL | \$ 3,083,980.00 | \$ 199,783.29 | \$ 39,117.01 | \$ 2,845,079.70 |

Budget Funding Sources

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Wetland Bank | \$189,800.00 |
| CIP Reserve | \$350,000.00 |
| CIP Reserve Grant Match | \$133,330.00 |
| Fund Balance from Underspending in Previous Year | \$405,000.00 |
| Grant Carryover | \$664,350.00 |
| CWF Grant (BWSR) Competitive | \$420,750.00 |
| CWF Grant WBIF (BWSR) 2020-2023 | \$243,600.00 |
| Fee's on Permitting Activities | \$1,000.00 |
| Dakota County Levy | \$964,900.00 |
| Scott County Levy | \$35,100.00 |
| Investment Earnings | \$14,000.00 |
| Total | \$3,421,830.00 |



Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

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

Date: April 27, 2023
To: Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board
From: Staff
Subject: Joint Powers Organization Expenses

Agenda Item 5
April 2023

Expenses from the invoices submitted between February 14, 2023 and March 14, 2023 totalled \$31,865.78

The invoices submitted between March 14, 2023 and April 14, 2023 total:

| <u>Invoice</u> | <u>Vendor</u> | | <u>Amount</u> |
|--|--------------------------|----|---------------------|
| | Dakota County Staff Time | \$ | 33,782.72 |
| IN29398 | Scott County | \$ | 239.29 |
| 23-16004b | 144Design | \$ | 95.00 |
| 2023 Dues | Metro Watershed Partners | \$ | 5,000.00 |
| Total expense as approved on April 27, 2023 | | | \$ 39,117.01 |

Action Requested: Approve all above expenses as presented on April 27, 2023

**6a. Approval of Proposed Amendments to the Vermillion River Watershed
Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) 2023 Budget**

Meeting Date: 4/27/2023
Item Type: Regular-Action
Contact: Mark Zabel
Telephone: 952-891-7011
Prepared by: Mark Zabel



PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

- Approval of proposed amendments to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) 2023 Budget

SUMMARY

At its meeting on December 1, 2022, the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) adopted the Final 2023 VRWJPO Budget (Resolution No. VRW 22-27). The budget included expenses totaling \$2,993,980, total revenue of \$3,421,830, and an expected cash reserve of \$427,850.

A budget amendment is being proposed to: 1) adjust for the fund balance from under-spending and transfers in 2022 (see Attachment B); 2) reflect changes to several budget line items and the addition of several line items, including line items reflecting revenues and expenses for grant funded projects. The amendment would bring the total expenses in 2023 to \$3,750,680 and total revenue to \$3,966,750 with a cash reserve of \$216,070 (see Attachment A).

The Watershed Planning Commission reviewed the proposed amendments and recommended approval of the Draft Revised 2023 VRWJPO Budget to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve proposed amendments to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) 2023 Budget.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT

The amended budget increases planned expenditures by \$756,700 and includes additional grant funded commitments of \$776,700 and match of \$55,830. The total revised budgeted expenditures are \$3,750,680 with revenues of \$3,966,750, leaving a budgeted fund balance/cash reserve of \$216,070.

Supporting Documents:

Attachment A: VRWJPO Draft Revised 2023 Budget

Attachment B: December 2022 Treasurer's Report

Previous Board Action(s):

VRW 22-27; 12/1/2022

RESOLUTION**6a. Approval of Proposed Amendments to the Vermillion River Watershed****Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) 2023 Budget**

WHEREAS, the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board adopted the Final 2023 VRWJPO Budget on December 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the budget included expenses totaling \$2,993,980, total revenue of \$3,421,830, and an expected cash reserve of \$427,850; and

WHEREAS, a budget amendment is being proposed to: 1) adjust for the fund balance from under-spending and transfers in 2022; 2) reflect changes to several budget line items and the addition of several line items, including line items reflecting grant funded projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board approves the amendments to the VRWJPO 2023 Budget to bring the budgeted total expenses to \$3,750,680 and total revenue to \$3,966,750 with a cash reserve of \$216,070.

VRWJPO Draft Revised 2023 Budget

| Category | | Budget Items | 2023 | | 2023 | |
|--|----|---|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| | | | Revised Budget Amount | Budget % of Total | Final Budget Amount | Budget % of Total |
| EXPENSES | | | | | | |
| Administration and Operations 601-5010001-00000000 | 1 | Dakota County VRW Staff | \$180,500 | 4.6% | \$180,500 | 5.3% |
| | 2 | Scott County VRW Staff | \$15,000 | 0.4% | \$15,000 | 0.4% |
| | 3 | Other Dakota County Staff Time | \$12,000 | 0.3% | \$12,000 | 0.4% |
| | 4 | Legal Support | \$25,000 | 0.6% | \$25,000 | 0.7% |
| | 5 | Miscellaneous Expenses (per diems, mileage, postage, etc.) | \$6,000 | 0.2% | \$6,000 | 0.2% |
| | 6 | Training, Conferences, and Certifications | \$2,000 | 0.1% | \$2,000 | 0.1% |
| Subtotal Administrative | | | \$240,500 | 6.1% | \$240,500 | 7.0% |
| Research and Planning 601-5010001-50100130 | 1 | Dakota SWCD Incentive Program Policy Assistance | \$1,600 | 0.0% | \$1,600 | 0.0% |
| | 2 | Scott County Staff | \$5,000 | 0.1% | \$2,000 | 0.1% |
| | 3 | VRW Staff | \$35,000 | 0.9% | \$15,000 | 0.4% |
| Subtotal Research and Planning | | | \$41,600 | 1.0% | \$18,600 | 0.5% |
| Monitoring and Assessment 601-5010001-50100230 | 1 | Vermillion River Monitoring Network in Dakota Co. | | | | |
| | 1a | Staff Time for Sample Collection, Equipment Installation, Maintenance | \$39,000 | 1.0% | \$39,000 | 1.1% |
| | 1b | Data analysis, database management, data reporting, FLUX modeling | \$17,000 | 0.4% | \$17,000 | 0.5% |
| | 1c | Water Quality Sample Analysis and QA/QC samples | \$19,000 | 0.5% | \$19,000 | 0.6% |
| | 1d | Equipment and Supplies | \$8,000 | 0.2% | \$8,000 | 0.2% |
| | 2 | Vermillion River Monitoring Network in Scott Co | \$9,300 | 0.2% | \$9,800 | 0.3% |
| | 3 | USGS Cost Share for Blaine Ave. Station | \$8,900 | 0.2% | \$8,900 | 0.3% |
| | 4 | DNR Flow Gaging Assistance | \$9,700 | 0.2% | \$9,700 | 0.3% |
| | 5a | Biological and Habitat Assessments | \$7,000 | 0.2% | \$7,000 | 0.2% |
| | 5b | Electrofishing | \$16,000 | 0.4% | \$16,000 | 0.5% |
| | 6 | Monitoring Programs Review and Evaluation | \$15,000 | 0.4% | \$15,000 | 0.4% |
| | 7 | General GIS support (Dakota SWCD) | \$5,000 | 0.1% | \$5,000 | 0.1% |
| | 8 | Nitrate Treatment Practice Sampling | \$1,000 | 0.0% | \$1,000 | 0.0% |

VRWJPO Draft Revised 2023 Budget

| <u>Category</u> | <u>Budget Items</u> | <u>2023 Revised Budget Amount</u> | <u>Budget % of Total</u> | <u>2023 Final Budget Amount</u> | <u>Budget % of Total</u> |
|--|--|---|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| | 9 Iron Enhanced Sand Filter Performance Sampling | \$2,000 | 0.1% | \$2,000 | 0.1% |
| Subtotal Monitoring and Data Analysis | | \$156,900 | 4.0% | \$157,400 | 4.6% |
| Public Communications and Outreach 601-5010001-50100330 | 1 Communication and Outreach Staff | \$100,000 | 2.5% | \$100,000 | 2.9% |
| | 2 Vermillion River Watch Program | \$6,000 | 0.2% | \$6,000 | 0.2% |
| | 3 Vermillion River Stewards | \$0 | 0.0% | \$0 | 0.0% |
| | 4 Scott County Outreach Efforts | \$2,000 | 0.1% | \$2,250 | 0.1% |
| | 5 Vermillion River Watershed Projects Signage and Map Updates | \$10,000 | 0.3% | \$10,000 | 0.3% |
| | 6 Newsletter, Mailings, Website, General Communication Materials | \$10,000 | 0.3% | \$10,000 | 0.3% |
| | 7 Landscaping for Clean Water Workshop Program (Dakota SWCD) | \$30,400 | 0.8% | \$30,400 | 0.9% |
| | 8 K-12 Classroom Presentations (Dakota SWCD) | \$4,000 | 0.1% | \$4,000 | 0.1% |
| | 9 Watershed Tours | \$2,000 | 0.1% | \$0 | 0.0% |
| | 10 Local Standards/ Ordinance and Turf/ Salt Workshops | \$3,500 | 0.1% | \$3,500 | 0.1% |
| Subtotal Public Outreach and Communication | | \$167,900 | 4.2% | \$166,150 | 4.9% |
| Regulation 601-5010001-50100530 | 1 Scott SWCD Assistance with Plan Review | \$900 | 0.0% | \$900 | 0.0% |
| | 2 Engineering Assistance and Review | \$35,000 | 0.9% | \$35,000 | 1.0% |
| | 3 VRW Staff Local Program Assistance | \$20,000 | 0.5% | \$20,000 | 0.6% |
| Subtotal Regulation | | \$55,900 | 1.4% | \$55,900 | 1.6% |
| Coordination and Collaboration 601-5010001-50100531 | 1 Coordination VRW Staff | \$40,000 | 1.0% | \$32,000 | 0.9% |
| | 2 Wetland Health Evaluation Program Cost Share | \$0 | 0.0% | \$0 | 0.0% |
| | 3 Children's Water Festival Support | \$600 | 0.0% | \$600 | 0.0% |
| | 4 Watershed Partners | \$5,000 | 0.1% | \$5,000 | 0.1% |
| | 5 Master Water Stewards | \$5,000 | 0.1% | \$5,000 | 0.1% |
| Subtotal Coordination and Collaboration | | \$50,600 | 1.3% | \$42,600 | 1.2% |
| Land and Water Treatment | | | | | |
| Capital Improvement | 1 Cost Share Programs in Dakota County (SWCD) | \$80,000 | 2.0% | \$80,000 | 2.3% |

VRWJPO Draft Revised 2023 Budget

| <u>Category</u> | | <u>Budget Items</u> | <u>2023 Revised Budget Amount</u> | <u>Budget % of Total</u> | <u>2023 Final Budget Amount</u> | <u>Budget % of Total</u> |
|---|---|---|---|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Projects | 2 | Cost Share Programs in Scott County (SWCD) | \$30,750 | 0.8% | \$31,300 | 0.9% |
| 601-5020001-50200130 | 3 | Cost-share | \$250,000 | 6.3% | \$250,000 | 7.3% |
| | 4 | WBIF match | \$15,170 | 0.4% | \$70,000 | 2.0% |
| Subtotal Capital Improvement Projects | | | \$375,920 | 9.5% | \$431,300 | 12.6% |
| Maintenance | 1 | Past projects maintenance/ repair | \$70,000 | 1.8% | \$70,000 | 2.0% |
| 601-5020001-50200130 | 2 | CIP construction oversight, maintenance/ repair staff costs | \$35,000 | 0.9% | \$25,000 | 0.7% |
| Subtotal Maintenance | | | \$105,000 | 2.6% | \$95,000 | 2.8% |
| Feasibility/Preliminary Studies | 1 | Preliminary Design, Technical Assistance and Marketing for Capital Improvements (Dakota SWCD) | \$40,000 | 1.0% | \$40,000 | 1.2% |
| 601-5010001-50100631 | 2 | Preliminary Design, Technical Assistance and Marketing for Capital Improvements | \$180,000 | 4.5% | \$180,000 | 5.3% |
| Subtotal Feasibility/Preliminary Studies | | | \$220,000 | 5.5% | \$220,000 | 6.4% |
| Irrigation Audit and Cost Share Program | 1 | Irrigation Audits | \$10,000 | 0.3% | \$10,000 | 0.3% |
| 601-5010001-50100431 | 2 | Irrigation Cost-Share | \$10,000 | 0.3% | \$10,000 | 0.3% |
| Subtotal Irrigation Audit and Cost Share | | | \$20,000 | 0.5% | \$20,000 | 0.6% |
| 2020-2023 WBIF Grant (BWSR) North Creek | 1 | North Creek Stabilization | \$337,500 | 8.5% | \$337,500 | 9.9% |
| 601-5010001-50100853 | 2 | VRWJPO cash match | \$50,000 | 1.3% | \$50,000 | 1.5% |
| Subtotal 2020-2023 WBIF Grant North Creek Stabilization | | | \$387,500 | 9.8% | \$387,500 | 11.3% |
| 2020-2023 WBIF Grant (BWSR) Farmington Direct | 1 | Farmington Direct Drainage Assessment | \$26,700 | 0.7% | \$0 | 0.0% |
| 601-5010001-50100854 | 2 | VRWJPO cash match | \$3,330 | 0.1% | \$0 | 0.0% |
| Subtotal 2020-2023 WBIF Grant Hastings/ Farmington Direct Drainage | | | \$30,030 | 0.8% | \$0 | 0.0% |
| 2020-2023 WBIF Grant (BWSR) Hastings Direct | 1 | Hastings Direct Drainage Assessment | \$26,700 | 0.7% | \$26,700 | 0.8% |

VRWJPO Draft Revised 2023 Budget

| <u>Category</u> | | <u>Budget Items</u> | <u>2023 Revised Budget Amount</u> | <u>Budget % of Total</u> | <u>2023 Final Budget Amount</u> | <u>Budget % of Total</u> |
|--|---|---|---|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 601-5010001-50100855 | 2 | VRWJPO cash match | \$3,330 | 0.1% | \$3,330 | 0.1% |
| Subtotal 2020-2023 WBIF Grant Hastings/ Farmington Direct Drainage | | | \$30,030 | 0.8% | \$30,030 | 0.9% |
| 2020-2023 WBIF Grant (BWSR) Ravenna Basins | | | | | | |
| | 1 | Ravenna Basins Restoration | \$0 | 0.0% | \$0 | 0.0% |
| 601-5010001-50100856 | 2 | VRWJPO cash match | \$0 | 0.0% | \$0 | 0.0% |
| Subtotal 2020-2023 WBIF Grant Ravenna Basins Restoration | | | \$0 | 0.0% | \$0 | 0.0% |
| 2022-2025 CPL Grant (DNR) East Lake Habitat | | | | | | |
| | 1 | East Lake Habitat Improvement | \$90,000 | 2.3% | | |
| 601-5010001-50100858 | 2 | VRWJPO in-kind match | \$3,000 | 0.1% | | |
| Subtotal CWF Competitive Grant Ravenna Trail Ravine Stabilization | | | \$93,000 | 2.3% | | |
| 2022 CWF Competitive Grant (BWSR) Foxborough | | | | | | |
| | 1 | Foxborough Park TSS Project | \$346,500 | 8.7% | \$346,500 | |
| 601-5010001-50100859 | 2 | VRWJPO cash match | \$30,000 | 0.8% | \$30,000 | |
| Subtotal CWF Competitive Grant Foxborough Park TSS Project | | | \$376,500 | 9.5% | \$376,500 | |
| 2022 CWF Competitive Grant (BWSR) Ravenna | | | | | | |
| | 1 | Ravenna Trail Ravine Stabilization | \$495,000 | 12.5% | \$495,000 | |
| 601-5010001-50100860 | 2 | VRWJPO cash match | \$50,000 | 1.3% | \$50,000 | |
| Subtotal CWF Competitive Grant Ravenna Trail Ravine Stabilization | | | \$545,000 | 13.7% | \$545,000 | |
| 2022-2023 WBIF Grant (BWSR) Middle Creek | | | | | | |
| | 1 | Middle Creek at Dodd Rd Stream Restoration | \$360,000 | 9.1% | | |
| 601-5010001-50100861 | 2 | VRWJPO in-kind | \$3,000 | 0.1% | | |
| Subtotal CWF Competitive Grant Foxborough Park TSS Project | | | \$363,000 | 9.2% | | |
| 2022-2025 WBIF Grant (BWSR) Alimagnet Alum | | | | | | |
| | 1 | Alimagnet Lake Alum Treatment Feasibility Study | \$36,000 | 0.9% | | |
| 601-5010001-50100862 | 2 | VRWJPO cash match | \$9,000 | 0.2% | | |

