

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization 2025 Annual Activity Report, Financial Statement, and Measurable Outcomes

Our Mission:

To collaboratively provide education, science, and support to restore and protect the Vermillion River Watershed's natural resources for all who live, work, and play within its boundaries.

April 2026

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Cover photo: A raingarden on the Hoffman family property in Rosemount implemented as part of the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District Landscaping for Clean Water program with funding from the VRWJPO, visited during the 2025 Vermillion River Watershed Tour (details on page 17).

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This report was approved by the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board and submitted to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources in April 2026. It satisfies the annual activity report requirement for watershed management organizations under Minnesota Rule 8410.0150.

Introduction

The indigenous Dakota people called the Vermillion River Wa Se Sa Wa Kpa, meaning Red Paint River, after bright red and orange ocher in outcrops of St. Peter sandstone near the river (such as Chimney Rock in Marshan Township). The color vermilion is a red-orange shade.

The river flows from its headwaters in New Market Township, across Dakota County, and merges into the Mississippi River near Red Wing. The Vermillion River Watershed, the area that drains to the river and connected water bodies, encompasses 335 square miles and 20 cities and townships in southeastern Scott County and central Dakota County. The Prairie Island Indian Community resides near the furthest downstream part of the river. Geographically, it is the largest watershed in the seven-county Twin Cities metro area.

The Vermillion River has four major tributaries – North Creek, Middle Creek, South Creek, and South Branch Vermillion River. About 51 stream miles of the river's mainstem and tributaries are designated trout streams by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), a rarity in a metropolitan area. It is the only major watershed in the country and in proximity to a metropolitan area to boast trophy trout populations. The watershed supports several recreational lakes – Lake Marion, East Lake, Long Lake, Farquar Lake, Alimagnet Lake, Lake Rebecca, and Lake Isabelle – and numerous parks and greenways. Residential and business communities in the watershed are growing rapidly; however, the majority of the land is zoned as agricultural.

Dakota and Scott counties signed a joint powers agreement (JPA) in 2002, establishing the VRWJPO in accordance with the Minnesota Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act (Minn. Stat. 103B.201). The counties jointly fund activities of the VRWJPO and are statutorily responsible for watershed management, with Dakota County acting as fiscal agent and providing several other services.

State statute requires each watershed management organization (WMO) and watershed district to follow a 10-year Watershed Management Plan (WMP) approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). The VRWJPO's 2025 activities were in accordance with the 2016-2025 WMP. The 2026-2035 Vermillion River WMP was adopted on April 22, 2026.

Administration and Operations

VRWJPO Governance & Personnel

In accordance with the establishing JPA, the VRWJPO has a three-member Joint Powers Board (JPB) made up of two Dakota County Commissioners and one Scott County Commissioner. A nine-member Community Advisory Committee (CAC) advises the JPB. Staff periodically consult a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for input on watershed activities.

Joint Powers Board

The JPB directs watershed administration, policy, budget, and implementation of the WMP. The JPB met eight times in 2025. Members included:

- Scott County Commissioner Tom Wolf (Chair)
- Dakota County Commissioner Bill Droste (Vice Chair)
- Dakota County Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg (Secretary-Treasurer)

See Appendix: 2025 Resolutions of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board for all board actions taken.

Community Advisory Committee

CAC members are appointed by the JPB to advise on policy, programs, and other matters deemed necessary. The CAC is responsible for guiding the implementation of the WMP, annual work plans, and budget. In 2025, the CAC met four times. Members included:

- Joshua Borton, Farmington (Chair)
- Brad Blackett, Apple Valley (Vice Chair)
- Kevin Chamberlain, Nininger Township
- Stephen Hamrick, Lakeville
- James Kotz, Rosemount
- John Nicolai, Rosemount
- Andrew Riesgraf, Apple Valley
- Sandra Weber, Castle Rock Township

Technical Advisory Committee

The TAC consists of local, regional, state, and other partners with expertise and interest in watershed activities. The group meets as needed to discuss emerging scientific, technical, and policy impacts on the VRWJPO. Participating organizations include, but are not limited to:

- Cities and townships within the VRWJPO
- Dakota and Scott Counties
- Dakota and Scott Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs)
- Prairie Island Indian Community
- BWSR
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)
- Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)
- Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)
- Minnesota DNR
- Metropolitan Council
- Environmental groups (e.g. Friends of the Mississippi River)
- Outdoor recreation groups (e.g. Twin Cities Trout Unlimited)
- Agricultural groups

In 2025, the TAC met twice, once to provide input on the Partner Project Maintenance Policy and once to provide feedback on revisions to the VRWJPO Standards in the 2026-2035 WMP.

