



Agenda

Vermillion River Watershed Community Advisory Committee

August 13, 2025 – 4:30 p.m., in-person and virtually via Microsoft Teams

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Audience Comments on Items Not on the Agenda
(*please limit audience comments to five minutes*)
4. Approval of Agenda Action
5. Approval of Minutes from the May 14, 2025, meeting Action
6. Business Items
 - a. Recommend Adoption of the Draft Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization 2026 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy Action
 - b. Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Draft Watershed Partner Project Maintenance and Repair Financial Assistance Policy Presentation Information
7. Updates
 - a. Chairperson's Report
 - b. Staff Updates
8. Adjourn Action

Please note that the August 13, 2025, Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting will take place in person in Conference Room A at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center, 4100 220th Street West, Farmington, Minnesota, and virtually via Microsoft Teams. **CAC members must attend in person due to a recommendation being made regarding item 6a. Others are welcome to attend via Microsoft Teams.**

Microsoft Teams

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Meeting ID: 214 803 442 490 4

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Phone conference ID: 842 595 818#

Other Information

Next Meeting Date: **November 19, 2025**, at 4:30 p.m.



Please confirm your attendance by contacting Brita Moore-Kutz at brita.moore-kutz@co.dakota.mn.us by noon on the day before. You will be notified if the meeting is canceled due to an anticipated lack of quorum.



Meeting Minutes: Vermillion River Watershed Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

Date: May 14, 2025

Minutes prepared by: Brita Moore-Kutz

Location: In-person at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center, Farmington, MN, and virtual via Microsoft Teams

CAC Members in Attendance

- Josh Borton
- Brad Blackett
- Jim Kotz
- Andy Riesgraf (virtual)

VRWJPO Staff in Attendance

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

Others in Attendance

- Lindsey Albright, Monitoring and Outreach Coordinator, Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)
- Curt Coudron, Project Management Supervisor, Dakota County SWCD
- Samantha Berger, Natural Resources Coordinator, City of Apple Valley (virtual)
- Anne Sawyer, Board Conservationist, Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) (virtual)

Agenda Items

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by Chair Josh Borton.

2. Roll Call

Members Blackett, Borton, Kotz, and Riesgraf were present. Members Chamberlain, Hamrick, Nicolai, and Weber were absent.

3. Audience Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

None.

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Brad Blackett to approve the agenda, seconded by Jim Kotz. Motion carried on a 4-0 voice vote.

5. Approval of Minutes from the February 12, 2025, meeting

Motion by Brad Blackett to approve the minutes, seconded by Jim Kotz. Motion carried on a 4-0 voice vote.

6. Business Items

a. Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District Presentation on the Landscaping for Clean Water Program

Lindsey Albright gave an in-depth overview of the Landscaping for Clean Water (LCW) program run by Dakota County SWCD, as well as other collaborative outreach projects in the work plan between the VRWJPO and SWCD.

The LCW program focuses on empowering landowners to create raingardens, native gardens, and shoreline stabilization projects. VRWJPO, other Dakota County watersheds, and city partners provide funding and assistance. The program consists of a series of classes: an Introductory course, Design course, and optional Maintenance workshop. SWCD staff provide one-on-one technical assistance for people whose projects are selected for the \$250 grants.

Lindsey also mentioned the Vermillion River Watch program with high school field biology classes; the Lawns Reimagined program, which provides information on varieties of turfgrass that may require less mowing and watering compared to standard Kentucky bluegrass; and Winter Salt Awareness Week in January, in partnership with Dakota County.

Andy Riesgraf asked if the SWCD contacts new homeowners to let them know about LCW. Lindsey said that sometimes, new owners find a sign for an LCW project already completed on the property and

reach out to the SWCD independently. Alternatively, if a past participant moves, they sometimes reach out to the SWCD and let them know to reach out to the new property owner. New owners often continue to maintain the gardens, but they may need education on their features and unique maintenance needs.

Information only.

b. Overview and Comments on Draft 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan Implementation Table and Summary of Approval and Adoption Timeline

Kelly Perrine presented the draft Implementation Table for the 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan (WMP). The table contains potential projects and partnerships that could help the VRWJPO achieve its WMP goals and objectives. It categorizes each action by Issue Category and includes a High, Medium, or Low priority indicator based on input from stakeholders. It also allocates funds for each action so the VRWJPO can plan ahead for its annual budgets and tax levies. Travis Thiel added that the planned tax levy in each year of the table was set to increase by 3% each year to account for inflation.