VRWJPO Draft Revised 2023 Budget

| <u>Category</u> | | <u>Budget Items</u> | <u>2023 Revised Budget Amount</u> | <u>Budget % of Total</u> | <u>2023 Final Budget Amount</u> | <u>Budget % of Total</u> |
|---|---|---|---|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Subtotal CWF Competitive Grant Foxborough Park TSS Project | | | \$45,000 | 1.1% | | |
| 2023 CWF Competitive Grant (BWSR) East Lake 601-5010001-50100863 | 1 | East Lake Fish Barrier and Rough Fish Removal | \$300,000 | 7.6% | | |
| | 2 | VRWJPO cash match | \$37,500 | 0.9% | | |
| Subtotal CWF Competitive Grant Foxborough Park TSS Project | | | \$337,500 | 8.5% | | |
| CWF WBIF Grant (BWSR) 601-5010001-50100848 | 1 | WBF Grant Admin | \$12,000 | 0.3% | \$17,700 | 0.5% |
| | | | | | | |
| Subtotal WBF Grant Admin | | | \$12,000 | 0.3% | \$17,700 | 0.5% |
| Weland Bank 601-5010001-50100930 | | Wetland Bank Restoration Funds Reserve | \$189,800 | 4.8% | \$189,800 | |
| Subtotal Wetland Bank Restoration Funds | | | \$189,800 | 4.8% | \$189,800 | |
| Subtotal of Expenditures | | | \$3,750,680 | 94.6% | \$2,993,980 | 87.5% |
| Cash Reserve | | | \$216,070 | 5.4% | \$427,850 | 12.5% |
| TOTAL Annual Expenses | | | \$3,966,750 | 100.0% | \$3,421,830 | 100.0% |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| REVENUE | | | | | | |
| Wetland Bank | | | \$189,800 | 4.8% | \$189,800 | |
| CIP Reserve | | | \$226,800 | 5.7% | \$350,000 | 10.2% |
| CIP Reserve Grant Match | | | \$136,660 | 3.4% | \$133,330 | 3.9% |
| Fund Balance from Underspending in Previous Year | | | \$271,810 | 6.9% | \$405,000 | 11.8% |
| Grant Carryover | | | \$12,000 | 0.3% | \$664,350 | |
| CWF Grant (BWSR) Competitive 2022 | | | \$841,500 | 21.2% | \$420,750 | 12.3% |
| CWF Grant (BWSR) Competitive 2023 | | | \$300,000 | 7.6% | | |
| CWF Grant WBIF (BWSR) 2020-2023 | | | \$487,180 | 12.3% | \$243,600 | 7.1% |

VRWJPO Draft Revised 2023 Budget

| <u>Category</u> | <u>Budget Items</u> | <u>2023 Revised Budget Amount</u> | <u>Budget % of Total</u> | <u>2023 Final Budget Amount</u> | <u>Budget % of Total</u> |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|---|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| | CWF Grant WBIF (BWSR) 2022-2025 | \$396,000 | 10.0% | | |
| | CPL Grant (DNR) 2022-2025 | \$90,000 | 2.3% | | |
| | Fees for Permitting Activities | \$1,000 | 0.0% | \$1,000 | 0.0% |
| | Dakota County Levy | \$964,900 | 24.3% | \$964,900 | 28.2% |
| | Scott County Levy | \$35,100 | 0.9% | \$35,100 | 1.0% |
| | Investment Earnings | \$14,000 | 0.4% | \$14,000 | 0.4% |
| | TOTAL Annual Revenue | \$3,966,750 | 100.0% | \$3,421,830 | 100.0% |



2022 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Treasurer's Report

February 2023 - 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 | \$ 162,822.85 | \$ - | \$ 77,677.15 |
| B. Research & Planning (217002-0130) | \$ 18,600.00 | \$ 21,294.88 | \$ - | \$ (2,694.88) |
| C. Monitoring & Assessment (217002-0230) | \$ 157,400.00 | \$ 91,208.42 | \$ - | \$ 66,191.58 |
| D. Public Communications & Outreach (217002-0330) | \$ 166,150.00 | \$ 161,316.31 | \$ - | \$ 4,833.69 |
| E. Irrigation and Audit (217002-0431) | \$ 20,000.00 | \$ 40,302.36 | \$ - | \$ (20,302.36) |
| F. Regulation (217002-0530) | \$ 55,900.00 | \$ 31,237.85 | \$ - | \$ 24,662.15 |
| G. Coordination & Collaboration (217002-0531) | \$ 42,600.00 | \$ 18,839.08 | \$ - | \$ 23,760.92 |
| H. Feasibility/Preliminary Studies (217002-0631) | \$ 220,000.00 | \$ 98,556.59 | \$ - | \$ 121,443.41 |
| I. Capital Improvement Projects (217092-0130) | \$ 491,850.00 | \$ 128,390.12 | \$ - | \$ 363,459.88 |
| J. FY2019 - Watershed Funding Grant (217002-0848) | \$ 17,700.00 | \$ 7,508.10 | \$ - | \$ 10,191.90 |
| 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 | \$ 64,005.30 | \$ - | \$ 20,994.70 |
| P. WBIF Grant (BWSR) 2020-2023 Rosemount Anti-Icing (217002-0857) | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Q. CWF Grant - (BWSR) Foxborough TSS (217002-0859) | \$ 203,250.00 | \$ 284.61 | \$ - | \$ 202,965.39 |
| R. CWF Grant - (BWSR) Ravenna Trail (217002-0860) | \$ 297,500.00 | \$ 121.82 | \$ - | \$ 297,378.18 |
| S. Wetland Bank (217002-0930) | \$ 117,216.00 | \$ 500.00 | \$ - | \$ 116,716.00 |
| VRW JPO Revised Budget Expense TOTAL | \$ 2,581,226.00 | \$ 826,469.35 | \$ - | \$ 1,754,756.65 |
| <u>Budget Funding Sources</u> | | | | |
| 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 | | | |
| Total | \$ 2,693,350.00 | | | |

6b. Authorization to Submit 2022 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Meeting Date: 4/27/2023
Item Type: Regular-Action
Contact: Mark Zabel
Telephone: 952-891-7967
Prepared by: Brita Moore-Kutz

**PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED**

- Authorization to submit 2022 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)

SUMMARY

According to Minnesota Rule (M.R. 8410.0150), watershed management organizations must submit an activity report, financial statement, and an audit report to BWSR within 120 days following the end of the watershed management organization's preceding fiscal year. The draft 2022 VRWJPO Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement has been prepared according to BWSR requirements and is included as Attachment A. The Audit Report is sent to BWSR separately when it is made available to the VRWJPO.

The 2022 Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement includes:

- List of 2022 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board members, Watershed Planning Commission members, Technical Advisory Group stakeholders, and VRWJPO staff;
- Summary of water quality monitoring data;
- Recapitulation of outreach programs, education, and communication;
- Description of completed capital improvement projects and feasibility studies;
- Overview of the VRWJPO's 2023 Work Plan;
- Assessment of overall annual budget;
- Review of evaluation, regulation, and permit programs; and
- Board actions.

The report must be submitted to BWSR on or before April 30, 2023. Staff requests the VRWJPB review the final draft 2022 VRWJPO Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement, request changes if needed, and authorize staff to submit the final report to BWSR on or before the deadline.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT

No fiscal impact.

Supporting Documents:

Attachment A: DRAFT 2022 Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement

Previous Board Action(s):

- ;

RESOLUTION**6b. Authorization to Submit 2022 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)**

WHEREAS, Minnesota Rule 8410.0150 requires watershed management organizations to submit an annual activity report and financial statement to the BWSR within 120 days following the end of the watershed management organization's fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the VRWJPO staff has prepared a final draft 2022 Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement in compliance with Minnesota Rule 8410.0150 for review; and

WHEREAS, the draft 2022 Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement has been reviewed by the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB); and

WHEREAS, the Audit Report will be sent to BWSR when made available to the VRWJPO.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the VRWJPB authorizes staff to submit the final 2022 Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement to BWSR on or before April 30, 2023.



2022 Activity Report and Financial Statement



Figure 1. Vermillion River Linear Park, Hastings, June 2022.

The mission of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization is to collaboratively provide education, science, and support to restore and protect the Vermillion River Watershed's natural resources for all who live, work, and play within its boundaries.

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Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

4100 220th Street, Suite 103

Farmington, MN 55024

Phone: 952-891-7000

Email: vrwjpo@co.dakota.mn.us

Website: www.vermillionriverwatershed.org



Introduction

The Vermillion River Watershed, the area where the river and other water resources drain, encompasses southeastern Scott County and central Dakota County over 335 square miles. Geographically, it is the largest watershed in the seven-county Twin Cities metro area. The headwaters of the Vermillion River are in New Market Township, Scott County. The river flows across central Dakota County and into the Mississippi River near Red Wing in Goodhue County. Its main tributaries are the South Branch, North Creek, Middle Creek, and South Creek. Eight subwatersheds comprise the watershed: North Creek, Lower Mainstem, Mississippi Direct, Middle Creek, Middle Mainstem, South Branch, South Creek, and Upper Mainstem.

The name Vermillion River was likely derived from the bright red and orange-colored ocher obtained by the Dakota Indigenous people in the seams of Chimney Rock in Marshan Township, and of other outcrops of the St. Peter sandstone beside or near the course of this river. (*Minnesota Place Names: A Geographical Encyclopedia* by Warren Upham, MN Historical Society Press)

Twenty communities, including all or portions of Apple Valley, Burnsville, Castle Rock Township, Coates, Douglas Township, Elko New Market, Empire, Eureka Township, Farmington, Hampton, Hampton Township, Hastings, Lakeville, Marshan Township, New Market Township, Nininger Township, Ravenna Township, Rosemount, Vermillion, and Vermillion Township, reside within the political boundaries of the Vermillion River Watershed.

About 49 stream miles of the Vermillion River's main stem and tributaries are designated trout streams, making the river a unique natural resource in a growing metropolitan area. Preserving the river's water quality and cool temperatures are essential for trout sustainability and the recreational opportunities for those who enjoy fishing here. Additionally, the watershed supports several suburban lakes, such as Lake Marion, East Lake, Empire Lake, Long Lake, Farquar Lake, Alimagnet Lake, Lake Rebecca, and Lake Isabelle. Residents enjoy the many city and county parks along these water resources, including (but not limited to) Vermillion Falls Park, Whitetail Woods Regional Park, Rambling River Park, Alimagnet Park, and Vermillion River Linear Park.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) lists several reaches of the Vermillion River and its tributaries as impaired (not meeting water quality standards) due to E. coli bacteria, phosphorus, excess sediment, turbidity, low dissolved oxygen, aluminum, and poor quality or quantity of fish and macroinvertebrates. Some portions of the river and its tributaries, as well as groundwater, have concentrations of nitrate and chloride that are concerning, and the concentrations have increased over time. Downstream of the falls in Hastings, the river shares a floodplain with the Mississippi River and is polluted with excess sediment, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and mercury. Several of the lakes are listed as impaired for nutrients and mercury in fish tissue. The state updates its impaired waters list every two years and submits it to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Vermillion River Watershed's population has been growing steadily which brings increased development and residential impact on the Vermillion River's water quality and quantity. The

predominant land use in the watershed is agricultural, which will remain so into the foreseeable future, though residential suburban and business development land uses are growing. Land management decisions in the watershed profoundly affect water resources. According to the 2020 census, most communities in the watershed are overwhelmingly white and non-Hispanic in racial and ethnic makeup.

This report summarizes the VRWJPO's 2022 activities and its 2023 plans to protect and improve the Vermillion River Watershed.

Governance & Personnel

In August 2000, Dakota and Scott counties signed a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to manage the watershed together in 2002 and fulfill the conditions required by the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act (MN Statute 103B). The two counties jointly fund activities of the VRWJPO and are statutorily responsible for management. The JPA allows for a three-member Joint Powers Board (JPB), comprised of two Dakota County Commissioners and one Scott County Commissioner. A nine-member citizen advisory Watershed Planning Commission (WPC) supports the JPB, consisting of eight Dakota County residents and one Scott County resident. A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) provides informal technical consultation and consists of city partners, state partners, non-governmental organizations, County staff, Soil and Water Conservation District staff, and engineering advisors. Dakota County is the fiscal agent of the VRWJPO.

Joint Powers Board

The JPB directs watershed administration, policy, budget, and implementation of the Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan (Plan). The JPB met nine times in 2022. Members included:

Commissioner Mike Slavik, Dakota County District 1 (Chair)
Commissioner Tom Wolf, Scott County District 2 (Vice Chair)
Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg, Dakota County District 6 (Secretary-Treasurer)

Watershed Planning Commission

WPC members are appointed by the JPB under authority of the Joint Powers Agreement to advise the Board on policy, programs, or other matters that may come before the Board. The WPC is responsible for guiding implementation of the Watershed Plan, annual work plans, and budget. In 2022, the WPC met ten times. The WPC members in 2022 included:

Mark Henry, Castle Rock Township, Chair
Chuck Clanton, Hampton Township, Vice Chair
Josh Borton, Farmington
Steve Hamrick, Lakeville
Andrew Riesgraf, Apple Valley
James Kotz, Rosemount
Linda Larson, Rosemount

Technical Advisory Group

The VRWJPO consults with a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) that consists of local, regional, state, and federal government partners and non-profits with expertise and interest in watershed issues. The group meets to discuss emerging scientific, technical, and policy impacts on the Vermillion River Watershed. The TAG meets occasionally to discuss projects and policies from a scientific and technical perspective. It met once in March 2022. Representatives include but are not limited to:

- Cities and townships within the Vermillion River Watershed
- Dakota and Scott Counties
- Dakota and Scott Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Metropolitan Council
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)
- Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)
- Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)
- Prairie Island Indian Community
- University of Minnesota Extension
- Environmental consulting and engineering firms

VRWJPO Administrators and Staff

The VRWJPO is housed under Dakota County's Environmental Resources Department at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center. The VRWJPO is staffed with an administrator from Dakota County and a co-administrator from Scott County. Other Dakota and Scott County employees provide support for specific projects. Staff in 2022 included:

- Mark Zabel, VRWJPO Administrator, Dakota County
- Melissa Bokman-Ermer, VRWJPO Co-administrator, Scott County
- Travis Thiel, Senior Watershed Specialist, Dakota County
- Mark Ryan, Water Resources Engineer, Dakota County
- Brita Moore-Kutz, Communications & Outreach Specialist, Dakota County
- Paula Liepold, Water Resources Specialist – Education and Outreach, Dakota County

The counties' respective Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) provide monitoring and technical assistance services for the VRWJPO. District Managers for the SWCDs in 2022 were:

- Brian Watson, Manager, Dakota County SWCD
- Troy Kuphal, Manager, Scott SWCD

Legal Counsel

The Joint Powers Agreement for the VRWJPO provides that Dakota County and Scott County shall provide legal services as needed and in accordance with Law.