Staff

The VRWJPO is staffed with an Administrator employed by Dakota County and a Co-administrator employed by Scott County. Three other Dakota County employees report to the Administrator. Other County employees provide support as needed. The counties' SWCDs provide monitoring and technical assistance services for the VRWJPO. Administrative responsibilities of VRWJPO staff include (but are not limited to):

- Staff training and supervision
- Coordinating and documenting public meetings, decisions, and directions
- Coordinating legal reviews
- Creating and managing budgets
- Developing work plans
- Managing contracts
- Reporting
- Seeking funding
- Development of purchase agreements for wetland bank credit sales

Legal Counsel

The Dakota and Scott County Attorney's Offices provide legal services to VRWJPO as needed or required by law.

Consultants

The VRWJPO regularly contracts with consultants for engineering and environmental professional services. The approved consultant list is updated every two years.

Table 1. 2024-2025 VRWJPO approved consultant list

Company	Address	City	State
Alliant Engineering, Inc.	733 Marquette Ave #700	Minneapolis	MN
Barr Engineering Company	4300 Market Pointe Drive, Ste. 200	Minneapolis	MN
Davey Resource Group	1196 7th St. E.	St. Paul	MN
Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc.	1919 University Ave W, Ste. 300	St. Paul	MN
Geosyntec Consultants	270 S. Marquette Ave, Ste. 590	Minneapolis	MN
Inter-Fluve	1539 Grand Ave, Second Floor	St. Paul	MN
Midwest Wetland Improvements, LLC	PO Box 448	Victoria	MN
MNL	8740 77th Street Northeast	Otsego	MN
Moore Engineering, Inc.	2 Carlson Pkwy, Ste. 110	Plymouth	MN
Native Resource Preservation	260 Wentworth Ave. E. Ste. 115	West St. Paul	MN
RES	20276 Delaware Ave.	Jordan	MN
SRF Consulting Group, Inc.	3701 Wayzata Blvd.	Minneapolis	MN
Stantec	1 Carlson Pkwy N., Ste. 100	Plymouth	MN
Stonebrooke Engineering	12279 Nicollet Ave.	Burnsville	MN

Company	Address	City	State
WSB	701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 300	Minneapolis	MN

Planning

Transition between Watershed Management Plans

The 2016-2025 Vermillion River WMP has expired. Much of the year was spent finalizing the 2026-2035 draft WMP's Implementation Table listing prioritized, targeted Actions to meet the measurable Goals and Objectives. Afterward, to facilitate adoption of the WMP by spring 2026, staff did the following:

- Held a required 60-day review and comment period on the draft WMP for state review agencies and local stakeholders determined by statute, from August 28 – October 28, 2025
- Wrote responses to each of the 10 respective commenting organizations, acknowledging or addressing all comments they submitted, which totaled 186
- Revised the draft WMP to incorporate suggested changes
- Scheduled a public hearing for January 22, 2026, on the revised draft WMP, in compliance with the rule that the hearing be no more than 14 days after the closure of the 60-day comment period
- Presented to and received a recommendation for approval by the BWSR Central Region Committee on April 6, 2026

Regulation

The 20 cities and townships in the VRWJPO each have their own land-use planning and zoning authority. They are responsible for implementing the VRWJPO Standards through local ordinances and permit programs. Eureka Township was the exception from 2017-2025, as the VRWJPO managed their permit program relating to erosion control and stormwater management.

Six permits were issued in Eureka Township with no variances in 2025. On November 11, 2025, the Eureka Township Board repealed a 2017 resolution which granted the VRWJPO permitting authority within the township. This means that with the adoption of the 2026-2035 WMP, the VRWJPO will no longer issue permits in Eureka Township.

The VRWJPO also provides comments on development plans or environmental documents affecting the watershed, such as the Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) process, and Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) applications. Communities may request assistance with project site reviews or regulatory concerns.

Standards Update

With the update of the WMP, staff deemed it prudent to also update the VRWJPO Standards, which had not changed since 2019. Feedback from stakeholders during the WMP Issue Identification phase suggested that any regulations and criteria that are overly complicated, unenforceable by the VRWJPO, or not pertinent to engineering design should be removed from the Standards.

VRWJPO staff drafted revisions to the Standards and met with the TAC to discuss the proposed revisions. Their input was incorporated into the final draft of the revised Standards, Appendix D in the 2026-2035 WMP.

