



Agenda

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board Meeting

July 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
<i>(please limit audience comments to five minutes)</i> | | |
| 4. Consent Agenda | Action | |
| a. Approval of Agenda | | Page 1 |
| b. Approval of Minutes from the June 22, 2023, Meeting | | Page 3 |
| c. Acceptance of Treasurer’s Reports | | Page 10 |
| d. Schedule a Public Hearing to Receive Comments on the Draft
Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization 2024
Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy | | Page 11 |
| 5. Approval of Expenses | Action | Page 14 |
| 6. Business Items | | |
| a. Authorization to execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City
of Rosemount for the Public Works and Police Campus
Infiltration Basins | Action | Page 15 |
| b. Recommend approval of the Service Agreement for the
Administrator of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers
Organization | Action | Page 22 |
| c. Update on 2023 Summer Tour with the Board of Water and Soil
Resources and Partners in the Vermillion River Watershed and
Scheduling of Special Meeting of the Vermillion River Watershed
Joint Powers Board | Action | Page 28 |
| d. Update on the Status and Next Steps for Developing the 2026-
2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan | Information | Page 30 |
| e. Presentation and Discussion on Proposed VRWJPO 2024 Draft
Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy | Information | Page 63 |
| 7. Staff Reports | | |
| 8. Adjourn | Action | |

Please note, the July 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: **August 24, 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 (JPB) Meeting

June 22, 2023, 1 p.m., in-person and virtual via Microsoft Teams

Board Members in Attendance

Dakota County Commissioner Mike Slavik
Dakota County Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland
Scott County Commissioner Tom Wolf

Others in Attendance

Nikki Stewart, Dakota County, Environmental Resources Department Director
Jennifer Wolf, Assistant Dakota County Attorney, Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) Counsel
Travis Thiel, Dakota County, VRWJPO Senior Watershed Specialist
Brita Moore-Kutz, Dakota County, VRWJPO Communications and Outreach Specialist
Mark Zabel, Dakota County, VRWJPO Administrator
Brian Watson, Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD)
Paula Liepold, Dakota County, Water Resources Educator (Virtual)
Melissa Bokman-Ermer, Scott County, VRWJPO Co-Administrator (Virtual)
Valerie Neppl, Dakota County, Groundwater Protection Unit Supervisor (Virtual)
Georg Fischer, Dakota County, Physical Development Division Director (Virtual)
Nigel Pickering (Virtual)

Agenda

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1 p.m.



2. Roll Call

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

3. Audience Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

No comments.

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Agenda (including addition of Business Item 6e)
- b. Approval of Minutes from the April 27, 2023 Meeting and June 8, 2023 Special Meeting
- c. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report

Res. No. VRW 23-14: Motion by Commissioner Hamann-Roland, second by Commissioner Wolf to approve the consent agenda as amended. Motion carried on a 3-0 vote.

5. Approval of Expenses

Mark Zabel presented expenses between April 14 and May 16, 2023, for approval as shown on item 5a.

Mark Zabel also presented expenses between May 17 and June 12, 2023, for approval as shown on item 5b.

Res. No. VRW 23-15: Motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Hamann-Roland to approve both sets of expenses. Motion carried on a 3-0 vote to approve expenses of \$41,968.78 from April 14-May 16 and \$47,554.26 from May 17-June 12.

6. A. Watershed Planning Commission Candidate Consideration and Appointment

Mark Zabel presented the application of Kevin Chamberlain, a farmer from Nininger Township, to join the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission. Kevin is a past member of the Watershed Planning Commission (WPC) and currently serves as a Supervisor for the Dakota County SWCD. Mark highlighted his expertise in agriculture and conservation. Approving his appointment would fill all spots on the WPC for Dakota County, with the Scott County position still open.



Res. No. VRW 23-16: Motion by Commissioner Hamann-Roland, second by Commissioner Wolf to approve. Motion carried on a 3-0 vote.

B. Report on Measurable Outcomes as Identified in the 2016-25 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan

Brita Moore-Kutz presented the Executive Summary of the Measurable Outcomes report, which is considered the “So What” of the Watershed Plan. The report includes changes based on the WPC’s feedback about wanting the report to be easier to read, such as providing more graphs. She also highlighted lake monitoring data for phosphorus and Secchi transparency since 2016. Lakes are improving when phosphorus levels decrease and transparency increases. Lastly, the report includes data on total phosphorus and total suspended solids reductions from VRWJPO capital improvement projects and cost-shares. The full report contains more statistics from Plan goals, including erosion prevention, nitrate reduction, wetland restorations, and communications.

Commissioner Hamann-Roland asked who the audience is for this report. Brita responded that it’s mostly for internal audiences, such as the VRWJPB, WPC, and city partners. Hamann-Roland said she appreciated the report and seeing how things have changed over time. Mark Zabel mentioned that in the process of developing this Plan, there was a specific section calling for measurable outcomes.

Commissioner Slavik said that there was good data in the report that should be highlighted on social media to show where people’s tax dollars are going and making a difference. Brita agreed and pointed out that the incoming interpretive signs will highlight positive differences from the projects. Commissioner Hamann-Roland added that the stories of what we do can be inspirational to others looking to do more to help.

Information item only.

C. Review of the position, hiring, and service agreement for the Administrator of the VRWJPO

Nikki Stewart introduced herself and shared the draft job description drafted for hiring the next Watershed Administrator. She invited the Board to contribute interview questions and will invite the WPC to participate in the interview panel. The candidate will get the chance to meet with the Board in their new employee orientation.



Commissioner Slavik said that he wanted to see specific language in the position description about connections with cities and townships, since VRWJPO has developed that practice over the years through staff. Nikki agreed to include in the job description.

Jennifer Wolf introduced the draft service agreement for the VRWJPO and JPB as requested from the JPB's June 8 special meeting. The agreement will be on the July JPB agenda for official approval. Jennifer used a standard service agreement template. The agreement is set to run through 2025, at which time the JPB can re-evaluate. The agreement presented covers Dakota County and can be replicated for Scott County. The Scott County co-administrator does not have the Board-related functions the Administrator does.

Commissioner Slavik had a question about compensation (Article IV of the agreement). Mark Zabel replied that this is determined through the annual VRWJPO budgeting process, which the JPB actively participates in. Slavik asked if the agreement could make that clearer. Jennifer agreed to this change.

Information only.

D. Correction to the revised 2023 budget of the VRWJPO

Mark Zabel requested a correction to the budget. One of the columns did not capture the amount of the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant for the habitat improvement at East Lake. The correction increases the expenses and decreases the cash reserve. The expenses increase to \$3,843,680, and the cash reserve goes down to \$12,370.

Res. No. VRW 23-17: Commissioner Hamann-Roland moved to adopt the corrected budget, seconded by Commissioner Wolf. Motion carried on a 3-0 vote.

E. Resolution of recognition and gratitude for Mark Zabel

This resolution was added to the agenda from Commissioner Slavik and written by Nikki Stewart. Slavik read the resolution aloud, followed by each commissioner offering their appreciation and well-wishes for Mark Zabel, including how the Vermillion River's condition has improved during his time working with the VRWJPO. Mark will remain as a Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Board member and active in the outdoors. Commissioner Slavik presented Mark with a picture of the Vermillion Falls as a token of gratitude.



Mark said that he sees his role as a facilitator of partnerships.

Res. No. VRW 23-18: Commissioner Hamann-Roland moved the resolution, Commissioner Wolf seconded. Motion carried on a 3-0 vote.

7. Staff Reports

Brian Watson

Brian said that due to the dry weather, the Vermillion River Monitoring Network hasn't been able to do as much river monitoring as they could. The monitoring reports include water quality levels from base, immediately after rainfall, and at snowmelt. This does have an impact on the SWCD budget. Farmers are often using irrigation to keep their crops going. Brian also learned that BWSR is coming out with an RFP for wetland banking. SWCD projects are proceeding steadily, but again with the drought, it's quieter than past years.

Brian thanked Mark Zabel for his years of service as a conservationist and invited him to the next SWCD board meeting.

Travis Thiel

Travis followed up on Brian's comment about the drought with a reading from the USGS stream gage of 26-27 cubic feet/second. The last time the Vermillion Falls stopped, it was at about 11-12 cubic feet/second. This low level could occur again this year and concerning especially for crop farmers who aren't irrigating.

Travis mentioned that the Middle Creek at Dodd channel restoration project went out for bid. The engineer's estimated was \$273,000 and the lowest bid was \$183,000. The City of Lakeville hasn't awarded the bid yet but the lower cost from the bid was a positive sign.

Brita Moore-Kutz

Brita has been working on the Measurable Outcomes report and tabled at Dakota County's Take a Kid Fishing Day on June 11. She met people from all around the county interested in fish and wildlife in the Vermillion River, as well as introducing children to water pollution concepts and how they can help.



About 750 people attended. She'll be at the Hastings Party in the Park event on July 11, then the Dakota County Fair in August.

Brita expressed her gratitude to Mark for welcoming her to the team and demonstrating science-based leadership, while keeping a level head.

Commissioner Hamann-Roland mentioned to Brita an event in Apple Valley celebrating Monarch Week. Brita said she'd consider participating in the future.

Paula Liepold

Paula reminded commissioners that the BWSR/JPB tour is Wednesday, August 23. We have ironed out most logistics and will present a mix of urban-rural projects. Paula also thanked Mark for his leadership style.

Melissa Bokman-Ermer

Melissa reported that the Elko New Market City Council had approved all aspects of the Niagara bottling plant project. The DNR is requiring pump tests to determine any impacts to local aquifers. The City is working on that pumping plan. The project is now contingent on DNR's approval of their water appropriations permit increase request. There is no clear timeline on when DNR will make their decision.

Melissa expressed her appreciation for Mark's mentorship since she became co-administrator in 2009.

Valerie Neppi

Valerie shared that Dakota County is officially listed as being in a "Moderate Drought" condition. The Groundwater Unit is partnering with the SWCD on an irrigation nitrate testing program, which could help SWCD educate farmers on practices to reduce nitrates.

Mark Zabel

Mark said he was working on lining things up for his departure on July 14. He had interviewed a candidate for Water Resources Engineer at the VRWJPO so may have a final selection.



Nikki Stewart

Nikki appreciated Mark continuing to care for his staff even after his departure.

8. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Wolf, Second by Commissioner Hamann-Roland and passed on a 3-0 vote to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, July 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

Brita Moore-Kutz

Communications & Outreach Specialist for the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

Attest

Commissioner

Secretary/ Treasurer

Date



2023 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Treasurer's Report

July 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 (601-5010001-0000000)	\$ 240,500.00	\$ 70,561.30	\$ 17,884.15	\$ 152,054.55
B. Research & Planning (601-5010001-50100130)	\$ 41,600.00	\$ 2,650.53	\$ 1,424.25	\$ 37,525.22
C. Monitoring & Assessment (601-5010001-50100230)	\$ 156,900.00	\$ 36,434.00	\$ 23,329.16	\$ 97,136.84
D. Public Communications & Outreach (601-5010001-50100330)	\$ 167,900.00	\$ 62,824.24	\$ 41,118.86	\$ 63,956.90
E. Irrigation and Irrigation Audit (601-5010001-50100431)	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00
F. Regulation (601-5010001-50100530)	\$ 55,900.00	\$ 5,079.11	\$ 1,218.88	\$ 49,602.01
G. Coordination & Collaboration (601-5010001-50100531)	\$ 50,600.00	\$ 9,458.32	\$ 1,208.68	\$ 39,933.00
H. Feasibility/Preliminary Studies (601-5010001-50100631)	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 25,497.35	\$ 11,957.17	\$ 182,545.48
I. Capital Improvement Projects (601-5020001-50200130)	\$ 480,920.00	\$ 60,337.15	\$ 8,351.35	\$ 412,231.50
J. CWF BWSR- Watershed Grant (601-5010001-50100848)	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 6,008.64	\$ 398.18	\$ 5,593.18
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)	\$ 30,030.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,030.00
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	\$ 3,368.70	\$ (3,450.21)
O. Lakeville East Lake Restoration (601-5010001-50100858)	\$ 93,000.00	\$ 39,866.04	\$ 39.82	\$ 53,094.14
P. CWF Comp Grant (BWSR) Foxborough TSS (601-5010001-50100859)	\$ 376,500.00	\$ 815.16	\$ -	\$ 375,684.84
Q. CWF Comp Grant (BWSR) Ravenna Trail (601-5010001-50100860)	\$ 545,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 545,000.00
R. 2022-2023 WBIF Grant (BWSR) Middle Creek (601-5010001-50100861)	\$ 363,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 363,000.00
S. 2022-2025 WBIF Grant (BWSR) Alimagnet Alum (601-5010001-50100863)	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 1,945.00	\$ 8,549.78	\$ 34,505.22
T. 2023 CWF Competitive Grant (BWSR) East Lake (601-5010001-50100863)	\$ 337,500.00	\$ 5,805.28	\$ 517.64	\$ 331,177.08
U. Wetland Bank (601-5010001-50100930)	\$ 189,800.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 189,800.00
VRW JPO Revised Budget Expense TOTAL	\$ 3,843,680.00	\$ 328,423.34	\$ 119,366.62	\$ 3,395,890.04

Budget Funding Sources

Wetland Bank	\$189,800.00
CIP Reserve	\$226,800.00
CIP Reserve Grant Match	\$136,660.00
Fund Balance from Underspending in Previous Year	\$271,810.00
Grant Carryover	\$12,000.00
CWF Grant (BWSR) Competitive 2022	\$841,500.00
CWF Grant (BWSR) Competitive 2023	\$300,000.00
CWF Grant WBIF (BWSR) 2020-2023	\$487,180.00
CWF Grant WBIF (BWSR) 2022-2025	\$396,000.00
CPL Grant (DNR) 2022-2025	\$90,000.00
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	\$3,966,750.00

4d. Schedule a Public Hearing to Receive Comments on the Draft Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization 2024 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy

Meeting Date: 7/27/2023
Item Type: Consent-Action
Contact: Valerie Neopl
Telephone: 952-891-7019
Prepared by: Valerie Neopl
Reviewed by: N/A

N/A



PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

- Schedule a public hearing to receive comments on the draft Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) 2024 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy

SUMMARY

Pursuant to the Joint Powers Agreement establishing the VRWJPO, by September 1 of each year the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) must adopt a budget for the following calendar year. VRWJPO staff is preparing a draft 2024 Budget by assessing the needs of the watershed, strategic planning with the VRWJPB, and following the implementation section of the 2016-2025 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan.

Minn. Stat. § 103B.211, subd. 1(a)(5) provides that a watershed management organization has the authority of a watershed district under Minn. Stat. § 103D.911 to adopt a budget and determine the total amount to be raised from ad valorem tax levies to meet the budget. Minn. Stat. § 103D.911 requires a public hearing on the draft budget prior to its adoption. Notice of the hearing, along with a summary of the draft budget, must be published in one or more newspapers of general circulation in each county (Scott and Dakota) and must be published once each week for two successive weeks before the hearing.

Staff recommends that the VRWJPB schedule a public hearing on August 24, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. to receive comments on the draft VRWJPO 2024 Budget.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact from this action. At its August 24, 2023, meeting, the VRWJPB will need to approve a draft VRWJPO 2024 Budget and recommend an appropriate Watershed Management Tax District Levy to Dakota and Scott counties.

Supporting Documents:

Attachment A: Draft Public Notice for Hearing on VRWJPO 2024 Budget

Previous Board Action(s):

- ;

RESOLUTION

4d. Schedule a Public Hearing to Receive Comments on the Draft Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) 2024 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy

WHEREAS, the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) is required to adopt a budget for the VRWJPO by September 1 for the following calendar year; and

WHEREAS, the VRWJPB is required, under Minn. Stat. § 103D.911, to hold a public hearing on the draft budget prior to its adoption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the VRWJPB hereby schedules a public hearing for August 24, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. for the purpose of receiving comments on the draft VRWJPO 2024 Budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that VRWJPO staff is hereby directed to publish notice of the public hearing in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 103D.911.

PUBLIC NOTICE of DAKOTA COUNTY

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Public Hearing on the Draft VRWJPO 2024 Budget

Notice is hereby given that the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) will hold a public hearing at 1:00 p.m. on **Thursday, August 24, 2023**. This public hearing is to receive comments on the draft VRWJPO 2024 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy. It will take place at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center Conference Room A, 4100 220th Street West, Farmington, MN. Information to access the hearing online will be published at www.vermillionriverwatershed.org/news-events/calendar/. Advance notice of intent to attend in person is appreciated, but not required, to Valerie Nepl at valerie.nepl@co.dakota.mn.us or 952-891-7019.

Agencies, groups, and individuals attending the public hearing will have the opportunity to provide written or oral comments. Prior to the public hearing, written comments may be addressed to the VRWJPO, 4100 220th Street West, Suite 103, Farmington, MN 55024, or emailed to Valerie Nepl.

The draft VRWJPO 2024 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy can be viewed online at www.vermillionriverwatershed.org/news. Paper copies of the draft VRWJPO 2024 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy, as well as requests for any special accommodations at the public hearing, can be obtained by contacting Brita Moore-Kutz at brita.moore-kutz@co.dakota.mn.us or 952-891-7967.



Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

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

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

Agenda Item 5
July 2023

Expenses from the invoices submitted between May 17, 2023 and June 12, 2023 totalled \$47,554.26

The invoices submitted between June 13, 2023 and July 14, 2023 total:

<u>Invoice</u>	<u>Vendor</u>		<u>Amount</u>
	DC Staff Time	\$	35,886.87
Mar 2023	Mar County Attorney fees	\$	731.61
April 2023	Apr County Attorney fees	\$	406.45
May 2023	May County Attorney fees	\$	162.58
4/12/23	VRW Planning Per Diem	\$	50.00
6/14/23	VRW Planning Per Diem	\$	50.00
IN29779	Scott County	\$	114.09
C0035795 061523	MN Dirt Works	\$	2,060.50
3310	Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District	\$	64,239.06
2095184	Stantec	\$	846.75
OP-95022-06	Ramy Turf	\$	2,513.50
57536	Menards	\$	87.35
C0035737 061523	MN Dirt Works	\$	3,368.70
231914.97.00-2	Barr Engineering	\$	3,614.28
231914.97.00-3	Barr Engineering	\$	4,935.50
PCard/Expense	Tthiel Mud boots	\$	179.99
PCard/Expense	Mzabel: Subscription Canva Pro	\$	119.40
Total expense as approved on July 27, 2023		\$	119,366.63

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

6a. Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Rosemount for the Public Works and Police Campus Infiltration Basins

Meeting Date: 7/27/2023
Item Type: Regular-Action
Contact: Travis Thiel
Telephone: 952-891-7546
Prepared by: Travis Thiel
Reviewed by: N/A

N/A



PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

- Authorization to execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Rosemount for the Public Works and Police Campus Infiltration Basins

SUMMARY

The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) staff requests execution of a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the City of Rosemount (City) to provide VRWJPO cost share assistance for infiltration basins that will be constructed at the City’s new Public Works and Police Campus.

The City is in the process of constructing a new Public Works and Police campus and approached the VRWJPO during the design of the campus regarding potential cost share assistance opportunities. VRWJPO reviewed the engineering plans and identified two proposed infiltration basins as having the potential for cost share assistance. The City designed the infiltration basins to be larger and provide more infiltration than is required under the design requirements of the VRWJPO Standards. Additional infiltration is important to providing groundwater recharge and achieving VRWJPO Watershed Management Plan Goal C: Maintain a Sustainable Water Supply.

Staff are recommending cost share assistance for those portions of the infiltration basins that exceed the design requirements of the VRWJPO standards. Staff have performed calculation and estimate this amount to be \$25,000 based on excavation, grading, soil amendments, plantings, and other ancillary costs associated with the work.

VRWJPO staff recommend executing a JPA with the City of Rosemount for the Public Works and Police Campus Infiltration Basins in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT

The VRWJPO will provide \$25,000 from its Capital Improvement Projects portion of the VRWJPO Budget.

Supporting Documents:

Attachment A: JPA with Rosemount for the City of Rosemount Public Works and Police Campus Infiltration Basins

Previous Board Action(s):

RESOLUTION

6a. Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Rosemount for the Public Works and Police Campus Infiltration Basins

WHEREAS, the City of Rosemount (City) is constructing a new Public Works and Police Campus that will include infiltration basins; and

WHEREAS, the City inquired if there were any cost share assistance opportunities in the construction of the new campus; and

WHEREAS, the City has designed two infiltration basins to be larger and provide more infiltration than is required by the design requirements of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) Standards; and

WHEREAS, VRWJPO staff confirmed that the infiltration basins are designed to be larger and provide more infiltration than the VRWJPO Standards; and

WHEREAS, additional infiltration is important to providing groundwater recharge and achieving VRWJPO Watershed Management Plan Goal C: Maintain a Sustainable Water Supply; and

WHEREAS, VRWJPO staff recommend providing cost share assistance for those portions of the infiltration basins that exceed the design requirements of the VRWJPO Standards; and

WHEREAS, VRWJPO staff estimate the cost for those portions that exceed the VRWJPO Standards to be \$25,000 based on excavation, grading, soil amendments, plantings, and other ancillary costs associated with the work.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board authorizes its chair to execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City for the Public Works and Policy Campus infiltration basins in an amount not to exceed \$25,000; subject to approval as to form by the Dakota County Attorney's Office.

**JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT FOR
THE PUBLIC WORKS AND POLICE CAMPUS INFILTRATION COST SHARE
BETWEEN THE VERMILLION RIVER WATERSHED JOINT POWERS
ORGANIZATION AND
THE CITY OF ROSEMOUNT**

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 471.59 authorizes local governmental units to jointly or cooperatively exercise any power common to the contracting parties; and

WHEREAS, the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization is a watershed management body consisting of Dakota and Scott Counties (VRWJPO) governed by the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) and is charged with carrying out the duties set forth in Minn. Stat. § 103B.211 to 103B.255 and as otherwise provided by law; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rosemount (City) is a governmental and political subdivision of the State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the City is constructing a new Public Works and Police Campus (Campus) in 2023 and 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City is planning to construct infiltration basins (Project Basins) as part of the Campus project; and

WHEREAS, the Project Basins are designed and constructed to infiltrate more stormwater than is required under the VRWJPO Standards as adopted in the VRWJPO Watershed Management Plan (Plan) and are eligible for VRWJPO cost share; and

WHEREAS, Plan Goal C: Maintain a Sustainable Water Supply, identifies an action that will “Promote and cost share bio-infiltration BMPs for new development, redevelopment, and stormwater retrofits;” and

WHEREAS, the Campus project includes two bio-infiltration BMPs (infiltration basins) for new development and fits the action in the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the VRWJPO has offered to share costs for the costs associated with the construction of the Project Basins for those construction elements that exceed the VRWJPO Standards; and

WHEREAS, the City will design, construct, operate, and maintain the Project Basins in a manner consistent with guidance in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s Minnesota Stormwater Manual; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost for the construction components of the Project Basins above those required in the VRWJPO Standards is \$25,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises and benefits that the City and the VRWJPO shall derive from this Agreement, the VRWJPO and the City hereby enter into this Agreement for the purposes stated herein.

**ARTICLE 1
PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Agreement is to define the responsibilities and cost-sharing obligations of the VRWJPO and the City related to the Project Basins.

**ARTICLE 2
PARTIES**

The parties to this Agreement are the VRWJPO and the City.

**ARTICLE 3
TERM**

This Agreement shall be effective the date of the signatures of the parties to this Agreement and shall remain in effect until December 31, 2024, or until completion by the parties of their respective obligations under this Agreement, whichever occurs first, unless earlier terminated by law or according to the provisions of this Agreement.

**ARTICLE 4
COOPERATION**

The VRWJPO and City agree to cooperate and use their reasonable efforts to ensure prompt implementation of the various provisions of this Agreement and to, in good faith, undertake resolution of any dispute in an equitable and timely manner.

**ARTICLE 5
PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

The City is the lead agency for administration and oversight of the construction, operation, and maintenance activities, effective upon execution of this Agreement by both parties.

**ARTICLE 6
PAYMENT**

6.1 The City will administer the contracts and act as the paying agent for all payments to the contractor(s).

6.2 The VRWJPO will reimburse the City up to a maximum of \$25,000 for construction-related activities associated with the Project Basins (City eligible).

6.3 All requests for payment shall be supported by receipts and invoices determined by the VRWJPO to be practical and reasonable for completion of the construction of the Project Basins. All requests for payment must be submitted to the VRWJPO within 90 days of completion of the Project Basins.

6.4 The VRWJPO may refuse to pay claims not specifically authorized by this Agreement. Payment of a claim shall not preclude the VRWJPO from questioning the propriety of the claim. The VRWJPO reserves the right to be repaid for any overpayment or disallowed claim.

**ARTICLE 7
CITY OBLIGATIONS**

7.1 AUTHORIZED PURPOSE. The funds provided under the terms of this Agreement may only be used by the City for the payment of costs directly related to construction of the Project Basins.

7.2 CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS. Construction shall be performed in accordance with the scope of work the City approves with its contractor and construction best practices. The City will provide the VRWJPO with an as-built survey of the Project Basins upon completion of construction.

7.3 RIGHT-OF-ENTRY. The City hereby permits the VRWJPO, its employees, duly authorized representatives and agents to enter upon and have rights of ingress and egress over and access at reasonable times and in accordance with site access standards established by the City or City's contractors, to the real property where the Project Basins will be located for the purpose of inspecting the construction of the Project Basins.

7.4 COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS/STANDARDS. The City shall abide by all federal, state, or local laws, statutes, ordinances, rules, and regulations in constructing the Project Basins, including obtaining all necessary permits to construct the Project Basins.

**ARTICLE 8
INDEMNIFICATION**

Each party to this Agreement shall be liable for the acts of its officers, employees or agents and the results thereof to the extent authorized by law and shall not be responsible for the acts of the other party, its officers, employees or agents. The provisions of the Municipal Tort Claims Act, Minn. Stat. Ch. 466 and other applicable laws govern liability of the VRWJPO and the City. Each party warrants that they are able to comply with the aforementioned indemnity requirements through an insurance or self-insurance program and that each has minimum coverage consistent with liability limits contained in Minn. Stat. Ch. 466. In the event of any claims or actions filed against either party, nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to allow a claimant to obtain separate judgments or separate liability caps from the individual parties. This section shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement.

**ARTICLE 9
AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES AND LIAISONS**

9.1 AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES. The following named persons are designated the authorized representatives of the parties for purposes of this Agreement. These persons have authority to bind the party they represent and to consent to modifications, except that the authorized representative shall have only the authority specifically or generally granted by their respective governing bodies. Notice required to be provided pursuant to this Agreement shall be provided to the following named persons and addresses unless otherwise stated in this Agreement, or an amendment of this Agreement:

TO THE VRWJPO: Mike Slavik or successor, Chair
Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization
14955 Galaxie Avenue
Apple Valley, MN 55124
Telephone: (952) 891-7030

TO THE CITY: Logan Martin, City Administrator, or successor
City of Rosemount
2875 145th St. W.
Rosemount, MN 55068
Telephone: (651) 322-2006

In addition, notification to the VRWJPO regarding termination of this Agreement by the City shall be provided to the Office of the Dakota County Attorney, Civil Division, 1560 Highway 55, Hastings, Minnesota 55033.

9.2 LIAISONS. To assist the parties in the day-to-day performance of this Agreement and to ensure compliance and provide ongoing consultation, a liaison shall be designated by the VRWJPO and the City. The VRWJPO and the City shall keep each other continually informed, in writing, of any change in the designated liaison. At the time of execution of this Agreement, the following persons are the designated liaisons:

VRWJPO Liaison: Travis Thiel
Telephone: (952) 891-7546
Email: travis.thiel@co.dakota.mn.us

City Liaison: Nick Egger, PE
Public Works Director
Telephone: (651) 322-2015
Email: nick.egger@rosemountmn.gov

ARTICLE 10 MODIFICATIONS

Any alterations, variations, modifications, or waivers of the provisions of this Agreement shall only be valid when they have been reduced to writing, approved by the parties' respective governing body, or as delegated by the parties' respective governing body, and signed by the Authorized Representatives, or delegated authority, of the VRWJPO and the City.

ARTICLE 11 TERMINATION

11.1 IN GENERAL. Either party may terminate this Agreement for cause by giving seven days' written notice or without cause by giving 30 days' written notice, of its intent to terminate, to the other party. Such notice to terminate for cause shall specify the circumstances warranting termination of the Agreement. Cause shall mean a material breach of this Agreement and any supplemental agreements or amendments thereto. This Agreement may also be terminated by the City in the event of a default by the VRWJPO. Notice of Termination shall be made by certified mail or personal delivery to the authorized representative of the other party. Termination of this Agreement shall not discharge any liability, responsibility or right of any party, which arises from the performance of or failure to adequately perform the terms of this Agreement prior to the effective date of termination.

11.2 TERMINATION BY VRWJPO FOR LACK OF FUNDING. Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, the VRWJPO may immediately terminate this Agreement if it does not obtain funding from the Minnesota Legislature, Minnesota Agencies, or other funding sources, or if its funding cannot be continued at a level sufficient to allow payment of the amounts due under this Agreement. The VRWJPO is not obligated to pay for any services that are provided after written notice of termination for lack of funding. The VRWJPO will not be assessed any penalty or damages if the Agreement is terminated due to lack of funding. The VRWJPO will pay for expenses incurred by the City up to Notice of Termination of work on the Project.

ARTICLE 12 MINNESOTA LAW TO GOVERN

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the substantive and procedural laws of the State of Minnesota, without giving effect to the principles of conflict of laws. All proceedings related to this Agreement shall be venued in the County of Dakota, State of Minnesota. This section shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 13 MERGER

This Agreement is the final expression of the agreement of the parties and the complete and exclusive statement of the terms agreed upon and shall supersede all prior negotiations, understandings, or agreements.

ARTICLE 14 SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this Agreement shall be deemed severable. If any part of this Agreement is rendered void, invalid, or unenforceable, such rendering shall not affect the validity and enforceability of the remainder of this Agreement unless the part or parts that are void, invalid or otherwise unenforceable shall substantially impair the value of the entire Agreement with respect to either party.

ARTICLE 15 GOVERNMENT DATA PRACTICES

The City and the VRWJPO must comply with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. Ch. 13, as it applies to all data provided, created, collected, received, stored, used, maintained, or disseminated under this Agreement. The civil remedies of Minn. Stat. § 13.08 apply to the release of the data referred to in this clause by either the City or the VRWJPO.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement on the date(s) indicated below.

CITY OF ROSEMOUNT

By _____
Jeffery D. Weisensel or successor, Mayor
Date of Signature: _____

By _____
Erin Fasbender, City Clerk
Date of Signature: _____

**VERMILLION RIVER WATERSHED
JOINT POWERS ORGANIZATION**

By _____
Mike Slavik or successor, Chair
Date of Signature: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

/s/ _____
Assistant Dakota County Attorney
VRW Res. No. _____
KS-23-

6b. Recommend approval of the Service Agreement for the Administrator of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

Meeting Date: 7/27/2023
Item Type: Regular-Action
Contact: Nikki Stewart
Telephone: 952-891-7554
Prepared by: Nikki Stewart
Reviewed by: N/A

N/A



PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

- Approval of the proposed service agreement for the Administrator of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

SUMMARY

The current Administrator for the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) has retired and planning for the replacement of the Administrator has occurred in conjunction with Dakota County and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB). On June 22, 2023, the VRWJPB reviewed the position description, received an update on the hiring process, and reviewed a draft of a service agreement for the Administrator and provided comments. The draft service agreement is provided as attachment A and will be presented for review and consideration for VRWJPB approval.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve proposed service agreement for the Administrator of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT

None.

Supporting Documents:

Attachment A: Proposed Service Agreement for the Administrator of the VRWJPO

Previous Board Action(s):

- ;

RESOLUTION

6b. Recommend approval of the Service Agreement for the Administrator of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

WHEREAS, the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) is governed by the joint powers agreement by and between Dakota County and Scott County dated September 5, 2002 with the counties providing staff support to the VRWJPB; and

WHEREAS, the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) has an Administrator position that is filled by Dakota County; and

WHEREAS, planning for the replacement of the Administrator has occurred in conjunction with Dakota County and the VRWJPB; and

WHEREAS, the VRWJPB reviewed a draft service agreement for the Administrator at its June 22, 2023 meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the VRWJPB approves the Service Agreement for the Administrator of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization.

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VERMILLION WATERSHED JOINT POWERS ORGANIZATION
AND THE COUNTY OF DAKOTA
FOR ADMINSTRATION SERVICES**

THIS AGREEMENT (“Agreement”) is made and entered into by and between the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (“VRWJPO”) an independent joint powers entity organized under Minn. Stat. § 471.59, and the County of Dakota, a political subdivision of the State of Minnesota, (“County”). VRWJPO and the County are individually referred to as a “Party” and collectively as the “Parties.”

WHEREAS, in the original Joint Powers Agreement forming the VRWJPO, the County agreed to provide staff support services to the VRWJPO;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises and benefits that each Party shall derive from this Agreement, and other good and valuable consideration, receipt of which his hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

**ARTICLE I
PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Agreement is to articulate the scope of services provided to the VRWJPO and the County.

ARTICLE II SERVICES

- Section 2.1 General. The County shall provide VRWJPO with staffing for its day to day operations. Dakota County will assign an Administrator who will be in charge of ensuring the objectives more specifically described in and attached and incorporated herein as **Exhibit 1**.
- Section 2.2 Scope of Services: Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the Parties will agree on service levels with respect to performance under this Agreement. Such service levels will be set forth in Exhibit 1. The VRWJPO Board Chair and the Environmental Resources Director will meet annually for a status review of the services performed under this Agreement.

**ARTICLE III
TERM OF AGREEMENT**

- Section 3.1 Term. The County shall provide the services under this Agreement commencing on the day of execution, and continuing through December 31, 2025, unless this Agreement is terminated earlier as permitted herein.
- Section 3.2 Termination by VRWJPO. VRWJPO may terminate this Agreement without cause upon ninety (90) calendar days’ written notice to the County.
- Section 3.3 Termination for Cause. Either Party may terminate this Agreement for cause upon thirty (30) calendar days’ written notice to the other Party.
- Section 3.4 Termination by Mutual Agreement. This Agreement can be terminated upon shorter notice by mutual written agreement of the Parties.
- Section 3.5 Effect of Termination. Termination of this Agreement shall not discharge any liability, responsibility or right of any party which arises from the performance of or failure to adequately perform the terms of this Agreement prior to the effective date of termination.

