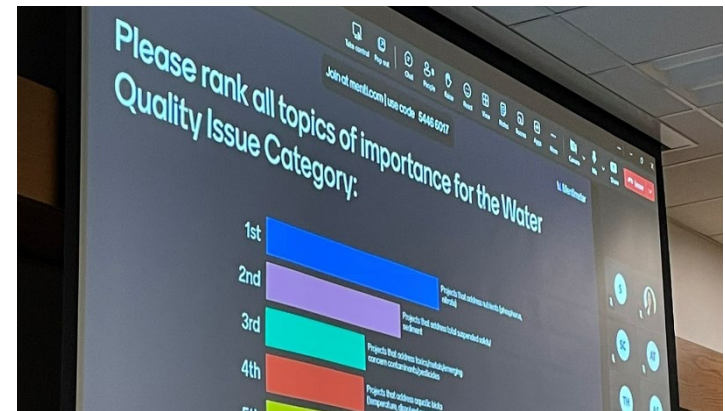


Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

Watershed Management Plan Update | Phase 2 Outreach & Engagement Summary



Phase 2 Engagement Overview

Phase 2 Outreach Overview

To continue to engage the public in the Plan update process, a website was constructed that included: findings from Phase 1 outreach efforts, a guide to the structure of the Plan, and a roadmap of next steps in the planning process. Information about goals, issues, and other Plan content was included as it was developed.

Using feedback from Phase 1, VRWJPO staff identified six issue categories and developed a list of goals and objectives for each category.

- Issue categories define the overarching problems being faced.
- Goals establish the desired endpoint or end results.
- Objectives help organize actions that will lead towards accomplishing desired goals.

To assess and prioritize identified issues and corresponding objectives, staff called upon members of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and Watershed Planning Commission (WPC) to participate in a survey meeting on September 25, 2024, at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center. Members were provided issue categories, goals, and objectives prior to the meeting, and were asked to rank them to inform Plan prioritization. Ranking schemes were then provided to the VRWJPO as they were entered into a live polling program called Mentimeter.

In addition, staff formulated a list of topics of importance that related to each issue category and asked members of the TAG and WPC to rank them in a sub-prioritization exercise. The results of the prioritization and sub-prioritization exercise can be seen on the following pages. The prioritization results will be used to help staff develop the implementation plan that will be included in the 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan.



Mentimeter

Mentimeter is an online polling service that allows participants to vote from anywhere while the session is live and displays real-time results as votes are submitted. This method created an engaging platform for real-time responses and helped to prompt some discussion among the TAG and WPC members present at the September 25 meeting. Participants were first asked to choose their top half of the total number of objectives for each issue category and rank them in level of importance. Then, participants were asked to rank all the “topics of importance” for each Issue Category. These topics were formed from Phase 1 Engagement input and will help to inform future project selection and focus.

Attendance

Twenty-five people participated in the survey. Most of these participants were in-person attendees, with a small number participating virtually. Participating organizations included:

- Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission
- Dakota County Environmental Resources Department
- Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District
- City of Lakeville
- City of Rosemount
- City of Farmington
- Vermillion Township
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Minnesota Department of Health
- Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Minnesota Department of Transportation
- Metropolitan Council
- Twin Cities Trout Unlimited
- Minnesota Agriculture & Water Resources Coalition
- EOR
- RES



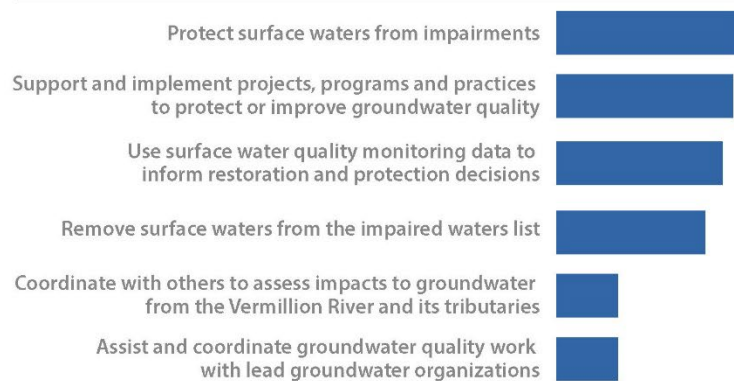
Results

The following pages contain final polling results from the prioritization and sub-prioritization exercises. Priorities were calculated using a ranked-choice system called a “borda count,” where the item ranked last gets one point, second last gets two points, and the highest ranked item gets the most points. Questions were organized by Issue Categories.