Consultants

The VRWJPO enters contracts with consultants to provide engineering and environmental professional services for water resources management projects. The approved consultant list for 2021-22 follows:

| Company | Address | City | State |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|-------|
| Alliant Engineering, Inc. | 733 Marquette Ave #700 | Minneapolis | MN |
| Barr Engineering Company | 4300 Market Pointe Drive, Suite 200 | Minneapolis | MN |
| Davey Resource Group | 1196 7 th St. E. | St. Paul | MN |
| Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc. | 1919 University Ave W, Ste. 300 | St. Paul | MN |
| Geosyntec Consultants | 100 S. Washington Ave, Ste. 1590 | Minneapolis | MN |
| Houston Engineering | 7550 Meridian Circle North, Suite 120 | Maple Grove | MN |
| Inter-Fluve | 1539 Grand Ave, Second Floor | St. Paul | MN |
| KLJ | 370 Wabasha St., Ste 300 | St. Paul | MN |
| Landbridge Ecological | 670 Vandalia Street | St. Paul | MN |
| Minnesota Native Landscapes, Inc. | 8740 77th Street Northeast | Otsego | MN |
| Moore Engineering, Inc. | 2 Carlson Pkwy, Ste. 110 | Plymouth | MN |
| Native Resource Preservation | 260 Wentworth Ave. E. Ste. 115 | West St. Paul | MN |

| Company | Address | City | State |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------|
| RES | 20276 Delaware Ave. | Jordan | MN |
| SRF Consulting Group, Inc. | 3701 Wayzata Blvd. | Minneapolis | MN |
| Stantec | 7500 Olson Memorial Hwy, Ste. 300 | Golden Valley | MN |
| WSB | 701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 300 | Minneapolis | MN |

Awarded contracts

The VRWJPO also entered several contracts because the projects required solicitation in 2022 as noted below:

Stantec – Fish sampling to implement biomonitoring program
Water in Motion – Irrigation system audits
Moore Engineering – East Lake Common Carp water quality assessment

2022 Work Plan Activities

The VRWJPO has successfully implemented the Watershed Management Plan (Plan) through the end of calendar year 2022. The 10-year Plan was adopted in June 2016. The Plan includes 239 implementation initiatives in several categories: Administration and Operations; Regulation; Research and Planning; Monitoring and Assessment; Land and Water Treatment; Coordination and Collaboration; and Public Communications and Outreach. These categories are comparable to those used by the VRWJPO to budget, develop work plans, and classify current activities. Of the 239 initiatives, 199 (83%) are completed or ongoing.

Administration and Operations

Administrative responsibilities include staff training and supervision; coordinating and documenting VRWJPB meetings, decisions, and directions; coordinating and documenting WPC and TAG meetings, decisions, and recommendations; managing the budget; setting priorities and developing work plans; managing contracts; reporting; and seeking funding. See Appendix A for VRWJPB actions taken throughout the year.

Regulation

The VRWJPO works with the cities and townships in the Watershed to ensure adoption of the Plan and local implementation. Annual work to verify adoption of the Plan includes the Standards Evaluation program through which the VRWJPO documents community permitting activities and reviews some example projects. This program's current form was started in 2017 and continues to be adapted to fit community and VRWJPO needs.

All local water management plans from the 2018-19 cycle had been reviewed and commented on as of the end of 2020. The Board approved the last of these plans (City of Elko New Market) in July 2021 through a Board Action after delays and extensions for completion of that plan. Communities implementing the Standards through local ordinance are required to update their ordinances in response to the Standards amendment (and the Comprehensive Plan updates). These updates began in 2021 after delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the delayed issuance of the State of Minnesota Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit. MS4 communities had until November 2021 (one year from issuance of the updated MS4 General Permit) to revise ordinances, and the VRWJPO set goals for working with local communities to verify ordinances in 2022.

The Watershed includes all or part of 20 separate jurisdictions, 19 of which have land-use planning and zoning authority. These local government units implement the VRWJPO Standards through local ordinance and apply their own permit programs. In 2022, the VRWJPO continued permitting and enforcement in Eureka Township where the township retains land use planning and zoning authority but does not implement the VRWJPO Standards. The VRWJPO issued two permits for land disturbance activities in Eureka Township in 2021 under the updated 2019 VRWJPO Standards, and no variances were issued.

Research and Planning

The VRWJPO develops strategic approaches for managing water resources through monitoring emerging issues, evaluating data, and engaging the public, stakeholders, and partners in planning and policy issues. In 2022, the VRWJPO researched or planned the following:

Dakota County Plans

VRWJPO staff assisted the Dakota County Groundwater Protection Unit with developing its Agricultural Chemical Reduction Effort (ACRE) Plan and the Dakota County Groundwater-Source Water Collaborative. By participating in these efforts, water quality, water quantity, and natural resources of the Vermillion River Watershed were represented and included in planning efforts.

Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan Amendment

VRWJPO staff drafted a minor amendment to the Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan to better align priorities within the Implementation Section of the Plan with projects and activities anticipated in the next few years, align activities with those previously identified in the Vermillion River

Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) report, and incorporate new information learned since the Plan was originally adopted in 2016. The draft amendment was distributed to stakeholders for review and comment in July. Comments were received and any necessary changes were made within the draft amendment; the amendment was adopted by the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board in September. Read the Plan, as amended, on our website, www.vermillionriverwatershed.org.

Monitoring and Assessment

Water quality and quantity monitoring data are essential for effective management of the Vermillion River Watershed. Surface water and groundwater monitoring allow the VRWJPO to determine the current condition of the resource, any trends occurring over time, the highest priorities for protection and restoration, and effectiveness of water-quality improvement projects. The following activities reflect the VRWJPO's commitment to evidence-based watershed management.

Vermillion River Monitoring Network

The Vermillion River Monitoring Network was created to assess water quality and quantity in the Vermillion River Watershed. Monitoring staff with Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District and Scott Soil and Water Conservation District visit eight locations on a biweekly basis from snowmelt (mid-March) through November 1 (Figure 1). The summer's drought meant that most samples were collected during baseflow or low water level conditions as rainfall events were limited like in 2021.

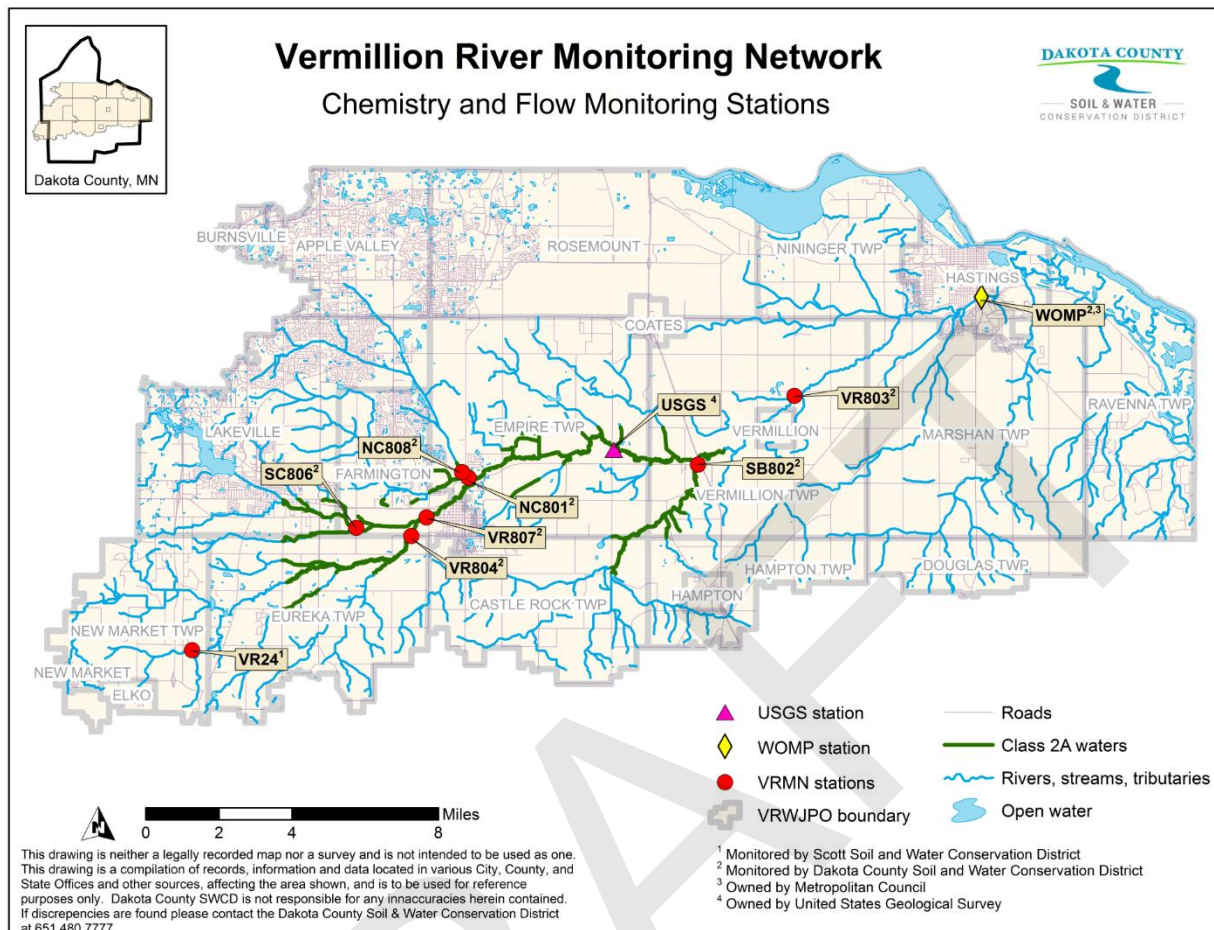


Figure 2. Vermillion River Monitoring Network (VRMN) chemistry and flow monitoring stations.

Monitoring activities include sample collection, continuous temperature and water level monitoring, biological monitoring, and equipment maintenance. The data collected through this effort include a combination of chemical, physical, and biological parameters and assessments, enable local agencies such as the VRWJPO to better understand the health of the stream and implement appropriate management strategies throughout the watershed.

Analysis shows that many of the water monitoring parameters are meeting state water quality standards and indicate a generally healthy condition in the Vermillion River and its tributaries. See graphs following this text narrative.

Chemistry

Nitrate (NO_3 ; a form of nitrogen) levels were quite low, except at the one station on the South Branch Vermillion River (Figure 2). The South Branch station (SB802) has a significant nitrate load compared to others in the network. High levels of nitrate in drinking water pose a human health risk and are likely related to the soils, artificial drainage, and agricultural land use that is predominant in the South Branch Vermillion River subwatershed. Monitoring locations downstream of the confluence with South Branch have elevated nitrate levels in comparison to sites higher in the watershed.

The other primary nutrient monitored in the watershed is *phosphorus*, an essential life element for plants. Excess phosphorus can lead to eutrophication and increased algae growth in the river. The median level for all sites is below the state standard during baseflow conditions (Figure 3). Elevated concentrations were recorded during runoff and snowmelt events at almost all monitoring events throughout the season, except SC806. Highest variability during baseflow conditions was at VR24 (most upstream site) and VR0020 (most downstream site in watershed; monitored for Met Council). VR24 and SB802 (South Branch subwatershed outlet) showed most variability during runoff conditions.



Low *dissolved oxygen* concentrations for single event runoff events were common at several sites, but median stayed above the standard (Figure 4). All median dissolved oxygen levels met the standard for both 2A and 2B stream sites during baseflow conditions, except SC806. NC801 and NC808 have historically had the lowest recorded levels during baseflow, but SC806 and VR804 were again lower in 2022. Dissolved oxygen levels during snowmelt conditions were high. VR24 had the highest variability of all monitoring sites during both baseflow and runoff conditions.

Higher levels of *total suspended solids* (contributing to turbid, cloudy, water) following runoff events were also common at several sites though to a much lesser degree than in previous years (most likely due to reduced runoff events and rainfall amounts) (Figure 5). Sample medians were at or below (meeting) the state standard at all stations during baseflow conditions. Standard exceedances occurred during runoff conditions at all monitoring water sites, particularly at SC806, NC801, and VR0020. Individual event exceedances occurred during snowmelt.



The VRWJPO recently added two monitoring parameters to the suite of analytes – chloride (2020) and chlorophyll *a* (2019 at Dakota sites; 2021 at VR24). Recent statewide monitoring data has shown that chloride concentrations are increasing in Minnesota’s surface waters and groundwater. According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), a stream, lake, or wetland is considered impaired for chloride if two or more samples exceed 230 mg/L within a three-year period (chronic); or, one sample

exceeds 860 mg/L (acute). While currently not a major concern in the watershed, future urbanization may contribute to increased levels, so it is important to gather baseline data now. Figure 6 shows 2022 chloride levels. All sites had sample medians below the chronic standard, though individual events exceeded the standard at VR24 during baseflow monitoring.

Chlorophyll-*a* was added to the VRWJPO monitoring program in 2019 (added to VR24 in 2021). It serves as an indirect indicator of nutrient levels in a lake or river (high chlorophyll = high nutrients) and is now considered a response variable in the MPCA's water quality impairment assessment strategy based. The 2022 sample medians were below the standard during all monitoring conditions, though individual events did exceed the standard at some sites during baseflow monitoring (Figure 7).

Temperature

The Vermillion River watershed includes stream reaches with both coldwater and warmwater use designations meaning that temperature standards are applied to the middle watershed (coldwater) but are not applicable to reaches in the upper and lower parts of the watershed (warmwater). The coldwater reaches of the Vermillion River and its tributaries are home to a self-sustaining brown trout population, so there is great interest in reducing or maintaining water temperatures suitable for a healthy brown trout fishery.

Continuous temperature data, measured in 15-minute intervals, has been collected annually starting in 2005 for many of the sentinel monitoring stations in the Vermillion River monitoring network. The temperature data for 2022 for NC801 and NC808 (Farmington) shows temperature maximums were measured in the complete mortality range (red; > 25°C) during all summer months with the highest median water temperatures observed in July (Figure 8).

Biological and Habitat Assessments

The MPCA developed biological indices to evaluate the health of the macroinvertebrate community in the Vermillion River. In 2022, six sites were monitored in various parts of the watershed. The macroinvertebrate index of biological integrity (MIBI) scoring data is not currently available.

Habitat assessments were completed using the MPCA's Minnesota Stream Habitat Assessment protocol to further evaluate and understand the biological integrity of stream reaches. Of the seven sites monitored in 2022, six sites had a 'fair' score and one site scored 'poor' (Figure 9).



Bacteria Sampling

Some parameters have been measured at undesirable levels. *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) bacteria levels are high in many streams of southeast Minnesota, and the Vermillion River and its tributaries are no exception. Monitoring results in 2022 show numerous low-level exceedances during the season at all

the sites in the network. The geometric mean at each site continues to show less variability than in 2019 and is even closer than in recent years (Figure 10).

E. coli levels at VR24 continue to be higher than samples collected at other monitoring sites within the watershed. In 2022, the geometric mean for *E. coli* samples at VR24 was 5 times more than the standard, drastically lower than the geometric mean in 2021 which was 27 times the standard. One other site was two times higher than the standard (NC801), and all other sites had geometric means in line with the standard or below.

Agency Monitoring

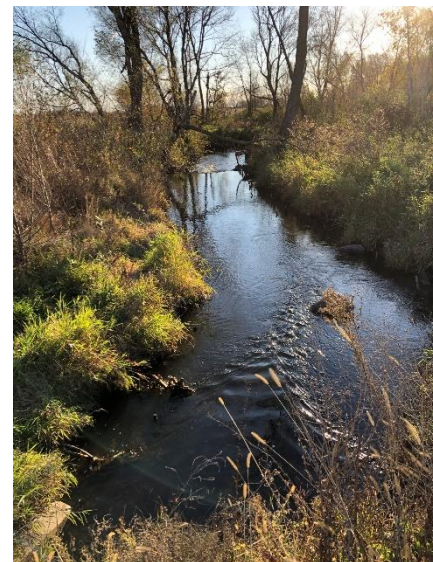
The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) continues its monitoring effort in response to potential impacts to the quantity of water within the Vermillion River from groundwater withdrawals via appropriations. The DNR maintains responsibility for twelve stream gaging stations within the watershed as part of this effort. The VRWJPO contracts annually DNR hydrologists for assistance with maintenance, rating-curve development, and data analysis and compilation at these stations.

The VRWJPO provides cost share for the operation of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Blaine Avenue gaging station, which has the longest continuous record of flow in the watershed. Real-time stage and flow data is available from the USGS station. This information can be accessed at https://waterdata.usgs.gov/mn/nwis/uv?site_no=05345000.

Continuous temperature monitoring was conducted at the eight stream gaging stations the DCSWCD, Scott SWCD, and DNR operate, as well as at the Metropolitan Council's Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP) station in Hastings.

Conclusion

The Vermillion River Monitoring Network is valuable in that the watershed can be assessed on its physical, chemical, and biological characteristics, and that information is then used to make informed management decisions. Restoring in stream and riparian habitat, reducing nutrients and suspended materials in the stream, and minimizing temperature peaks, among other possible conservation strategies, will have a cascading positive effect on the overall health of the river. It is important to consider physical parameters such as temperature, which plays an essential role particularly in cold water streams. Water quantity and flow patterns have a significant impact on aquatic communities, with too much or too little causing stress. An effective management strategy would be one which integrates both the quality and quantity aspects of the Vermillion River.