Staff asked the CAC to consider the following questions in reviewing the draft Implementation Table:

1. Are the proposed actions correct to address the WMP Goals?
2. Are the costs appropriate for the proposed actions?
3. Is the schedule appropriate to accomplish the proposed actions?

Anne Sawyer commented that she liked how the table factors in partnership opportunities and subwatershed analyses in identifying projects. She asked if there were any upcoming subwatershed assessments that weren't mentioned in the table and if that would precipitate the need for a WMP amendment if new projects arose from future assessments. Kelly said that yes, there are two subwatershed assessments forthcoming, and that staff had earmarked funds in each issue category for projects of opportunity. Travis added that amendments to the WMP might be possible to strengthen the VRWJPO's applications for state grants.

Anne said she'd like to see staff incorporate measurable goals and objectives into the table to demonstrate progress. Kelly discussed the challenging nature of predicting pollutant load reductions and asked if numbers of installed best management practices (BMPs) are acceptable measures of success. Anne said that BWSR is looking for as much quantitative information as possible to ensure transparency and accountability in the WMP's implementation. This could include numbers of installed BMPs.

Anne emphasized that BWSR is not looking to penalize watersheds that don't meet every single goal listed in their plans.

Information only.

c. Update on Proposed Revisions to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Standards

Jeff Dunn presented the revised VRWJPO Standards planned to be adopted along with the 2026-2035 WMP.

Staff proposed a series of changes to the Standards based on feedback from stakeholders and their own experience and expertise. They then reviewed the Standards with the VRWJPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for further feedback. The Standards shared with the CAC at this meeting incorporated the TAC's suggestions. Significant changes from the last published Standards include:

- Updating erosion and sediment control requirements to align with the Minnesota General Discharge Permit. This was done to help townships without their own permitting programs meet the VRWJPO Standards.
- Removing language already used in the WMP.
- Removing regulations being enforced by local government units (LGUs).
- Removing provisions on which VRWJPO does not have a direct regulatory role, such as agricultural practices.

Information only.

d. Presentation and Discussion of Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization 2025 Budget-Identified Capital Improvement Projects

Jeff Dunn and Kelly Perrine shared their progress on the following Capital Improvement Projects:

- Lakeville - East Lake Invasive Fish Barrier and Removals
- Lakeville - Launch Park Wetland Restoration
- Lakeville - Firelight Way Total Suspended Solids (TSS) Reduction
- Castle Rock Township - Mork Wetland Bank
- Farmington - 4th and Willow TSS Reduction
- Farmington - North Creek at Denali Way Stream Restoration and Culvert Improvements
- Hastings - 15th and Bailey TSS Reduction
- Empire - North Creek at MN Highway 3 Stream Restoration and Culvert Improvements
- Lakeville - Grand Prairie Park Water Recirculation and Stormwater Reuse
- Groundwater Conservation and Landscaping for Clean Water Marketing Campaign

7. Updates

a. Chairperson's Report

None.

b. Staff Updates

Brita Moore-Kutz

- Brita encouraged CAC members to plan to attend the VRWJPO Project Tour on September 25, 2025. She also handed out a summary report of the VRWJPO 2024 Annual Activity Report sent to BWSR in April 2025.

Curt Coudron

- The Dakota SWCD has been busy planning projects with landowners to improve soil health and nitrogen management. He said that project contracts in the VRWJPO are covering about 2,000 acres, including multi-year contracts from previous years and contracts signed this year.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Jim Kotz to adjourn, seconded by Brad Blackett. Motion carried on a 4-0 voice vote.

Next Meeting

Date: August 13, 2025

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Location: In-person at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center

VERMILLION RIVER WATERSHED COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

6a. Recommend Adoption of the Draft Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization 2026 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy

Meeting Date: 8/13/2025
Item Type: Regular-Action
Contact: Travis Thiel
Telephone: 952-891-7546
Prepared by: Travis Thiel

**PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED**

- Recommend adoption of the draft Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization 2026 budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy

SUMMARY

The draft VRWJPO 2026 budget (Attachment A) is \$2,654,279, including Clean Water Fund Competitive Funding grants, Clean Water Fund Watershed-Based Implementation Funding grants, Conservation Partners Legacy Grants, and the Watershed Management Tax District levy. The draft VRWJPO 2026 budget recommends a Watershed Management Tax District Levy of \$1,078,225; \$40,532 in the Scott County portion of the watershed and \$1,037,693 in the Dakota County portion of the watershed. This amount represents a five-percent increase in the Watershed Management Tax District levy compared to 2025. The draft budget reflects recommendations from VRWJPO staff and partners and items from the implementation section of the draft 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan.

