



Meeting Minutes

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (JPB)

Thursday, September 25, 2025, 1 p.m., in-person at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center, Farmington, MN, and virtual via Microsoft Teams

JPB Members in Attendance

- Dakota County Commissioner Bill Droste
- Dakota County Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg
- Scott County Commissioner Tom Wolf

Vermillion River Watershed Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Members in Attendance

- Brad Blackett

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) Staff in Attendance

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

Others in Attendance

- Nikki Stewart, Environmental Resources Department Director, Dakota County
- Vanessa Strong, Water Resources Supervisor, Scott County
- Brian Wisdorf, Assistant County Attorney and VRWJPO Legal Counsel, Dakota County (virtual)

Agenda

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Wolf at 1 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Droste, Holberg, and Wolf were present.

3. Audience Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

None.

4. Approval of Agenda

Res. No. VRW 25-37: Motion by Commissioner Holberg to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Droste. Motion carried on a 3-0 voice vote.

5. Approval of Minutes from the August 28, 2025, Meeting

Res. No. VRW 25-38: Motion by Commissioner Holberg to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Droste. Motion carried on a 3-0 voice vote.

6. Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
- b. Authorization to Cancel the Wetland Bank Credit Partnership Agreement with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources for the Proposed Wetland Bank in Castle Rock Township

Res. No. VRW 25-39: Motion by Commissioner Droste to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Holberg. Motion carried on a 3-0 voice vote.

7. Approval of Expenses

Travis Thiel presented the expenses from August 1-31, 2025, totaling \$78,972.58.

Res. No. VRW 25-40: Motion by Commissioner Holberg to approve the expenses, seconded by Commissioner Droste. Motion carried on a 3-0 roll call vote.

8. Business Items

- a. Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County for an Enhanced Street Sweeping Program Assessment

Kelly Perrine presented the enhanced street sweeping program assessment proposal with Dakota County. The assessment is meant to help prioritize geographic areas for targeted enhanced street sweeping. It is included in the Implementation Table of the 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan (WMP).

Res. No. VRW 25-41: Motion by Commissioner Holberg to authorize execution of the joint powers agreement, seconded by Commissioner Droste. Motion carried on a 3-0 voice vote.

- b. Adoption of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Capital Improvement Program Watershed Partner Project Maintenance and Repair Financial Assistance Policy

Jeff Dunn presented the draft policy, which establishes criteria and an application process for partners to apply to the VRWJPO for assistance funding operations and maintenance activities for projects that were completed in partnership with the VRWJPO. The policy is another Implementation Action in the 2026-2035 WMP.

Commissioner Holberg asked for clarification on the financial commitment for the funding agreements. Jeff answered that the budget allocates \$30,000 a year to the program, and staff would have discretion on how that money is distributed based on applications from partners. Travis added that the details are still being worked out, whether the agreements will be made via joint powers agreements (JPA) or grant agreements.

Commissioner Holberg asked if the expenditures would come before the JPB, which would be the case if they were executed as JPAs. Travis replied that staff could do so if that was the board's wish. The JPB gets the opportunity every year to review the line items in the overall VRWJPO budget, which includes funding for this program.

Commissioner Holberg expressed concern that the VRWJPO could end up with liabilities to project partners that they may not be able to sustain. Kelly said that the VRWJPO wouldn't have extra liabilities. The partner, often a city, is listed as responsible for operations and maintenance in the respective JPA for the project. The VRWJPO would provide funding to help foot part of the bill for maintenance.

Commissioner Holberg asked if the agreements would last for one year or more than that. Staff are still working on this detail.

Res. No. VRW 25-42: Motion by Commissioner Droste to adopt the policy, seconded by Commissioner Holberg. Motion carried on a 3-0 voice vote.

9. Staff Reports

Kelly Perrine

- Kelly shared an update from the Dakota County Emerging Contaminants Work Group, which is tracking per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and other chemicals of concern. She is partnering with the County's Water Resources staff to do water quality sampling in heavily fished areas. In reaching out to partners to request permissions, she heard interest from local governments in staying apprised of the proceedings of the work group. She offered JPB members the opportunity to hear directly from the work group in case constituents have questions. The work group includes representatives from VRWJPO, the Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization, and Dakota County Water Resources, Groundwater Protection, Waste Regulation, and Public Health.

Brita Moore-Kutz

- Brita thanked the Commissioners and others in attendance for attending that morning's Watershed Project Tour.

Travis Thiel

- Travis attended a meeting for township officers in Dakota County on September 17. There were many questions about cannabis operations and what happens when the processing water from these facilities ends up on the ground and potentially into the groundwater system. Townships are also concerned about high water users building

facilities in the area. Commissioner Droste asked if anyone on VRWJPO staff would be willing to be a contact for touring the Meta data center project in Rosemount, which is still under construction. Jeff agreed to this.

10. Adjourn

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

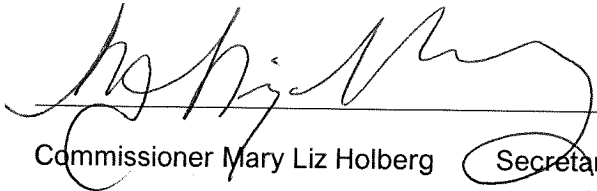
Next Meeting Date: Thursday, October 28, 1 p.m. – Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center, Conference Room A, and via teleconference on Microsoft Teams.

Respectfully submitted by:

Brita Moore-Kutz

Communications and Outreach Specialist, Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers
Organization

Attest



Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg Secretary/ Treasurer

12-4-25
Date