**ARTICLE IV
COMPENSATION**

- Section 4.1 Compensation. In consideration of the County’s services, including overhead, under this Agreement, VRWJPO will pay the County as determined yearly through the budgeting process.
- Section 4.2 Invoices. The County will invoice VRWJPO for the Services on a quarterly basis. VRWJPO shall pay the County within thirty-five (35) calendar days of receiving each invoice.

ARTICLE VI GENERAL PROVISIONS

- Section 6.1 Compliance with Laws and Standards. The Parties agree to comply with all federal, state and local laws, statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations now in effect or hereafter adopted pertaining to this Agreement or to the facilities, programs and staff for which the Parties are responsible, including, without limitation, the MGDPA.
- Section 6.2 Accountability for Funds. All funds shall be accounted for according to generally accepted accounting principles. All pertinent books, records, documents, and accounting procedures and practices shall be maintained by the County and made available to VRWJPO, its members, and the State Auditor upon reasonable notice and shall be retained in accordance with state law.
- Section 6.3 Data Privacy and Security Compliance. The Parties agree that all data created, collected, received, stored, used, maintained or disseminated in implementing this Agreement shall be treated in compliance with the MGDPA and all other federal, state and local laws that apply to such data.
- Section 6.4 Non-Employee Status. In implementing the terms of this Agreement, the County's employees and agents are not employees of VRWJPO. Each Party is solely responsible for the acts and omissions of its employees and agents and any claims that may arise therefrom.
- Section 6.5 Knowing and Voluntary Agreement. VRWJPO acknowledges and agrees that it has entered into this Agreement knowingly and voluntarily. VRWJPO further acknowledges that it has been provided an opportunity to consult with an attorney of its choosing in connection with the negotiation and preparation of this Agreement.
- Section 6.6 Modification. Any amendments, changes, or modifications to this Agreement shall be valid only if reduced to writing and signed by the County and VRWJPO.
- Section 6.7 Waiver. No waiver of any provision of this Agreement shall be valid unless it is reduced to writing and signed by the County and VRWJPO. The failure by one Party to require performance of any provision of this Agreement shall not affect that Party's right to require performance at any time thereafter, nor shall a waiver of any breach or default of this Agreement constitute a waiver of any subsequent breach or default or a waiver of any provision of this Agreement.
- Section 6.8 Indemnification. Each Party to this Agreement shall be liable for the acts of its officers, employees or agents and the results thereof to the extent authorized by law and shall not be responsible for the acts of the other Party, its officers, employees, or agents. The provisions of the Minnesota Tort Claims Act, Minn. Stat. Ch. 466 and other applicable laws govern the liability of both the County and VRWJPO. In the event any claims or actions asserted or filed against either Party, nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to allow a claimant to obtain separate judgments or separate liability caps from the individual Parties. This section shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement.
- Section 6.9 Force Majeure. Neither Party shall be liable to the other Party for any loss or damage resulting from a delay or failure to perform due to unforeseeable acts or events outside the defaulting Party's reasonable control, provided the defaulting Party gives notice to the other party as soon as possible. Acts and events may include acts of God, acts of terrorism, war, fire, flood, epidemic, acts of civil or military authority, and natural disasters.
- Section 6.10 Notices. Except as provided elsewhere in this Agreement, any notice or demand ("Notice") must be in writing and provided as follows to the other Party's Authorized Representative: (a) personal delivery; (b) first class mail; or (c) nationally recognized overnight courier, with tracking service and all fees and costs prepaid. Except as provided elsewhere in this Agreement, a Notice is effective only if the Authorized Representative has received the Notice ("Receipt"). Receipt is effective when the Notice is delivered pursuant to the above-approved methods. However, if the Authorized Representative rejects or otherwise refuses to accept the Notice, or if the Notice cannot be delivered because of a change of address for which no Notice was provided, then Receipt is effective upon rejection, refusal, or inability to deliver.

- Section 6.11 Authorized Representative. The following named persons, or their successors are designated as the Authorized Representatives of the Parties for purposes of this Agreement and notices described in 6.10 of this Agreement. The Parties shall provide Notice to each other of any change to the Authorized Representative, which will be effective without necessitating written amendment of the Agreement.
- Section 6.12 Severability. The provisions of this Agreement shall be deemed severable. If any part of this Agreement is rendered void, invalid, or unenforceable, such rendering shall not affect the validity and enforceability of the remainder of this Agreement, unless the part or parts that are void, invalid, or otherwise unenforceable substantially impair the value of the entire Agreement with respect to either Party.
- Section 6.13 Minnesota Law to Govern. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the substantive and procedural laws of the State of Minnesota, without giving effect to the principles of conflict of laws. Venue and jurisdiction for any litigation related to this Agreement must be in those courts located within Dakota County, State of Minnesota or U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota.
- Section 6.14 Complete Agreement. With respect to its subject matter, this Agreement and the SLA represents the complete and exclusive agreement between the Parties and supersedes any and all prior agreements. If there is a conflict between the terms of this Agreement and the SLA, the terms of this Agreement shall prevail.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement on the dates indicated below.

**VERMILLION RIVER WATERSHED JOINT
POWERS ORGANIZATION**

By _____
Mike Slavik or successor, Chair

Date of Signature: _____

COUNTY OF DAKOTA

By _____
Nikki Stewart or successor, Director
Environmental Resources Department

Date of Signature: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Assistant County Attorney/Date
KS-
County Board Res. No.

EXHIBIT 1

VRWJPO ADMINISTRATOR DUTIES

BOARD LIASON

- Serve as the Administrator for the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) and manage the general operations and activities of the VRWJPO including liaison with Board Chair on meeting agendas.
- Work with and take direction from the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB).
- Serve as staff representative and liaison between the VRWJPB and the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission (WPC) and provide support to the WPC.

OPERATIONAL FUNCTIONS

- Apply knowledge of watershed management, surface and groundwater hydrology, natural resource management, soils, ecology and biology to the resolution of watershed related issues. Assess needs, evaluate, and implement innovative solutions to program and service challenges.
- Develop and implement watershed policy, programs, and regulations and implement capital projects for the VRWJPO.
- Supervise and provide work direction and evaluation to professional staff assigned to the Watershed Management Unit, provide leadership and guidance to staff in the design, management and implementation of various projects, plans, processes, grants and programs, and plan and execute staff training activities to maintain professional staff competencies.
- Serve as the staff representative and liaison between the VRWJPO and county departments, the Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District, the Scott County Soil & Water Conservation District, other watershed organizations, the Board of Water and Soil Resources, cities and townships within the VRW and other local, state and federal entities.
- Direct and oversee the VRWJPO permit program in some communities and provide oversight and evaluation programs in all communities in the Vermillion River Watershed.
- Recommend revisions to the VRWJPO Joint Powers Agreement and bylaws, and update/revise Joint Powers Agreements and by-laws as directed by the Joint Powers Board.
- Interpret and explain VRWJPO rules, policies and procedures.
- Anticipate and take appropriate actions to address changing regulatory, technical, fiscal, or community issues.
- Develop and manage contracts, vendor relationships, grant applications, reports and records, and troubleshoot issues and make adjustments or seek appropriate budget amendments as necessary.
- Prepare and administer the VRWJPO annual budget, monitor use of appropriated funds, maintain appropriate data on revenue, fees and expenditures, and recommend budget amendments as needed. Develop and implement annual work plan.
- Liaison with Scott County Co-Administrator regarding VRWJPO activities including but not limited to project planning and staffing.

6c. Update on 2023 Summer Tour with the Board of Water and Soil Resources and Partners in the Vermillion River Watershed and Scheduling of Special Meeting of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board

Meeting Date: 7/27/2023
Item Type: Regular-Action
Contact: Valerie Neppl
Telephone: 952-891-7019
Prepared by: Valerie Neppl
Reviewed by: N/A

N/A



PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

- Provide an update on the planned 2023 Summer Tour with the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and Partners in the Vermillion River Watershed and to schedule a special meeting of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB).

SUMMARY

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) asked the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) to coordinate and host a 2023 Watershed Tour on August 23, 2023, with the BWSR staff and partners. VRWJPO tours are hosted on odd-numbered years to present recent projects or programs implemented through the Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan. The combined tour will be a full day event. The tour will stop at seven sites in the Vermillion River Watershed and one site in the North Cannon River Watershed where a project or practice has been implemented. Presentations will be provided by staff and partners highlighting the function and effectiveness of each project, innovative approaches when applicable, and successful partner collaborations.

Minn. Stat. §13D, the Open Meeting Law, requires all public meetings to meet the notice requirements of that Chapter. Since the VRWJPB will have a quorum of Board members attending the Watershed Tour, a special meeting is required and noticed pursuant to Minn. Stat. §13D.04, subd 2.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT

There is no additional fiscal impact from this action. Watershed tour is included in approved 2023 budget.

RESOLUTION

6c. Update on the 2023 Summer Tour with the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and Partners in the Vermillion River Watershed and Scheduling of Special Meeting of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. §13D, the Open Meeting Law, requires all public meetings are required to meet the notice requirements of that Chapter; and

WHEREAS, the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) will have a quorum of Board members attend the Watershed tour which will include presentations provided by staff and partners highlighting projects and practices implemented throughout the watershed; and

WHEREAS, the tour will take place on August 23, 2023, a non-board meeting day; and

WHEREAS, a special meeting is necessary.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.04, subd 2, a special meeting of the VRWJPB will be held and staff will notice the meeting as required by statute.

6d. Update on the Status and Next Steps for Developing the 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan

Meeting Date: 7/27/2023
Item Type: Regular-Information
Contact: Valerie Neppi
Telephone: 952-891-7019
Prepared by: Valerie Neppi
Reviewed by: N/A N/A



PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

- Information only. Update on the status and next steps for developing the 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan.

SUMMARY

The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board authorized the initiation of the ten-year update to the Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan at their March 23, 2023, meeting. With that action a request for comments from review agencies and stakeholders was distributed asking for input on issues and priorities to be identified for this plan update. The VRWJPO has received comments; the next step is to hold a public meeting to kickoff this planning effort sharing information received and soliciting further input. An expected time frame and planned actions will be discussed.

Supporting Documents:

Attachment A: Initial Plan comments from review agencies and stakeholders

Previous Board Action(s):

VRW 23-08

RESOLUTION

6d. Update on the Status and Next Steps for Developing the 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan

Information only.



Ecological and Water Resources
1200 Warner Road
St. Paul, MN 55106

May 30, 2023

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization
Mark Zabel, Administrator
4100 220th St. W #103
Farmington, MN

Greetings Mr. Zabel,

This letter is in response to your notification soliciting input on Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization's (VRWJPO) Watershed Management Plan Update. This is an exciting time for VRWJPO as work begins on the 10-year update of the commission's Watershed Management Plan(s) (WMP). This process allows time to review and update past goals, strategies, and actions, and to think through watershed plans for the next ten years. To aid in this process, DNR has compiled this resource assessment letter to provide up-to-date information on DNR's priority issues for the watershed and useful data available through DNR that can help support watershed management organization planning, program management, and project development/design. The following narrative is divided into topics relevant to watershed resource management and included under each topic are DNR recommended actions. Continue to utilize information from State studies developed for the Watersheds including TMDLs and WRAPS to drive implementation programs and targeting.

Taylor Huinker, the DNR South Metro Area Hydrologist, will be participating on the Technical Advisory Committee for VRWJPO Watershed Management Plan preparation process. If you have questions regarding the content of this letter or would like to discuss individual topics or recommendations further, please do not hesitate to contact her (taylor.huinker@state.mn.us; 651-259-5790). The DNR looks forward to working with VRWJPO on your next generation Watershed Management Plan and on future public waters projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Megan JC Moore'.

Megan Moore

Central Region EWR District Manager

CC: Anne Sawyer, BWSR
Dan Lais, DNR
Jack Gleason, DNR
Taylor Huinker, DNR
John Freitag, MDH
Jeff Berg, MDA
Maureen Hoffman, Metropolitan Council
Jennifer Kostrzewski, Metropolitan Council
Jeff Risberg, MPCA
Jason Swenson, MnDOT

General Watershed Management Strategies

DNR recommends that the following general watershed management strategies be a part of your watershed management plan (WMP):

- Keep water where it falls by protecting and restoring wetlands, ensuring water courses are connected to their floodplains, and managing stormwater runoff with rate control and volume reduction standards.
- Protect and create buffers of native perennial vegetation along watercourses and water bodies.
- Reduce the flow of water volume and nutrients through drainage systems.
- Design culverts and bridges to retain floodplain functions and bank stability on natural channels and other drainage systems.
- Support land use planning and practices that protect, restore, and enhance priority ecological resources.
- Maintain and enhance perennial vegetation including protection of working forest lands.
- Use water efficiently and implement conservation measures that further reduce water demand.

Integrated Water Resource Management

As the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization begins the WMP update process, it's important that water resource issues and goals be addressed not as independent prescriptions, but as integrated activities strategically applied toward the improvement of the entire watershed system. DNR's Watershed Health Assessment Framework approach uses a five- component framework (hydrology, biology, connectivity, geomorphology, and water quality) to address the interdependent nature of ecological systems that operate within a watershed. Placing the goals and actions identified by the Committee into this framework may help to:

- Evaluate watershed goals and actions in the context of the five aspects of watershed health.
- Identify gaps between goals and actions.
- Prioritize chosen actions effectively.
- Examine the potential for unintended consequences.

Use the [Watershed Health Assessment Framework](#) interactive online map and [downloadable data sets](#) to help refine and organize the WMP within the context of a comprehensive watershed landscape.

Additional, more specific recommendations by topical area follows:

Impact of bacteria impairments on aquatic recreation

Water quality impairments that impact aquatic recreation occur in the Vermillion River watershed and are a major concern for the DNR. Impairments are due to high levels of E. coli and/or fecal coliform bacteria from feedlots, land application of manure, and cattle in riparian areas. Leaking septic systems can also be a contributing factor. Aquatic recreation is an important part of the Vermillion River watershed and emphasizes the need to continue to address these impairments. The 2015 Vermillion River WRAPS report identified 12 river/stream bacteria impairments and also has an approved TMDL for

the impairments. The DNR encourages the JPO to continuing addressing this issue to improve recreational opportunities.

Fisheries

Fisheries staff appreciate the JPO's previous and continuing work to improve water quality and fisheries resources. Please continue to focus on minimizing the impacts of shoreline development and improving water quality. For more information and coordination on fisheries management projects, please contact TJ DeBates (timothy.debates@state.mn.us; 651-259-5770), East Metro Area Fisheries Supervisor.

Groundwater Sustainability

DNR continues to manage the state's groundwater resources to meet sustainability goals set out in statute. DNR recommends the VRWJPO's WMP contain some key objectives and actions in the plan, including:

- Increase communication about the risks of overuse and degradation of groundwater resources and promote water conservation.
- Maintain and enhance aquifer recharge
- Maintain and enhance quality of water recharging aquifers
- Increase coordination of monitoring activities between organizations with water management responsibilities, including monitoring water level trends using water level measurements from member communities.
- Increase coordination of communication activities between organizations with water management responsibilities

Stormwater Management

The VRWJPO's land use is a mix of rural and developed impervious surfaces. To reduce the resultant impact of increased runoff and pollutant loading to water bodies requires improvements to existing urban stormwater management infrastructure.

VRWJPO plays an important role in urban stormwater management and DNR encourages the VRWJPO to continue to work with its partners to:

- Monitor and protect the water quality of the VRWJPO's water resources
- Implement best management practices to reduce stormwater runoff
- Investigate new stormwater management techniques
- Promote green infrastructure
- Address storm sewer infrastructure capacity and corresponding flooding problems

One of the primary drivers of degraded water quality and habitat in rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands is nutrient and sediment-laden runoff from surrounding commercial, residential, and agricultural land uses. Minimum Impact Design Standards (MIDS) were developed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to minimize stormwater runoff, minimize the amount of pollution reaching lakes, rivers, and streams, and to recharge groundwater. The development of MIDS is based on low impact development (LID), an approach to storm water management that mimics a site's natural hydrology as the landscape is developed. Continue to support the incorporation of MIDS (and the LID approach) into future development and redevelopment in the watershed.

Additionally, High Potential Zones for the federally endangered Rusty-patched Bumble Bee occur within the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. The Monarch Butterfly is also likely to be federally listed in the near future. Therefore, DNR encourages the use of BWSR-approved, weed-free, native seed mixes to the greatest degree possible in stormwater features and other landscaping in order to provide pollinator habitat.

