Meeting Agenda: Vermillion River Watershed Community Advisory Committee

February 11, 2026 – 4:30 p.m., in-person and virtually via Microsoft Teams

1.	Welcome of New Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Members and CAC Member Introductions	
2.	Call to Order	
3.	Election of CAC Chair and Vice Chair	
4.	Roll Call	
5.	Audience Comments on Items Not on the Agenda *(please limit audience comments to five minutes)*	
6.	Approval of Agenda	Action
7.	Approval of Minutes from the November 19, 2025, meeting	Action
8.	Business Items	
	a. Presentation on Wetland Banking and Direction from the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board regarding the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Wetland Banking Policy	Information
	b. Summary of Projects and Activities as Reflected within the Draft 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan	Information
	c. Update on Status of the Draft 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan	Information
9.	Updates	
	a. Chairperson's Report	
	b. Staff Updates	
10.	Adjourn	Action

Please note that the February 11, 2026, 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 may participate in the meeting via interactive technology.

Microsoft Teams information

Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/27726405929390?p=UcmKUsuJwbhTNdHqA4
Meeting ID: 277 264 059 293 90
Passcode: R2qd6z24

Dial in by phone: +1 651-273-3070,,405142055# United States, Hastings
Find a local number
Phone conference ID: 405 142 055#

Other Information

Next meeting date: Wednesday, May 15, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.

Please confirm your attendance by contacting Brita Moore-Kutz at brita.moore-kutz@co.dakota.mn.us or (952) 891-7967 by noon on the day before, including whether you are attending in person or virtually. You will be notified via email if a meeting is canceled due to an anticipated lack of quorum.

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

Date: November 19, 2025

Prepared by: Brita Moore-Kutz, Communications and Outreach Specialist for the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO)

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

Attendees

CAC Members

- Brad Blackett
- Josh Borton
- Kevin Chamberlain
- Steve Hamrick
- Jim Kotz
- Andy Riesgraf (attended virtually due to work schedule)
- John Nicolai

VRWJPO Staff

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

Others

- Curt Coudron, Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Project Management Supervisor

Agenda Items

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chair Josh Borton.

2. Roll Call

All members were present except for Sandy Weber.

DRAFT

3. Audience Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

None.

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Kevin Chamberlain to approve the agenda, seconded by Jim Kotz. Motion carried on a 7-0 roll call vote.

5. Approval of Minutes from the August 13, 2025, Meeting

Motion by Brad Blackett to approve the minutes, seconded by Steve Hamrick. Motion carried on a 7-0 roll call vote.

6. Business Items

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

Travis Thiel presented the final 2026 budget and levy for the VRWJPO, noting that Scott County had a change in their budget items due to a project that was supposed to be finished in 2025 being carried over to 2026. He then reviewed changes in budgeted amounts since the draft budget and levy were approved in August 2025.

Josh Borton asked if it was possible to learn the difference in tax impact on the various types of properties subject to the watershed management tax district levy carried out by Dakota and Scott counties. Travis replied that the county taxation authorities did not provide information that specific.

Motion by Kevin Chamberlain to recommend adoption of the budget and levy, seconded by Andy Riesgraf. Motion carried on a 7-0 roll call vote.

b. Approval of 2026 Vermillion River Watershed Community Advisory Committee Meeting Dates

Travis presented the 2026 CAC meeting dates of February 11, May 13, August 12, and November 18, reminding members of the changes in Minnesota Open Meeting Law allowing participation via interactive technology, such as Microsoft Teams. CAC members should communicate with staff and each other to ensure at least one member is at the meeting in person and that staff can post public notice of virtual participation as required by law.

Motion by Brad Blackett to approve the dates, seconded by Jim Kotz. Motion carried on a 7-0 roll call vote.

c. Update on the Terms of Vermillion River Watershed Community Advisory Committee Members

DRAFT

With Josh Borton's eligibility ending as of Dec. 31, 2025, and one pre-existing vacancy on the CAC, staff are actively recruiting new members. One person had submitted an application as of this meeting, which will be reviewed by the Joint Powers Board at their January meeting.

