



Minutes

Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission (WPC) Meeting

August 14, 2024 – 4:30 p.m.

In-person and Microsoft Teams Videoconference

WPC Members in Attendance

Brad Blackett
Josh Borton
Kevin Chamberlain
Steve Hamrick
Andy Riesgraf

VRWJPO Staff in Attendance

Travis Thiel, VRWJPO Administrator
Jeff Dunn, Water Resources Engineer
Brita Moore-Kutz, Communications & Outreach Specialist
Kelly Perrine, Senior Watershed Specialist

Others in Attendance

Nikki Stewart, Environmental Resources Department Director,
Dakota County (virtual)
Curt Coudron, Resource Conservationist, Dakota County Soil &
Water Conservation District

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Josh Borton at 4:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

All members present except Commissioner Kotz.

3. Audience Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

No comments.

4. Approval of Agenda

Travis Thiel noted that item 6d, the site visits of two Capital Improvement Projects, was optional in case of inclement weather.

*Motion by Commissioner Blackett to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Chamberlain.
Motion carried on a 6-0 voice vote.*

5. Approval of Minutes from the May 8, 2024, Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Chamberlain to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Blackett. Motion carried on a 5-0 voice vote.

6. Business Items

a. Recommend Adoption of the Draft Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization 2025 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy

Travis presented the draft budget, levy, and tax impact in Dakota and Scott counties, and explained differences in formatting between the 2025 draft budget and previous years.

Commissioner Chamberlain asked about the cash reserve listed at the end of the Expenses section, which was 9% of the total budget. Travis explained that the Joint Powers Board would like to keep a higher cash reserve than that, but current policy is to keep about 7-15% of the total budget in cash reserve.

Motion by Commissioner Chamberlain to recommend adoption of the draft budget to the Joint Powers Board, seconded by Commissioner Riesgraf. Motion carried on a 5-0 voice vote.

b. Update on the Status of Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization 2024 Budget-Identified Capital Improvement Projects

Jeff Dunn directed the WPC members to review the 2024 project updates listed in the meeting packet, though there was no formal presentation during the meeting. The WPC had received updates on these projects in previous meetings.

Kelly Perrine noted that the 2024 projects have fact sheets posted on the VRWJPO website, and that under-construction projects will have signage going forward that directs people to a “splash page” explaining what’s going on with the projects.

Information only.

c. Presentation and Discussion of Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Planned 2025 and 2026 Capital Improvement Plan Projects

Kelly and Jeff shared about projects planned for the upcoming years and the funding sources being pursued, including:

- Continued East Lake (Lakeville) Invasive Fish Removals
- Firelight Way (Lakeville) Total Suspended Solids (TSS) Reduction
- Launch Park (Lakeville) Wetland Restoration
- Mork Wetland Bank (Castle Rock Township)
- Continued Alimagnet Lake (Apple Valley/Burnsville) Alum Treatment
- 4th and Willow (Farmington) TSS Reduction
- 15th and Bailey (Hastings) TSS Reduction

- North Creek at Denali Way (Farmington) Stream Restoration
- North Creek at Highway 3 (Empire) Stream Restoration

Staff took questions over the course of the discussion.

Information only.

d. Watershed Planning Commission Site Visits of Two Projects Immediately Following the Meeting

Members opted not to do the site visits that day since the meeting had run almost to its maximum amount of time prescribed and two members were absent. Staff will consider hosting site visits at a future meeting.

WPC members interested in visiting project locations on their own can contact staff with questions.

7. Adjourn

Vice Chair Borton had to leave early, which brought the total number of members present below the number needed for a quorum. He left before the end of the 6c presentation. The informational discussions continued after Commissioner Borton's departure, but no other actions requiring a quorum were taken.

Motion by Commissioner Hamrick to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Blackett. Motion carried on a 5-0 voice vote.

8. Updates

a. Chairperson's Report

None.

b. Staff Updates

Curt Coudron

- Implementing projects such as Water and Sediment Control Basins and Grassed Waterways
- Held pilot Lawns Reimagined classes earlier in the summer
- Third round of Landscaping for Clean Water grant applications is being processed

Kelly Perrine

- WPC and Technical Advisory Group invited to join survey meeting for prioritizing objectives in the Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan on September 25

Brita Moore-Kutz

- Managed the Natural Resources Building at the Dakota County Fair