Septic Systems

Consider promoting homeowner education on the proper use and maintenance of septic systems to preserve their function. The University of Minnesota's Onsite Sewage Treatment Program designed a homeowner tool that allows users to create a custom guide for their septic system. The tool can be found at <https://h2oandm.com/>

Chloride

Chloride released into local lakes and streams does not break down, and instead accumulates in the environment, potentially reaching levels that are toxic to aquatic wildlife and plants. Consider promoting local business and city applicator participation in the Smart Salting Training offered through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. More information and resources can be found at this website: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/salt-applicators>. Many winter maintenance staff who have attended the Smart Salting training — both from cities and counties and from private companies — have used their knowledge to reduce salt use and save money for their organizations.

We encourage VRWJPO to request that project proposers who wish to significantly increase impervious surfaces develop a chloride management plan that outlines what BMP's and strategies will be used to reduce chloride use within the project area. We also encourage cities, counties, and watershed districts to consider how they may participate in the [Statewide Chloride Management Plan](#) and provide public outreach to reduce the overuse of chloride. Please consider metrics in your plan that includes encouraging member communities to consider a sample ordinance regarding chloride use such as found here: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/p-tr1-54.pdf>.

Stream Bank Stabilization and Restoration

DNR's underlying philosophy regarding stream management is that streams are self-forming and self-maintaining systems. When they are artificially manipulated there can be negative impacts to channel stability. Alterations in pattern, dimension, or profile of a stream can lead to an increase in stream bank erosion, increased turbidity, embedded sediments, and a general reduction in biological productivity. DNR encourages the VRWJPO to consider these stream dynamics when planning stream stabilization or restoration projects.

Before attempting to stabilize streambanks, there needs to be an understanding of the underlying causes and if they are systemic or localized. If localized, then traditional stabilization techniques can be employed. DNR highly recommends using wood for toe stabilization given its habitat value. Toe-wood sod mats have been installed successfully on other rivers within the state to stabilize stream banks, protect infrastructure and provide habitat. DNR can provide site specific guidance if there is interest. If the underlying cause is systemic (e.g. altered hydrology), then additional assessment work is needed and streambank stabilization may not be appropriate for all sites due to the increased likelihood of project failure.

For more information and coordination on streambank stabilization and restoration, please contact Nick Proulx (nick.proulx@state.mn.us; 651-259-5850), DNR Clean Water Specialist.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) pose a significant threat to Minnesota's lakes and rivers and continue to be a high priority issue for DNR. Aquatic invasive plants such as Eurasian watermilfoil and curly-leaf pondweed form thick vegetative mats on the water surface, limiting recreational opportunities and often negatively affecting water quality. Both the control of existing AIS and the prevention of new infestations are important efforts in terms of AIS management.

In most cases, eradication of invasive aquatic plants is not an option. Therefore, herbicide treatments are generally used to target abundant beds of invasive plants that may create a recreational nuisance. In most cases, the use of herbicides on lakes classified as Natural Environment (NE) lakes is not appropriate, and mechanical means (e.g. commercial aquatic plant harvester) may be a management option.

The establishment of both aquatic and terrestrial invasive species is a major threat to the ecological functions of both wetland and upland plant communities. Include plans to combat invasive species and best management practices (BMPs) in watershed project plans and designs. Promote education of the public on the control and spread of invasive species – public awareness efforts targeting riparian property owners (lakeshore owners) are needed to increase overall compliance with AIS laws. DNR will continue to support local efforts to educate the public in AIS prevention and encourage local units of government to take a leadership role. For more information on the AIS Program, contact April Londo (april.londo@state.mn.us; 651-259-5828), invasive species specialist.

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program

The Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) Grant Program funds conservation projects that restore, enhance, or protect forests, wetlands, prairies and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife. The types of projects funded under this grant program include prairie restoration, river restoration, lake habitat enhancement, wildlife habitat restoration, floodplain forest restoration, bluff prairie restoration, fish barrier installation, buckthorn removal, fish passage restoration, and others.

Participate in the [Conservation Partners Legacy \(CPL\) Grant Program](#) where possible. To learn more about this grant program, contact the CPL Grant Program coordinator (LSCPLGrants.DNR@state.mn.us; 651-259-5233).

Consideration of plant communities, rare species, and special features

Information on the biology, distribution, ecology, habitat use, conservation, and management of rare species of interest is available in the [DNR's Rare Species Guide](#). The locations of state-listed species maintained in the Rare Features Database are considered sensitive information and is protected under the Minnesota Data Practices Act. This information is only available through a Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS) data request or by license agreement, and should be used for internal planning purposes only.

The NHIS is continually updated as new information becomes available and will include current records and surveys. You can visit the online [Minnesota Conservation Explorer](#) tool explore public data

available for conservation planning, to request an automated Natural Heritage Review, and, for authorized users, to access nonpublic data.

DNR recommends using assessment data of watershed characteristics and natural resource features when completing long-range watershed planning efforts. The assessment of watershed characteristics and natural resource features is valuable for evaluating landscape functions and guiding land management decisions. These assessments provide important information on a landscape's integrity and its ability to provide benefits to ecosystems. For example, assessment data can be used to examine how projects will improve or affect flora and fauna, determine the cumulative impacts of land use, make regional scale land use decisions, and to balance land use development and natural resource protection.

The presence of rare species can be an indication of the health of a watershed, and plant and animal diversity helps landscapes to maintain important watershed functions. DNR recommends that the VRWJPO's WMP include goals and policies to address how rare species and habitat will be protected.

We encourage VRWJPO to require an NHIS review as early in the planning stage of projects as possible in order to allow sufficient time for review and coordination with DNR. If the proposer waits until WCA TEP review to consider potential impacts to rare species, it is often late in the planning stages and could cause significant delays to the project.

DNR data layers have been developed that are helpful in watershed planning. These are free and available to the public from the [Minnesota Geospatial Commons](#). Some key data layers include:

- DNR managed lands such as Scientific and Natural Areas, Wildlife Management Areas, and Aquatic Management Areas
- DNR native plant communities
- Karst features
- Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) Sites of Biodiversity Significance
- Central Region Regionally Significant Ecological Areas (CRRSEA) – The purpose of this data is to inform regional scale land use decisions, especially as it relates to balancing development and natural resource protection.
- Regionally Significant Ecological Areas and Regional Ecological Corridors – Identifies potential habitat movement corridors that may be important for wildlife connections.

DNR encourages the use of site-appropriate native plants for shoreline stabilization, buffers, and erosion control for all watershed projects. These species provide important stabilization and erosion control functions, have the greatest chance of establishment success, and contribute to biodiversity of landscape vegetation. Query the DNR's [Your Shore Native Plant Encyclopedia](#) for a list of plants tailored to specific site characteristics. DNR recommends the establishment of native grassland and herbaceous plant communities in the place of mowed turf grasses on watershed and highway projects as a means to support native insect pollinator communities. Interest in pollinators has grown since the term Colony Collapse Disorder appeared in 2006. This phrase refers to the puzzling disappearance of honey bees from their hives. While this disorder does not affect native pollinators, many of the challenges that face honey bees also affect native insects, including pesticide use, habitat loss, pathogens, parasites, climate change, and invasive species. DNR has developed a [Best Management Practices Guide](#) for restoring and enhancing native plant community habitat for native insect pollinators.

Forest Management Considerations

Importance of forested riparian areas to water resources cannot be understated. Forested riparian areas provide an array of goods and services for plant diversity, wildlife and fish habitat, nutrient, sediment, and water interception, storage, and transformation and recreational opportunities. Keeping riparian areas intact so that the functions and roles of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems can continue to provide these services is imperative. We recommend keeping forested riparian areas forested, which does not necessarily preclude forest management activities. If riparian forests are managed in the VRWJPO's area, we highly recommend consulting and using the [Minnesota Forest Resource Council's Council's Voluntary Site-Level Forest Management Guidelines for Landowners, Loggers, and Resource Managers](#) to protect these valuable ecosystems into the future.

Emerald ash borer (EAB) will continue to impact communities in the VRWJPO area within the next 10 year watershed plan cycle. Communities should be planning for EABs impacts and take action now to reduce the sudden financial burden that comes with EAB. One can find information at this [website](#). You can visit this [interactive website](#) to see the status of EAB in Minnesota. The VRWJPO area is within the "Generally Infested Area" and all of Hennepin County is within the quarantine area. To minimize pesticide exposure in the environment and to save people's money, we would not recommend applying insecticides to save ash trees until symptoms of EAB infestation are within about ¼ - ½ mile of any given location. Note that ash trees can still be saved from EAB if they are lightly infested (they must still have over 50% of their normal number of leaves that are normally sized). Ideally ash trees should be treated when they are 100% healthy and not infested at all, so there is some risk of waiting until EAB infestation symptoms are visible within a ½ mile. In natural areas, forested wetlands with ash dominant in the canopy will experience a more drastic change in plant community composition and hydrology than upland communities with a minor ash component.

The Forest Stewardship Program at the DNR provides private landowners with at least 20 acres of forested land (or land that will have trees) professional forest management advice from a qualified DNR forester or private land forestry consultant. For a fee, landowners will consult with a forester to talk about their goals for forest management. The forester will write a forest management plan and the land will be eligible for property tax relief programs and state cost-share assistance for management work. For more information on the DNR's professional forest management assistance for private landowners, please visit our [webpage](#).

Communities interested in caring for and managing their urban and community forests can find helpful information at the DNR's website on the Community Forestry webpage. Information and links about grant programs, DNR Arbor Month, and best management practices for preventing spreading invasive species and conserving wooded areas can be at this [website](#).



MN Board of Water and Soil Resources
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

June 5, 2023

Mark Zabel, Administrator
Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization
4100 220th St. W #103
Farmington, MN 55024

RE: Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan Update

Dear Mr. Zabel,

This letter is in response to your March 31, 2023, email soliciting input for the next iteration of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization's (VRWJPO) Watershed Management Plan (Plan). Thank you for the opportunity to provide preliminary input. I have appreciated talking with both you and Travis Thiel about the planning process and Plan content, and I look forward to working with the VRWJPO throughout this effort.

The Board of Water and Soil Resources' (BWSR) expectations for the Plan update focus on:

- 1) Process. Provide opportunities to discuss relevant topics and affirm, align, or change direction based on initial input and issue identification.
- 2) Coordination. Good planning is collaborative from the beginning and engages with multiple units of government, partners, and the public at many different levels of the process.
- 3) Plan Contents. Plans should focus on priority issues, clearly describe actions to be taken over the next 10 years, incorporate relevant and timely data and trends, and contain short-, mid-, and long-term measurable goals based on science, local priorities, and targeted implementation plans.
- 4) Organizational Capacity. Incorporate authentic self-evaluation, accountability, and potential efficiency of implementation to create ambitious yet realistic goals.

The requirements for the planning process and Plan content are outlined in Minnesota Rule 8410 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/8410/>) and Minnesota Statute 103B (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=103B>). Please reference these documents throughout the process.

Additional resources that may be helpful for developing implementation actions and measurable goals can be found in the *One Watershed One Plan Guidebook* (<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/one-watershed-one-plan-resources>). Note that these resources are useful for watershed planning across the region, regardless of whether the Plan is developed as part of the 1W1P process.

- *Identifying and Prioritizing Resources and Issues* (pages 7-10)
- *Setting Measurable Goals* (pages 11-14)
- *Targeting Implementation Activities* (pages 23-26)

In the VRWJPO's 2022 Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) Summary Report, BWSR recognized the VRWJPO as a top performer, citing efficient and effective implementation of projects within the watershed. Commendation was also given to the VRWJPO's monitoring and tracking program as well as their capacity to forge and maintain strong, collaborative relationships with partners. I look forward to the continuation of these great efforts as part of the next Plan.

Below are a few specific comments for the VRWJPO to consider as the planning process begins.

Measurable Plan Goals (please refer to [MN Rule 8410.0080](#)):

- The Plan must include specific and measurable goals for water quantity, water quality, public drainage systems, groundwater, and wetlands, as well as other priority issues identified during the input process.
- Goals need sufficient detail to determine what will be accomplished by the end of the Plan and whether success has been achieved. BWSR recommends the following process:
 - define a strategy to prioritize the top resource concerns;
 - create specific and measurable goals for implementation activities; and
 - develop metrics to measure progress.
- The Plan should be written to ensure that highly prioritized projects are targeted, making it easier to show how the VRWJPO is addressing both resource and constituent concerns. A clearly prioritized and well-targeted plan can also help communicate the need for specific projects in terms of achieving water quality improvements.

Implementation Actions (please refer to [MN Rule 8410.0100](#)):

- The implementation program should be clear in identifying what implementation actions the VRWJPO will undertake in the next 10 years with available local funds, regardless of whether they receive new grant funding.
- Include a procedure to evaluate progress for implementation activities at a minimum of every two years.
- Define the process for evaluating implementation of local water plans.

Other comments:

- The current Plan does an excellent job describing threats to groundwater quality and quantity in the watershed and outlines numerous efforts to address groundwater issues. The VRWJPO has also worked extensively with partners on projects and planning related to groundwater over the past 10 years. In developing the next Plan, I encourage the VRWJPO to describe how they will continue this work, particularly considering recent plans and processes that did not exist during the last Plan update, such as the Dakota County Groundwater Plan, the Dakota County Agricultural Chemical Reduction Effort, and the Minnesota Groundwater Protection Rule.
- I commend the VRWJPO for addressing climate change in their current plan and look forward to greater prioritization and expanded efforts related to climate resiliency. Among other resources, the BWSR Climate Resiliency Toolbox (<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/bwsr-climate-resiliency-toolbox>) may be useful.
- Similarly, the VRWJPO should continue and expand its efforts to address chloride pollution, particularly given continued urban expansion in the region. In addition to the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Chloride TMDL, we recommend consideration of data and strategies from the Twin Cities Chloride Management Plan (MPCA) and the Regional Assessment of Chloride in Select Twin Cities Metro Streams (Met Council).
- As the VRWJPO develops its public input process, we encourage consideration of diversity, equity, and inclusion elements to ensure robust community engagement that is representative of the changing demographics of both Scott and Dakota counties over the past 10 years¹. Tools such as [EJScreen](#):

¹ Minnesota County Profiles. Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. Accessed 6/2/2023.

[Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool](#)², the [Social Vulnerability Index](#)³, and the [American Community Survey](#)⁴ may be helpful.

I look forward to providing additional input and BWSR assistance as the VRWJPO works through development of the Plan. Please forward a copy of the proposed public input process once it has been developed. Please also invite me to workshops, public input events, and advisory committee meetings. My priority will be advisory committee meetings, but I will try to attend other events as time allows. If you have questions or need additional information, feel free to contact me by phone at 651-392-5064 or via email at Anne.Sawyer@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,

Anne Sawyer

Anne Sawyer
BWSR Board Conservationist

CC: Melissa Bokman-Ermer (VRWJPO Co-administrator, via email)
Marcey Westrick (Central Region Manager, BWSR, via email)
State Review Agencies (via email)
Megan Moore (DNR)
Mark Wettlaufer (MDH)
Jeffrey Berg (MDA)
Maureen Hoffman (METC)
Jeff Risberg (MPCA)
Jason Swenson (MNDOT)

Equal Opportunity Employer

² US Environmental Protection Agency, accessed 6/2/2023

³ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, US Centers for Disease Control, accessed 6/2/2023

⁴ US Census Bureau, accessed 6/2/2023



June 2, 2023

Mark Zabel, Administrator
Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization
4100 220th Street West, #103
Farmington, Minnesota 55337

Re: Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Update for the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

Mark,

This letter is in response to your request for information that can be considered as you begin developing your 4th generation comprehensive watershed management plan (Plan). We appreciate the partnership our organizations have shared over the past many years.

Initial priority issues of our organization will be to 1.) identify those water bodies that are “nearly or barely” impaired and focus on keeping them from being impaired or work toward getting them delisted; 2.) reducing peak flow and volume of surface water runoff within sub-watersheds that have experienced flooding or excessive soil loss and 3.) Seek implementation activities that provide multiple benefits to water resources such as groundwater or surface water quality, fish or wildlife habitat and public recreation opportunities.

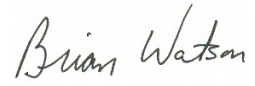
As you know, the State of Minnesota has placed a stronger emphasis on the use of Prioritized, Targeted and Measurable (PTM) criteria for the development of goals and objectives within both watershed plans and soil and water conservation district plans under Minnesota Statute 103b and 103c. A stated goal of the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board is to decrease the amount of time and cost involved with planning efforts and the overall number of plans developed. The SWCD would like to work through local watershed plans to incorporate our resource priorities.

As our two organizations along with state, regional agencies and other local stakeholders begin discussing updates to the Plan, we would ask that the VRWJPO consider how SWCD priorities under the PTM criteria could be adopted into the VRWJPO implementation table. We believe this effort could align priorities and pool resources for both organizations. Potential collaboration ideas for inclusion into an implementation plan include:

- Administrating and implementing grants
- Education and outreach
- Sub-watershed assessments or feasibility studies
- Technical assistance and project implementation
- Water monitoring

Again, thank you for your partnership and we look forward to implementing our shared vision of protecting and managing soil and water resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Watson".

Brian Watson, District Manager

Cc: Melissa Bookman, Co-VRWJPO Administrator
Anne Sawyer, BWSR Board Conservationist
Dakota SWCD Board



May 26, 2023

Mark Zabel
Administrator
Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization
4100 220th St. W #103
Farmington, MN 55024

RE: Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan Update Request for Information

Dear Mr. Zabel:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our priority concerns for inclusion in the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization's (VRWJPO) updated Watershed Management Plan (Plan), as well as the Metropolitan Council's (Council) expectations for the Plan outcomes. I have included a list of Council resources that may be of use in the Plan preparation.