Brita Moore-Kutz noted that she'd emailed the CAC members a graphic to promote the opportunity on social media. She also pointed out that three members are set to roll off at the end of 2026 – Steve Hamrick, Jim Kotz, and Andy Riesgraf.

Information only.

d. Summary of Comments Received During the 60-Day Review of the Draft 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan

Kelly Perrine shared that the VRWJPO received 186 comments on the draft 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan (WMP) during the 60-day review and comment period required by state statute. The draft WMP was sent to Dakota and Scott counties, the Metropolitan Council, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, the Dakota and Scott SWCDs, required state review agencies, and all city and township governments in the VRWJPO's jurisdiction.

Ten organizations submitted comments on the WMP. Members were provided a color-coded spreadsheet breaking down which comments were submitted by which organization. Kelly explained that staff must respond in writing to each comment and that the responses must be approved by the JPB before sending.

Brad Blackett noticed the myriad groundwater-related comments submitted and was surprised, since VRWJPO usually takes a supporting role in groundwater protection projects. Kelly responded that the Minnesota Department of Health had submitted most of those groundwater comments, as they are taking a more active role in reviewing watershed plans. Most of the VRWJPO is in Dakota County, which has an approved Groundwater Plan for 2020-2030, putting the VRWJPO in a unique situation compared to other watersheds. Staff worked to clarify that in the draft WMP by referring to the Dakota County Groundwater Plan directly.

Travis added that there were a few tactics that could have been made clearer as supporting groundwater protection. Soil health practices such as cover crops are promoted for their benefit to groundwater, as they reduce nutrient leaching from the soil, but they also benefit surface water. The VRWJPO provides cost-share to both counties' SWCDs for landowner soil health practices within the watershed, and the draft WMP could have been clearer about how VRWJPO is supporting groundwater efforts through that avenue.

Information only.

7. Updates

a. Chairperson's Report

DRAFT

This meeting was the final CAC meeting for Chair Josh Borton, who reached the end of his consecutive term eligibility. He shared how he'd learned about the VRWJPO while active in the Southern Dakota County Sportsmen's Club. That group completed a Stewardship Grant-funded project several years ago. The committee and staff members thanked Josh for his eight years of valuable service to the watershed and presented him with a VRWJPO-branded rain gauge.

b. Staff Updates

Travis Thiel

- Staff haven't seen any new proposals for new data centers in the watershed in a while. Travis had heard that two proposals had been more or less scrapped. The Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy has been filing lawsuits against proposed data center projects, including one within the VRWJPO.
- The VRWJPO is selling wetland bank credits from the Braun wetland bank and has six credits available. Two projects are inquiring about credits for 2026, one possibly using four acres of credits. The organization is due for some release of more credits from the federal government, as banks can get more credits incrementally as they meet performance standards. With the credits sold so far, the VRWJPO and partners who restored the Braun wetland have recouped more than the original cost of the restoration project.

Brita Moore-Kutz

- The Stewardship Grant program will be brought back into the watershed's budget with the new WMP, with the goal of increasing community engagement.
- Brita is working with Dakota County and Dakota SWCD staff to create a new interactive display about wetland health and macroinvertebrates, using macroinvertebrate samples from the Vermillion River.

Curt Coudron

- The Dakota SWCD is wrapping up project installations for the year before the weather gets too cold. Curt said there were many more cover crop contracts in the VRWJPO than he had ever seen before – about 7,400 acres in total.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Jim Kotz to adjourn, seconded by Brad Blackett. Motion carried on a 7-0 roll call vote.

