



Meeting Minutes

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (JPB) Meeting

Thursday, June 27, 2024, 1 p.m., in-person at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center and virtual via Microsoft Teams

Board Members in Attendance

Dakota County Commissioner Mike Slavik
Dakota County Commissioner Bill Droste
Scott County Commissioner Tom Wolf

Watershed Planning Commission (WPC) Members in Attendance

Brad Blackett

Others in Attendance

Nikki Stewart, Dakota County, Environmental Resources Department Director (virtual)
Travis Thiel, Dakota County, Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) Administrator
Melissa Bokman Ermer, Scott County, VRWJPO Co-Administrator (virtual)
Kelly Perrine, Dakota County, VRWJPO Senior Watershed Specialist
Jeff Dunn, Dakota County, VRWJPO Water Resources Engineer
Brita Moore-Kutz, Dakota County, VRWJPO Communications & Outreach Specialist
Brian Wisdorf, Dakota County, Assistant County Attorney, VRWJPO legal counsel
Renee Christianson, City of Elko New Market, Senior Planner (virtual)

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Slavik, Wolf, and Droste were in attendance.

3. Audience Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

No comments.



4. Approval of Agenda

Res. No. VRW 24-23: Motion by Commissioner Wolf to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Droste. Motion carried on a 3-0 voice vote.

5. Approval of Minutes from the May 24, 2024, Meeting

Res. No. VRW 24-24: Motion by Commissioner Droste to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Slavik. Commissioner Wolf abstained since he was absent for the May meeting. Motion carried on a 2-0 voice vote.

6. Approval of Consent Agenda

a. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report

Res. No. VRW 24-25: Motion by Commissioner Wolf to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Droste. Motion carried on a 3-0 voice vote.

7. Approval of Expenses

Travis Thiel presented the expenses submitted between May 14 and May 31, 2024, totaling \$61,732.11.

Res. No. VRW 24-26: Motion by Commissioner Wolf to approve expenses, seconded by Commissioner Droste. Motion carried on a 3-0 roll call vote.

8. Business Items

a. Adoption of Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Wetland Banking Policy (Revised 5-24-2024)

Commissioner Slavik requested that a provision be added for the VRWJPB to review the policy on an annual basis. Counsel Brian Wisdorf indicated that the resolution should add "Whereas" and "Now, therefore" clauses to formalize this addition.

Res. No. VRW 24-27: Motion by Commissioner Wolf to approve the policy with the annual review provision added, seconded by Commissioner Droste. Motion carried on a 3-0 voice vote.



b. Motion to Recommend Approval and Authorization to Execute the Revised Joint Powers Agreement that formed the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization to the Dakota County Board of Commissioners and Scott County Board of Commissioners

Counsel Brian Wisdorf reviewed the proposed changes to the VRWJPO's forming Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), which have been discussed at numerous Board meetings and the strategic planning session. Melissa Bokman Ermer said she hadn't heard if the Scott County Attorney's office had reviewed the final markup. Brian said he was in contact with the attorney and that the review would be complete before the County Boards act on the JPA.

Res. No. VRW 24-28: Motion by Commissioner Wolf to recommend approval of the JPA to the County Boards, seconded by Commissioner Droste. Motion carried on a 3-0 voice vote.

9. Staff Reports

Kelly Perrine

- The bid package for Alimagnet alum treatments is finalized and will be posted on July 8, opening on August 1.
- Two baited box nets were recently placed at East Lake for removal of common carp and goldfish.
- Kelly and Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources staff visited a future wetland bank site the previous week to begin development of hydrology monitoring. The final monitoring plan will be devised by BWSR during the month of July.

Jeff Dunn

- A work session with Vermillion Township was planned for that evening regarding their erosion control program.
- In May, heavy rains appeared to damage the recently completed Ravenna Trail Ravine Stabilization project. Later visits to the site showed that the damage was not as severe as it had first appeared, though Jeff was in touch with contractors about soil protection measures.
- Farmington and Rosemount are looking at three different data centers. It was unclear to Jeff based on the information available where the water used by the data centers is going to come from and how much. Jeff was asked to comment on the AUAR for the VRWJPO. Commissioner Droste said he thought it was fair to ask for more details, and that from his experience, data centers use a variety of technologies to power and cool themselves. Staff had reached out to the City of Farmington regarding what they knew about the planned water use. The City did not share any data, but stakeholders can reach out directly to them with questions.



Brita Moore-Kutz

- Brita is keeping an eye on flooding and river gage levels in the watershed. A number of parks in Dakota County have been closed, and water levels remain high. Some trails along the Vermillion and Mississippi in Hastings have also been closed. Commissioner Slavik asked if the river was still rising. Travis said it was currently falling.
- Take a Kid Fishing Day, hosted by Dakota County, was on the second Sunday of June at Thompson County Park. People from all around the area attended, about 400 total, according to Parks staff. Nearly half of those visited the VRWJPO booth, many of whom were children.

Travis Thiel

- The VRWJPO has been operating as doing business as (dba) Dakota County in the State of Minnesota's SWIFT software for distributing grant funds. Legal counsel indicated this could put the County at risk if something with the grant implementation fails. To address this, the VRWJPO will create a unique tax entity and create a federal tax ID. The VRWJPB Chair will have to sign off on the form.
- A development for a large solar farm in Castle Rock Township has been proposed, 1,400 acres. Multiple landowners are involved in the development.

Melissa Bokman Ermer

- Melissa will track when the Scott County Attorney signs off on the final draft of the VRWJPO empowering JPA. Brian said he had just sent it to the attorney.

10. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Wolf to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Droste. Motion carried on a 3-0 vote.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, July 25, 2024, at 1 p.m. in Conference Room A at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center, 4100 220th Street West, Farmington, MN and via teleconference on Microsoft Teams.

Respectfully submitted by

Brita Moore-Kutz

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



Attest

Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "C. H. [unclear]", written over a horizontal line.

Secretary/ Treasurer

A handwritten date "7/28/2024" written in black ink over a horizontal line.

Date