Council Expectations and Priorities for Plan Preparation and Review

Council staff will review the plan through the lens of the Council's *Thrive MSP 2040* document which is the Regional Development Framework for the seven county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area and the *2040 Water Resources Policy Plan*, both of which can be found on the Council's web page (www.metrocouncil.org).

In particular, the *2040 Water Resources Policy Plan* (Policy Plan) includes policies and strategies to achieve the following goal:

To protect, conserve, and utilize the region's groundwater and surface water in ways that protect public health, support economic growth and development, maintain habitat and ecosystem health, and provide for recreational opportunities, which are essential to our region's quality of life.

The Policy Plan takes an integrated approach to water supply, water quality, and wastewater issues. This approach moves beyond managing wastewater and stormwater only to meet regulatory requirements by viewing wastewater and stormwater as resources, with the goal of protecting the quantity and quality of water our region's needs now and for future generations.

The Policy Plan includes policies and strategies to:

- Maximize regional benefits from regional investments in the areas of wastewater, water supply and surface water management and protection.
- Pursue reuse of wastewater and stormwater to offset demands on groundwater supplies.
- Promote greater collaboration, financial support, and technical support in working with partners to address wastewater, water quality, water quantity and water supply issues.
- Promote the concept of sustainable water resources through collaboration and cooperation, with the region taking steps to manage its water resources in a sustainable way with goals of:

- Providing an adequate water supply for the region
- Promoting and implementing best management practices aimed at protecting the quality and quantity of our resources
- Providing efficient and cost-effective wastewater services to the region
- Efficiently addressing nonpoint and point sources pollution issues and solutions, and,
- Assessment and monitoring of lakes, rivers, and streams to direct adequate management, protection, and restoration of the region's valued water resources.

The updated watershed management plan should include policies related to the protection of area water resources with these strategies in mind, with the end goal of water sustainability.

In addition to being consistent with the Council's policy plan, the Plan also should include quantifiable and measurable goals and policies that address water quantity, water quality, recreation, fish and wildlife, enhancement of public participation, groundwater, wetlands, and erosion issues.

Council staff will be looking for the Plan to address the issues and problems in the watershed and to include projects or actions and funding to address them. At a minimum the Plan should address:

1. Any problems with lake and stream water quality and quantity, including information on impaired waters in the watershed and the Organization's role in addressing the impairments,
2. Flooding issues in the watershed,
3. Climate and resilience planning,
4. Information on emerging contaminants within the watershed, outlining watershed district and partners' roles.
5. Stormwater rate control issues in the watershed,
6. Impacts of water management on the recreation opportunities,
7. Impact of soil erosion problems on water quantity and quality,
8. The general impact of land use practices on water quantity and quality,
9. Policies and strategies related to monitoring of area water resources,
10. Policies and strategies related to use of best management practices,
11. Issues concerning the interaction of surface water and groundwater in the watershed,
12. Erosion and sediment control standards and requirements,
13. Volume reduction goals at least as restrictive as requirements in the NPDES construction general permit, and,
14. Capital improvement plan with itemized list of actions, estimated costs, and timeline.
15. Specifics on long-term maintenance of projects identified in the capital improvement plan, including identification of entities responsible for funding and conducting maintenance, as well as how long-term maintenance will be documented,
16. Specify to what degree the Plan may be adopted by reference by a local government unit for all or part of its local water plan. Additionally, please include information in the Plan on what information local municipalities must include in their local water management plans to receive approval from VRWJPO.

The Council also encourages the plan to leverage partnership opportunities where possible and to state them clearly within the Plan. The Council believes that to achieve productive and effective water governance within Minnesota we must all work together, this includes partnering with the cities and townships within the watershed.

Specific Priority Issues

Based on Council policies, the following issues are specific to the Vermillion River watershed and are viewed as priorities by the Council for inclusion in the Plan:

- Lebanon Hills, Spring Lake Park Reserve, and Whitetail Woods Regional Parks are located in the watershed. The Council has made a substantial investment in the regional park system through its park implementing powers. Improvement of water quality in the watershed would likely have a positive impact on the park, through improving fisheries and wildlife and/or by reducing risks to public health. The Plan needs to address any issues, problems, capital projects, or land use changes related to the regional park.
- The Council has updated its Priority Waters list, formerly known as the Priority Lakes list, which now includes rivers and streams. It will provide a key lens for developing policies and activities to include in the 2050 Water Resources Policy Plan. It will inform how the Council can align with the priorities of local and state partners, like VRWJPO, and provide value for the region.

The list has the following waters in the VRWJPO: Empire Lake, Marion Lake, and Lake Rebecca; in addition to the Mississippi River, Vermillion River, and the South Branch of the Vermillion River.

While the list was developed after the adoption of the 2040 Policy Plan and is a foundational dataset for the 2050 Policy Plan, it would be appreciated if the VRWJPO could include these water designations in the Land and Water Resources Inventory.

Available Council Resources

The Council has collected monitoring data for numerous water bodies within Vermillion River watershed from 2013-2022.

Waterbody Type	Site	Monitoring Program†	Years of data
Lake	Alimagnet lake	CAMP	2013-2022
Lake	Birger Pond	CAMP	2022
Lake	Cobblestone Lake	CAMP	2013-2021
Lake	East Lake	CAMP	2013-2022
Lake	Empire Lake	MCES	2022
Lake	Farquar Lake	CAMP	2013-2022
Lake	Long Lake	CAMP	2013-2022
Lake	Marion Lake	CAMP	2013-2022
Lake	Lake Rebecca	CAMP	2015-2022
Lake	Scout Lake	CAMP	2013-2022
Lake	Spring Lake	MCES	2016
Lake	Valley Lake	CAMP	2013-2022
River	Mississippi River, Mile 815.6	River Program	2013-2022
River	Vermillion River, Mile 20.6	River Program	2013-2017
River	Vermillion River, Mile 15.6	River Program	2013-2019
River	Vermillion River, Mile 2.7	River Program	2013-2017
River	Vermillion River, Mile 2.0	WOMP	2013-2022

†CAMP = Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program; MCES = Environmental Services Lake Monitoring Program; WOMP = Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program

River, stream, and lake data can be downloaded by visiting the Council's EIMS website:

<https://eims.metc.state.mn.us/>.

- **Local Planning Handbook:** The Council provides information about the cities and townships within your watershed boundaries, including community designations, forecasted population counts, generalized land uses, and other information that might be useful in your planning efforts.

[Local Planning Handbook – Metropolitan Council \(metro council.org\)](https://metro council.org)

- **Place-based equity research dataset:** The Council has published a new dataset, “Equity Considerations for Place-Based Advocacy and Decisions in the Twin Cities Region,” that provides equity-relevant characteristics for each of the 704 census tracts in the Twin Cities region. Formerly known as the Areas of Concentrated Poverty dataset, it has been expanded to provide a much more nuanced portrait of neighborhoods and their residents.

[Place-based Equity Research - Metropolitan Council \(metro council.org\)](https://metro council.org)

- **Climate vulnerability assessment (CVA):** The CVA is a tool that can assist in Council and community planning efforts in preparing and adapting to climate change because the CVA can reveal system vulnerabilities to currently occurring and, to some extent, expected climatic changes. Tools and resources currently include an extreme heat map tool and localized flood map screening tool.

[Climate Vulnerability Assessment - Metropolitan Council \(metro council.org\)](https://metro council.org)

- **Growing shade, tree canopy enhancement and preservation tool:** Growing Shade combines local stories and an interactive mapping tool to inform tree canopy enhancement and preservation. The tool, designed in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and Tree Trust, allows users to generate reports based on various presets like climate change, conservation, environmental justice, and public health at a range of scales from city-township to census block groups. By combining different variables of your choosing, you can generate data to meet your specific needs, whether you want to set canopy goals for a community or produce supporting data for grant applications.

[Tree Canopy - Metropolitan Council \(metro council.org\)](https://metro council.org)

I will be happy to direct you to load spreadsheets and any other Environmental Services’ data and analyses, as well as any spatial data. I will also be the Council representative to participate in your Plan’s TAC. Feel free to me call on 651-602-1078 or email me at Jennifer.kostrzewski@metc.state.mn.us with questions about my comments or for any assistance during the plan preparation.

Sincerely,



Jennifer (Jen) Kostrzewski
Environmental Analyst
Water Resources Planning
Metropolitan Council Environmental Services

cc: Anne Sawyer, Board of Soil and Water Resources
Water Resources Reviews, Metropolitan Council

May 30, 2023

Mark Zabel
Administrator
Vermillion River Watershed JPO
4100 220th St W, #103
Farmington, MN 55024

RE: Vermillion River Watershed JPO request for MPCA Priority Issues to include in Local Water Plan (2026-2036)

Dear Mark Zabel:

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) appreciates the opportunity to provide input at the outset of the Local Water Plan Process to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (JPO). The MPCA has developed technical information, reports, total maximum daily load (TMDL) studies, tools, and potential strategies for the protection and restoration of waterbodies that may be useful for inclusion in a local water plan.

We recommend:

- Incorporating and implementing strategies and goals from completed TMDL's and implementation plans
- Determine quantitative accounting of efforts and reductions you hope/intend to accomplish over the 10-year plan cycle relative to water quality targets
- Identify geographic priority areas and implementation to match those prioritized waters

Priority issues:

The MPCA has identified several strategic goals including:

- Assist local partners to accelerate targeted reductions for identified priority impaired waters
- Assist to develop strategies to protect priority waters that are meeting water quality goals
- Reduce chloride to surface and ground water
- Incorporate environmental justice into planning
- Increase community and environmental resilience to climate change

Links to reports and pertinent information can be found at:

- Mississippi River – Lake Pepin Watershed TMDL page with Monitoring reports, TMDL's, and Implementation reports
 - [Mississippi River - Lake Pepin | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency \(state.mn.us\)](#)
 - There are sections related to the Vermillion River
- Data access
 - [Water Quality Assessments Data Viewer](#)
 - [MPCA Surface Water Data](#)
- Point Source Phosphorus Mapping Tool: Summaries of annual phosphorus loads and flow volumes discharged from National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)/State Disposal System (SDS) permitted facilities since 2005

- [Background information on phosphorus in wastewater](#)
- [Phosphorus Loads by NPDES Wastewater Facility \(arcgis.com\)](#)
- Minnesota Nutrient Reduction Strategy
 - [MPCA Nutrient Reduction Strategy](#)
- Minnesota Stormwater Manual
 - [MPCA Stormwater Manual](#)
- MPCA funding options
 - [Watershed project funding | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency \(state.mn.us\)](#)

Background information:

Table 1 through 3 summarize the status of waters within the Vermillion River JPO boundary:

- 26 streams and lakes have 60 impairments as identified in the 2022 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved 303(d) impaired waters list (Table 1)
 - 30 have approved TMDL plans
 - At this time, the MPCA does not require TMDLs for aluminum, PCBs, or PFOS
- 1 new impairment is being proposed in the 2024 submittal to the EPA
- 1 lake is meeting or close to meeting standards

Chloride Reduction

Currently, there are no chloride impairments in the Vermillion JPO's area, but with more growth in the watershed, it is good to be aware of strategies to reduce the impact of chloride.

Chloride reduction at the source is key since there are currently no known economically feasible remediation strategies to remove chloride once it enters the environment. Major sources of chloride include application of chloride-based salts for winter maintenance, residential, and commercial water softening, and agricultural inputs.

- The MPCA maintains technical, educational, and financial resources
 - [MPCA Statewide Chloride Resources](#)

Environmental Justice

The MPCA has resources to assist in identifying areas with environmental justice concerns:

- [Understanding environmental justice in Minnesota \(arcgis.com\)](#)
- [MPCA and environmental justice | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency \(state.mn.us\)](#)

EPA tools:

- [EJScreen \(epa.gov\)](#)
- [Environmental Justice | US EPA](#)

Climate Change

Planning should incorporate changing weather patterns to help our communities be prepared for extreme weather events

- [Climate adaptation resources | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency \(state.mn.us\)](#)
- [Climate Resilient Communities | MPCA](#)

Table 1. Impaired Lakes and Streams in Vermillion River Watershed JPO boundary

AUID	Water body name	Water body type	Year added to List	Affected designated use	Pollutant or stressor	EPA category	Year TMDL plan approved	TMDL ID
07040001-504	Vermillion River	Stream	1998	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in fish tissue	4A	2007	PRJ07770-001
-			1998	Aquatic Consumption	PCBs in fish tissue	5		
-			1994	Aquatic Life	Turbidity	4A	2009	PRJ05736-001
07040001-507	Vermillion River	Stream	2012	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in fish tissue	4A	2013	PRJ07770-001
-			2022	Aquatic Life	Aluminum	5		
-			2012	Aquatic Life	Benthic macroinvertebrates bioassessments	5		
-			2012	Aquatic Life	Fish bioassessments	5		
-			2022	Aquatic Life	Total suspended solids (TSS)	5		
-			1994	Aquatic Recreation	Fecal coliform	4A	2006	PRJ07742-001
07040001-516	Vermillion River	Stream	2012	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in fish tissue	4A	2013	PRJ07770-001
-			2022	Aquatic Life	Total suspended solids (TSS)	5		
-			2012	Aquatic Recreation	Escherichia coli (E. coli)	4A	2015	PRJ07701-001
07040001-517	Vermillion River	Stream	2012	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in fish tissue	4A	2013	PRJ07770-001
-			2012	Aquatic Life	Benthic macroinvertebrates bioassessments	5		
-			2010	Aquatic Life	Dissolved oxygen	5		
-			2012	Aquatic Life	Fish bioassessments	5		
-			2008	Aquatic Life	Turbidity	4A	2015	PRJ07701-001
-			2008	Aquatic Recreation	Fecal coliform	4A	2015	PRJ07701-001
07040001-527	Unnamed creek	Stream	2020	Aquatic Life	Benthic macroinvertebrates bioassessments	5		
-			2022	Aquatic Life	Dissolved oxygen	5		
-			2020	Aquatic Life	Fish bioassessments	5		
-			2022	Aquatic Life	Total suspended solids (TSS)	5		
-			2008	Aquatic Recreation	Fecal coliform	4A	2015	PRJ07701-001
07040001-542	Unnamed creek	Stream	2008	Aquatic Recreation	Fecal coliform	4A	2015	PRJ07701-001
07040001-545	Unnamed creek (Vermillion River Tributary)	Stream	2010	Aquatic Life	Dissolved oxygen	5		
-			2022	Aquatic Life	Total suspended solids (TSS)	5		

AUID	Water body name	Water body type	Year added to List	Affected designated use	Pollutant or stressor	EPA category	Year TMDL plan approved	TMDL ID
-	-	-	2008	Aquatic Recreation	Fecal coliform	4A	2015	PRJ07701-001
07040001-546	Unnamed creek	Stream	2010	Aquatic Recreation	Escherichia coli (E. coli)	4A	2015	PRJ07701-001
07040001-548	Unnamed creek	Stream	2010	Aquatic Recreation	Escherichia coli (E. coli)	4A	2015	PRJ07701-001
07040001-668	Unnamed creek (Vermillion River Tributary)	Stream	2008	Aquatic Recreation	Fecal coliform	4A	2015	PRJ07701-001
07040001-670	Unnamed creek (Vermillion River Tributary)	Stream	2022	Aquatic Life	Fish bioassessments	5		
-	-	-	2010	Aquatic Recreation	Escherichia coli (E. coli)	4A	2015	PRJ07701-001
07040001-671	Unnamed creek (Vermillion River Tributary)	Stream	2020	Aquatic Life	Benthic macroinvertebrates bioassessments	5		
-	-	-	2020	Aquatic Life	Dissolved oxygen	5		
-	-	-	2020	Aquatic Life	Fish bioassessments	5		
-	-	-	2022	Aquatic Life	Total suspended solids (TSS)	5		
-	-	-	2008	Aquatic Recreation	Fecal coliform	4A	2015	PRJ07701-001
07040001-691	Vermillion River	Stream	2012	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in fish tissue	4A	2013	PRJ07770-001
07040001-692	Vermillion River	Stream	2012	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in fish tissue	4A	2013	PRJ07770-001
-	-	-	2012	Aquatic Life	Fish bioassessments	5		
-	-	-	2022	Aquatic Life	Total suspended solids (TSS)	5		
-	-	-	1996	Aquatic Recreation	Fecal coliform	4A	2006	PRJ07742-001
07040001-697	Unnamed creek	Stream	2020	Aquatic Life	Benthic macroinvertebrates bioassessments	5		
-	-	-	2020	Aquatic Life	Fish bioassessments	5		
07040001-706	Vermillion River, South Branch	Stream	2008	Aquatic Recreation	Fecal coliform	4A	2015	PRJ07701-001
07040001-707	Vermillion River, South Branch	Stream	2022	Aquatic Life	Benthic macroinvertebrates bioassessments	5		
-	-	-	2022	Aquatic Life	Fish bioassessments	5		
-	-	-	2022	Aquatic Life	Total suspended solids (TSS)	5		
-	-	-	2008	Aquatic Recreation	Fecal coliform	4A	2015	PRJ07701-001
07040001-721	Unnamed creek (Vermillion River Tributary)	Stream	2020	Aquatic Life	Benthic macroinvertebrates bioassessments	5		
-	-	-	2020	Aquatic Life	Fish bioassessments	5		

AUID	Water body name	Water body type	Year added to List	Affected designated use	Pollutant or stressor	EPA category	Year TMDL plan approved	TMDL ID
19-0003-00	Rebecca	Lake	1998	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in fish tissue	4A	2008	PRJ07770-001
			2022	Aquatic Consumption	Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) in fish tissue	5		
19-0021-00	Alimagnet	Lake	2002	Aquatic Recreation	Nutrients	4A	2015	PRJ07701-001
19-0022-00	Long	Lake	2002	Aquatic Recreation	Nutrients	4A	2009	PRJ07738-001
19-0023-00	Farquar	Lake	2002	Aquatic Recreation	Nutrients	4A	2009	PRJ07738-001
19-0026-01	MARION (EAST BAY)	Lake	1998	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in fish tissue	4A	2007	PRJ07770-001
19-0026-02	MARION (MIDDLE BAY)	Lake	1998	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in fish tissue	4A	2007	PRJ07770-001
19-0026-03	MARION (WEST BAY)	Lake	1998	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in fish tissue	4A	2007	PRJ07770-001
19-0349-00	Unnamed	Lake	2012	Aquatic Recreation	Nutrients	4A	2015	PRJ07701-001

Table 2. New Impairments proposed for 2024 303(d) impaired waters list

WATERBODY NAME	WATERBODY TYPE	AUID	NEW IMPAIRMENTS
Rebecca	Lake	19-0003-00	Nutrients

Table 3. Meeting or close to meeting standards

Water body name	Water body type	AUID
Unnamed (Valley)	Lake	19-0348-00

We look forward to partnering with the Vermillion River Watershed JPO in the continued development of your local water plan. The MPCA is aware of the many efforts underway in the watershed, and we hope to continue to work in cooperation with local governments in the watershed. If we may be of further assistance, please contact me, Amy Timm, at 651-757-2632.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide our comments toward the development of your local water plan.