Next Meeting

Date: February 11, 2026

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Location: In-person at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center and virtually via Microsoft Teams

DRAFT

8a. Presentation on Wetland Banking and Direction from the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board regarding the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Wetland Banking Policy

Meeting Date: 2/11/2026
Item Type: Regular-Information
Contact: Travis Thiel
Telephone: 952-891-7546
Prepared by: Travis Thiel

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

- Staff will provide a summary presentation on wetland banking and will provide the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) with direction received at the January 22, 2026, Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) meeting regarding the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) Wetland Banking Policy.

SUMMARY

The VRWJPO originally established a Wetland Banking Policy in 2018 and has since revised the Policy to adjust how wetland bank credit values are established. The Policy currently states:

> *To be more effective in implementing the goals of the Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan, the VRWJPO has partnered in the development of a wetland bank in the Vermillion River Watershed with the desire to develop additional wetland banks in the future.*
>
> *The VRWJPO will offer wetland credits for sale on the open market upon successful completion of a wetland restoration creating wetland banks where the VRWJPO participates financially in their development. Revenues from the sale of wetland credits will be applied to further restoration of wetlands and development of wetland bank credits for future sale, thus developing a revolving fund to restore wetlands within the Watershed.*

The Braun wetland bank was restored and the VRWJPO began selling wetland bank credits in 2021. A landowner was identified in late 2023 who desired to partner with the VRWJPO to establish a second wetland bank in the VRWJPO. Unfortunately, the project timelines and construction methods did not align with the owner's expectations, and they became disinterested. As a result, there are no immediate projects where a wetland bank is planned to be established. The sales of Braun wetland bank credits were planned for use for the previously mentioned wetland bank project that is no longer moving forward.

While wetland banking is included as a priority action in the draft 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan, there is no supporting funding identified due to the current lack of currently viable wetland bank projects in the VRWJPO. With no immediate wetland bank projects, and a Wetland Banking Policy that designates the use of wetland credit sales for future wetland bank projects through a revolving fund, staff sought direction from the VRWJPB on the use of wetland bank credit sales to date and future credit sales and how that may impact the current policy.

Staff will provide a presentation to the CAC on wetland banking and will discuss what direction was received from the VRWJPB regarding revenue generated from wetland bank credit sales.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT

No direct fiscal impact

Supporting Documents:
Attachment A: VRWJPO Wetland Banking Policy
Attachment B: Wetland Bank Credit Revenue to Date and Return on Investment

RESOLUTION

8a. Presentation on Wetland Banking and Direction from the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board regarding the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Wetland Banking Policy

Information only.

Wetland Banking Policy for the Vermillion River Watershed (Revised 5-22-2025)

This policy generally refers to provisions within the Wetland Conservation Act (as amended) and its implementation according to Minnesota Rules Chapter 8420 "Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Wetland Conservation" (herein referred to as "the Rule").

The purposes of the Wetland Conservation Act as listed in the Purpose section of the Rule (8420.0100 Subp. 1) are to:

A. achieve no net loss in the quantity, quality, and biological diversity of Minnesota's existing wetlands;
B. increase the quantity, quality, and biological diversity of Minnesota's wetlands by restoring or enhancing diminished or drained wetlands;
C. avoid direct or indirect impacts from activities that destroy or diminish the quantity, quality, and biological diversity of wetlands; and
D. replace wetland values where avoidance of activity is not feasible and prudent.

The Rule identifies the following as its method (8420.0100 Subp. 2): "The regulatory provisions of the Wetland Conservation Act advance the purpose in this part by requiring persons proposing to impact a wetland to first, attempt to avoid the impact; second, attempt to minimize the impact, and finally, replace any impacted area with another wetland of at least equal function and value."

To accomplish this the Rule sets further procedures and standards that must be followed. The Rule and the Act provide minimum standards. Part 8420.0233 provides that: "Local government units may require more procedures and more wetland protection, but not less". To that end, this policy affects part 8420.0522 of the Rule as it applies to Replacement Standards. Although this policy does not replace the Rule it does supersede its effect in requiring replacement credits as applied through Wetland Banking (parts 8420.0700 through 8420.0820) to occur within the Vermillion River Watershed for wetland impacts occurring in the Vermillion River Watershed as long as there are wetland bank replacement credits available from a wetland bank within the Watershed.