Issue Category:
Water Quality

Select your top three Water Quality objectives from this list and rank them 1 (most important) through 3



Please rank all topics of importance for the Water Quality Issue Category:

- 1** Projects that address nutrients (phosphorus, nitrate)
- 2** Projects that address total suspended solids/sediment
- 3** Projects that address toxics/metals/emerging concern contaminants/pesticides
- 4** Projects that address aquatic biota (temperature, dissolved oxygen)
- 5** Projects that address chloride
- 6** Projects that address aquatic invasive species
- 7** Projects that address bacteria



Issue Category:
Stormwater Management

Select your top three Stormwater Management objectives from this list and rank them 1 (most important) through 4



Please rank all topics of importance for the Stormwater Management Issue Category:

- 1** More stringent stormwater mgmt requirements for new or redevelopment (discharge rate reduction, increased volume control and floodplain alteration)
- 2** Green infrastructure/ Low Impact Development (LID) BMPs (raingardens, tree trenches, green roofs, landscaping islands)
- 3** Infiltration BMPs: BMPs that do not have underdrains, such as permeable pavement, sand filters, infiltration basins
- 4** Temporary storage sedimentation BMPs: temporarily pond water and allow sediment to settle (wet ponds, stormwater wetlands, hydrodynamic separators)
- 5** Filtration BMPs: BMPs that do have underdrains, such as pretreatment filtration devices, vegetated filter strips, sand filters
- 6** Stormwater reuse projects



Issue Category:

Groundwater Supply

Please rank the Groundwater Supply objectives from 1 (most important) through 3

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Assist with and coordinate groundwater supply planning, protection, and improvement efforts with lead groundwater organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Assist with and implement projects, programs and practices that reduce landscape and agricultural water use | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Assist with and implement projects, programs and practices that promote infiltration | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please rank all topics of importance for the Groundwater Supply Issue Category:

- 1 Soil health initiatives (cover crops, compost amendments, grassed waterways, residue and tillage management, contour buffer strips, others)
- 2 Residential, commercial and industrial irrigation efficiency improvements
- 3 Agricultural irrigation efficiency improvements
- 4 Projects and practices that promote natural infiltration (low-input landscapes, bioretention, trees, green roofs, permeable pavement, bioswales)
- 5 Indoor appliance efficiency improvements (toilets, dishwashers, washing machines)



Issue Category:

Climate Resilience

Select your top three Climate Resilience objectives from this list and rank them 1 (most important) through 3

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Foster partnerships to implement projects, programs and practices that improve stormwater infrastructure's resilience to climate impacts | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Support LGUs in stormwater infrastructure adaptation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Foster partnerships to implement projects, programs, and practices to increase the amount of green infrastructure | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Support re-evaluation of Watershed floodplains using updated data | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Promote reconnection to historic floodplains | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please rank all topics of importance for the Climate Resilience Issue Category:

- 1 Storm sewer and hard infrastructure modifications (appropriate sizing of new infrastructure, adapting historic infrastructure to new climate regimes)
- 2 Green infrastructure BMPs (bioretention, trees, small scale rain barrels/cisterns, green roofs, permeable pavement, bioswales, etc)
- 3 Stormwater basin/retention ponds modifications or improvements (larger/deeper ponds and basins)
- 4 Large or industrial scale water reuse
- 5 Stormwater pond smart technology (automated pumping in anticipation of storm events)



Issue Category:

Natural Environments

Select your top two Natural Environments objectives from this list and rank them 1 (most important) through 2

- | | |
|---|--|
| Coordinate with others to implement projects, programs and practices that protect the Watershed's aquatic and riparian habitats | <div style="width: 100px; height: 20px; background-color: #2e8b57;"></div> |
| Identify and improve high-priority water resource environments found to be significantly impacted by humans | <div style="width: 80px; height: 20px; background-color: #2e8b57;"></div> |
| Coordinate with others to implement projects, programs and practices that improve soil health | <div style="width: 40px; height: 20px; background-color: #2e8b57;"></div> |
| Coordinate with others to implement projects, programs and practices that improve disturbed landscapes | <div style="width: 30px; height: 20px; background-color: #2e8b57;"></div> |

Please rank all topics of importance for the Natural Environments Issue Category:

- 1** Wetland restoration
- 2** Streambank/shoreline restoration
- 3** In-stream habitat restoration
- 4** Upland restoration
- 5** In-lake restoration (aquatic plants, fisheries)



Issue Category:

Community Relationships

Select your top three Community Relationships objectives from this list and rank them 1 (most important) through 3

- | | |
|---|--|
| Create and support opportunities for stakeholder connection and engagement with the Watershed's natural resources | <div style="width: 100px; height: 20px; background-color: #2e8b57;"></div> |
| Consistently communicate and promote the work of the VRWJPO with partners and stakeholders | <div style="width: 100px; height: 20px; background-color: #2e8b57;"></div> |
| Communicate with stakeholders regarding the environmental issues that directly impact the watershed | <div style="width: 100px; height: 20px; background-color: #2e8b57;"></div> |
| Engage citizens to promote sustainable stewardship of lakes and streams | <div style="width: 90px; height: 20px; background-color: #2e8b57;"></div> |
| Grow the amount of Watershed stakeholders | <div style="width: 40px; height: 20px; background-color: #2e8b57;"></div> |
| Maintain or increase ways for stakeholders to provide relevant input to the VRWJPO | <div style="width: 10px; height: 20px; background-color: #2e8b57;"></div> |

Please rank all topics of importance for the Community Relationships Category:

- 1** Direct financial support for individuals' projects (Stewardship Grants, MN Water Stewards, Landscaping for Clean Water)
- 2** VRWJPO-hosted events
- 3** Community events
- 4** Volunteer programs
- 5** Social media
- 6** Project interpretive signs
- 7** Marketing/media paid campaigns