Summary of Public Hearing on the Draft 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan

The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) hosted a public hearing on Thursday, January 22, 2026, to receive public comment on the draft 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan (WMP).

The hearing was conducted in compliance with Minnesota Statute 103B.231, which states that a watershed management organization (WMOs) must hold a public hearing on their draft plan no sooner than 14 days after the 60-day state agency and local stakeholder review period of the draft plan. Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) staff submitted the draft WMP for the 60-day review from August 28 to October 28, 2025, and responded to all comments received during this period on December 4, 2025, with the authorization of the VRWJPB.

An updated version of the draft WMP was posted on the VRWJPO website on January 12, 2026, with revisions made as a result of the 60-day review period comments. The draft WMP was also printed out as a hard copy in the VRWJPO office and included in the VRWJPB meeting materials for January 22. The public hearing was legally noticed in the official newspapers of Dakota and Scott counties for two weeks prior to the hearing and posted on the VRWJPO office door and website.

Dakota County Commissioner Mike Slavik, Chair of the VRWJPB, opened the public hearing as Business Item 9c in the VRWJPB meeting agenda titled: Public Hearing on Draft 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan and Authorization to Respond to Public Hearing Comments, Revise the Draft WMP if Needed, Submit Draft WMP for 90-Day Review, and Adopt WMP Contingent on Approval by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). Interested parties were given the opportunity to comment in person, online, and in writing. No comments were heard.

The VRWJPB voted to close the public hearing on a 3-0 voice vote (Resolution No. VRW 26-07). They then approved on a 3-0 voice vote the motion to authorize responding to public comments, revise the draft WMP if needed, submit the draft WMP to the BWSR for 90-day review, and adopt the WMP upon approval by the BWSR (Resolution No. VRW 26-08).