To be more effective in implementing the goals of the Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan, the VRWJPO has partnered in the development of a wetland bank in the Vermillion River Watershed with the desire to develop additional wetland banks in the future.

The VRWJPO will offer wetland credits for sale on the open market upon successful completion of a wetland restoration creating wetland banks where the VRWJPO participates financially in their development. Revenues from the sale of wetland credits will be applied to further restoration of wetlands and development of wetland bank credits for future sale, thus developing a revolving fund to restore wetlands within the Watershed.

The VRWJPO will manage the sale of credits according to the Rule (Parts 8420.0745 through 8420.0755).

Price of wetland credits managed for sale by the VRWJPO shall be set as follows:

> The price shall be set at the previous year's annually calculated median value of BWSR-reported average costs per credit for bank service areas 6, 7, and 9.
>
> The minimum price at which credits will be sold for replacement of wetland impacts will be 1.5 times the sum of the cost to produce the wetland bank credits (easement and restoration, etc.) plus all fees associated with the wetland bank (as per BWSR Wetland Mitigation Fee Policy) plus $500 per acre.

It is the intent of VRWJPO staff and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board to review and consider revisions to wetland credit prices on an annual basis.

Date Withdrawn	Credits Withdrawn	Per credit price	Sale Revenue
6/7/2022	0.1600	$ 37,000.00	$ 5,920.00
7/19/2022	2.8120	$ 37,000.00	$ 104,044.00
9/14/2022	0.2478	$ 37,000.00	$ 9,168.60
10/18/2022	0.9800	$ 37,000.00	$ 36,260.00
7/17/2024	0.9300	$ 37,000.00	$ 34,410.00
5/29/2024	0.8800	$ 37,000.00	$ 32,560.00
10/15/2024	0.1200	$ 37,000.00	$ 4,440.00
1/7/2025	0.5800	$ 49,867.00	$ 28,922.86
6/17/2025	0.2500	$ 49,867.00	$ 12,466.75
8/20/2025	0.3790	$ 49,867.00	$ 18,899.59
4/16/2025	1.1408	$ 49,867.00	$ 56,888.27
4/16/2025	0.0988	$ 49,867.00	$ 4,926.86
6/12/2025	0.3060	$ 49,867.00	$ 15,259.30
5/20/2025	0.3230	$ 49,867.00	$ 16,107.04
20% Earnest Money Received	1.0400	$ 60,111.00	$ 12,503.09
Total	**10.2474**		**$ 392,776.37**
Original Investment			**$ 500,000.00**
Revenue from Credit Sales			**$ 392,776.37**
Difference			**$ 107,223.63**
Current Credit Price			**$ 60,111.00**
Credits Needed to Recoup Investment at Current Price			**1.78**
Credits Remaining in Wetland Bank			**18.02**
Estimated Credits Yet to be Released by State/Fed			**<5**

8b. Summary of 2026 Projects and Activities as Reflected within the Draft 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan

Meeting Date: 2/11/2026
Item Type: Regular-Information
Contact: Kelly Perrine and Jeff Dunn
Telephone: 952-891-7002
Prepared by: Travis Thiel

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

- Staff will provide a summary presentation of the 2026 projects and activities as reflected within the draft 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan (WMP), including their budgetary impacts.

SUMMARY

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) staff desired to present more details about the projects and activities from the draft 2026-2035 WMP to the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to clarify specifics associated with the various projects and activities scheduled for 2026 implementation. Staff will guide the CAC through priority implementation projects and activities, including but not limited to, issues categories addressed, partnership involvement, project/activity scope, and adopted budget allocations associated with each.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT

The VRWJPO 2026 budget was adopted at the December 4, 2025, Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board meeting, identifying funding for 2026 implementation projects and activities included in the draft 2026-2035 WMP.