Sincerely,



This document has been electronically signed.

Amy Timm
Environmental Specialist
Watershed Division

AT:jdf

June 21, 2023

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization
4100 220th Street W #103
Farmington, MN 55024

Re: Comments for Future Watershed Plan Review

Dear Mr. Zabel:

In response to your request for comments on issues that we might want to be addressed in the upcoming update of the VRWJPO watershed plan, the City of Rosemount would like to request the VRWJPO formally consider and advise the City if they have the option of approving a temporary or permanent outlet directing stormwater overflows from within the City South to the Vermillion River. In 2016, the City and VRWJPO engaged in a cost share agreement to add additional detail to the VRWJPO XP-SWMM Model within the City of Rosemount and re-establish existing conditions intercommunity discharge limits. This analysis stopped at the establishment of the existing discharge limits and did not answer critical questions of what the process would be to provide necessary flood protection for hundreds of homes within the City.

A trunk storm sewer line is currently being constructed through the City as development occurs along its alignment. The proposed trunk storm sewer will eventually provide an outlet to the Mississippi River. However, there are segments of the Mississippi River trunk storm sewer line that may not be constructed for quite some time depending on future development timelines, or that face land acquisition challenges or other hurdles, keeping the majority of the City landlocked until the trunk line can be completed. In order to provide resiliency to the City's stormwater system, the City requests VRWJPO's consideration of modification to the established intercommunity flow rates to allow for an alternative temporary or permanent outlet option for the City of Rosemount south to the Vermillion River.

In addition, if this option does exist, 1) would there be restrictions or conditions associated with the use of this outlet and if so, what would those restrictions or conditions include? 2) How would the VRWJPO be able to assist the City with financing or the construction of outlets to the Vermillion River, and in particular, those that would need to be installed outside the Cities Municipal boundary?

SPIRIT OF PRIDE AND PROGRESS

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www.ci.rosemount.mn.us

The City would also be interested in reviewing alternative strategies to provide flood storage or capacity within or outside the city limits along with potential grant funding opportunities to support infrastructure projects focused on building resiliency and flood control.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me at 651-322-2025.

Sincerely,



Brian L. Erickson, P.E.

City Engineer

City of Rosemount

From: [Behan, Michael](#)
To: [Moore-Kutz, Brita](#)
Cc: [Thiel, Travis](#); [Zabel, Mark](#)
Subject: RE: Notice: Vermillion River Watershed Plan Update
Date: Monday, April 3, 2023 12:17:54 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.gif](#)
[image005.jpg](#)
[image006.jpg](#)
[image007.jpg](#)
[image008.jpg](#)
[image009.jpg](#)

Brita – thanks for the notice. I don't have a ton to add but I think as someone that tracks Dakota County's (transportation-related) storm sewer system permit, I think studies or assistance in targeting the Vermillion River TSS and bacterial impairments for project prioritization would be useful. For instance, could the VRWJPO lead a study that identifies the largest TSS contributors via municipal storm sewer systems and recommend specific projects that can be implemented by City or County public works departments in conjunction with highway reconstruction projects? Or, if specific structural BMPs are not recommended to address the problem, then perhaps some assistance in identifying enhanced street sweeping areas that can be prioritized for TSS reduction benefits. The specific impairment I am referring to is TSS for the Vermillion River Mainstem which I believe applies upstream of the City of Farmington.

Thanks,
Mike

Mike Behan, CPESC
Projects Supervisor – Water Resources
Byllesby Dam Operations



Environmental Resources Department

P 952-891-7539
W www.dakotacounty.us
A 14955 Galaxie Avenue, Apple Valley, MN 55124



From: Moore-Kutz, Brita <Brita.Moore-Kutz@CO.DAKOTA.MN.US>
Sent: Monday, April 03, 2023 10:09 AM
Cc: Zabel, Mark <Mark.Zabel@CO.DAKOTA.MN.US>; Bokman, Melissa <MBokman@co.scott.mn.us>
Subject: Notice: Vermillion River Watershed Plan Update

Interested parties,

The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) has initiated the process of

From: [Neppl, Valerie](#)
To: [Moore-Kutz, Brita](#); [Zabel, Mark](#)
Cc: [Stewart, Nikki](#); [Becker, Brad](#)
Subject: RE: Notice: Vermillion River Watershed Plan Update
Date: Tuesday, June 6, 2023 12:04:15 PM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)
[image005.jpg](#)
[image006.jpg](#)
[image007.jpg](#)
[image008.jpg](#)
[image009.jpg](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)

Mark, Brita,

Please see below comments:

Dakota County recently adopted the [2020-2023 Dakota County Groundwater Plan](#), and subsequently the [Agricultural Chemical Reduction Effort \(ACRE\) Plan](#). The Groundwater Plan and ACRE Plan state the goals and priorities for groundwater protection in the county over the next 10-years. When updating the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) Plan, County staff recommend the VRWJPO staff review the Groundwater Plan to ensure consistency with the stated goals, strategies and tactics. A highlight of information can be found below:

- 1) Priority issues and expectations for VRWJPO involvement in these issues.

A list of all strategies with identified priority can be found in Chapter 2 (Plan Implementation) of the Groundwater Plan. High priority issues/strategies the County anticipates VRWJPO partnership and support include the following:

Goal	Strategy	Expected VRWJPO Involvement
Goal 1 – Water Quality	1A3 – Assist private well owners in having their drinking water tested, understanding results, and using appropriate water treatment	Consider if there are opportunities to partner with Dakota County for private well owner education and outreach within the watershed.
Goal 1 – Water Quality	1B1 – Reduce agricultural chemical contamination Also see ACRE	Dakota County has developed several strategies to address agricultural contamination in Dakota County, with a focus in high nitrate areas of the County. The Vermillion River Watershed has been identified as one of the priority target areas of ACRE due to the elevated nitrate in both groundwater and surface water, and the presence of pesticides, impacting both private and public wells. Consider goals and strategies that will support ACRE and increase voluntary adoption

		of agricultural best management practices and alternate management tools; to include cost-share funding.
Goal 1 – Water Quality	1B4 – Prevent groundwater contamination from chloride	Consider development of a local chloride reduction plan and policy in accordance with the MPCA Statewide Chloride Management Plan and Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Chloride Management Plan.
Goal 2 – Water Quantity	2A2 - Promote Water Conservation	Consider participation in a County-wide water supply/conservation initiative; promotion or cost-share of water conservation projects; or partnering with the County on water conservation programs and projects. This may include law/turf management and irrigation efficiency projects; conservation audits; and replacement of appliances with water/energy efficient versions (e.g., WaterSense toilets, irrigation controllers, etc.)
Goal 2 – Water Quantity	2A3 – Support alternative water supplies	Considering promotion or cost-share of water reuse projects; or partnering with the County on water reuse projects.
Goal 2 – Water Quantity	2B2 - Protect, preserve, and restore resources that support groundwater-dependent ecosystems such as wetlands, fens, and trout streams	Consider any updates to wetland protection and management plans, as needed. Consider partnering with the County for wetland retention and restoration activities as well as partnerships to improve groundwater quality that may impact wetlands, fens, or trout streams.
Goal 3 – Education	3A – Inform and educate general public 3B – Provide training and education to targeted audiences	Consider partnering with the County to expand groundwater conservation and pollution prevention education and outreach efforts. This may include education to the general public or targeted audiences. Consider partnering on “Smart Salt” training and certification efforts.

2) Pertinent water resource information.

Available County-wide groundwater information can be found in Chapter 5 (Groundwater Issues: Quality and Drinking Water Health), and Chapter 6 (Groundwater Quantity Issues: Use, Drawdown, and Recharge) in the Groundwater Plan. In addition, the County recently completed a 20-year ambient groundwater quality study, and a study of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in private wells. All groundwater studies can be found on the [Drinking Water Studies](#) website.

PFAS: PFAS was not found in private wells above the current Minnesota Department of Health

(MDH) guidelines; however, eight wells did have PFOS or PFOA above the recently proposed EPA guidelines of 4 ng/L – all but one was located within the Vermillion River Watershed. Recommend the VRWJPO determine if testing of PFAS in the Vermillion River should be considered.

3) Official controls and programs (as applicable).

Recommended changes to official controls are identified in Chapter 4 (Groundwater Management Roles, Responsibilities, and Official Controls), Section E. This includes:

- To implement Water Quality Goal, Strategy 1B1, “Reduce agricultural chemical contamination,” changes to WMO plans, standards or policies may be needed to support implementation of the Agricultural Chemical Reduction Effort and any associated County Ordinances.
- To implement Water Quality Goal, Strategy 1B3, “Prevent groundwater pollution from stormwater,” changes to WMO plans, standards or policies may be needed that include topsoil organic matter requirements for new developments to reduce compaction, promote soil health, and reduce runoff and potential impacts to groundwater.
- To implement Water Quality Goal, Strategy 1C4, “Prevent pollution by minimizing impacts of aggregate mining on groundwater quality,” changes to WMO plans, standards or policies may be needed to align with the updated County’s model Mining Ordinance and ensure adequate protection from mining operations.
- To implement Water Quantity Goal, Strategy 2A3, “Support alternative water supplies,” changes to WMO plans, standards or policies may be needed to support the development and implementation of water reuse projects

Valerie Neppl, P.E.

Groundwater Protection Unit Supervisor



Environmental Resources

P 952-891-7019

C 210-823-5398

W www.dakotacounty.us

A 14955 Galaxie Avenue, Apple Valley, MN 55124



From: Moore-Kutz, Brita <Brita.Moore-Kutz@CO.DAKOTA.MN.US>

Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 10:09 AM

Cc: Zabel, Mark <Mark.Zabel@CO.DAKOTA.MN.US>; Bokman, Melissa <MBokman@co.scott.mn.us>

Subject: Notice: Vermillion River Watershed Plan Update

Interested parties,

The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) has initiated the process of updating its Watershed Management Plan. Please see the attached letter for details about the Plan

From: [Samantha Berger](#)
To: [Moore-Kutz, Brita](#); [Zabel, Mark](#)
Cc: [Thiel, Travis](#)
Subject: FW: Notice: Vermillion River Watershed Plan Update
Date: Tuesday, June 6, 2023 7:18:26 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Good Morning,

I am a day late with my comment, my apologies, I was out sick yesterday.

General Comment for Consideration:

Watershed should consider whether it would be worthwhile to adopt 100-year regulatory floodplain elevations for riparian areas. As part of the Surface Water Management Plans process, many municipalities created Hydraulic and Hyrdologic models to look at water elevations based on Atlas 14 precipitation values for 100-year events. However, many municipalities likely do not have regulatory floodplain elevations outside those identified by FEMA. FEMA models are not as detailed as local model data; therefore, areas could be at risk of flooding during extreme events, but are not aware that they are within flood risk areas.

The City will look forward to being involved in the planning process as it progresses.

Thanks,

Sam

Samantha Berger

City of Apple Valley | Water Resource Specialist
952.953.2462 | samantha.berger@applevalleymn.gov

From: Moore-Kutz, Brita <Brita.Moore-Kutz@CO.DAKOTA.MN.US>
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 10:09 AM
Cc: Zabel, Mark <Mark.Zabel@CO.DAKOTA.MN.US>; Bokman, Melissa <MBokman@co.scott.mn.us>
Subject: Notice: Vermillion River Watershed Plan Update

From: [Zabel, Mark](#)
To: [Moore-Kutz, Brita](#); [Thiel, Travis](#)
Subject: FW: VRWJPO Comments from City of Empire
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 12:23:52 PM
Attachments: [Vermillion Watershed Request.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

FYI.

Mark Zabel | Administrator
Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

Dakota County Extension & Conservation Center
4100 220th St W #103
Farmington, MN 55024
952.891.7011
mark.zabel@co.dakota.mn.us
vermillionriverwatershed.org



From: admin@ci.empire.mn.us <admin@ci.empire.mn.us>
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 12:16 PM
To: Zabel, Mark <Mark.Zabel@CO.DAKOTA.MN.US>
Cc: Jenni Faulkner <jenni.faulkner@bolton-menk.com>
Subject: VRWJPO Comments from City of Empire

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Dear Mark,

The City of Empire received your letter dated March 31, 2023, requesting comments on the 2026-2035 Watershed Plan.

The Empire Planning Commission and City Council reviewed the request and have the following comments:

- The need for infiltration on sandy soils.
- We want to make sure there are not changes to the recommended setbacks for new home construction.
- We want to make sure that there are no recommended changes to Ag/Farming practices in the new plan.

We would like the ability to review and comment on the draft 2026-2035.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Charles Seipel - Teng
Clerk – Administrator

City of Empire
3385 197th Street
Farmington, MN 55024
651-463-4494
www.ci.empire.mn.us

Hours: Mon-Thur 8AM-4:30PM, Fri 8AM-11AM

6e. Presentation and Discussion on Proposed VRWJPO 2024 Draft Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy

Meeting Date: 7/27/2023
Item Type: Regular-Information
Contact: Valerie Neppel
Telephone: 952-891-7019
Prepared by: Valerie Neppel
Reviewed by: N/A N/A



PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

- Presentation and Discussion on Proposed VRWJPO 2024 Draft Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy.

SUMMARY

The proposed Draft VRWJPO 2024 Budget (included as Attachment A) is \$2,058,300 including cash reserves, Clean Water Fund Competitive Funding grant, Clean Water Fund Watershed-Based Implementation Funding grant, and the Watershed Management Tax District Levy. The Draft VRWJPO 2024 Budget recommends a Watershed Management Tax District Levy of \$1,000,000, \$34,400 in the Scott County portion of the watershed and \$965,600 in the Dakota County portion of the watershed. This amount represents no change from the overall Watershed Management Tax District levy compared to 2023. The draft budget reflects recommendations from VRWJPO staff and partners and items from the implementation section of the Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan.

An approved Draft VRWJPO 2024 Budget will remain “draft” until such time as the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Power Board adopts a Final VRWJPO 2024 Budget and Dakota County and Scott County Boards certify the final Watershed Management Tax District Levy in December of 2023.

Supporting Documents:

Attachment A: Draft VRWJPO 2024 Budget

Attachment B: Vermillion River Watershed Tax District Estimated 2024 Taxes DC

Attachment C: 2024 Vermillion WMO Impact SC

Previous Board Action(s):

RESOLUTION

6e. Presentation and Discussion on Proposed VRWJPO 2024 Draft Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy

Information only.