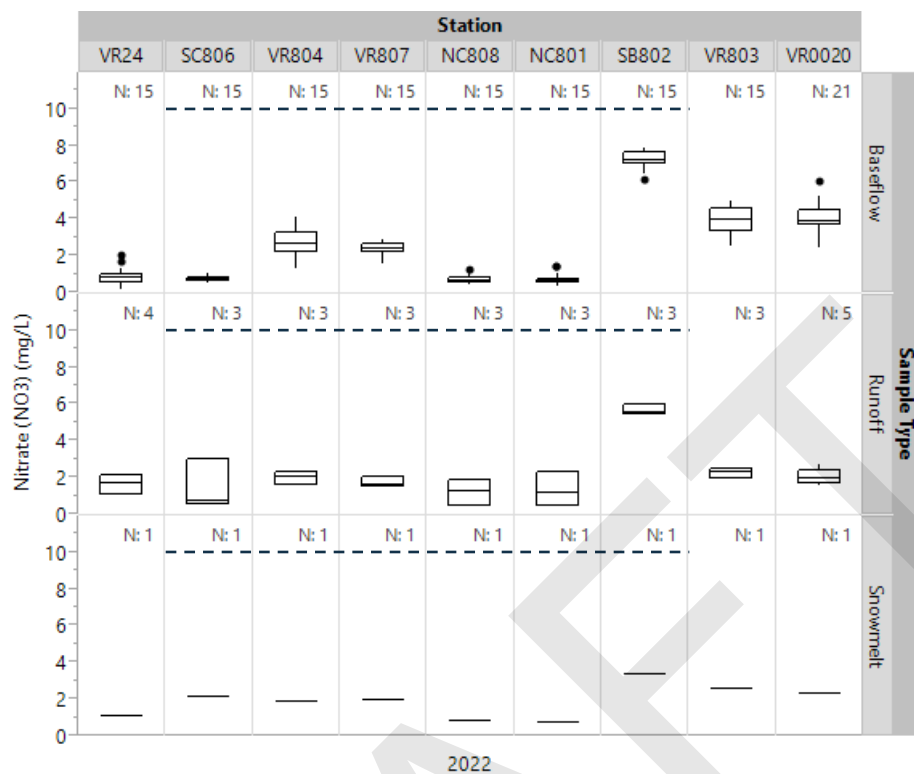


Figure 2. Nitrate nitrogen for each station, categorized by sample type, for 2022. Blue dashed line represents the domestic consumption state standard (≤ 10 mg/L).

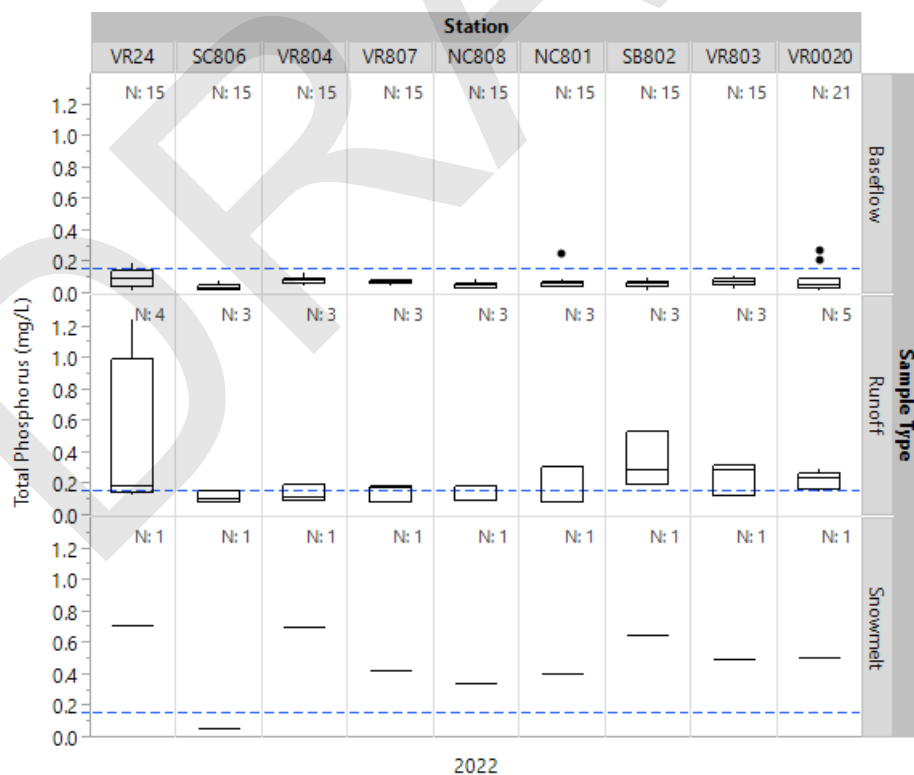


Figure 3. Total phosphorus (TP) for each station, categorized by sample type, for 2022. Blue dashed line represents the state standard for total phosphorus, ≤ 0.15 mg/L.

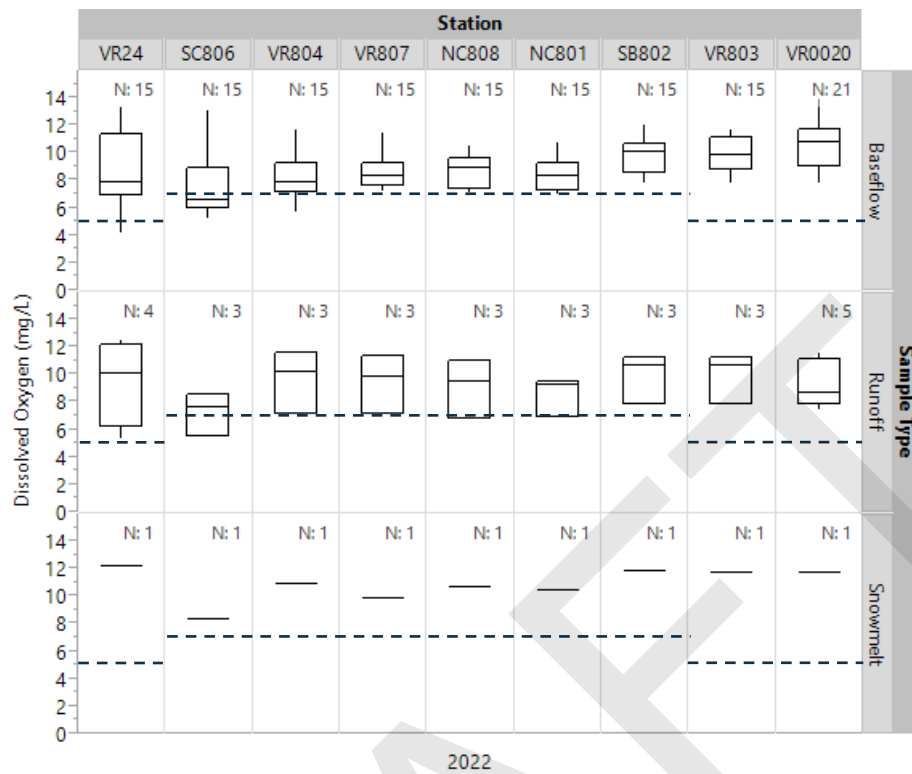


Figure 4. Dissolved oxygen for each station, categorized by sample type, for 2022. Dashed blue lines indicate standards with 7.0 mg/L (2A streams) and 5.0 mg/L (2B streams) as acceptable daily minimums.

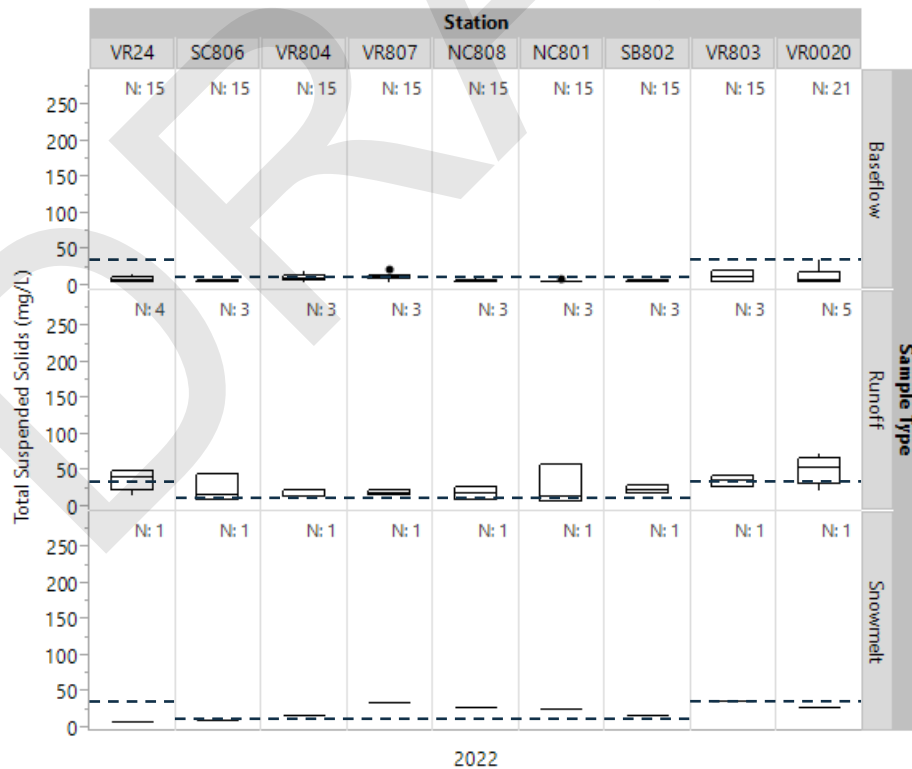


Figure 5. Total suspended solids categorized by sample type for 2022. Blue dashed line represents the state standard for cold 2A (≤ 10 mg/L) and warm 2B (≤ 30 mg/L) waters.

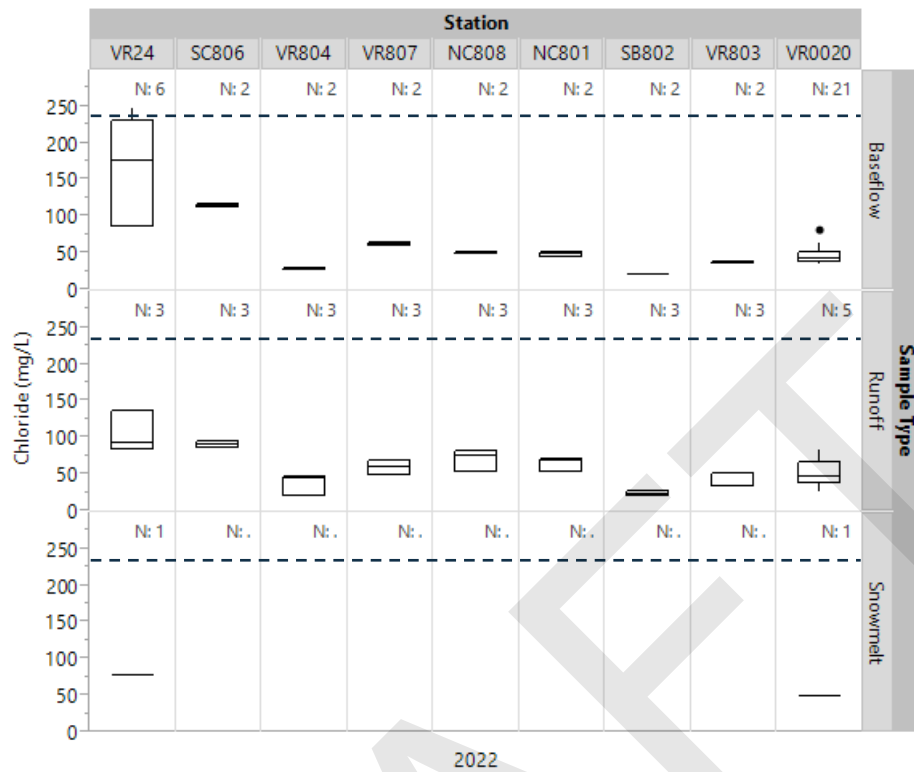


Figure 6. Chloride for each station, categorized by sample type, for 2022. Dashed blue lines represent the chronic state standard of 230 mg/L (two or more samples must exceed within a three-year period).

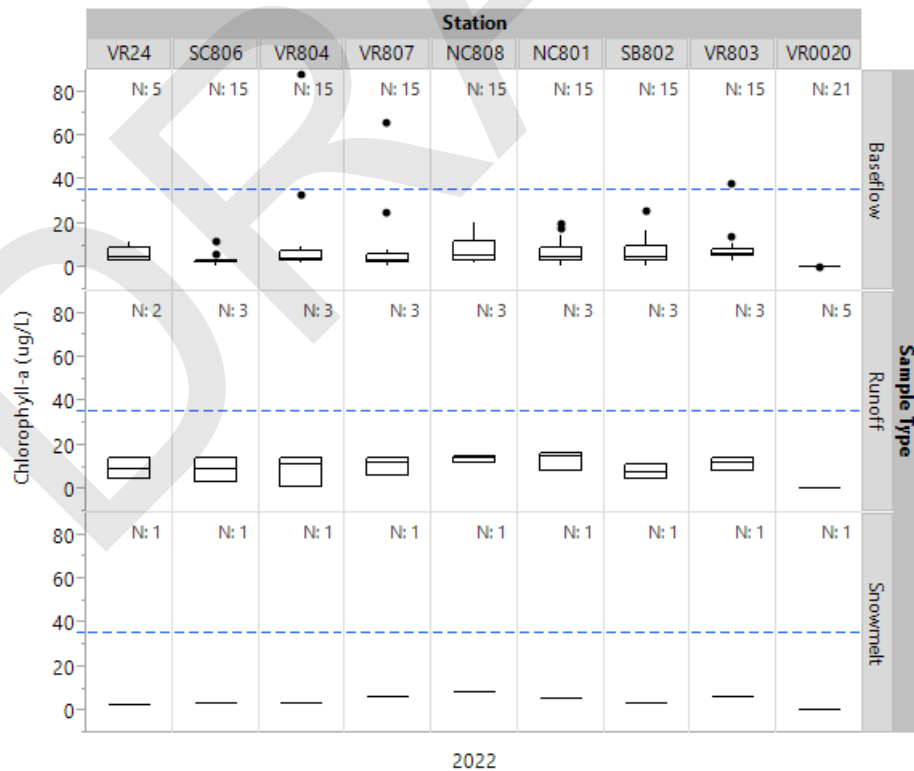


Figure 7. Chlorophyll-a, categorized by sample type, for 2022. Blue dashed line represents the state standard of ≤ 35 mg/L.