An approved draft VRWJPO 2026 will remain “draft” until the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) adopts a final VRWJPO 2026 budget and the Dakota County and Scott County Boards certify the final Watershed Management Tax District levy in December of 2025. Between the time the draft VRWJPO 2026 budget and the final budget are adopted, the VRWJPB can recommend a lower levy in Dakota County and Scott County, but not higher.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT

The draft VRWJPO 2026 budget proposes a five-percent increase in the Watershed Management Tax District levy compared to 2025. The proposed 2026 tax impact on the median value residential property in Dakota County is \$10.04, up from \$9.73 in 2025. The proposed 2026 tax impact on the median value residential property in Scott County is \$13.14, up from \$12.68 in 2025. The proposed levy amount represents the maximum levy amount the VRWJPO will receive from Dakota County and Scott County, but the VRWJPB could recommend a lower levy amount before adopting a final budget in December of 2025.

Supporting Documents:

Attachment A. Draft VRWJPO 2026 Budget

Attachment B. Dakota County 2026 Tax Impact Statement

Attachment C. Scott County 2026 Tax Impact Statement

RESOLUTION**6a. Recommend Adoption of the Draft Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization 2026 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy**

WHEREAS, the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization requires a budget and the subsequent levy to implement the programs and projects described in its Watershed Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Vermillion River Watershed Community Advisory Committee has reviewed and discussed the draft VRWJPO 2026 budget and Vermillion River Watershed Management Tax District levy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vermillion River Watershed Community Advisory Committee hereby recommends approval of the draft VRWJPO 2026 Budget totaling \$2,654,279 and recommends a Vermillion River Watershed Management Tax District levy of \$1,078,225 (\$40,532 in the Scott County portion of the watershed and \$1,037,693 in the Dakota County portion of the watershed).

REVISED

3:00 pm, Aug 12, 2025

VRWJPO Draft 2026 Budget

EXPENSES

Budget Category	Budget Activity	Operations and Programs	CIP	Budget Total
Administration and Operations				
	Dakota County VRW Staff	\$ 227,000		\$ 227,000
	Scott County VRW Staff	\$ 15,000		\$ 15,000
	Legal Support	\$ 25,000		\$ 25,000
	Miscellaneous Expenses (per diems, mileage, postage, insurance, etc.)	\$ 15,000		\$ 15,000
	Training, Conferences, and Certifications	\$ 2,000		\$ 2,000
Planning				
	Dakota SWCD Incentive Program Policy Assistance	\$ 1,500		\$ 1,500
	VRW Staff	\$ 30,000		\$ 30,000
Inventory, Assessment, & Research				
	Monitoring	\$ 88,500		\$ 88,500
	USGS and DNR Flow Gaging	\$ 20,000		\$ 20,000
	VRW Staff	\$ 17,000		\$ 17,000
	General GIS support (Dakota SWCD)	\$ 1,500		\$ 1,500
	Equipment/Supplies	\$ 1,000		\$ 1,000
	Enhanced Street Sweeping Assessment	\$ 45,000		\$ 45,000
	Scott County Bacteria Assessment	\$ 7,500		\$ 7,500
Communications, Outreach, and Public Relations				
	VRW Staff	\$ 108,000		\$ 108,000
	Dakota SWCD Outreach and Education	\$ 40,000		\$ 40,000
	Scott County SWCD Outreach and Education	\$ 2,300		\$ 2,300
	Communication and Outreach Materials and Supplies, Signage	\$ 7,500		\$ 7,500
	Local Standards/Ordinance and Turf/Salt Workshops	\$ 2,500		\$ 2,500
	Children's Water Festival Support	\$ 600		\$ 600
	Watershed Partners	\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000
	Digital Accessibility Requirement Assessment and Improvements	\$ 9,000		\$ 9,000
	Stewardship Grant Program	\$ 25,000		\$ 25,000
Regulation				
	VRW Staff-Permitting, Standards Assistance, Engineering/Environmental Review	\$ 36,000		\$ 36,000
Feasibility & Preliminary Engineering				
	Preliminary Design, Technical Assistance and Marketing for Capital Improvements (Dakota SWCD)	\$ 20,000		\$ 20,000
	Preliminary Design, Technical Assistance and Marketing for Capital Improvements (VRW staff)	\$ 60,000		\$ 60,000
	Preliminary Design, Technical Assistance and Marketing for Capital Improvements (Consulting)	\$ -		\$ -