Supporting Documents:
Attachment A: 2026 Implementation Activities and Allocated Budget

RESOLUTION

8b. Summary of 2026 Projects and Activities as Reflected within the Draft 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan

Information only.

Category	Item ID	Action	Description	Objective(s) Addressed	Partner(s)	Budget Category	WMP 2026	2026 Approved Budget
Water Quality	WQ-1	Vermillion River Monitoring Network	Annually administer the VRMN, including physical, chemical and biological monitoring. Costs include: DCSWCD staff/consultant time for water quality, aquatic macroinvertebrate and fish monitoring; data analyses; samples analyses; report preparation; agency coordination; equipment/supplies and USGS and DNR flow gaging.	Use surface water quality monitoring data to inform restoration and protection decisions.	DCSWCD, SSWCD, DNR, MPCA	Inventory, Assessment and Research	$107,000	$ 107,000
Water Quality	WQ-5	Projects Identified within Vermillion River Headwaters Subwatershed Assessment Projects	Implement projects such as filter strips, grassed waterways, WASCOBs, wetland restoration and native grasses identified within the Vermillion River Headwaters subwatershed assessment.	Remove surface waters from the impaired waters list. Protect surface waters from impairments.	SSWCD, Landowners	CIP and Maintenance	$8,750	$ 25,000
Water Quality	WQ-6	Projects Identified within Upper Mainstem Subwatershed Assessment	Implement projects such as filter strips, grassed waterways, WASCOBs, streambank and shoreline stabilizations identified within the Upper Mainstem subwatershed assessment.	Remove surface waters from the impaired waters list. Protect surface waters from impairments.	Landowners, DCSWCD	CIP and Maintenance	$27,500	$ 27,500
Water Quality	WQ-7	Projects Identified within South Branch Vermillion River Subwatershed Assessment	Implement projects such as grassed waterways, WASCOBs, critical area plantings, filter strips, grade stabilizations, streambank stabilizations and wetland restorations identified within the South Branch Vermillion River subwatershed assessment.	Remove surface waters from the impaired waters list. Protect surface waters from impairments.	Landowners, DCSWCD	CIP and Maintenance	$8,750	$ 8,750
Water Quality	WQ-8	Projects Identified within Vermillion Lower Mainstem South Subwatershed Assessment	Implement projects such as WASCOBS and grassed waterways identified within the Vermillion Lower Mainstem South subwatershed assessment.	Remove surface waters from the impaired waters list. Protect surface waters from impairments.	Landowner, DCSWCD	CIP and Maintenance	$8,750	$ 8,750
Water Quality	WQ -9	Opportunity projects/assessments	Through the life of the Plan, the VRWJPO will remain open to projects, initiatives, studies or other opportunities that align with Plan goals and objectives as they arise which are unknown at the time of Plan creation.	Many	Many	All Budget Catagories excluding Administration and Operations	$8,000	$ 60,000
Water Quality	WQ-10	BMP Performance Monitoring	Monitor performance of pollutant reductions associated with BMPs implemented with funding assostance from grant or partner dollars.	Use surface water quality monitoring data to inform restoration and protection decisions.	Many	Inventory, Assessment and Research	$2,000	$ 2,000
Water Quality	WQ-12	Groundwater Quality Projects, Programs and Practices	Assist lead groundwater organiziations with projects, programs and practices that protect or improve groundwater quality.	Support and implement projects, programs and practices to protect or improve groundwater quality.	Many	CIP and Maintenance	$17,500	$ 17,500
Water Quality	WQ-13	Street Sweeping Study	Complete a Street Sweeping Study to prioritize areas for enhanced sweeping based on pollutant recovery/removal potentials.	Remove surface waters from the impaired waters list. Protect surface waters from impairments.	LGUs	Inventory, Assessment and Research; and Communication, Outreach and Public Relations	$45,000	$ 45,000
Water Quality	WQ-15	Projects that Address E. coli	Partner with lead agencies to investigate and implement projects that address E. coli in Scott County.	Remove surface waters from the impaired waters list. Use surface water monitoring data to inform restoration and protection decisions.	DCSWCD, SSWCD, Dakota County, Scott County	Inventory, Assessment and Research	$7,500	$ -
Stormwater Management	SW-6	Opportunity projects/assessments	Through the life of the Plan, the VRWJPO will remain open to projects, initiatives, studies or other opportunities that align with Plan goals and objectives as they arise which are unknown at the time of Plan creation.	Many	Many	All Budget Catagories excluding Administration and Operations	$8,000	$ 200,000
Stormwater Management	SW-7	Projects identified within the Long and Farquar TMDL Implementation Plan and Long and Farquar Pond Feasibility Analysis	Implement stormwater projects identified within the Long and Farquar TMDL Implementation Plan such as: road corridor BMPs, infiltration benches, infiltration basins, private large lot redevelopments and residential BMPS/buffers/sweeping. Implement projects identified within the Long and Farquar Pond Feasibility Analysis.	Promote and implement infiltration practices. Promote and implement stormwater practices that manage the peak rate and volume of runoff from the landscape.	City of Apple Valley	CIP and Maintenance	$18,000	$ 18,000