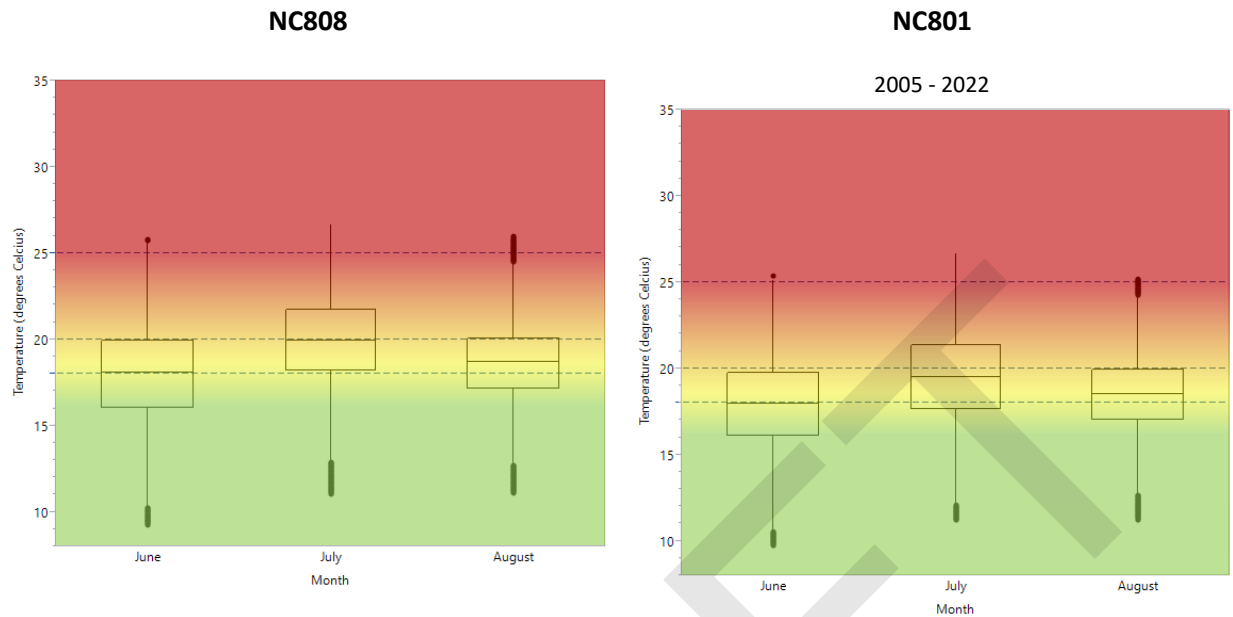


Figure 8. Continuous temperature data for NC808 and NC801 (coldwater stream sites) during the summer months from 2005-2022 (when available). Temperature ranges apply to adult Brown Trout. Optimal <18°C, tolerance 18-20°C, resistance 20-22°C, and complete mortality at 25°C (Coutant (1975), Gardner & Leetham (1914), Bell (2006))

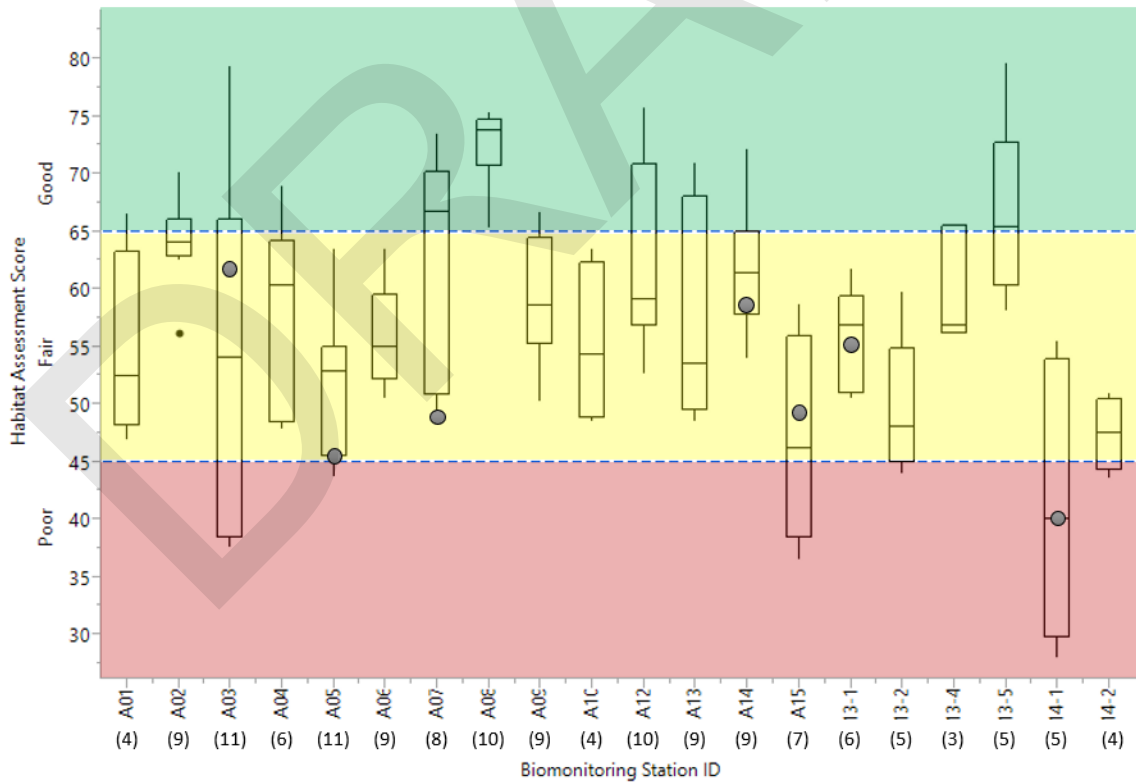


Figure 9. Habitat assessment scores for biomonitoring stations. Habitat scores for 2022 are indicated by grey circle. Dashed blue lines indicate limits for Good (≥ 66), Fair (45-65), and Poor (≤ 44) categories. Number of samples collected from 2009-2022 is shown in parenthesis.

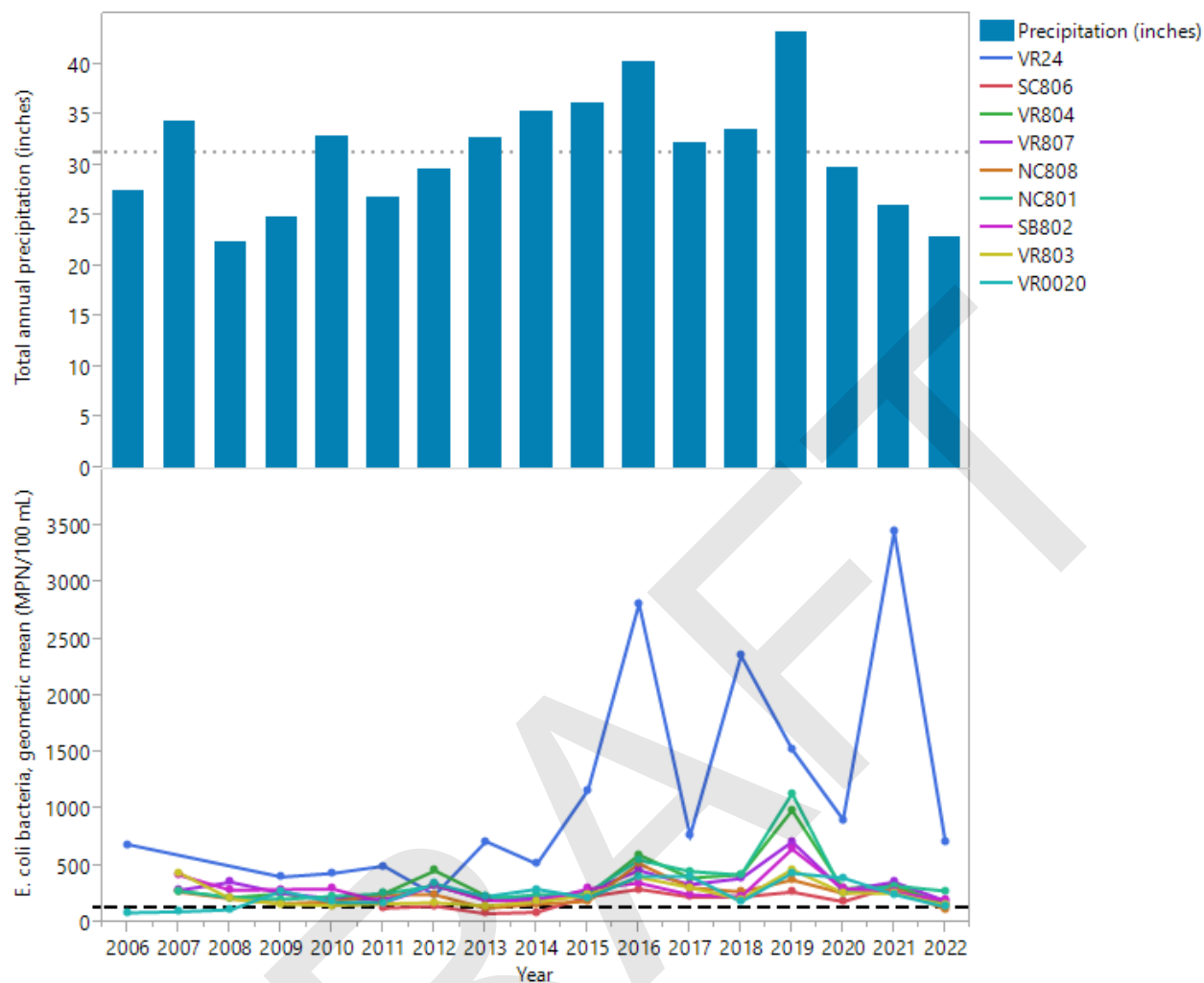


Figure 10. Annual geometric mean of *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) bacteria for all stations by year. MPN stands for most probable number of organisms. Black dashed line indicates the 30-day geometric mean standard (for data collected April through October) of ≤ 126 MPN/100 mL. Bars represent total annual precipitation for each year. Gray dotted line indicates the 30 year (1992-2021) total annual average precipitation at the Minneapolis – St. Paul airport weather station of 31.2 inches.

Land and Water Treatment

The VRWJPO continues to ensure that Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects with direct and observable benefits to water quality and quantity and aquatic habitat are identified and developed. The VRWJPO provides financial assistance and incentives through cost-share programs for Local Government Units and other partners seeking effective solutions to local water quality or quantity problems. To find out more about cost-share programs, review the VRWJPO's project funding policy. Projects constructed and planned in 2022 included:

Sediment Basin Cleanout at Almquist family farm

The Almquist family farm in Ravenna Township has sediment control basins on their property designed to keep sediment out of the lower Vermillion River. These basins were designed and constructed in the late 1960s and had filled with sediment to a level where they had limited function. VRWJPO and Dakota County SWCD staff agreed that a cleanout of both basins would be beneficial to their overall efforts, as some capacity in the basins can be restored to capture sediment and slow higher runoff flows that could cause erosion of the channels downstream.

The repair project consisted of some tree removal to access the sites, excavating the basin pools, repairing an emergency spillway to the downstream channel, and seeding native vegetation for continued erosion control. This complements VRWJPO's other efforts in Ravenna Township to decrease turbidity in the lower Vermillion River. A Watershed-Based Implementation Fund (WBIF) grant from BWSR contributed to this project, which is estimated to reduce total suspended solids (TSS) pollution by 5.5 tons/year and reduce volume by 6.2 acre-feet/year.

North Creek at Highview Channel Stabilization

The North Creek Vermillion River subwatershed has seen lots of development over several decades, and unfortunately significant erosion of North Creek has come with it. The erosion has resulted in the formation of cut banks along the creek that are six to eight feet high. This section of the channel runs through a wetland where dark organic soils are present, which is different than many areas of Lakeville that often have sandy loam or sandy clay loam soils. The organic wetland soils are easily erodible from the channel. Erosion is delivering sediment downstream along with excess associated nutrients.

To address the problem, the VRWJPO, the City of Lakeville, and Dakota County will repair an eroded reach of North Creek between Highview Ave. and Cedar Ave., located entirely on City of Lakeville property. The project will consist of riprap check dams, streambank stabilization, and removal of accumulated sediment that has excessively deposited downstream over time. This results in a healthier North Creek and Vermillion River, a regionally significant resource for recreation and public use, as well as decreasing high-water levels and flood risk to community members. The channel improvements are estimated to reduce TSS pollution by 147 tons/year and total phosphorus (TP) by 89 lbs/year. A WBIF grant makes this project possible.

Direct Drainage Assessment in Farmington

A WBIF grant tasks the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) and its partners with reviewing Farmington's storm sewer systems and identifying opportunities for storage and/or treatment of untreated/under-treated stormwater flows to the Vermillion River. Core downtowns and surrounding areas of many cities within the region were primarily developed before stormwater management's evolution into modern best management practices.

The City of Farmington is collaborating with VRWJPO to produce feasibility study reports on this subject. Reports like this help us develop projects that have truer timelines for implementation, better cost estimates, and refined water quality improvement estimates, which ultimately can lead to more effective capital improvement projects and greater environmental benefits.

East Lake Habitat Improvements

East Lake is a 44-acre, impaired shallow lake in Lakeville. Poor lake clarity and invasive species infestations both in and around the lake need to be addressed to create a good-quality, contiguous habitat corridor. The City of Lakeville and the VRWJPO have been monitoring East Lake and its surroundings to inform habitat improvement projects.

In 2021, the City completed a habitat assessment and identified needs to continue restoring portions of East Lake Community Park. The restoration will include forest and oak savanna habitat and shoreline buffer improvements. The VRWJPO and the City plan to remove terrestrial invasive species and restore the shoreline through native plantings, with the support of a Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) grant from the DNR. As part of an existing Greenway hub, East Lake is connected to downstream habitat along North Creek. A component of Dakota County's Greenway initiative is to provide hubs of critical habitat within the county and connect them via corridors of trails and protected areas. Improvements to East Lake leverage this corridor and will have direct positive impacts on habitat and wildlife within the hub, as well as improving recreational experiences for people visiting.

Conservation Corps projects

Over the summer, VRWJPO and Dakota County SWCD collaborated with the Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa (CCMI) to plant trees along North Creek in Farmington and remove tree and branch snags from the Vermillion River in Empire.

The North Creek planting included swamp white oak, red maple, silver maple, and river birch trees along the channel near 195th St. and Deerbrooke Path.

The snag clearing took place in Empire Park, over a 3,000-foot stretch to restore river flow and improve dissolved oxygen. Crews also installed cedar tree revetments to stabilize eroded banks.

Dakota County SWCD Cost-Share Programs

VRWJPO provided funding to the Dakota County SWCD for their Conservation Initiative Funding and Incentive Payment Practice Programs. The projects from 2022 are listed below.

*May include other funding besides from VRWJPO. Technical Assistance costs are not included.

| Project | Practice Installed | Location | Cost-Share Amount* | Landowner Contribution | Pollutant Reduction/Year |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---|
| Rosemount Jaycee Park | Bioretention Basin | Rosemount | \$32,734.35 | \$5,776.65 | 1.43 lbs phosphorus (P) 0.22 tons sediment |
| Tom Bergum | Streambank Stabilization | Lakeville | \$4,371.72 | \$771.48 | 1.5 lbs P 1.5 tons sediment |
| Sarah Bridges | Grassed Waterway | Eureka Township | \$19,440 | \$6,560 | 126.94 lbs P 110.38 tons sediment |
| Pat Maher | Cover Crops | Marshan Township | \$2,500 | \$0 | 11.21 lbs P 294.8 lbs nitrogen (N) 40.2 tons sediment |
| Greg Fox | Cover Crops | Rosemount | \$625 | \$0 | 11.83 lbs P 55 lbs N 57.5 tons sediment |

| Project | Practice Installed | Location | Cost-Share Amount* | Landowner Contribution | Pollutant Reduction/Year |
|--------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--|
| Don Peterson | Cover Crops | Marshan Township | \$2,500 | \$0 | 3.59 lbs P 2,428.8 lbs N 12.65 tons sediment |
| Greg Fox | Cover Crops | Rosemount | \$1,000 | \$0 | 6.12 lbs P 384 lbs N 80 tons sediment |
| Dana Groh | Native Prairie Restoration | Ravenna Township | \$12,000 | \$3,600 | 0.09 lb P 0.09 tons sediment |
| Al Storlie | Water & Sediment Control Basins | Eureka Township | \$20,404 | \$3,601 | 111.88 lbs P 223.76 tons sediment |
| Jim Perry | Water & Sediment Control Basin | Castle Rock Township | \$15,880.55 | \$2,802.45 | 9.12 lbs P 18.23 tons sediment |

Coordination and Collaboration

In cooperation with groups, the VRWJPO works to amplify mutual efforts, leverage resources, instill consistency, share knowledge and expertise, and make each public dollar go further in achieving water quality, quantity, and safety goals.