CIP and Maintenance				
	Cost Share Programs in Dakota County (SWCD)		\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
	Cost Share Programs in Scott County (SWCD)		\$ 12,500	\$ 12,500
	VRW General Cost-share or Miscellaneous Grant Match		\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000
	Past projects maintenance/repair		\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
	VRW staff construction oversight and grant development and admin		\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
East Lake Fish Management				
	VRWJPO cost share		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
FY24 CWF Alimagnet Alum Treatment				
	Alimagnet Alum Treatment		\$ 121,423	\$ 121,423
	VRWJPO cash match		\$ 17,331	\$ 17,331
FY24-25 WBIF Hastings 15th & Bailey TSS				
	15th & Bailey TSS Reduction grant pass-through		\$ 197,055	\$ 197,055
	VRWJPO cash match		\$ 94,195	\$ 94,195
FY24-25 WBIF Farmington 4th & Willow TSS				
	4th & Willow TSS Reduction grant pass-through		\$ 71,013	\$ 71,013
	VRWJPO cash match		\$ 39,207	\$ 39,207
FY25 CWF Alimagnet Alum Treatment Phase 2				
	Alimagnet Alum Treatment Phase 2		\$ 52,000	\$ 52,000
	VRWJPO cash match		\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500
FY25 CPL North Creek at Denali Way				
	FY25 CPL North Creek at Denali Way		\$ 364,155	\$ 364,155
	VRWJPO cash match		\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
FY25 CPL North Creek at Hwy 3				
	FY25 CPL North Creek at Hwy 3		\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
	VRWJPO cash match		\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Apple Valley EVR-P55 Stormwater Pond Retrofit				
	VRWJPO cost share		\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000
Wetland Bank Credit Sales				
	Braun Wetland Bank Credit Sales		\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Subtotal of Expenditures		\$ 811,900	\$ 1,842,379	\$ 2,654,279
REVENUES				
Braun Wetland Bank Credit Revenue				\$ 100,000
Use of Fund Balance				\$ 253,957
Grant Revenue				\$ 1,171,097
Fees for Permitting Activities				\$ 1,000
Dakota County Levy				\$ 1,037,693
Scott County Levy				\$ 40,532
Investment Earnings				\$ 50,000
Total Revenues				\$ 2,654,279

Vermillion River Watershed Management Tax District
Estimated Pay 2026 Taxes * (Dakota County)