Draft 2024 VRWJPO Budget

<u>Category</u>	<u>Budget Items</u>	<u>2024 Draft Budget Amount</u>	<u>Budget % of Total</u>	<u>2023 Final Budget Amount</u>	<u>Budget % of Total</u>
EXPENSES					
Administration and Operations 601-5010001-00000000	1 Dakota County VRW Staff	\$170,500	8.3%	\$180,500	5.3%
	2 Scott County VRW Staff	\$15,000	0.7%	\$15,000	0.4%
	3 Other Dakota County Staff Time	\$12,000	0.6%	\$12,000	0.4%
	4 Legal Support	\$25,000	1.2%	\$25,000	0.7%
	5 Miscellaneous Expenses (per diems, mileage, postage, etc.)	\$6,000	0.3%	\$6,000	0.2%
	6 Training, Conferences, and Certifications	\$2,000	0.1%	\$2,000	0.1%
Subtotal Administrative		\$230,500	11.2%	\$240,500	7.0%
Research and Planning 601-5010001-50100130	1 Dakota SWCD Incentive Program Policy Assistance	\$1,000	0.0%	\$1,600	0.0%
	2 Scott County Staff	\$7,000	0.3%	\$2,000	0.1%
	3 VRW Staff	\$30,000	1.5%	\$15,000	0.4%
	4 Dakota County Staff	\$20,000	1.0%		
	5 Consulting	\$20,000	1.0%		
Subtotal Research and Planning		\$78,000	3.8%	\$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	\$30,000	1.5%	\$39,000	1.1%
	1b Data analysis, database management, data reporting, FLUX modeling	\$15,000	0.7%	\$17,000	0.5%
	1c Water Quality Sample Analysis and QA/QC samples	\$19,000	0.9%	\$19,000	0.6%
	1d Equipment and Supplies	\$8,000	0.4%	\$8,000	0.2%
	1e Biological and Habitat Assessments	\$7,000	0.3%	\$7,000	0.2%
	2 Vermillion River Monitoring Network in Scott Co	\$10,150	0.5%	\$9,800	0.3%
	3 USGS Cost Share for Blaine Ave. Station	\$8,900	0.4%	\$8,900	0.3%
	4 DNR Flow Gaging Assistance	\$9,700	0.5%	\$9,700	0.3%
	5b Electrofishing	\$25,000	1.2%	\$16,000	0.5%
6 Monitoring Programs Review and Evaluation	\$15,000	0.7%	\$15,000	0.4%	

Draft 2024 VRWJPO Budget

<u>Category</u>	<u>Budget Items</u>	<u>2024 Draft Budget Amount</u>	<u>Budget % of Total</u>	<u>2023 Final Budget Amount</u>	<u>Budget % of Total</u>
	7 General GIS support (Dakota SWCD)	\$5,000	0.2%	\$5,000	0.1%
	8 Nitrate Treatment Practice Sampling	\$1,000	0.0%	\$1,000	0.0%
	9 Iron Enhanced Sand Filter Performance Sampling	\$2,000	0.1%	\$2,000	0.1%
Subtotal Monitoring and Data Analysis		\$155,750	7.6%	\$157,400	4.6%
Public Communications and Outreach 601-5010001-50100330	1 Communication and Outreach Staff	\$100,000	4.9%	\$100,000	2.9%
	2 Vermillion River Watch Program (Dakota SWSCD)	\$5,000	0.2%	\$6,000	0.2%
	4 Scott County Outreach Efforts	\$2,080	0.1%	\$2,250	0.1%
	5 Vermillion River Watershed Projects Signage and Map Updates	\$10,000	0.5%	\$10,000	0.3%
	6 Newsletter, Mailings, Website, General Communication Materials	\$10,000	0.5%	\$10,000	0.3%
	7 Landscaping for Clean Water Workshop Program (Dakota SWCD)	\$30,400	1.5%	\$30,400	0.9%
	8 Low Input Turf Workshops (Dakota SWCD)	\$7,600	0.4%		
	9 K-12 Classroom Presentations (Dakota SWCD)	\$3,000	0.1%	\$4,000	0.1%
	10 Watershed Tours	\$0	0.0%	\$0	0.0%
	11 Local Standards/ Ordinance and Turf/ Salt Workshops	\$3,500	0.2%	\$3,500	0.1%
Subtotal Public Outreach and Communication		\$171,580	8.3%	\$166,150	4.9%
Regulation 601-5010001-50100530	1 Scott SWCD Assistance with Plan Review	\$930	0.0%	\$900	0.0%
	2 Engineering Assistance and Review	\$35,000	1.7%	\$35,000	1.0%
	3 VRW Staff Local Program Assistance	\$20,000	1.0%	\$20,000	0.6%
Subtotal Regulation		\$55,930	2.7%	\$55,900	1.6%
Coordination and Collaboration 601-5010001-50100531	1 Coordination VRW Staff	\$40,000	1.9%	\$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	0.2%	\$5,000	0.1%
	5 Master Water Stewards	\$5,000	0.2%	\$5,000	0.1%
Subtotal Coordination and Collaboration		\$50,600	2.5%	\$42,600	1.2%

Draft 2024 VRWJPO Budget

<u>Category</u>	<u>Budget Items</u>	<u>2024 Draft Budget Amount</u>	<u>Budget % of Total</u>	<u>2023 Final Budget Amount</u>	<u>Budget % of Total</u>
Land and Water Treatment					
Capital Improvement Projects	1 Cost Share Programs in Dakota County (SWCD)	\$80,000	3.9%	\$80,000	2.3%
	2 Cost Share Programs in Scott County (SWCD)	\$31,980	1.6%	\$31,300	0.9%
601-5020001-50200130	3 Cost-share	\$400,000	19.4%	\$250,000	7.3%
	4 WBIF match	\$30,000	1.5%	\$70,000	2.0%
Subtotal Capital Improvement Projects		\$541,980	26.3%	\$431,300	12.6%
Maintenance	1 Past projects maintenance/ repair	\$70,000	3.4%	\$70,000	2.0%
601-5020001-50200130	2 CIP construction oversight, maintenance/ repair staff costs	\$35,000	1.7%	\$25,000	0.7%
Subtotal Maintenance		\$105,000	5.1%	\$95,000	2.8%
Feasibility/Preliminary Studies	1 Preliminary Design, Technical Assistance and Marketing for Capital Improvements (Dakota SWCD)	\$40,000	1.9%	\$40,000	1.2%
601-5010001-50100631	2 Preliminary Design, Technical Assistance and Marketing for Capital Improvements	\$100,000	4.9%	\$180,000	5.3%
Subtotal Feasibility/Preliminary Studies		\$140,000	6.8%	\$220,000	6.4%
Irrigation Audit and Cost Share Program	1 Irrigation Audits	\$0	0.0%	\$10,000	0.3%
601-5010001-50100431	2 Irrigation Cost-Share	\$5,000	0.2%	\$10,000	0.3%
Subtotal Irrigation Audit and Cost Share		\$5,000	0.2%	\$20,000	0.6%
2020-2023 WBIF Grant (BWSR) North Creek	1 North Creek Stabilization	\$0	0.0%	\$337,500	9.9%
601-5010001-50100853	2 VRWJPO cash match	\$0	0.0%	\$50,000	1.5%
Subtotal 2020-2023 WBIF Grant North Creek Stabilization		\$0	0.0%	\$387,500	11.3%
2020-2023 WBIF Grant (BWSR) Farmington Direct	1 Farmington Direct Drainage Assessment	\$0	0.0%	\$0	0.0%
601-5010001-50100854	2 VRWJPO cash match	\$0	0.0%	\$0	0.0%

Draft 2024 VRWJPO Budget

<u>Category</u>	<u>Budget Items</u>	<u>2024 Draft Budget Amount</u>	<u>Budget % of Total</u>	<u>2023 Final Budget Amount</u>	<u>Budget % of Total</u>
Subtotal 2020-2023 WBIF Grant Hastings/ Farmington Direct Drainage		\$0	0.0%	\$0	0.0%
2020-2023 WBIF Grant (BWSR) Hastings Direct					
	1 Hastings Direct Drainage Assessment	\$0	0.0%	\$26,700	0.8%
601-5010001-50100855	2 VRWJPO cash match	\$0	0.0%	\$3,330	0.1%
Subtotal 2020-2023 WBIF Grant Hastings/ Farmington Direct Drainage		\$0	0.0%	\$30,030	0.9%
2022-2025 CPL Grant (DNR) East Lake Habitat					
	1 East Lake Habitat Improvement	\$90,000	4.4%		
601-5010001-50100858	2 VRWJPO in-kind match	\$3,000	0.1%		
Subtotal CPL East Lake Habitat		\$93,000	4.5%		
2022 CWF Competitive Grant (BWSR)					
	1 Foxborough Park TSS Project	\$25,000	1.2%	\$346,500	
601-5010001-50100859	2 VRWJPO cash match	\$1,500	0.1%	\$30,000	
Subtotal CWF Competitive Grant Foxborough Park TSS Project		\$26,500	1.3%	\$376,500	
2022 CWF Competitive Grant (BWSR) Ravenna					
	1 Ravenna Trail Ravine Stabilization	\$25,000	1.2%	\$495,000	
601-5010001-50100860	2 VRWJPO cash match	\$2,500	0.1%	\$50,000	
Subtotal CWF Competitive Grant Ravenna Trail Ravine Stabilization		\$27,500	1.3%	\$545,000	
2022-2023 WBIF Grant (BWSR) Middle Creek					
	1 Middle Creek at Dodd Rd Stream Restoration	\$20,000	1.0%		
601-5010001-50100861	2 VRWJPO in-kind	\$1,000	0.0%		
Subtotal CWF Competitive Grant Foxborough Park TSS Project		\$21,000	1.0%		
2022-2025 WBIF Grant (BWSR) Alimagnet Alum					
	1 Alimagnet Lake Alum Treatment Feasibility Study	\$0	0.0%		
601-5010001-50100862	2 VRWJPO cash match	\$0	0.0%		
Subtotal CWF Competitive Grant Foxborough Park TSS Project		\$0	0.0%		

Draft 2024 VRWJPO Budget

<u>Category</u>	<u>Budget Items</u>	<u>2024 Draft Budget Amount</u>	<u>Budget % of Total</u>	<u>2023 Final Budget Amount</u>	<u>Budget % of Total</u>
2023 CWF Competitive Grant (BWSR) East Lake					
601-5010001-50100863	1 East Lake Fish Barrier and Rough Fish Removal	\$25,000	1.2%		
	2 VRWJPO cash match	\$15,000	0.7%		
Subtotal CWF Competitive Grant Foxborough Park TSS Project		\$40,000	1.9%		
CWF WBIF Grant (BWSR)					
601-5010001-50100848	1 WBF Grant Admin	\$0	0.0%	\$17,700	0.5%
Subtotal WBF Grant Admin		\$0	0.0%	\$17,700	0.5%
Weland Bank	Wetland Bank Restoration Funds Reserve	\$189,800	9.2%	\$189,800	
601-5010001-50100930					
Subtotal Wetland Bank Restoration Funds		\$189,800	9.2%	\$189,800	
Subtotal of Expenditures		\$1,932,140	93.9%	\$2,993,980	87.5%
Cash Reserve		\$126,160	6.1%	\$427,850	12.5%
TOTAL Annual Expenses		\$2,058,300	100.0%	\$3,421,830	100.0%

REVENUE

Wetland Bank	\$189,800	9.2%	\$189,800	
CIP Reserve	\$350,000	17.0%	\$350,000	10.2%
CIP Reserve Grant Match	\$21,500	1.0%	\$133,330	3.9%
Fund Balance from Underspending in Previous Year	\$365,000	17.7%	\$405,000	11.8%
Grant Carryover	\$0	0.0%	\$664,350	
CWF Grant (BWSR) Competitive 2022	\$25,000	1.2%	\$420,750	12.3%
CWF Grant (BWSR) Competitive 2023	\$25,000	1.2%		
CWF Grant WBIF (BWSR) 2020-2023	\$0	0.0%	\$243,600	7.1%
CWF Grant WBIF (BWSR) 2022-2025	\$20,000	1.0%		

Draft 2024 VRWJPO Budget

<u>Category</u>	<u>Budget Items</u>	<u>2024 Draft Budget Amount</u>	<u>Budget % of Total</u>	<u>2023 Final Budget Amount</u>	<u>Budget % of Total</u>
	CPL Grant (DNR) 2022-2025	\$47,000	2.3%		
	Fees for Permitting Activities	\$1,000	0.0%	\$1,000	0.0%
	Dakota County Levy	\$965,600	46.9%	\$964,900	28.2%
	Scott County Levy	\$34,400	1.7%	\$35,100	1.0%
	Investment Earnings	\$14,000	0.7%	\$14,000	0.4%
	TOTAL Annual Revenue	\$2,058,300	100.0%	\$3,421,830	100.0%

Vermillion River Watershed Management Tax District
 Estimated Pay 2024 Taxes * (Dakota County)

6e: Attachment B

Residential Property

Market Value	Tax Capacity	Proposed 2024 Levy								2023 Actual	2022 Actual	2021 Actual	2020 Actual	2019 Actual	2018 Actual	2017 Actual	2016 Actual	2015 Actual	2014 Actual	2013 Actual	2012 Actual	2011 Actual	2010 Actual	2009 Actual	
		\$300,000	\$400,000	\$500,000	\$750,000	\$965,600	\$1,000,000	\$1,250,000	\$1,500,000	\$964,900	\$967,500	\$966,650	\$966,000	\$912,900	\$887,900	\$861,700	\$821,140	\$817,500	\$858,900	\$831,600	\$868,000	\$964,700	\$1,047,905	\$1,138,839	
Rate		0.0570%	0.0880%	0.1190%	0.1970%	0.264%	0.2740%	0.3520%	0.4290%	0.2870%	0.3470%	0.3480%	0.3990%	0.4030%	0.4290%	0.4490%	0.4490%	0.4660%	0.5450%	0.5430%	0.5410%	0.5550%	0.5660%	0.3103%	
Various Values																									
\$150,000	1,263	\$0.72	\$1.11	\$1.50	\$2.49	\$3.33	\$3.46	\$4.44	\$5.42	\$3.62	\$4.38	\$4.39	\$5.04	\$5.09	\$5.42	\$5.67	\$5.67	\$5.88	\$6.88	\$6.86	\$6.83	\$7.01	\$7.15	\$3.92	
\$170,000	1,481	\$0.84	\$1.30	\$1.76	\$2.92	\$3.91	\$4.06	\$5.21	\$6.35	\$4.25	\$5.14	\$5.15	\$5.91	\$5.97	\$6.35	\$6.65	\$6.90	\$8.07	\$8.04	\$8.01	\$8.22	\$8.38	\$4.59		
\$185,000	1,644	\$0.94	\$1.45	\$1.96	\$3.24	\$4.34	\$4.50	\$5.79	\$7.05	\$4.72	\$5.71	\$5.72	\$6.56	\$6.63	\$7.05	\$7.38	\$7.38	\$7.66	\$8.96	\$8.93	\$8.89	\$9.12	\$9.31	\$5.10	
\$190,000	1,699	\$0.97	\$1.49	\$2.02	\$3.35	\$4.48	\$4.65	\$5.98	\$7.29	\$4.87	\$5.89	\$5.91	\$6.78	\$6.85	\$7.29	\$7.63	\$7.63	\$7.92	\$9.26	\$9.22	\$9.19	\$9.43	\$9.61	\$5.27	
\$200,000	1,808	\$1.03	\$1.59	\$2.15	\$3.56	\$4.77	\$4.95	\$6.36	\$7.75	\$5.19	\$6.27	\$6.29	\$7.21	\$7.28	\$7.75	\$8.12	\$8.12	\$8.42	\$9.85	\$9.82	\$9.78	\$10.03	\$10.23	\$5.61	
\$210,000	1,917	\$1.09	\$1.69	\$2.28	\$3.78	\$5.06	\$5.25	\$6.75	\$8.22	\$5.50	\$6.65	\$6.67	\$7.65	\$7.72	\$8.22	\$8.61	\$8.61	\$8.93	\$10.45	\$10.41	\$10.37	\$10.64	\$10.85	\$5.95	
\$225,000	2,080	\$1.19	\$1.83	\$2.48	\$4.10	\$5.49	\$5.70	\$7.32	\$8.92	\$5.97	\$7.22	\$7.24	\$8.30	\$8.38	\$8.92	\$9.34	\$9.34	\$9.69	\$11.34	\$11.29	\$11.25	\$11.54	\$11.77	\$6.45	
\$250,000	2,353	\$1.34	\$2.07	\$2.80	\$4.63	\$6.21	\$6.45	\$8.28	\$10.09	\$6.75	\$8.16	\$8.19	\$9.39	\$9.48	\$10.09	\$10.56	\$10.56	\$10.96	\$12.82	\$12.77	\$12.73	\$13.06	\$13.32	\$7.30	
\$275,000	2,625	\$1.50	\$2.31	\$3.12	\$5.17	\$6.93	\$7.19	\$9.24	\$11.26	\$7.53	\$9.11	\$9.14	\$10.47	\$10.58	\$11.26	\$11.79	\$11.79	\$12.23	\$14.31	\$14.25	\$14.20	\$14.57	\$14.86	\$8.15	
\$290,000	2,789	\$1.59	\$2.45	\$3.32	\$5.49	\$7.36	\$7.64	\$9.82	\$11.96	\$8.00	\$9.68	\$9.70	\$11.13	\$11.24	\$11.96	\$12.52	\$12.52	\$12.99	\$15.20	\$15.14	\$15.09	\$15.48	\$15.78	\$8.65	
\$300,000	2,898	\$1.65	\$2.55	\$3.45	\$5.71	\$7.65	\$7.94	\$10.20	\$12.43	\$8.32	\$10.05	\$10.08	\$11.56	\$11.68	\$12.43	\$13.01	\$13.01	\$13.50	\$15.79	\$15.73	\$15.68	\$16.08	\$16.40	\$8.99	
\$358,700	3,537	\$2.02	\$3.11	\$4.21	\$6.97	\$9.34	\$9.69	\$12.45	\$15.18	\$10.15	\$12.27	\$12.31	\$14.11	\$14.26	\$15.18	\$15.88	\$15.88	\$16.48	\$19.28	\$19.21	\$19.14	\$19.63	\$20.02	\$10.98	
\$372,600	3,689	\$2.10	\$3.25	\$4.39	\$7.27	\$9.74	\$10.11	\$12.99	\$15.83	\$10.59	\$12.80	\$12.84	\$14.72	\$14.87	\$15.83	\$16.56	\$16.56	\$17.19	\$20.10	\$20.03	\$19.96	\$20.47	\$20.88	\$11.45	
\$375,000	3,715	\$2.12	\$3.27	\$4.42	\$7.32	\$9.81	\$10.18	\$13.08	\$15.94	\$10.66	\$12.89	\$12.93	\$14.82	\$14.97	\$15.94	\$16.68	\$16.68	\$17.31	\$20.25	\$20.17	\$20.10	\$20.62	\$21.03	\$11.53	
\$400,000	3,988	\$2.27	\$3.51	\$4.75	\$7.86	\$10.53	\$10.93	\$14.04	\$17.11	\$11.44	\$13.84	\$13.88	\$15.91	\$16.07	\$17.11	\$17.90	\$17.90	\$18.58	\$21.73	\$21.65	\$21.57	\$22.13	\$22.57	\$12.37	
\$425,000	4,260	\$2.43	\$3.75	\$5.07	\$8.39	\$11.25	\$11.67	\$15.00	\$18.28	\$12.23	\$14.78	\$14.83	\$17.00	\$17.17	\$18.28	\$19.13	\$19.13	\$19.85	\$23.22	\$23.13	\$23.05	\$23.64	\$24.11	\$13.22	
\$450,000	4,533	\$2.58	\$3.99	\$5.39	\$8.93	\$11.97	\$12.42	\$15.95	\$19.44	\$13.01	\$15.73	\$15.77	\$18.09	\$18.27	\$19.44	\$20.35	\$20.35	\$21.12	\$24.70	\$24.61	\$24.52	\$25.16	\$25.65	\$14.06	
\$475,000	4,805	\$2.74	\$4.23	\$5.72	\$9.47	\$12.69	\$13.17	\$16.91	\$20.61	\$13.79	\$16.67	\$16.72	\$19.17	\$19.36	\$20.61	\$21.57	\$21.57	\$22.39	\$26.19	\$26.09	\$26.00	\$26.67	\$27.20	\$14.91	
\$500,000	5,078	\$2.89	\$4.47	\$6.04	\$10.00	\$13.40	\$13.91	\$17.87	\$21.78	\$14.57	\$17.62	\$17.67	\$20.26	\$20.46	\$21.78	\$22.80	\$22.80	\$23.66	\$27.67	\$27.57	\$27.47	\$28.18	\$28.74	\$15.76	