Inventory, Assessment, and Research

Monitoring, inventories, assessments, and research inform the VRWJPO and partners about what work needs to be done and demonstrate results from completed projects.

Monitoring

The Vermillion River Monitoring Network (VRMN) assesses water quality, quantity, and biological conditions in the Vermillion River Mainstem and tributaries. Staff from the Dakota County SWCD collect samples from the water between spring snowmelt (typically mid-March) and November 1 and continuously monitor water temperatures. In 2025, 211 unique water quality samples were analyzed, and fish monitoring sampled 1,370 fish. Monitoring data and trends from 2016-2025 are described in Appendix B of the 2026-2035 WMP.

Chemical Monitoring

Eight sites on the Vermillion River and tributaries serve as VRWJPO chemical and physical monitoring stations. A ninth station is located near the Vermillion Falls in Hastings, part of the Metropolitan Council's Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (VRWOMP), that monitors river stage, stream discharge, temperature, and specific conductance. Samples are analyzed for compliance with State standards for the following:

Total Suspended Solids

State standard: 10 mg/L or lower for 2A streams; 30 mg/L or lower for 2B streams

Significance: Total suspended solids (TSS) are suspended particles in the water. Sources may include, but are not limited to, eroded soil, sediment, decaying vegetation, and algae.

- All stations' samples, except VR807's, met the standards during baseflow conditions.
- As expected, TSS concentrations were much higher during runoff and snowmelt events. VR804, NC801, NC808, and VRWOMP showed the greatest fluctuations.
- Over the 2016-2025 WMP, TSS concentrations improved in the six subwatersheds that host a monitoring station.

Total Phosphorus

State standard: 0.15 mg/L or lower

Significance: Excess total phosphorus (TP), an essential life element for plants, can lead to eutrophication and increased algae growth. High TP often correlates with areas lacking in stormwater runoff treatment.

- Samples generally met the standard at all stations in 2025, with some exceptions at runoff and snowmelt events.

- Over the 2016-2025 WMP, stations NC801 and NC808, both on North Creek, and VR803 and VRWOMP, both in the Lower Mainstem subwatershed, showed improvement in TP concentrations. VR807 in the Middle Mainstem subwatershed held flat. VR24 near the headwaters had a strong spike in TP readings in 2024.

Nitrate

State standard: 10 mg/L or lower for 2A streams

Significance: Nitrate is a form of nitrogen that poses a risk to human health in high concentrations in drinking water. Elevated nitrate in groundwater is correlated with porous soils, artificial drainage, and agricultural chemical use.

- All samples collected in 2025 met the state standard.
- The station on the South Branch Vermillion River, SB802, has had the highest nitrate concentration since 2001. This is likely related to agricultural practices and soil conditions in these areas.
- Nitrate readings in the Lower Mainstem Vermillion River subwatershed, just downstream of the South Branch, have increased along with the South Branch's nitrate increases.

Dissolved Oxygen

State standard: 7 mg/L and above for class 2A (coldwater) reaches; 5 mg/L and above for class 2B (warmwater) reaches

Significance: Dissolved oxygen (DO) is a marker of a stream's habitability for sensitive fish species. The MPCA designates whether streams are class 2A or 2B.

- All stations met the standards for both 2A and 2B stream sites during baseflow conditions.
- Low DO concentrations after individual runoff events were found at several sites. The median runoff DO levels did not meet the standard at four 2A sites.
- Historically, the two North Creek stations have had the lowest recorded DO levels during baseflow. NC801 had the lowest individual reading in 2025.
- VR24, near the headwaters in Scott County, and VRWOMP, the lowest site in the watershed, had the highest DO variations of all sites during baseflow conditions. VR804 and VR807, Middle Mainstem sites in Farmington, had the greatest variations during runoff conditions.

Chloride

State standard: Impairment either if two or more samples exceed 230 mg/L over three years, or if one sample exceeds 860 mg/L

Significance: Chloride impairments can occur in surface water and groundwater due to winter de-icing salt overuse on concrete surfaces, water softeners, agricultural practices, or other activities. Chloride was added to the analysis suite in 2019 in response to growing concerns in the Twin Cities Metro Area.

- Monitoring was limited in 2025 with two samples collected during baseflow conditions, one sample following a runoff event, and two at snowmelt. 23 chloride samples were collected at the VRWOMP site in 2025.
- Sites on North Creek and South Creek, the most urbanized subwatersheds, have shown the highest levels of chloride in the watershed since monitoring began.