Residential Property

Market Value	Tax Capacity	Proposed 2026 Levy								2025 Actual	2024 Actual	2023 Actual	2022 Actual	2021 Actual	2020 Actual	2019 Actual	2018 Actual	2017 Actual	2016 Actual
		\$300,000	\$400,000	\$500,000	\$750,000	\$990,832	\$1,037,693	\$1,250,000	\$1,500,000	\$990,832	\$965,600	\$964,900	\$967,500	\$966,650	\$966,000	\$912,900	\$887,900	\$861,700	\$821,140
Rate		0.05616%	0.08502%	0.11389%	0.18605%	0.25557%	0.26909%	0.33037%	0.40253%	0.2714%	0.2703%	0.2870%	0.3470%	0.3480%	0.3990%	0.4030%	0.4290%	0.4490%	0.4490%
Various Values																			
\$150,000	1,170	\$0.66	\$0.99	\$1.33	\$2.18	\$2.99	\$3.15	\$3.86	\$4.71	\$3.17	\$3.16	\$3.62	\$4.06	\$4.07	\$4.67	\$4.71	\$5.02	\$5.25	\$5.25
\$170,000	1,388	\$0.78	\$1.18	\$1.58	\$2.58	\$3.55	\$3.73	\$4.58	\$5.59	\$3.77	\$3.75	\$4.25	\$4.81	\$4.83	\$5.54	\$5.59	\$5.95	\$6.23	\$6.23
\$185,000	1,551	\$0.87	\$1.32	\$1.77	\$2.89	\$3.96	\$4.17	\$5.12	\$6.24	\$4.21	\$4.19	\$4.72	\$5.38	\$5.40	\$6.19	\$6.25	\$6.65	\$6.96	\$6.96
\$190,000	1,606	\$0.90	\$1.36	\$1.83	\$2.99	\$4.10	\$4.32	\$5.30	\$6.46	\$4.36	\$4.34	\$4.87	\$5.57	\$5.59	\$6.41	\$6.47	\$6.89	\$7.21	\$7.21
\$200,000	1,715	\$0.96	\$1.46	\$1.95	\$3.19	\$4.38	\$4.61	\$5.66	\$6.90	\$4.65	\$4.63	\$5.19	\$5.95	\$5.97	\$6.84	\$6.91	\$7.36	\$7.70	\$7.70
\$210,000	1,824	\$1.02	\$1.55	\$2.08	\$3.39	\$4.66	\$4.91	\$6.02	\$7.34	\$4.95	\$4.93	\$5.50	\$6.33	\$6.35	\$7.28	\$7.35	\$7.82	\$8.19	\$8.19
\$225,000	1,987	\$1.12	\$1.69	\$2.26	\$3.70	\$5.08	\$5.35	\$6.56	\$8.00	\$5.39	\$5.37	\$5.97	\$6.89	\$6.91	\$7.93	\$8.01	\$8.52	\$8.92	\$8.92
\$250,000	2,260	\$1.27	\$1.92	\$2.57	\$4.20	\$5.77	\$6.08	\$7.46	\$9.10	\$6.13	\$6.11	\$6.75	\$7.84	\$7.86	\$9.02	\$9.11	\$9.69	\$10.15	\$10.15
\$275,000	2,532	\$1.42	\$2.15	\$2.88	\$4.71	\$6.47	\$6.81	\$8.36	\$10.19	\$6.87	\$6.84	\$7.53	\$8.79	\$8.81	\$10.10	\$10.20	\$10.86	\$11.37	\$11.37
\$290,000	2,696	\$1.51	\$2.29	\$3.07	\$5.01	\$6.89	\$7.25	\$8.91	\$10.85	\$7.32	\$7.29	\$8.00	\$9.35	\$9.38	\$10.76	\$10.86	\$11.56	\$12.10	\$12.10
\$300,000	2,805	\$1.58	\$2.38	\$3.19	\$5.22	\$7.17	\$7.55	\$9.27	\$11.29	\$7.61	\$7.58	\$8.32	\$9.73	\$9.76	\$11.19	\$11.30	\$12.03	\$12.59	\$12.59
\$371,600	3,585	\$2.01	\$3.05	\$4.08	\$6.67	\$9.16	\$9.65	\$11.84	\$14.43	\$9.73	\$9.69	\$10.56	\$12.44	\$12.48	\$14.30	\$14.45	\$15.38	\$16.10	\$16.10
\$385,000	3,731	\$2.10	\$3.17	\$4.25	\$6.94	\$9.54	\$10.04	\$12.33	\$15.02	\$10.13	\$10.08	\$10.98	\$12.95	\$12.98	\$14.89	\$15.04	\$16.01	\$16.75	\$16.75
\$400,000	3,895	\$2.19	\$3.31	\$4.44	\$7.25	\$9.95	\$10.48	\$12.87	\$15.68	\$10.57	\$10.53	\$11.44	\$13.51	\$13.55	\$15.54	\$15.69	\$16.71	\$17.49	\$17.49
\$425,000	4,167	\$2.34	\$3.54	\$4.75	\$7.75	\$10.65	\$11.21	\$13.77	\$16.77	\$11.31	\$11.26	\$12.23	\$14.46	\$14.50	\$16.63	\$16.79	\$17.88	\$18.71	\$18.71
\$450,000	4,440	\$2.49	\$3.77	\$5.06	\$8.26	\$11.35	\$11.95	\$14.67	\$17.87	\$12.05	\$12.00	\$13.01	\$15.41	\$15.45	\$17.71	\$17.89	\$19.05	\$19.93	\$19.93
\$475,000	4,712	\$2.65	\$4.01	\$5.37	\$8.77	\$12.04	\$12.68	\$15.57	\$18.97	\$12.79	\$12.74	\$13.79	\$16.35	\$16.40	\$18.80	\$18.99	\$20.21	\$21.16	\$21.16
\$500,000	4,985	\$2.80	\$4.24	\$5.68	\$9.27	\$12.74	\$13.41	\$16.47	\$20.06	\$13.53	\$13.47	\$14.57	\$17.30	\$17.35	\$19.89	\$20.09	\$21.38	\$22.38	\$22.38

