Meeting Minutes: Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (JPB)

Date: Thursday, December 4, 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

- John Nicolai

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

- Travis Thiel, VRWJPO Administrator, Dakota County
- Melissa Bokman Ermer, VRWJPO Co-Administrator, Scott County (virtual)
- 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 (virtual)
- Bruce Johnson, Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (DCSWCD)
- Brian Wisdorf, Assistant County Attorney and VRWJPO Legal Counsel, Dakota County

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 25-43: 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 September 25, 2025, Meeting

Res. No. VRW 25-44: 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 Reports
b. Approval of Dates for 2026 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board Meetings
c. Approval of Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization 2025 Budget Amendment
d. Authorization to Schedule a Public Hearing to Receive Comments on the Draft 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan
e. Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Lakeville and Dakota County for the Construction and Maintenance of the Launch Park Wetland Restoration
f. Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Lakeville and Dakota County for the Lake Marion Phosphorus Treatment Project/Dakota County 50-19/Jaguar Pond Improvements
g. Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District for Services in 2026
h. Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County for 2026-2027 Legal Services
i. Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County for 2026 Administration, Staffing, and Support Services

Res. No. VRW 25-45: 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 September 1-30, 2025, totaling $60,765.73, and from October 1-30, 2025, totaling $124,989.18.

Commissioner Droste noted that several cities within the VRWJPO are part of the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority public (MVTA) transit network. As one of the expenses was for the bus service on the Vermillion River Watershed Tour in September 2025, the Commissioner thought that MVTA may be able to provide free bussing on future tours.

Res. No. VRW 25-46: 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. Adoption of the VRWJPO Final 2026 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy

Travis walked through the budget and noted some minor changes made since the draft budget was approved in August 2025.

Res. No. VRW 25-47: Motion by Commissioner Holberg to adopt the budget and levy, seconded by Commissioner Droste. Motion carried on a 3-0 voice vote.

b. Authorization to Provide Written Responses to Comments Submitted During Draft 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan 60-Day Review

Kelly Perrine shared that the VRWJPO had received 186 comments on the draft 2026-35 Watershed Management Plan and was required to respond to all of them. A spreadsheet was provided including each comment, the organization who sent it, and VRWJPO's reply.

Commissioner Holberg asked what had changed at the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) that prompted them to submit a significant number of comments. Kelly said that there were new staff at MDH and that the department is looking to get more involved in regional plan reviews generally.

Res. No. VRW 25-48: Motion by Commissioner Droste to authorize submittal of written comment responses, seconded by Commissioner Holberg. Motion carried on a 3-0 voice vote.

9. Staff Reports

Brian Wisdorf

- A conflict of interest waiver will be sent to the Chair of the JPB to sign regarding agreements involving Dakota County and the VRWJPO. The Dakota County Attorney's Office will circulate the document for electronic signature once it is approved by the County. The waiver is related to items 6h and 6i on the Consent Agenda of this meeting.

Kelly Perrine

- Kelly shared that the VRWJPO received six proposals from consultants to lead a climate resiliency study, an Action item in the 2026-2035 Watershed Management Plan. She is writing a grant application to the MPCA to help fund the study.

Travis Thiel

- A resident of Marshan Township submitted an application for the CAC which will be considered at the January JPB meeting. Another spot is opening with Josh Borton's term ending on December 31, 2025, so staff continue to recruit.

10. Adjourn

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

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, January 22, 2026, 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

		11/22/2025
Commissioner	Secretary/ Treasurer	Date