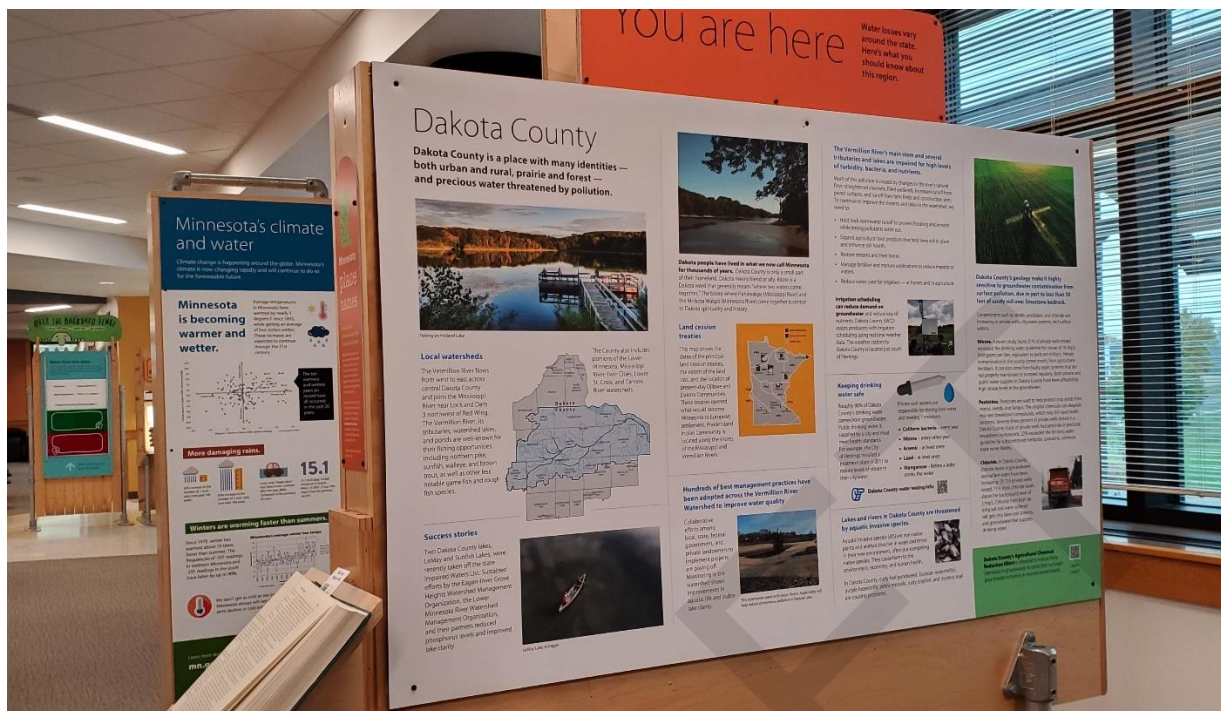


Figure 3. Part of the We Are Water MN Exhibit at Pleasant Hill Library, Hastings.

We Are Water MN

Dakota County hosted the We Are Water Minnesota exhibit October-December 2022 at the Pleasant Hill Library in Hastings and Lebanon Hills Regional Park Visitor Center in Eagan. VRWJPO staff Brita Moore-Kutz and Paula Liepold, along with Dakota County Environmental Resources, Soil and Water Conservation District, Parks, Libraries, and Communications staff, spent many hours planning for the exhibit, with support from the Minnesota Humanities Center and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

The traveling exhibit consists of several components discussing the meaning of water in our state and county and the difficulties it's facing, like impaired waterbodies and drinking water safety. It also highlights personal stories about water from people in the area currently hosting. We recruited docents, or volunteer guides, to help support the exhibit at the library. Guests could take home water-themed coloring booklets (art by Indigenous artist Robert Desjarlait) and We Are Water pins.

In addition to setting up the physical exhibits, we hosted numerous educational and stewardship events and activities:

May 24: The Ways Water Moves workshop for students at Pilot Knob STEM School

May 25: Smart Salting for Local Leaders workshop, virtual

Aug. 3: Water Story Sharing workshop, virtual

Aug. 9: Writing with Water workshop, virtual

Aug. 8-14: Dakota County Fair Water Bar Exhibit

October: Story Trail – *We Are Water Protectors*, parks around Dakota County

Oct. 13 – Dec. 5: Exhibit hosted at Pleasant Hill Library and Lebanon Hills Regional Park Visitor Center

Oct. 13: Opening ceremony at Pleasant Hill, featuring remarks from JPB Chair Mike Slavik and the Water Bar

Oct. 15: Protecting the Waters Indigenous Panel, Galaxie Library, Apple Valley

Oct. 20 and Nov. 17: City of Hastings Drinking Water Treatment Plant Tour

Oct. 21: City of Lakeville Drinking Water Treatment Plant Tour

Oct. 25, Nov. 2, Nov. 3: Water Storytelling and Collage Workshop, at Pleasant Hill, Wescott, and Burnhaven libraries

Oct. 27: Nitrate Testing Clinic for private well owners, with the Water Bar, Pleasant Hill Library

Nov. 25: Opt Outside Day, Lebanon Hills Regional Park

Dakota County was allowed to keep the parts of the exhibits customized to our location. Look out for future appearances at local events.

Adopt-a-Drain

In 2022, VRWJPO continued its membership in the Metro Watershed Partners, a coalition of Twin Cities-area watershed organizations, cities, and interest groups providing water stewardship messages to the public. It is based out of Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education. Its well-known Adopt-a-Drain program encourages people to "adopt" storm drains in their area by keeping them clear of leaves, grass, trash, and other things that don't belong in our waterways. 10,361 participants have adopted more than 19,000 storm drains in Minnesota. This has resulted in nearly 460,000 pounds of debris collected and reported on the Adopt-a-Drain website. In the Vermillion River Watershed in 2022, 99 new drains were adopted by 53 new participants, who kept a reported 744.5 pounds of debris out of our waterbodies. A total of 239 participants have adopted 458 drains.



Figure 4. WHEP volunteers.

Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP)

The Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP), engages citizen volunteers to monitor wetlands in their communities. While VRWJPO did not provide direct financial support to the program in 2022, we continue to encourage residents to participate. The program turns volunteers into citizen scientists and is an excellent opportunity for environmental education and natural resource information gathering. Five teams with 61 WHEP volunteers monitored 17 different wetlands in the Vermillion River Watershed.

Apple Valley

- Hidden Valley (AV-1)
- Alimagnet Park Ridgeview Drive Parking Lot Wetland (AV-10)
- Everest Pond (AV-12)
- Sunset Park Pond (AV-18) (pictured)

Farmington

- Kral Pond (F-3)
- Autumn Glen (F-7)
- Cambodia Ave (F-9)

Hastings

- Stonegate Treated (H-4)
- Lake Rebecca (H-6)
- 180th Street Marsh
- Cari Park Pond (H-57)

Lakeville

- DNR #393 (L-8)

Rosemount

- Kelly Marsh (R-1)
- CR-38 Mitigation Site 1 (R-21)
- CR-38 Mitigation Site 2 (R-23)
- Erickson Pond (R-26)

Number of volunteers on each team: Apple Valley (16), Farmington (8), Hastings (12), Lakeville (12), and Rosemount (13). Annual reports are posted on the WHEP website, www.mnwhep.org.

Minnesota Water Stewards

The Minnesota Water Stewards (MWS) program invites residents to become leaders protecting local waterways from pollution and educating their neighbors on clean water issues. The MWS program provides training and opportunities for stewards to build projects in their neighborhoods to prevent polluted stormwater from entering lakes or streams.

In 2022, we had one Steward, Kayla Boettcher of Eagan. VRWJPO took on Kayla because the City of Eagan is no longer funding new Stewards. She spent the spring learning about hydrology and stormwater basics, water and environmental policy, community engagement, and best management practice planning, evaluation, and maintenance. She was certified in fall 2022 and will construct a raingarden in Farmington as her Capstone. Stewards will volunteer 50 hours in 2022 to maintain their certification. MWS is coordinated by the non-profit Freshwater Society.

Metro Children's Water Festival

Dakota County staff took a leadership role in the Metro Children's Water Festival planning and implementation. VRWJPO provided financial support for schools to participate in the popular event. The event was successfully back in-person in 2022 for a limited number of schools, with the virtual option still available for everyone. Both in-person and virtual options will be available in 2023 as well for fourth-grade students.

Fiscal Year 2022-23 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) had \$673,000 in Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) allocated for activities within the Vermillion River Watershed. Staff from the VRWJPO facilitated meetings with local government units to discuss activities to allocate funding to and how to prioritize projects if funding requests exceeded the available amount. The resulting facilitation resulted in the compilation, evaluation, and submittal of funding requests for the following activities in the watershed:

- City of Lakeville: Middle Creek at Dodd Boulevard Stream Channel Improvement
- Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (DCSWCD): Lower Mainstem Vermillion River Subwatershed Assessment
- DCSWCD: Agricultural BMPs in Subwatersheds with Completed Subwatershed Assessments
- DCSWCD: Targeted Nitrate Reduction Practices
- DCSWCD: Irrigation Water Management Efforts
- DCSWCD: Targeted Outreach on Groundwater Practices
- Apple Valley: Stormwater Pond EVR-P11 Enhancements
- VRWJPO: Alimagnet Lake Alum Treatment Feasibility Study

Low-Input Turfgrass Program

VRWJPO staff have had discussions with the BWSR, the University of Minnesota turf experts, and other local partners about the possibility of a local program that would work to convert traditional turfgrass to low-input turfgrass that requires less water, inputs, and maintenance. The focus of program would be to provide options to landowners who wish to convert their traditional turf grass yard to a low-input turf grass with the end goal being lower use of groundwater and other benefits. Discussions occurred between stakeholders regarding seed/sod availability, consistent seed mixes, state-approved seed mixes, environmental benefits, outside funding sources, and other details. The VRWJPO desires to eventually roll out a program for implementation, perhaps as a pilot project to gauge interest from residents.

Public Communications and Outreach

Communicating the value of water is an essential part of the VRWJPO's mission, and in recent years, civic engagement has taken on greater importance in watershed processes. Among the outreach and communication programs wholly or partially funded by the VRWJPO in 2022 were:

Landscaping for Clean Water Workshops

Once again, VRWJPO helped fund and promote the Landscaping for Clean Water workshops hosted by the Dakota County SWCD. They continued being held virtually in 2022. Note that these numbers reflect the total participation in LCW unless noted specifically for the Vermillion River Watershed.

- 355 Individuals participated in Introduction Classes (on Zoom or pre-recorded video)
- 93 Individuals participated in Maintenance Workshops (on Zoom or pre-recorded video)
- 176 participants in virtual Design Workshops, including 73 from VRW
- 3 grant rounds with 12-week installation timelines
- 10 raingardens, native gardens & native shoreline plantings installed by VRW residents (39 projects total out of all participants)
- 52 participants received one-on-one assistance virtually

Vermillion River Watch Program

In 2022, the VRWJPO continued support of Dakota County SWCD's work with educators and students at Rosemount and Hastings High Schools to collect macroinvertebrates and habitat data, identify macroinvertebrates, and compare species type and abundance to biological metrics. This is a successful way to interest students in scientific disciplines and engage them in protecting and improving water resources.

Scott Clean Water Education Program

The Scott Clean Water Education Program (SCWEP) started in 2010 to educate Scott County residents consistently and effectively on the topic of clean water. The program's goal is to make clean water choices second nature for all who live and work in Scott County. SCWEP has incorporated the goal into marketing materials using the theme of "Clean Water Starts with Me!" It is funded collaboratively by watershed organizations in Scott County, including VRWJPO.

In 2022, SCWEP offered a Lawns to Legumes, native prairie, and two soil health workshops both on the online Zoom platform and in-person. This marked the third year SCWEP hosted an online education platform, which allowed SCWEP to deliver educational tools to Scott County citizens quickly and efficiently.

The workshops were promoted through social media, online blogs, and submissions to local papers and community calendars. Registration for the workshops was made simple by linking an online registration tool, Eventbrite.com, with the SCWEP webinar account.

2022 Workshop attendance:

- 66 participants at the "Growing Healthy Soils Part 1" workshop
- 63 participants at the "Growing Healthy Soils Part 2" workshop
- 29 participants at the "Planting for Pollinators" webinar
- 19 participants at the "Plant Native Prairie" workshop

SCWEP continues to promote information, activities, and relevant news through various print publications available to Scott County citizens. This year SCWEP published 19 water-related articles to the county-wide Scott County SCENE newspaper. In addition, events, informational articles, and workshops continued to be promoted on partner's social media platforms, websites, and other local papers including those a part of SWNewsmedia.

Maintenance Workshops

The VRWJPO annually supports trainings for maintenance professionals on Smart Salting and turfgrass management with financial contributions, event promotion, and staff time. In 2022, trainings included the following:

March 15 – Turfgrass Maintenance, 42 participants

Sept. 13 – Smart Salting Level 1 Roads, 44 participants

Oct. 20 – Smart Salting Level 1 Parking Lots/Sidewalks, 37 participants

Community Events and Outreach (other than We Are Water MN)

The “return to normalcy” after the worst of COVID-19 continued in 2022, with more community events returning. VRWJPO hosted tables at the following:

- Lakeville Friends of the Environment Environmental Resources Fair, March
- Lakeville Earth Day Celebration, April
- Hastings Party in the Park, July
- Dakota County Fair, August
- Lakeville Water Treatment Plant Tour/Imagine a Day Without Water, October


While it’s hard to quantify exactly how many people visited the tables, the engagement with VRWJPO was overall quite strong. Staff provided “swag” such as pencils and dog waste pickup bags and used the Pollute or Protect and Enviroscope displays to demonstrate water resource concerns. People also signed up for the VRWJPO e-newsletter at these events.

In addition to community tabling, VRWJPO gave a presentation to the Rosemount Environmental Sustainability Commission in August at the request of City staff and spoke with students in the AP Environmental Science class at Lakeville North High School in November. These presentations highlighted the characteristics of the Vermillion River Watershed environment, the JPO’s role in protecting it, and what individuals can do.

Social Media

The VRWJPO continues to maintain its presence on social media. The watershed has been generating original content and sharing news from partners on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. Each platform has grown its follower count over the past year.

Top Facebook post:



Boost post

X

If you can believe it, We Are Water MN is opening in Da...

October 3, 2022 at 3:26 PM

ID: 405023418484431

Interactions

32 reactions

7 comments

5 shares

Performance

Reach

Total

2,685 Worst | Best

This post reached more Accounts Center accounts than 100% of your 50 most recent Facebook posts and stories.

Reach2,685

Reactions, comment...

Total

44 Worst | Best

This post received more reactions, comments and shares than 100% of your 50 most recent Facebook posts and stories.