Groundwater Sustain	GS-2	Projects, Programs and Practices Identified within the Dakota County Groundwater Plan's Groundwater Quantity Tactics	Implement projects, programs and practices identified within the Dakota County Groundwater Plan such as: a VRWJPO-wide water supply/conservation initiative, cost-sharing for water conservation projects, working with the DNR to ensure large groundwater appropriation requests are sustainable, and more.	Assist with and implement projects, programs and practices that reduce landscape and agricultural water use. Assist with and implement projects, programs and practices that promote infiltration.	Dakota County, LGUs, DCSWCD	CIP and Maintenance; Regulation; Inventory, Assessments and Research	$7,500	$ 7,500
Groundwater S	GS-5	Opportunity projects/assessments	Through the life of the Plan, the VRWJPO will remain open to projects, initiatives, studies or other opportunities that align with Plan goals and objectives as they arise which are unknown at the time of Plan creation.	Many	Many	All Budget Catagories excluding Administration and Operations	$8,000	$ 8,000
Climate Resilier	CR-4	Opportunity projects/assessments	Through the life of the Plan, the VRWJPO will remain open to projects, initiatives, studies or other opportunities that align with Plan goals and objectives as they arise which are unknown at the time of Plan creation.	Many	Many	All Budget Categories excluding Administration and Operations	$8,000	$ 8,000
Natural Environments	NE-8	East Lake In-lake Projects and Practices	Implement projects and practices to address East Lake's LA defined within the Vermillion River Watershed TMDL. Examples include, but are not limited to: invasive fish management, fish stocking, native aquatic plant establishment, AIS management, alum treatments, lake drawdown and shoreline restorations.	Coordinate with others to implement projects, programs and practices that protect the Watershed's aquatic and riparian habitats.	City of Apple Valley, City of Lakeville, DNR, Dakota County	CIP and Maintenance	$10,000	$ 10,000
Natural Environments	NE-9	Cost-share for DCSWCD and SSWCD Incentive Programs	Provide cost-share for the following programs: DCSWCD's Incentive Payment Practices Program; SSWCD's Cover Crop and Soil Health Incentives; and others as they are developed.	Coordinate with others to implement projects, programs and practices that improve soil health	DCSWCD and SSWCD	CIP and Maintenance	$23,750	$ 23,750
Natural Environments	NE-11	Opportunity projects/assessments	Through the life of the Plan, the VRWJPO will remain open to projects, initiatives, studies or other opportunities that align with Plan goals and objectives as they arise which are unknown at the time of Plan creation.	Many	Many	All Budget Categories excluding Administration and Operations	$8,000	$ 60,000
Natural Environments	NE-13	Upland Restoration Adjacent to Water Resources	Partner with stakeholders to restore upland areas adjacent to lakes, rivers, and wetlands.	Coordinate with others to implement projects, programs and practices that protect the Watershed's aquatic and riparian habitats.	Many	Public Communications, Outreach and Public Relations; CIP Maintenance	$2,500	$ 2,500
Community Relatic	CMR-1	Stewardship Grants	Provide cost-share funding to individuals and groups in the watershed who are looking to install BMPs with direct water resource benefits.	Create and support opportunities for stakeholder connection and engagement with the Watershed's natural resources. Engage citizens to promote sustainable stewardship of lakes and streams.	Many	Public Communications, Outreach and Public Relations; Administration and Operations	$32,650	$ 32,650
Community Relatic	CMR-10	Project Signage	Post signage that directs stakeholders and the public to the Project Update landing page for on-going projects. Place interpretive signs at completed VRWJPO project sites to inform the public about what the projects do for water resources.	Consistently communicate and promote the work of the VRWJPO with partners and stakeholders.	LGUs	Public Communications, Outreach and Public Relations	$500	$ 500
	AD-1	Staffing	Staffing for VRWJPO Administrator, Co-Administrator, Senior Watershed Specialist, Water Resources Engineer and Communications and Outreach Specialist for hours related to: Administration and Operations; Planning; Inventory, Assessment, Research; Feasibility/Preliminary Engineering; Regulation; and CIP and Maintenance.	Many	Dakota County, Scott County	All Budget Categories minus Public Communications, Outreach and Public Relations	$472,602	$ 472,602
	AD-2	Insurance	Fees associated with insurance required for operation of the VRWJPO.	N/A	N/A	Administration and Operations	$4,500	$ 4,500
	AD-3	Legal Support	Fees associated with legal support for contract and/or agreement establishment, bidding document review and other legal support.	N/A	Dakota County	Administration and Operations	$25,000	$ 25,000
	AD-4	Public Notices	Keep website updated on following information: JPB agendas, meeting packets and meeting minutes; CAC agendas, meeting packets and meeting minutes; the Watershed Management Plan; VRWJPO Standards; monitoring reports; annual reports; legal	N/A		Administration and Operations	$4,250	$ 4,250
	AD-6	CIP Maintenance	Funding for maintenance of CIP projects completed through partnerships with LGUs or indepently by the VRWJPO.	Many	LGUs	CIP and Maintenance	$30,000	$ 30,000

