



Meeting Minutes

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (JPB) Meeting

Thursday, August 22, 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 Bill Droste

Dakota County Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg (alternate)

Scott County Commissioner Tom Wolf

Watershed Planning Commission (WPC) Members in Attendance

Sandy Weber

Others in Attendance

Travis Thiel, Dakota County, Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) Administrator

Melissa Bokman Ermer, Scott County, VRWJPO Co-Administrator

Kelly Perrine, Dakota County, VRWJPO Senior Watershed Specialist

Jeff Dunn, Dakota County, VRWJPO Water Resources Engineer

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

Brian Wisdorf, Dakota County, Assistant County Attorney, VRWJPO legal counsel

Bruce Johnson, Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Supervisor

Ashley Gallagher, Dakota County SWCD Manager

Caleb Ashling, City of Burnsville, Natural Resources Coordinator (virtual)

Samantha Berger, City of Apple Valley, Natural Resources Coordinator (virtual)

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Holberg, Wolf, and Droste were in attendance.

3. Audience Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

None.



4. Approval of Agenda

Res. No. VRW 24-34: Motion by Commissioner Droste to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Holberg. Motion carried on a 3-0 voice vote.

5. Approval of Minutes from the July 25, 2024, Meeting

Res. No. VRW 24-35: Motion by Commissioner Droste to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Wolf. Motion carried on a 2-0 voice vote. Commissioner Holberg abstained.

6. Approval of Consent Agenda

a. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report

Res. No. VRW 24-36: Motion by Commissioner Droste, seconded by Commissioner Holberg. Motion carried on a 3-0 voice vote.

7. Approval of Expenses

Travis Thiel presented the expenses submitted between July 1 and July 31, 2024, totaling \$110,989.55.

Res. No. VRW 24-37: Motion by Commissioner Droste to approve expenses, seconded by Commissioner Holberg. Motion carried on a 3-0 roll call vote.

8. Business Items

a. Public Hearing and Adoption of VRWJPO 2025 Draft Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy

Commissioner Wolf opened the public hearing. Travis Thiel presented the 2025 draft budget and proposed tax levies for Dakota and Scott counties. The tax impact on the two counties would be the same as in 2024. There were no comments in the public hearing.

Res. No. VRW 24-38: Motion by Commissioner Holberg to close the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Droste. Motion carried on a 3-0 voice vote.

Res. No. VRW 24-39: Motion by Commissioner Holberg to adopt the 2025 VRWJPO draft budget and Watershed Management Tax District levy, seconded by Commissioner Droste. Motion carried on a 3-0 roll call vote.



b. Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Lakeville and Dakota County for the Launch Park Wetland Restoration Preliminary Engineering Design and Permitting Coordination

Kelly Perrine presented the proposed wetland restoration project in Lakeville in the Launch Park Development, property that the City acquired in 2023. The City intends to convert this land from agricultural production to restored wetlands to reduce sediment loading and attenuate runoff volume in the South Creek Subwatershed. This meets several goals in the Watershed Plan. The joint powers agreement (JPA) would allow the City, Dakota County, and VRWJPO to jointly fund this coordination effort.

Res. No. VRW 24-40: Motion by Commissioner Holberg to authorize executing the JPA, seconded by Commissioner Droste. Motion carried on a 3-0 roll call vote.

c. Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Lakeville for Dakota County 50-19 Lake Marion Phosphorus Treatment Project and South Creek Temperature Reduction Project Maintenance and Performance Improvement Engineering

Kelly presented the proposed JPA for engineering design related to maintenance and performance improvements of previously completed projects with the City of Lakeville that utilized Clean Water Fund grant money. Grant policy dictates that projects implemented with grant awards must be designed and maintained for a minimum of 25 years. The City and VRWJPO would jointly fund this maintenance work.

Res. No. VRW 24-41: Motion by Commissioner Droste to authorize executing the JPA, seconded by Commissioner Holberg. Motion carried on a 3-0 roll call vote.

d. Authorization to Execute Contract with Solitude Lake Management for the Alimagnet Lake Alum Treatment Project

Kelly presented the bid materials from Solitude Lake Management (SLM) for treating Alimagnet Lake, a nutrient-impaired lake straddling Apple Valley and Burnsville, with aluminum sulfate (alum). The VRWJPO, partnering with the two cities, received a Clean Water Fund (CWF) grant of \$287,000 from the Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) to implement the treatment.

Barr Engineering has been contracted to oversee alum dosing specifications, contract development and application monitoring. The bid from SLM is to physically apply the alum in the lake. SLM was the only bidder, with their bid coming in 21% higher than the engineer's estimate by Barr. This is likely due to unforeseen market fluctuations in the cost of the chemicals used in the treatment. This amount would exceed the initial grant award from BWSR. SLM is the only contractor in the region able to provide this kind of treatment, so it is unlikely VRWJPO would receive any other bids lower than SLM's.



The treatments are planned for fall 2024 and spring 2026. The grant funds already received cover the treatment for 2024. VRWJPO has submitted another CWF grant request to cover the remainder of the cost.

Res. No. VRW 24-42: Motion by Commissioner Droste to authorize executing the contract with SLM, seconded by Commissioner Holberg. Motion carried on a 3-0 roll call vote.

9. Staff Reports

Melissa Bokman Ermer

- Discussing with Scott County Attorney about their suggested revisions for the empowering JPA of the VRWJPO

Brian Wisdorf

- Working with VRWJPO staff on project JPAs and empowering JPA provisions

Kelly Perrine

- Hosting Watershed Planning Commission/Technical Advisory Group survey for prioritizing initiatives in the next generation Watershed Plan in late September. The VRWJPO's consultant, HKGi, is helping set up the survey

Jeff Dunn

- Applying for to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) grants for projects on North Creek

Brita Moore-Kutz

- Successful engagement at Dakota County Fair, people were very interested in display of macroinvertebrate samples collected by Hastings High School Field Biology class
- Considering options to make the macroinvertebrate display more informative and engaging
- Working on September e-newsletter and project outreach

Travis Thiel

- The cash reserve for the watershed in the proposed 2025 budget is lower than what he considers a comfortable amount to have. Travis looked into if the watershed could issue debt, which it cannot, but the counties can issue debt on its behalf. The other option would be to loan money from one or both counties. Both options are viable in a worst-case scenario.



10. Adjourn

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

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, September 26, 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

Secretary/ Treasurer

Date