Reactions32
Comments7
Shares5

Results

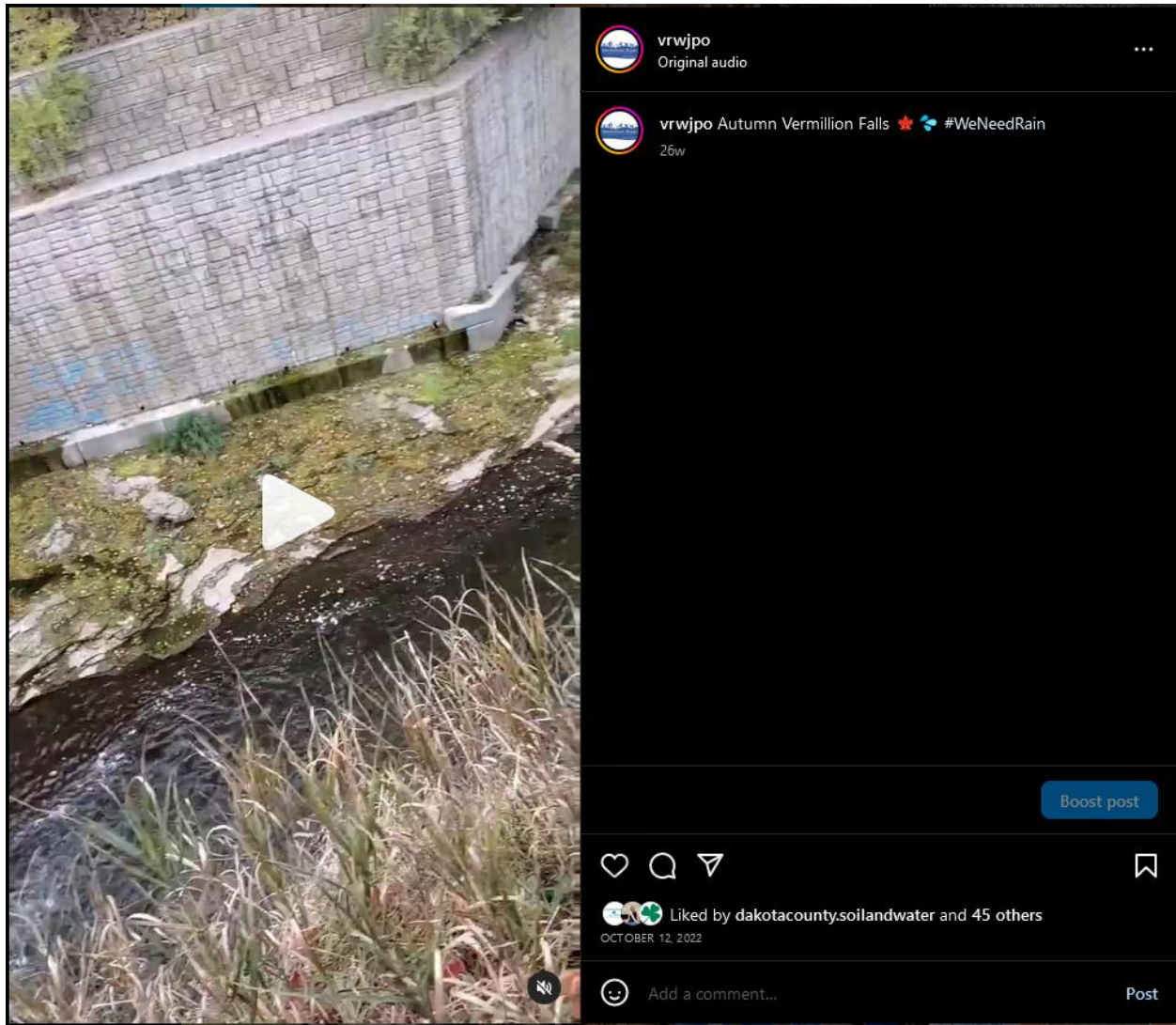
Total

1 Worst | Best

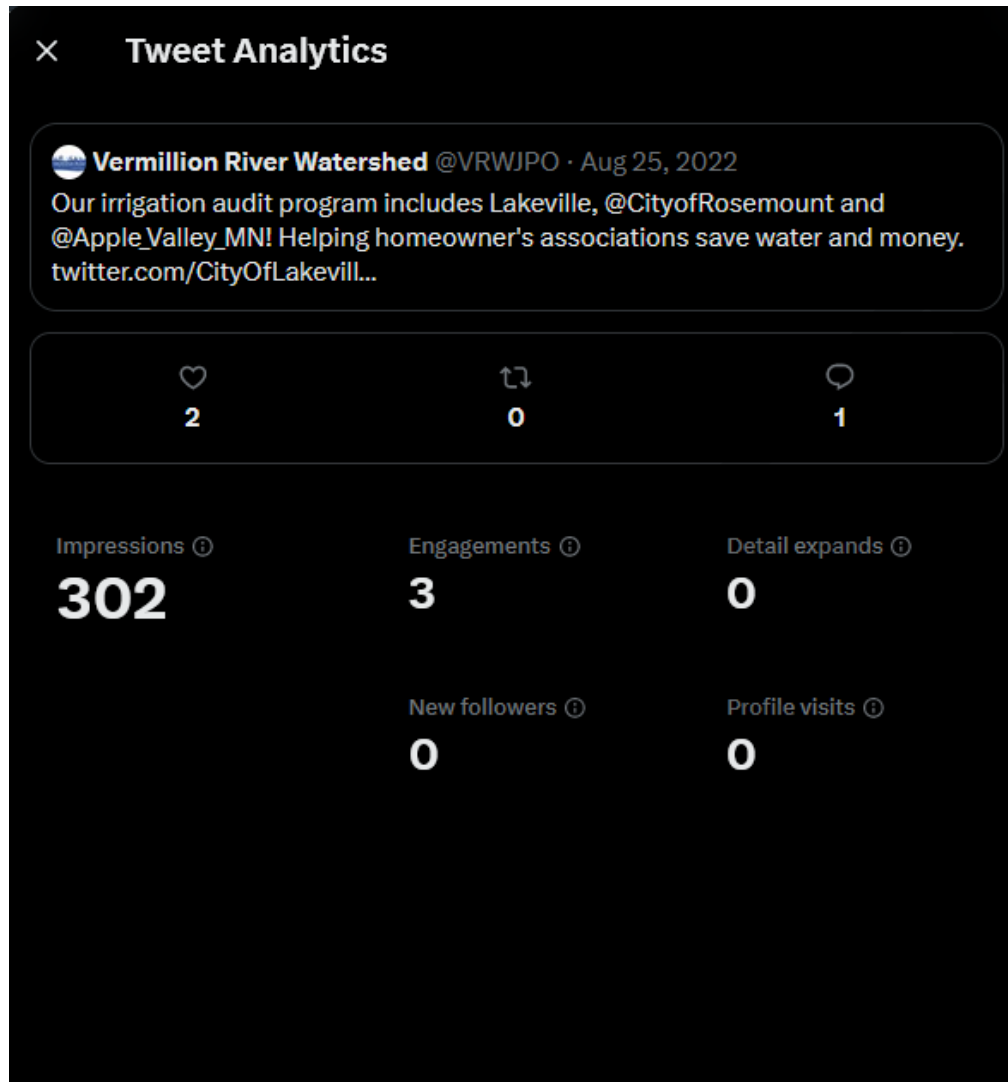
This post received more link clicks than 92% of your 50 most recent Facebook posts and stories.

Link clicks1

Top Instagram post:



Top Tweet:

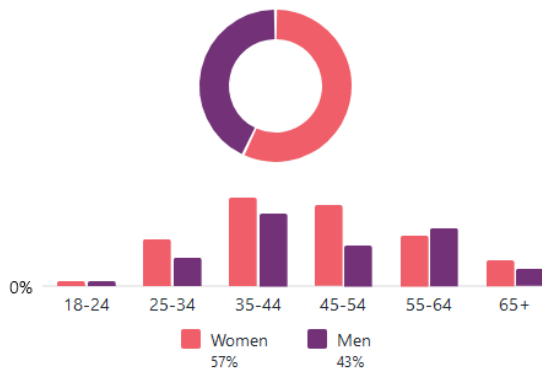


Social media account audiences (as of April 2023):

Facebook Page followers ⓘ

358

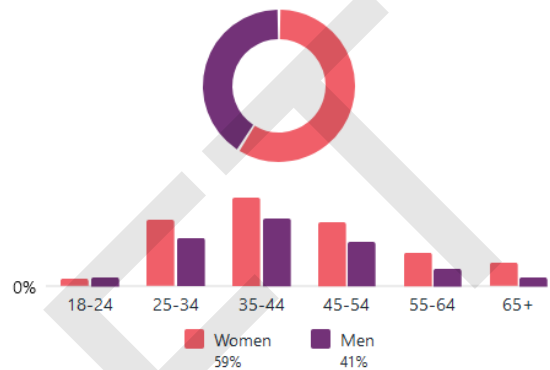
Age & gender ⓘ



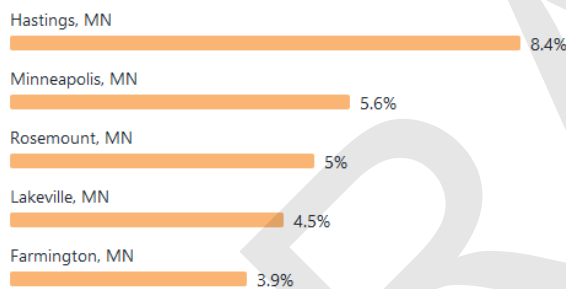
Instagram followers ⓘ

464

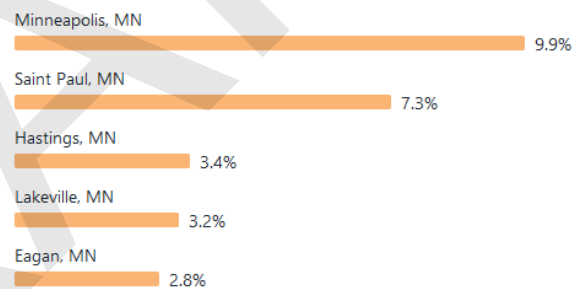
Age & gender ⓘ



Top cities



Top cities



Twitter does not have the analytical breakdown of follower demographics that Facebook and Instagram do. The account currently has 257 followers. From the data we do have, we can see that VRWJPO gained 33 new followers in 2022.

Publications

The VRWJPO provided an electronic newsletter to interested residents in the watershed twice (Spring and Fall 2022 issues can be found at <https://www.vermillionriverwatershed.org/news-events/newsletter/>) as required by Minn. Rules Part 8410.0100, Subpart 4. Beginning in 2023, the newsletter will be sent quarterly in an effort to shorten the email.

Additionally, VRWJPO publishes fact sheets on its capital improvement projects (<https://www.vermillionriverwatershed.org/watershed-management/capital-improvement-projects/>) as required by the Clean Water Fund.

2022 Financial Statement

Final Treasurer's Report for year ending December 31, 2022

| Expenses | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Category | Budget Amounts | Expenses to Date | Account Balance |
| Administration & Operations | \$240,500 | \$162,822.85 | \$77,677.15 |
| Research & Planning | \$18,600 | \$21,294.88 | (\$2,694.88) |
| Monitoring & Assessment | \$157,400 | \$91,208.42 | \$66,191.58 |
| Public Communications & Outreach | \$166,150 | \$161,316.31 | \$4,833.69 |
| Irrigation & Audit | \$20,000 | \$40,302.36 | (\$20,302.36) |
| Regulation | \$55,900 | \$31,237.85 | \$24,662.15 |
| Coordination & Collaboration | \$42,600 | \$18,839.08 | \$23,760.92 |
| Feasibility/Preliminary Studies | \$220,000 | \$98,556.59 | \$121,443.41 |
| Capital Improvement Projects | \$491,850 | \$128,390.12 | \$363,459.88 |
| FY2019 – Watershed Funding Grants | \$17,700 | \$7,508.10 | \$10,191.90 |
| CWF Grant – Middle Creek Restoration | | \$81.06 | (\$81.06) |

| Expenses | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Category | Budget Amounts | Expenses to Date | Account Balance |
| WBIF Grant 2020-2023 North Creek Stabilization | \$387,500 | | \$387,500 |
| WBIF Grant 2020-2023 Farmington Direct Drainage | \$30,030 | | \$30,030 |
| WBIF Grant 2020-2023 Hastings Direct Drainage | \$30,030 | | \$30,030 |
| WBIF Grant 2020-2023 Ravenna Basins Restoration | \$85,000 | \$64,005.30 | \$20,994.70 |
| CWF Grant Foxborough TSS | \$203,250 | \$284.61 | \$202,965.39 |
| CWF Grant Ravenna Trail | \$297,500 | \$121.82 | \$297,378.18 |
| Wetland Bank | \$117,216 | \$500 | \$116,716 |
| VRWJPO Revised Budget Expense TOTAL | \$2,581,226 | \$826,469.35 | \$1,754,756.65 |

| Budget Funding Sources | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Scott County Levy | \$32,500 |
| Dakota County Levy | \$967,500 |

| Budget Funding Sources | |
|--|--------------------|
| Expected 2019 Carryover (Fund Balance) | \$686,000 |
| Special Use Permit | \$1,000 |
| CWF Grant (BWSR) | \$420,750 |
| 2020-2023 CWF Grant WBIF (BWSR) | \$243,600 |
| CIP Reserve | \$246,000 |
| CIP Reserve Grant Match | \$84,000 |
| Investment earnings | \$12,000 |
| Total Revenues | \$2,693,350 |

2023 Work Plan and Activities

| Watershed Plan Category | Budget Items | Budget Amount |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------|
| Administration and Operations | Dakota County VRW staff | \$180,500 |
| | Scott County VRW staff | \$15,000 |
| | Other Dakota County staff time | \$12,000 |
| | Legal support | \$25,000 |
| | Miscellaneous Expenses (per diems, mileage, postage, etc.) | \$6,000 |
| | Training, conferences, and certifications | \$2,000 |
| | Subtotal Administration | \$240,500 |

| Watershed Plan Category | Budget Items | Budget Amount |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Research and Planning | Dakota County SWCD Incentive Program Policy Assistance | \$1,600 |
| | Scott County Staff | \$5,000 |
| | VRW staff | \$35,000 |
| | Subtotal Research and Planning | \$41,600 |
| Monitoring and Assessment | Vermillion River Monitoring Network in Dakota County | |
| | A. Staff time for sample collection, equipment installation, maintenance | \$39,000 |
| | B. Data analysis, database management, data reporting, FLUX modeling | \$17,000 |
| | C. Water Quality Sample Analysis and QA/QC samples | \$19,000 |
| | D. Equipment and Supplies | \$8,000 |
| | Vermillion River Monitoring Network in Scott County | \$9,300 |
| | USGS cost-share for Blaine Ave. Station | \$8,900 |
| | DNR flow-gaging assistance | \$9,700 |
| | Biological and Habitat Assessments | \$7,000 |
| | Electrofishing | \$16,000 |

| Watershed Plan Category | Budget Items | Budget Amount |
|---|--|------------------|
| | Monitoring programs review and evaluation | \$15,000 |
| | General GIS support (Dakota SWCD) | \$5,000 |
| | Nitrate treatment practices sampling | \$1,000 |
| | Iron enhanced sand filter performance sampling | \$2,000 |
| | Subtotal Monitoring and Assessment | \$156,900 |
| Public Communications and Outreach | Communication and Outreach staff | \$100,000 |
| | Vermillion River Watch program | \$6,000 |
| | Scott County outreach efforts | \$2,000 |
| | Vermillion River Watershed projects signage and map updates | \$5,000 |
| | Newsletter, mailings, website, general communication materials | \$10,000 |
| | Landscaping for Clean Water Workshop (Dakota SWCD) | \$30,400 |
| | K-12 classroom presentations (Dakota SWCD) | \$4,000 |
| | Watershed Tours | \$2,000 |
| | Local standards/ordinance and turf/salt workshops | \$3,500 |
| | Subtotal Public Communications and Outreach | \$167,900 |

| Watershed Plan Category | Budget Items | Budget Amount |
|---|--|------------------|
| Regulation | Scott SWCD assistance with plan review | \$900 |
| | Engineering assistance and review | \$35,000 |
| | VRW staff local program assistance | \$20,000 |
| | Subtotal Regulation | \$55,900 |
| Coordination and Collaboration | Coordination VRW staff | \$40,000 |
| | Metro Children's Water Festival support | \$600 |
| | Metro Watershed Partners membership (incl. Adopt-a-Drain) | \$5,000 |
| | Minnesota Water Stewards | \$5,000 |
| | Subtotal Coordination and Collaboration | \$50,600 |
| Land & Water Treatment: Capital Improvement Projects | Cost-share programs in Dakota County (SWCD) | \$80,000 |
| | Cost-share programs in Scott County (SWCD) | \$30,750 |
| | WBIF Match | \$15,170 |
| | Cost-share | \$250,000 |
| | Subtotal Capital Improvement Projects | \$375,920 |
| Land & Water Treatment: Maintenance | Past projects maintenance/repair | \$70,000 |
| | CIP construction oversight, maintenance/repair staff costs | \$35,000 |

| Watershed Plan Category | Budget Items | Budget Amount |
|--|---|------------------|
| | Subtotal Maintenance | \$105,000 |
| Land & Water Treatment: Feasibility/Preliminary Studies | Preliminary design, technical assistance, and marketing for capital improvements (Dakota County SWCD) | \$40,000 |
| | Improvements | \$180,000 |
| | Subtotal Feasibility/Preliminary Studies | \$220,000 |
| Land & Water Treatment: Irrigation Audit and Cost Share Program | Irrigation audits | \$10,000 |
| | Irrigation cost-share | \$10,000 |
| | Subtotal Irrigation Audit and Cost-Share | \$20,000 |
| Land & Water Treatment: 2020-2023 Watershed-Based Implementation Fund (WBIF) Grant (BWSR) North Creek | North Creek stabilization | \$337,500 |
| | VRWJPO cash match | \$50,000 |
| | Subtotal 2020-2023 WBIF Grant North Creek Stabilization | \$387,500 |
| Land & Water Treatment: 2020-2023 WBIF Grant Farmington | Farmington Direct Drainage Assessment | \$26,700 |
| | VRWJPO cash match | \$3,330 |
| | Subtotal 2020-2023 WBIF Grant Farmington | \$30,030 |
| Land & Water Treatment: 2020-2023 WBIF Grant Hastings Direct | Hastings Direct Drainage Assessment | \$26,700 |
| | VRWJPO cash match | \$3,330 |
| | Subtotal 2020-2023 WBIF Grant Hastings Direct | \$30,030 |