Proposed TCAP Pay 2024 (as of 10-20-2022)	322,125,418
Pay 2023 Median Value:	358,700
Pay 2024 Median Value:	372,600

WHAT IF TAX COMPARISON PAY 2023 vs Pay 2024

6e: Attachment C

FISCAL YEAR 2023	
11,282,252 GROSS TAX CAPACITY (11,058) 10% KV TRANS LINE (-) (483,209) FISCAL DISPARITY (-)	\$ 35,100 FINAL CERTIFIED LEVY
10,787,985 NET TAX CAPACITY	\$ (3,017) FISCAL DISPARITY (-) \$ 32,083 TAX LEVY OR SPREAD LEVY
Tax Rate 0.297%	
FISCAL YEAR 2024	
12,088,396 GROSS TAX CAPACITY (11,058) 10% KV TRANS LINE (-) (600,350) FISCAL DISPARITY (-)	\$ 34,400 PROPOSED LEVY OR CERTIFIED LEVY
11,476,988 NET TAX CAPACITY	\$ (3,017) FISCAL DISPARITY (-) \$ 31,383 TAX LEVY OR SPREAD LEVY
Tax Rate 0.273%	

RESIDENTIAL IMPACTS

	% Value Range Inc/Dec	# of affected Properties	Average Market Value 2023	Average Market Value 2024	Value Exclusion 2023	Taxable Market Value 2023	Value Exclusion 2024	Taxable Market Value 2024	Taxable % Chg 2023 - 2024	Pay 2023	Pay 2024	Net Inc/Dec 2023 vs 2024	Net Difference % Change	Median & Average Values			
										Net Payable 2023	Net Payable 2024			2023 Median Values	2024 Median Values	2024 Average Values	2024 Value % Change
Elko New Mkt City 1591	+15.01+%	36	\$ 389,800	\$ 448,270	\$ 2,158	\$ 387,642	\$ -	\$ 448,270	15.64%	\$ 11.53	\$ 12.26	\$ 0.73	6.326%	\$ 398,700	\$ 401,500	\$ 397,109	0.7%
	+10.01-15.00%	6	\$ 389,800	\$ 438,525	\$ 2,158	\$ 387,642	\$ -	\$ 438,525	13.13%	\$ 11.53	\$ 11.99	\$ 0.46	4.015%				
	+5.01-10.00%	86	\$ 389,800	\$ 419,035	\$ 2,158	\$ 387,642	\$ -	\$ 419,035	8.10%	\$ 11.53	\$ 11.46	\$ (0.07)	-0.608%				
	+0.01-5.00%	740	\$ 389,800	\$ 399,545	\$ 2,158	\$ 387,642	\$ 1,281	\$ 398,264	2.74%	\$ 11.53	\$ 10.89	\$ (0.64)	-5.535%				
	No Change	20	\$ 389,800	\$ 389,800	\$ 2,158	\$ 387,642	\$ 2,158	\$ 387,642	0.00%	\$ 11.53	\$ 10.60	\$ (0.93)	-8.054%				
	-0.01-5.00%	698	\$ 389,800	\$ 380,055	\$ 2,158	\$ 387,642	\$ 3,035	\$ 377,020	-2.74%	\$ 11.53	\$ 10.31	\$ (1.22)	-10.574%				
	-5.01-10%	3	\$ 389,800	\$ 360,565	\$ 2,158	\$ 387,642	\$ 4,789	\$ 355,776	-8.22%	\$ 11.53	\$ 9.73	\$ (1.80)	-15.613%				
	-10.01-15%	1	\$ 389,800	\$ 341,075	\$ 2,158	\$ 387,642	\$ 6,543	\$ 334,532	-13.70%	\$ 11.53	\$ 9.15	\$ (2.38)	-20.652%				
-15.01+	1	\$ 389,800	\$ 331,330	\$ 2,158	\$ 387,642	\$ 7,420	\$ 323,910	-16.44%	\$ 11.53	\$ 8.86	\$ (2.67)	-23.171%					
New Market Twp 1162	+15.01+%	27	\$ 614,500	\$ 706,675	\$ -	\$ 614,500	\$ -	\$ 706,675	15.00%	\$ 19.13	\$ 20.74	\$ 1.61	8.418%	\$ 592,500	\$ 598,300	\$ 623,831	1.0%
	+10.01-15.00%	23	\$ 614,500	\$ 691,313	\$ -	\$ 614,500	\$ -	\$ 691,313	12.50%	\$ 19.13	\$ 20.21	\$ 1.09	5.673%				
	+5.01-10.00%	172	\$ 614,500	\$ 660,588	\$ -	\$ 614,500	\$ -	\$ 660,588	7.50%	\$ 19.13	\$ 19.16	\$ 0.03	0.182%				
	+0.01-5.00%	580	\$ 614,500	\$ 629,863	\$ -	\$ 614,500	\$ -	\$ 629,863	2.50%	\$ 19.13	\$ 18.11	\$ (1.02)	-5.309%				
	No Change	13	\$ 614,500	\$ 614,500	\$ -	\$ 614,500	\$ -	\$ 614,500	0.00%	\$ 19.13	\$ 17.59	\$ (1.54)	-8.054%				
	-0.01-5.00%	188	\$ 614,500	\$ 599,138	\$ -	\$ 614,500	\$ -	\$ 599,138	-2.50%	\$ 19.13	\$ 17.06	\$ (2.07)	-10.800%				
	-5.01-10%	153	\$ 614,500	\$ 568,413	\$ -	\$ 614,500	\$ -	\$ 568,413	-7.50%	\$ 19.13	\$ 16.01	\$ (3.12)	-16.290%				
	-10.01-15%	2	\$ 614,500	\$ 537,688	\$ -	\$ 614,500	\$ -	\$ 537,688	-12.50%	\$ 19.13	\$ 14.96	\$ (4.17)	-21.781%				
-15.01+	4	\$ 614,500	\$ 522,325	\$ -	\$ 614,500	\$ -	\$ 522,325	-15.00%	\$ 19.13	\$ 14.44	\$ (4.69)	-24.527%					
County Wide		46,881	\$ 439,800	\$ 437,839	\$ -	\$ 439,800	\$ -	\$ 437,839	-0.45%	\$ 13.08	\$ 11.97	\$ (1.11)	-8.464%	\$ 393,900	\$ 388,800	\$ 437,839	-1.3%



Minutes

Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission Meeting

July 12, 2023 – 4:30 p.m.

In-person and Microsoft Teams Videoconference

WPC Members in Attendance

Linda Larson Brad Blackett
Josh Borton Andy Riesgraf
Steve Hamrick Jim Kotz
Kevin Chamberlain

VRWJPO Staff in Attendance

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

Others in Attendance

Curt Coudron, Dakota County SWCD
Nikki Stewart, Dakota County (Virtual)
Valerie Neppl, Dakota County

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jim Kotz at 4:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

All members present except Sandra Weber.

3. Audience Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

No comments.

4. Approval of Agenda

Chair Kotz asked for approval of the agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Larson to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Borton. Motion carried on a 7-0 vote.

5. Approval of Minutes from the June 14, 2023 Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Borton, seconded by Commissioner Riesgraf. Motion carried on a 7-0 vote.

6. Business Items

a. Introduction of the VRWJPO 2024 Draft Budget

Mark Zabel presented the first draft of the 2024 budget as an information item. He noted the position openings for the Water Resources Engineer and Administrator may result in cost savings in Dakota County staff time. Increases to staff time in the Research and Planning Section are to support the 2026-

2035 Watershed Management Plan update. There was an increase in funding allocated to the Scott County portion of the Vermillion River Monitoring Network and increase in electrofishing. VRWJPO decreased funding to Scott County outreach efforts and allocated new funding for low input turf workshops with Dakota County SWCD. The other budget changes were in Land & Water Treatment – Capital Improvement Projects as a cost-share placeholder for grant match projects. Mark explained how the Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) program with Board and Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) works, allowing cities to contribute project ideas and receive funding allocated by BWSR. There is a decrease in Feasibility/Preliminary Studies, and Irrigation Audits have been zeroed out from the 2024 budget. Many WBIF grant projects have been zeroed out since they have been completed or are expected to be completed.

The East Lake habitat improvement project was accidentally left out of the 2023 revised budget, an error corrected at the June Joint Powers Board (JPB) meeting. The budget items will carry over to 2024 and 2025. The Foxborough Park Total Suspended Solids (TSS) project, which is underway, has \$25,000 plus \$1,500 cash match carrying over to 2024 to ensure everything came out correctly with the project. Same with the Ravenna Trail Ravine Stabilization project. Middle Creek at Dodd Blvd. stream restoration and East Lake Fish Barrier have funding allocated for next year, the work on those projects should begin soon. Lake Alimagnet Alum Treatment Feasibility Study is complete, staff will be considering a grant application for implementation. WBIF grant administration will be done in kind from now on.

The wetland bank expects to have more credits released by the end of summer, maybe as much as 10 acres. No credits have been sold this year since it has been sold out. Once there is enough money in the account, VRWJPO will look into doing another wetland restoration.

The subtotal of expenditures comes out to \$1,955,740, with a cash reserve of \$102,560, for a total expense of \$2,058,300.

On revenue, the numbers that changed include Clean Water Fund competitive grants, a Conservation Partners Legacy Grant, and WBIF monies, as well as CIP reserve. For the tax district levies, information from the assessor about tax capacities for Dakota and Scott was not available in order to distribute the levy of expected \$1 million. That brings the revenue to \$2,058,300. These numbers are not expected to change dramatically before the official approval in August.

Information item only.

b. Update on development of the 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan

With the authorization of the JPB, VRWJPO solicited comments over a 60-day period from required review agencies on priorities for the 2026-2035 Plan. Mark Zabel walked through the various comments received, including from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), BWSR, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Metropolitan Council, Dakota County Groundwater Protection Unit and Water Resources Unit, SWCD, and the cities of Empire, Rosemount, and Apple Valley.

Commissioner Larson asked about regional water supply planning. Mark noted the Met Council's comments on that matter for drinking water.

Commissioner Riesgraf asked about environmental justice in watershed management plans. Mark said he's seen other plans address demographics and underserved populations, and that we will consider how we communicate with groups of people we haven't reached very much. Environmental justice considers how projects have an impact on people living in the area. Commissioner Larson said she'd heard of efforts to incorporate more trees and green spaces into lower-income neighborhoods as an example.

Of note from Rosemount's comments is that they are looking to construct stormwater outlets toward the Vermillion River. This isn't a huge issue as most stormwater in Rosemount infiltrates into their sandy soils normally, but landlocked basins can still get flooded. If we were to have a 1,000-year flood, we would need to ensure there's enough storage to protect homes in the area.

Commissioner Blackett expressed concern about the gravel pits and their effect on groundwater, since one of the planned stormwater outlets is discharging towards a gravel pit. Valerie pointed out that ordinances require cities and townships to have provisions in place to be able to do this. Dakota County and the Dakota County SWCD have created a model mining ordinance for preventing groundwater contamination.

Valerie said she hoped for more opportunities for collaboration between VRWJPO and the Groundwater Protection Unit. Valerie will also be serving in an interim role for Board and Watershed Planning Commission (WPC) administration while we search for the next Administrator.

Commissioner Larson asked if per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) was an issue anywhere in the watershed and if gravel pits had any effect. Valerie's team recently published a study on PFAS in private wells in Dakota County, which found some wells in the eastern part of the county with levels above the proposed Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standard. The sandy soils in that area make groundwater particularly vulnerable. She hasn't seen a lot of issues because of the gravel pits.

Commissioner Riesgraf asked what the biggest source of chloride pollution is. Valerie said road salt is the biggest contributor, particularly near large highways and roads. Second is water softening treatments in wastewater (Empire's plant discharges directly to the Mississippi River). It's difficult to find the best way to address it. VRWJPO and Dakota County has been supporting Smart Salting trainings for the past few years with the MPCA for applicators to make salt use more efficient. Brita shared about the Salt Symposium, a virtual event at the beginning of August led by Connie Fortin, and Smart Salting for Local Leaders. She also pointed out the recent WBIF funding of a salt brine truck for Rosemount for lower-salt de-icing. Travis agreed that it's easier to focus on snow management to prevent dangerous icy areas. Other de-icing technologies are in early research stages.

The next step for the Plan is to set a public meeting as the kickoff for the plan development. That meeting will be set by the JPB at their August meeting and will likely be in September 2023.

7. Updates

a. Chairperson's Report

No updates.

b. Staff Updates

Curt Coudron

Curt talked about a recent prairie restoration in Ravenna Township, reconstructing two waterways to prevent gullies, and cover crops for local farmers. The SWCD is doing more project planning and surveying right now.

Valerie Neppi

Valerie brought up the model mining ordinance again, as well as the ongoing irrigation water testing for nitrogen by the Groundwater Protection Unit and Dakota County SWCD for farmers. Some of her staff are doing township tours this month, and Valerie encouraged members to share thoughts for those tours. The Groundwater-Surface Water Collaborative has produced communication materials for the ongoing drought, which specifically addresses reducing lawn irrigation.

Travis Thiel

Travis elaborated on the new low-input turf program in the budget. This is being developed with the SWCD and Groundwater Unit. The goal is to help residents incorporate more low-input fescues and bee lawn mix, which require less water overall than traditional Kentucky bluegrass.

The Foxborough Park project with Lakeville started earlier in the week with excavation. They have 60 days to complete it, somewhat likely they'll finish sooner.

Brita Moore-Kutz

Brita was at the Hastings Party in the Park on July 11. More than 1,000 people are estimated to have attended, most of whom stopped at her table. She gave out stormwater crossword puzzles. She is focusing on drought-related messaging and conservation on social media, using the materials created from the Groundwater-Surface Water Collaborative. She'll be at the county fair next month in the Natural Resources building.

Mark Zabel/Nikki Stewart

With his departure and hiring, WPC members are invited to participate in the interview panel. The job posting will close on July 21, and Nikki hopes to do interview in early August. The Chair of the JPB, Commissioner Mike Slavik, had recommended including a WPC member in the hiring process. Nikki said she would contact the members shortly.

8. Adjourn

Before adjourning, Commissioner Larson congratulated Mark on his retirement.

Motion by Commissioner Larson, second by Commissioner Hamrick. Motion carried on a 7-0 vote.

DRAFT