Median Value as of:	07/10/25
Preliminry Net TCAP	346,446,322
2025 Median Value	\$371,600
2026 Median Value	\$385,000
Percent Change	3.61%

WHAT IF TAX COMPARISON PAY 2025 vs Pay 2026

REVISED

2:50 pm, Aug 12, 2025

FISCAL YEAR 2025			
12,591,637 GROSS TAX CAPACITY		\$	36,050 FINAL CERTIFIED LEVY
(10,423) 10% KV TRANS LINE (-)			
(728,879) FISCAL DISPARITY (-)		\$	(2,710) FISCAL DISPARITY (-)
11,852,335 NET TAX CAPACITY		\$	33,340 TAX LEVY OR SPREAD LEVY
Tax Rate		0.281%	
FISCAL YEAR 2026			
14,481,146 GROSS TAX CAPACITY		\$	40,532 PROPOSED LEVY OR CERTIFIED LEVY
(11,107) 10% KV TRANS LINE (-)			
(937,837) FISCAL DISPARITY (-)		\$	(2,632) FISCAL DISPARITY (-)
13,532,202 NET TAX CAPACITY		\$	37,900 TAX LEVY OR SPREAD LEVY
Tax Rate		0.280%	

RESIDENTIAL IMPACTS

										Pay 2025	Pay 2026			Median & Average Values			
			Average	Average	Value	Taxable	Value	Taxable		Net	Net	Net	Net	2025	2026	2026	2026
			Market Value	Market Value	Exclusion	Market Value	Exclusion	Market Value	Taxable %	Payable	Payable	Inc/Dec	Difference	Median	Median	Average	Value
			2025	2026	2025	2025	2026	2026	Chg 2025 - 2026	2025	2026	2025 vs 2026	% Change	Values	Values	Values	% Change
Elko New Mrkt City 1,650	+15.01+%	24	\$ 393,524	\$ 452,553	\$ 11,133	\$ 382,392	\$ 5,820	\$ 446,733	16.83%	\$ 10.76	\$ 12.51	\$ 1.76	16.3%	\$ 396,000	\$ 419,400	\$ 418,000	5.9%
	+10.01-15.00%	28	\$ 393,524	\$ 442,715	\$ 11,133	\$ 382,392	\$ 6,706	\$ 436,009	14.02%	\$ 10.76	\$ 12.21	\$ 1.45	13.5%				
	+5.01-10.00%	1,113	\$ 393,524	\$ 423,039	\$ 11,133	\$ 382,392	\$ 8,477	\$ 414,562	8.41%	\$ 10.76	\$ 11.61	\$ 0.85	7.9%				
	+0.01-5.00%	450	\$ 393,524	\$ 403,363	\$ 11,133	\$ 382,392	\$ 10,247	\$ 393,115	2.80%	\$ 10.76	\$ 11.01	\$ 0.25	2.4%				
	No Change	9	\$ 393,524	\$ 393,524	\$ 11,133	\$ 382,392	\$ 11,133	\$ 382,392	0.00%	\$ 10.76	\$ 10.71	\$ (0.05)	-0.4%				
	-0.01-5.00%	25	\$ 393,524	\$ 383,686	\$ 11,133	\$ 382,392	\$ 12,018	\$ 371,668	-2.80%	\$ 10.76	\$ 10.41	\$ (0.35)	-3.2%				
	-5.01-10%	0	\$ 393,524	\$ 364,010	\$ 11,133	\$ 382,392	\$ 13,789	\$ 350,221	-8.41%	\$ 10.76	\$ 9.81	\$ (0.95)	-8.8%				
	-10.01-15%	1	\$ 393,524	\$ 344,334	\$ 11,133	\$ 382,392	\$ 15,560	\$ 328,774	-14.02%	\$ 10.76	\$ 9.21	\$ (1.55)	-14.4%				
	-15.01+	0	\$ 393,524	\$ 334,496	\$ 11,133	\$ 382,392	\$ 16,445	\$ 318,050	-16.83%	\$ 10.76	\$ 8.91	\$ (1.85)	-17.2%				
New Market Twp 1,173	+15.01+%	43	\$ 644,240	\$ 740,876	\$ -	\$ 644,240	\$ -	\$ 740,876	15.00%	\$ 19.14	\$ 22.44	\$ 3.30	17.2%	\$ 615,900	\$ 663,800	\$ 691,900	7.8%
	+10.01-15.00%	274	\$ 644,240	\$ 724,770	\$ -	\$ 644,240	\$ -	\$ 724,770	12.50%	\$ 19.14	\$ 21.87	\$ 2.74	14.3%				
	+5.01-10.00%	443	\$ 644,240	\$ 692,558	\$ -	\$ 644,240	\$ -	\$ 692,558	7.50%	\$ 19.14	\$ 20.74	\$ 1.61	8.4%				
	+0.01-5.00%	410	\$ 644,240	\$ 660,346	\$ -	\$ 644,240	\$ -	\$ 660,346	2.50%	\$ 19.14	\$ 19.62	\$ 0.48	2.5%				
	No Change	2	\$ 644,240	\$ 644,240	\$ -	\$ 644,240	\$ -	\$ 644,240	0.00%	\$ 19.14	\$ 19.05	\$ (0.08)	-0.4%				
	-0.01-5.00%	0	\$ 644,240	\$ 628,134	\$ -	\$ 644,240	\$ -	\$ 628,134	-2.50%	\$ 19.14	\$ 18.49	\$ (0.65)	-3.4%				
	-5.01-10%	0	\$ 644,240	\$ 595,922	\$ -	\$ 644,240	\$ -	\$ 595,922	-7.50%	\$ 19.14	\$ 17.36	\$ (1.77)	-9.3%				
	-10.01-15%	0	\$ 644,240	\$ 563,710	\$ -	\$ 644,240	\$ -	\$ 563,710	-12.50%	\$ 19.14	\$ 16.23	\$ (2.90)	-15.2%				
	-15.01+	1	\$ 644,240	\$ 547,604	\$ -	\$ 644,240	\$ -	\$ 547,604	-15.00%	\$ 19.14	\$ 15.67	\$ (3.47)	-18.1%				
County Wide		47,859	\$ 456,254	\$ 473,200	\$ 5,487	\$ 450,767	\$ 3,962	\$ 469,238	4.10%	\$ 12.68	\$ 13.14	\$ 0.46	3.645%	\$ 403,500	\$ 415,200	\$ 473,200	2.9%