Chlorophyll-a

State standard: 35 mg/L or lower

Significance: Chlorophyll-*a* is an indicator of nutrients (nitrogen or phosphorus, for examples) in surface water. This can come from algae. Chlorophyll-a was added to the analysis suite in 2019 due to its inclusion in the MPCA's water quality assessment process for rivers and streams.

- No 2025 samples exceeded the state standard.
- Not enough data to determine trend.

Escherichia coli

State standard: No more than 10 percent of samples in one month exceeding 126 most probable number (MPN) of organisms per 100 mL

Significance: Escherichia coli (*E. coli*) is an indicator for the general number of disease-causing pathogens in the water. Levels are often higher after runoff events and may result from septic system discharge, agricultural runoff, livestock, urban runoff, and sediment. The VRWJPO conducts *E. coli* tracing monitoring to inform potential source areas.

- VR24 in New Market Township has consistently had the highest concentration of *E. coli* of all VRMN stations since source monitoring began there in 2016. Annual geometric means at this location are consistently twice as high than all other monitoring stations. Levels peaked at VR24 in 2021, which was a drought year, and have been decreasing since that year.
- The other sites have been trending upward since 2002, even with a slight decrease in *E. coli* levels in 2024.
- In 2025, staff met to discuss the potential for Scott County staff to perform septic system compliance inspections within proximity to the VR24 monitoring station to rule out noncompliant systems as a source of elevated levels. Scott County staff determined that, without an observable system discharge visible from the river, a compliance inspection cannot be required.

Flow Rate Monitoring

Three agencies coordinate with the VRWJPO for measuring stream stage height and discharge:

- The VRWJPO provides cost share for the operation of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Blaine Avenue gaging station near Empire, which has the longest continuous record of flow rates in the watershed. Real-time stage height and stream discharge data is available from the USGS station. This information can be accessed at https://waterdata.usgs.gov/mn/nwis/uv?site_no=05345000.
- The DNR manages stream gaging stations alongside the chemical monitoring stations in the VRWJPO. Additionally, one real-time stream gaging station is located in Lakeville, near the intersection of Dakota County Roads 23 and 78.
- The VRWOMP station near the Vermillion Falls in Hastings monitors stage height and stream discharge as well. Data from there can be accessed on the Metropolitan Council website.

Biological Monitoring

For the duration of the 2016-2025 WMP, the VRWJPO followed the Biomonitoring Plan adopted in 2008, observing fish, macroinvertebrates, and aquatic habitat conditions. Biomonitoring took place at select sites each year, rotating sites monitored to have each site monitored every two or three years. Due to a variety of factors, biomonitoring activities are proposed to be scaled back in the 2026-2035 WMP.

Fish and Macroinvertebrates

The health of fish and macroinvertebrate communities are gauged by indexes of biological integrity (IBI). An IBI value below the threshold indicates impairment per the MPCA.

The VRWJPO sampled fish at four sites in September 2025. IBI thresholds and 2016-2025 trends for all stations are included in the table below (green = meets MPCA standard, red = does not meet standard):

Table 2. VRWJPO biomonitoring sites with their respective IBI thresholds, 2025 fish IBI scores, and trends.

Site	Stream Reach	IBI Threshold	2025 Score, if applicable	Trend since 2016
A02	South Creek	50		Improved
A03	South Creek	50		Worsened
A04	Upper Mainstem Vermillion River	55		Improved
A05	Middle Mainstem Vermillion River	50		Worsened
A06	Middle Mainstem	50		Steady
A07	North Creek	50		Steady
A08	Middle Mainstem	50		Worsened
A09	Middle Mainstem	50		Improved
A12	South Branch	50		Worsened
A13	Lower Mainstem Vermillion River	50		Improved
A14	Lower Mainstem	45	47.3	Improved
A15	Middle Creek	55	57.1	Worsened
13-1	Upper Mainstem	50	34.5	Worsened
13-2	South Creek	50		Steady
13-4	North Creek	50		Worsened
13-5	Middle Mainstem	50		Improved
14-1	Middle Creek	55	55.3	Improved

Site	Stream Reach	IBI Threshold	2025 Score, if applicable	Trend since 2016
14-2	North Creek	45		Improved

Aquatic macroinvertebrates are organisms that lack backbones, such as snails, mayflies, dragonflies, and beetles, that live on substrates within the water for parts of their life cycles. As of this report's publication, macroinvertebrate IBI scores for 2025 are not yet available. Scores at all sites varied widely throughout the 2016-2025 WMP.