| Watershed Plan Category | Budget Items | Budget Amount |
|---|---|------------------|
| Land & Water Treatment: 2022-2025 CPL Grant East Lake Habitat | East Lake Habitat Improvement | \$90,000 |
| | VRWJPO in-kind match | \$3,000 |
| | Subtotal 2022-2025 CPL Grant East Lake Habitat | \$93,000 |
| Land & Water Treatment: 2022 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant | Foxborough Park TSS project | \$346,500 |
| | VRWJPO Cash Match | \$30,000 |
| | Subtotal Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant | \$376,500 |
| Land & Water Treatment: 2022 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Ravenna | Ravenna Trail Ravine Stabilization | \$495,000 |
| | VRWJPO Cash Match | \$50,000 |
| | Subtotal CWF Competitive Grant Ravenna | \$545,000 |
| Land & Water Treatment: 2022-2023 WBIF Grant Middle Creek | Middle Creek at Dodd Blvd Stream Restoration | \$360,000 |
| | VRWJPO in-kind | \$3,000 |
| | Subtotal WBIF Grant Middle Creek | \$363,000 |
| Land & Water Treatment: 2022-2025 WBIF Grant Alimagnet | Alimagnet Lake Alum Treatment Feasibility Study | \$36,000 |
| | VRWJPO Cash Match | \$9,000 |
| | Subtotal 2022-2025 WBIF Grant Alimagnet | \$45,000 |
| | East Lake Fish Barrier & Rough Fish Removal | \$300,000 |

| Watershed Plan Category | Budget Items | Budget Amount |
|--|---|--------------------|
| Land & Water Treatment: 2023 CWF Competitive Grant East Lake | VRWJPO Cash Match | \$37,500 |
| | Subtotal CWF Competitive Grant East Lake | \$337,500 |
| Land & Water Treatment: CWF WBIF Grant | WBIF Grant Admin | \$12,000 |
| | Subtotal WBIF Grant Admin | \$12,000 |
| Land & Water Treatment: Wetland Bank | Wetland Bank Restoration Funds Reserve | \$189,800 |
| | Subtotal Wetland Bank Restoration Funds | \$189,800 |
| | Subtotal of Expenditures | \$3,750,680 |
| | Cash Reserve | \$216,070 |
| | TOTAL Annual Expenses | \$3,966,750 |

Appendix A: 2022 Resolutions of the Joint Powers Board

January 27, 2022

Resolution Number VRW 22-00: Election of Officers

VRW 22-01: Approval of Consent Agenda

VRW 22-02: Approval of Expenses

February 24, 2022

VRW 22-03: Approval of Consent Agenda

VRW 22-04: Approval of Expenses

April 28, 2022

VRW 22-05: Approval of Consent Agenda

VRW 22-06: Approval of Expenses

VRW 22-07: Approval of proposed amendments to the VRWJPO 2022 Budget

VRW 22-08: Authorization to submit 2021 VRWJPO Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement to BWSR

VRW 22-09: Delegation of a Limited Authority for Contracts and Purchase Agreements to the VRWJPO Administrator and Co-administrator

June 23, 2022

VRW 22-10: Approval of Consent Agenda

VRW 22-11: Approval of Expenses

VRW 22-12: Approval to Award Contract to Minnesota Dirt Works for Almquist Sediment Basin

July 28, 2022

VRW 22-13: Approval of Consent Agenda

VRW 22-14: Approval of Expenses

VRW 22-15: Authorization to Release VRWJPO Watershed Management Plan Amendment to Plan Review Authorities for 30-day review and comment period

August 25, 2022

VRW 22-16: Approval of Consent Agenda

VRW 22-17: Approval of Expenses

VRW 22-18: Close of public hearing on draft VRWJPO 2023 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy

VRW 22-19: Adoption of draft VRWJPO 2023 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy

September 22, 2022

VRW 22-20: Approval of Consent Agenda

VRW 22-21: Approval of Expenses

VRW 22-22: Close of public hearing to receive comments on Amendment to the Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan Implementation Section

VRW 22-23: Adoption of the Amendment to the Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan Implementation Section

VRW 22-24: Candidate consideration and appointment to the WPC

October 27, 2022

VRW 22-: Approval of Consent Agenda

December 1, 2022

VRW 22-25: Approval of Consent Agenda

VRW 22-26: Approval of Expenses

VRW 22-27: Adoption of VRWJPO 2023 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy

6c. Authorization to Amend the Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Rosemount for Irrigation System Audits and Improvements

Meeting Date: 4/27/2023
Item Type: Regular-Action
Contact: Travis Thiel
Telephone: 952-891-7546
Prepared by: Travis Thiel

**PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED**

- Authorization to amend the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the City of Rosemount (City) for irrigation system audits and improvements

SUMMARY

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) staff request the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) amend the JPA with the City for irrigation system audits and improvements. The VRWJPO entered into a JPA with the City for irrigation system audits and improvements at homeowner associations (HOAs) in 2022. It's been determined that it would be more efficient to have the City coordinate and oversee the irrigation system improvements while the VRWJPO coordinates and oversees the irrigation system audits.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT

It is expected there will be a decrease in VRWJPO staff hours for the program.

Supporting Documents:

Attachment A: JPA Amendment with Rosemount for Irrigation System
Audits and Improvements

Previous Board Action(s):

VRW 22-13

RESOLUTION

**6c. Authorization to Amend the Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Rosemount for Irrigation System
Audits and Improvements**

WHEREAS, in 2022, the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) entered into a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the City of Rosemount (City) for cooperation on an irrigation system audit and improvement program; and

WHEREAS, VRWJPO staff was the primary coordinator for the program elements; and

WHEREAS, it's been determined that it would be more efficient to have the City coordinate and oversee the improvement portion of the program; and

WHEREAS, the VRWJPO would continue to coordinate and oversee irrigation system audits; and

WHEREAS, the change in program responsibilities requires an amendment to the JPA in order to identify each party's responsibilities and address the flow of financial assistance for each portion of the overall program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) authorizes the execution of an amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Rosemount for irrigation system audits and improvements.



Minutes

Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission Meeting

April 12, 2023 – 4:30 p.m.

In-person and Microsoft Teams Videoconference

WPC Members in Attendance

James Kotz Sandra Weber
Josh Borton Andy Riesgraf
Brad Blackett Steve Hamrick
Linda Larson

Staff in Attendance

Brita Moore-Kutz, VRWJPO
Travis Thiel, VRWJPO
Mark Zabel, VRWJPO

Others in Attendance

Anne Sawyer, BWSR

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

All members present except Sandra Weber who joined a few minutes late (4:33) after attending a separate meeting.

3. Audience Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

Anne Sawyer introduced herself as the new Board Conservationist for the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). Anne described the area assigned to her and the responsibilities her position fulfills for the BWSR. Anne provided some personal background. She is from this area and previously served with University of Minnesota Extension out of the Farmington office and so is familiar with Farmington and its surrounds. Her background and interest has been in outreach, engagement, and communications and conservation. She is here to learn and support the efforts of the VRWJPO in implementing conservation projects and the Watershed Plan.

4. Approval of Agenda

Chair Kotz asked for approval of the agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Larson, second by Commissioner Borton, to approve the agenda as distributed. The agenda was approved by a 6-0 vote.

5. Approval of Minutes from the January 11, 2023 Meeting

Chair Kotz requested any adjustments to the minutes as presented.

Motion by Commissioner Borton, second by Commissioner Riesgraf, to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2023 meeting, as presented. The minutes were approved by a 5-0 vote. Commissioners Blackett and Larson abstained due to not having been present at the meeting.

6. Business Items

a. Recommend Approval of Proposed Amendments to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) 2023 Budget

Mark Zabel described the layout of the budget spreadsheet and that changes compared to the Final 2023 budget were shown in the first column in red. The changes shown in red reflect a change of either an increase or a decrease. Mark went through each changed item and described the reason for the change. Overall proposed expenses went up from \$2,993,980 in the Final Budget to \$3,750,680 in the proposed amended budget and revenues from \$3,421,830 to \$3,966,750 with a cash reserve change from \$427,850 to \$216,070. Commissioner Kotz asked about the allocation for watershed tours as the line indicates plural. Zabel indicated that the allocation would allow for the potential for more than one tour as there has been interest in small group tours. Zabel also informed members of the development of planning for a joint VRWJPO tour with the BWSR as the BWSR has indicated an interest in coordinating the BWSR Board Annual Tour with the VRWJPO this year. That tour would be August 23rd. Commissioner Larson asked who might be invited onto the VRWJPO tour. Zabel listed the groups that have been invited on past tours. Commissioner Weber asked about the Alum Feasibility Study for Alimagnet Lake and when the alum treatment occurs as the grant term is 2022-2025. Zabel responded that this project is just the feasibility study where the study looks at the conditions in the lake and what would be appropriate for an alum treatment. The treatment itself would not be done until after the feasibility work is complete. Commissioner Weber then asked how long a treatment is expected to last. Travis Thiel responded that there are no guarantees but grant funding provides an expectation that it would last ten years. Commissioner Larson asked about treatment of Long Lake. Travis described the placement of a drawdown pipe that allows repeated drawdown to treat infestation of curly-leaf pondweed and rough fish that was implemented several years ago and has been used several times.

Motion by Commissioner Larson, second by Commissioner Borton, to recommend the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board approve the amendments to bring the budgeted total expenses in 2023 to \$3,750,680 and total revenue to \$3,966,750 with a cash reserve of \$216,070. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

b. Recommend Authorization to Submit 2022 VRWJPO Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Brita Moore-Kutz provided the Draft 2022 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Annual Activity Report as a handout for each of the Watershed Planning

Commission Members. Brita briefly summarized the content of the Draft Report, the requirements and purpose of the report, and the timeline for its submittal. Brita requested the Watershed Planning Commission recommendation to the Joint Powers Board for submittal of the 2022 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Annual Activity Report to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.

Motion by Commissioner Borton, second by Commissioner Weber, to recommend the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board authorize staff to submit the 2022 Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources on or before April 30, 2023.

7. Updates

a. Chairperson's Report

Chair Kotz asked if there were any further developments or consideration of issues regarding Watershed Planning Commission member changes to terms of service since the last meeting. Zabel responded that there is a new member applicant for the open seat for a Dakota County resident that will bring membership for Dakota County WPC members to full complement. There is still an open seat for a member from Scott County. There has been no other developments or considerations on WPC membership other than that. Zabel confirmed that he would bring the issue of term limits as previously discussed to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board as a staff update.

b. Staff Updates

Brita Moore-Kutz

Brita mentioned that the VRWJPO has begun the process for the next update of the Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan. Currently a notice requesting input to the Plan has been sent to review agencies and stakeholders. Brita has also set up a place on our website where people can submit comments. Brita highlighted the recent newsletter that was posted. Brita has changed the newsletter format and its email delivery process. Brita is also planning to increase the frequency for newsletter releases to at least quarterly with intermittent additional postings such as a current posting associated with Earth Month, which included events of interest occurring around Earth Day. Brita reported that she will be tabling at the Lakeville Earth Day event and will be promoting the Adopt-a-Drain program and will have some macroinvertebrate samples for people to view. Brita highlighted the Wetland Health Evaluation Program, a volunteer program for participation around wetland sampling in coordination with local cities. Brita mentioned that the VRWJPO is currently having six interpretive signs fabricated and plan to have them installed at completed project sites sometime late Spring or early Summer. Brita also mentioned that the We Are Water exhibit was nominated as a candidate for the Dakota County "Heroes" award. The project was recognized among the finalists for the award.

Travis Thiel

Travis updated on three projects:

There is a project proposed to create a basin in the Foxborough Park area in Lakeville to treat sediment (total suspended solids) before it reaches North Creek. Most of the funding for this project was obtained through a successful grant application to the BWSR Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant process. The project was bid late this past Winter and bids came in below the engineer's estimate. The City of Lakeville is managing the project and they are allowing the contractor to select when they start the project within the growing season but have limited the project to a 60-day window to completion once they have started. VRWJPO staff will be involved in on-site oversight and review of construction.

The North Creek stabilization project is occurring in this same area and upstream to around Highview Avenue. This project involves placement of sixteen check dams in the stream channel to address the incised stream that was created as the stream head cut its way upstream. The check dams are placed to build a new stream gradient and reduce the incised condition of the stream at this location. It will also reduce delivery of sediment to the area downstream by stabilizing the upstream area and stopping the head cut. The project is substantially done, there is a little bit of touch up work left to be done once road weight restrictions are lifted this Spring and the contractor can get back on site.

The VRWJPO received some grant funding for the Alimagnet Lake Alum Treatment Feasibility Study. A feasibility study is required to be completed if we want to apply to BWSR for a Clean Water Fund Grant to do an in-lake alum treatment. The feasibility study will sample lake sediments and evaluate lake water quality to determine a recipe for dosing for the water in the lake. This includes all the logistical elements of accessing the lake with equipment and chemicals and determining the best methods and timing of application as well as whether done as a single or multiple applications. We expect the feasibility study will be completed this Summer with the expectation to be ready to apply for CWF Competitive Grant funding in August when BWSR is expected to open the 2024 funding application round. Commissioner Blackett asked if there is city participation involved in this project. Travis responded that there is a \$9,000 cash match for the grant for the feasibility study that is provided through the VRWJPO. It is anticipated that there will be city participation in the application for the CWF Competitive Grant that would provide match funds if successful. It is anticipated that an alum treatment could range in cost at \$200,00 to \$400,000. Commissioner Larson asked if this is looking at treating the entire lake or a portion of the lake. Travis responded that it is possible that within the feasibility study there could be consideration for what is most effective and that could mean multiple treatments or different approaches for different portions (basin) of the lake. Usually, alum treatments involve the entirety of the lake, but dosing could vary. Commissioner Blackett noted that the western arm seems to have more problems than the eastern arm. Travis mentioned that the consultant will sample sediment and water quality in these areas to determine what is needed for the best approach. Commissioner Hamrick asked how Alimagnet Lake is connected to the watershed/ river. Travis responded that Alimagnet Lake has a pumped outlet that connects to the Vermillion River through the storm sewer system and ponds, eventually entering East Lake and ultimately North Creek.

Travis mentioned the City of Rosemount has been in conversation with VRWJPO staff about designs for the new City Public Works and Police Campus proposed for a site to the northeast of the existing City Hall. Discussions have centered on possible water reuse, as well as infiltration practices. The infiltration practices proposed exceed what would be required to meet

standards. Because they are proposing practices above and beyond requirements, we are considering cost-share to support those practices.

Mark Zabel

Mark updated the WPC on the status of the Elko-New Market development associated with the Niagara Bottling proposal. Mark mentioned that the Elko-New Market City Council has tabled action on the Niagara Bottling project awaiting a decision by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources on the City's request to amend the water appropriations permit. Mark summarized the amendment to the water appropriations permit, as well as the Niagara Bottling project noting that the current City appropriations amendment would include servicing phase 1 of the Niagara Bottling project. Mark also provided some other recent appropriations request to give context to the information. Mark also shared that the area around the Vermillion River could be included in future studies for groundwater management, possibly after the Dakota County Geologic Atlas update is completed. Groundwater sustainability is critical for the Vermillion River as it depends on groundwater inputs to maintain its flow and cool temperatures. Mark also noted the open Water Resource Engineer position with the VRWJPO. Mark Ryan has taken a promotion to the Senior Water Resources Engineer position with Dakota County. His position is currently involved with completing the upgrade to the Byllesby Dam. The Byllesby Dam was constructed in 1911 and has been undergoing an upgrade for several years. New turbines are being installed this week and are expected to be connected to flow later this coming Summer and potentially producing power to the grid this Fall. We are looking for a good candidate to fill the vacant position and if you know of someone who might be interested would encourage them to apply.

8. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Riesgraf, second by Commissioner Borton, to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 p.m. The motion passed on a 7-0 vote.