VERMILLION RIVER WATERSHED COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

6b. Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Draft Watershed Partner Project Maintenance and Repair Financial Assistance Policy Presentation

Meeting Date: 8/13/2025
 Item Type: Regular-Information
 Contact: Jeff Dunn
 Telephone: 952-891-7140
 Prepared by: Jeff Dunn



PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

- Receive a presentation from Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) staff regarding the Draft Watershed Partner Project Maintenance and Repair Financial Assistance Policy

SUMMARY

As part of its implementation of the draft 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan (WMP), the VRWJPO desires to assist its partners with their ongoing project operation, maintenance, and repair responsibilities. The VRWJPO will seek (but is not obligated) to annually allocate budget funds for maintenance and repair activities and to offer modest and equitable financial assistance to help partners offset costs associated with eligible activities. Annual funding is not exclusively reserved for partner use; it may also support activities conducted independently by the VRWJPO.

The VRWJPO Administrator will have final discretion regarding activity eligibility for financial assistance.

The original draft policy created by staff was presented to the VRWJPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on July 25, 2025. The attached exhibit (Attachment A) has been updated to address the TAC's comments and concerns.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT

Pending final approval of the WMP Implementation Plan by the Joint Powers Board, the VRWJPO could budget up to \$30,000/year.



Watershed Partner Project Maintenance and Repair Financial Assistance Policy

Updated: 8/13/2025

The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) regularly provides financial or in-kind assistance to partners to implement protection, restoration, and enhancement projects (Projects) throughout the Watershed.

These Projects often utilize grant funding for implementation. Grant funding policies typically require an operation and maintenance plan to ensure ongoing performance. Projects that don't have grant funding associated with them still require operation and maintenance to achieve their intended function. At present, it's common that the Projects delegate the ongoing operation, maintenance, and repair responsibilities of the Projects to the partners.

As part of its implementation of the 2026-2035 Watershed Management Plan (WMP), the VRWJPO desires to assist its partners with their ongoing Project operation, maintenance, and repair responsibilities. The VRWJPO will strive to (but has no obligation to) annually budget funds to be allocated for VRWJPO maintenance and repair activities (Activities) and to offer modest and equitable financial assistance to help partners offset costs associated with eligible Activities. The VRWJPO Administrator will have final discretion regarding Activity eligibility for financial assistance.