	AD-7	Miscellaneous Operational Costs	Funding for miscellaneous operational costs including, but not limited to: website technical support, webpage host, software licenses, public notices, tools, equipment, subscriptions, communication materials, clothing, CAC per diems, trainings and mileage reimbursements.	Many	N/A	Administration and Operations	$15,000	$ 15,000

8c. Update on the Status of the Draft 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan

Meeting Date: 2/11/2026
Item Type: Regular-Information
Contact: Kelly Perrine
Telephone: 952-891-7546
Prepared by: Travis Thiel

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

- Staff will provide an update on the status of the draft 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan (WMP)

SUMMARY

Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410 and Minnesota Statutes 103B require the development of a watershed management plan for watershed management organizations comprising all minor watershed units wholly or partly within the metropolitan area. Watershed management plans must specify the period covered by the plan, extending at least five years but no more than ten years from date of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) approval. The 2016–2025 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan is set to expire on May 25, 2026.

The process for developing the WMP was formally kicked off with an initial public meeting in March 2023. Since that time, staff have worked to collect input from stakeholders regarding watershed issues they'd like addressed, allowing staff to develop goals, objectives, and actions with prioritization assistance from the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB).

In accordance with the requirements set forth within Minnesota Rule 8410 and Minnesota Statute 103B, the VRWJPO has completed drafting the WMP to guide VRWJPO's activities for the next 10 years. Staff will provide an update on the work to date and what steps remain before the State considers approval of the WMP.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT

No fiscal impact

Supporting Documents:

RESOLUTION

8c. Update on the Status of the Draft 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan

Information only.