In addition, it is important to note that this annual funding is not exclusively reserved for partner use; it may also support Activities conducted independently by the VRWJPO.

Any financial assistance for the Activities will be drawn from annual funding allocated by the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board, following the criteria outlined below:

Partner Eligible Activities:

- BMP Maintenance could include, but is not limited to:
 - Vactoring of accumulated sediment from manufactured treatment devices, filtration media, or other locations
 - Filtration media raking, tilling, or replacement.
 - Repair or replacement of BMP structural components
 - Pipe cleaning and jetting
 - Modifications, changes, or installation of related infrastructure that directly support or improve the intended function and performance of the original practice
 - Other activities deemed eligible by the VRWJPO
- Vegetation management for wetland, riparian, and upland areas (herbicide treatment, mowing, brush removal, prescribed burn, supplemental seeding or plug installation, etc.) .
- Addressing erosion and soil stabilization.
- Stream Habitat Restoration.
- Other activities will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by VRWJPO staff.

Partner Ineligible Activities:

- Planning, reports, studies, preliminary design, final plans, specifications, contract procurement, or construction oversight/administration of or for the Activity.

A Partner Activity is Eligible (All Criteria Must Be Met):

- The VRWJPO has previously provided funding or provided pass-through of outside grant funding for the design and/or construction of the Project that the Activity supports.
- The Activity is located on Public Property or within an easement dedicated of controlling, preserving, and providing for the flow or storage of stormwater runoff; or if the Activity is to be performed on private property (in whole or in part) the partner is responsible to obtain a right to access the private property and provide documentation of such access to the VRWJPO as part of the application process.
- The partner will provide funding for the Activity.
- The area of the Activity is within the project area or adjacent thereto and is deemed a beneficial relationship to the Project (e.g., an outlot adjacent to a previous stream restoration project that needs herbicide treatment).

What Assistance is Available for Partner Activities:

- The VRWJPO will make a fair and equitable attempt, subject to the amount available and number of applications received, in providing financial assistance to partners using the following criteria:
 - a. No more than 50 percent of the proposed cost of the Activity if the Project was not funded in part by a grant.
 - b. For Projects that received pass-through grant funding from the VRWJPO, an equitable cost share is determined by the amount of cash “match” provided for the Project by both the partner and VRWJPO. Example: If both the partner and VRWJPO provided an equal cash “match” for the Project, then the cost share for the Activity would be shared equally. This formulation applies to the specific Project for which the Activity is being applied.
- A funding request for an Activity may not exceed 50 percent of the VRWJPO’s annual operation and maintenance budget.

When Assistance is Available for Partner Activities:

- Partner shall provide an application for assistance to the VRWJPO prior to May 1 of the calendar year when the Activity is programmed.
- Upon receipt of applications, VRWJPO staff will evaluate all requests based on Funding Prioritization set forth below.
- The VRWJPO will notify requestors whether funding will be available on or around June 1 of the calendar year.
- A written agreement will be required to facilitate the transaction when financial assistance is provided. Partners cannot request reimbursement for Activities completed before the written agreement is executed by the partner and VRWJPO for that Activity.

How Assistance is Provided for Partner Activities:

- Assistance will be provided in the form of cash reimbursement upon receipt of invoices from the partner. If a contractor is used for the maintenance activity, itemized invoices for the Activity are required to accompany the requesting partner's invoice.
- If available funding cannot fulfill all funding requests, the request may be denied, or the amount approved for each request may be less than the amount requested to accommodate the VRWJPO's available budget.
- If a funding request is denied due to ineligibility, a request for the same Activity cannot be resubmitted for consideration.
- If adequate funding is not available, then a request may be submitted for two years following the date of the Activity. Funding requests that are resubmitted will not receive greater prioritization.

Funding Prioritization of Partner Activities:

Based on limited resources, the VRWJPO staff must prioritize funding requests based on the goals of the WMP. Considerations include but are not limited to (bulleted items are not listed in order of priority):

- Amount requested by the partner
- Total funding percent of Activity cost assigned to the VRWJPO
- Type of Activity and estimated pollutant reduction capacity
- Activity proximity to impaired water resource or a cold-water stream.
- Age of the original practice
- Urgency of the activity to address health and human safety risks.
- Other benefits (not related to Water Resources) associated with the Activity
- Documented maintenance activities of original practice.
- VRWJPO investments for other Activities or Projects under contract with the partner
- Previous VRWJPO investment in the Activity