Habitat

Habitat assessments were completed using the MPCA's Stream Habitat Assessment protocol to evaluate the biological integrity of stream reaches. Of six sites monitored in 2025, five scored "fair" (yellow) and one scored "good" (green).

Table 3. VRWJPO biomonitoring sites with 2025 habitat assessment scores and trends.

Site	Stream Reach	2025 Score, if applicable	Trend since 2016
A02	South Creek		Steady
A03	South Creek		Improving
A04	Upper Mainstem		Worsening
A05	Middle Mainstem	Fair	Steady
A06	Middle Mainstem		Improving
A07	North Creek		Worsening
A08	Middle Mainstem	Good	Steady
A09	Middle Mainstem		Steady
A12	South Branch	Fair	Steady
A13	Lower Mainstem		Improving
A14	Lower Mainstem	Fair	Steady
A15	Middle Creek	Fair	Improving
13-1	Upper Mainstem	Fair	Steady
13-2	South Creek		Steady
13-4	North Creek		Steady
13-5	Middle Mainstem		Steady

Site	Stream Reach	2025 Score, if applicable	Trend since 2016
14-1	Middle Creek		Improving
14-2	North Creek		Steady

Lake Monitoring

Lake water quality monitoring uses TP and Secchi transparency levels as water quality indicators. Decreasing phosphorus levels and increasing transparency levels are signs of improvement. Data is collected through the Metropolitan Council's Citizen-Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP).

During the 2016-2025 WMP, CAMP regularly monitored Farquar, Long, Alimagnet, East, Marion, and Rebecca Lakes. The following table lists the overall trends for each lake from that time period.

Table 4. Lakes monitored by the CAMP in the Vermillion River Watershed and their water quality trends.

Lake	TP Trend	Secchi Transparency Trend
Alimagnet	Improving	Improving
East	Improving	Improving
Farquar	Improving	Improving
Long	Improving	Improving
Marion	Improving	Improving
Rebecca	Improving	Worsening

Assessments

Vermillion River Headwaters Subwatershed and Stream Habitat Assessment

The Upper Mainstem subwatershed, most of which is in Scott County, contains the headwaters of the Vermillion River and the land area that drains to the Upper Mainstem. More than 50% of the subwatershed is comprised of cultivated, hayed, or pastured land. The rest is a mixture of developed land in the City of Elko New Market, herbaceous/shrub/forested land, open water, and wetlands. Due to the prevalence of cultivated land, sediment, nitrate, and phosphorus loading are common across the landscape.

The VRWJPO directed the Scott SWCD to complete a subwatershed and stream habitat assessment to identify the most effective pollutant reduction BMPs in the headwaters area. The assessment was finished in 2025. It includes estimated costs, pollutant reductions, and suggested areas of implementation for BMPs such as:

- Water and sediment control basins
- Grassed waterways
- Filter strips
- Wetland restoration

- Native grasses

2016-2025 Results

While drafting Implementation Actions for the 2026-2035 WMP, staff reflected on the progress made during the 2016-2025 WMP. The following table lists estimated pollutant load reductions for TSS, TP, and nitrate, as well as volume reduction, for each subwatershed based on the projects completed.

Table 5. Pollutant load and volume reductions by subwatershed during the 2016-25 WMP.

Subwatershed	TSS Reduction (tons/yr)	TP Reduction (lbs/yr)	NO_3 Reduction (lbs/yr)	Volume Reduction (acre-ft/yr)
Upper Mainstem	531.38	486.97	926.4	6.01
South Creek	44.51	82.54	0*	29.2
North Creek	285.76	487.25	1,262	175.6
South Branch	912.32	450.72	13,925	0*
Middle Creek	367.21	374.8	0*	9.54
Middle Mainstem	136.58	60.5	0*	0*
Lower Mainstem	864.1	460.43	14.66	0*
Mississippi Direct	1,160.67	627.48	5,852	0*
Totals	**4,302.53**	**3,030.69**	**21,980.06**	**220.35**

*Pollutant and volume reductions were calculated based on project targets. Those cells denoted with "0" do not mean that a reduction was not achieved; rather, a reduction amount was not calculated as it was not the primary target reduction for a given project.



Figure 1. Minnesota Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment logo.

The importance of Minnesota Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment funding for projects completed in the 2016-2025 WMP cannot be overstated. Two of the four funds established by the 2008 voter-approved amendment, the Clean Water Fund and the Outdoor Heritage Fund, offer grants that have benefited the Vermillion River Watershed. These include Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) grants, competitive Clean Water Fund grants, Accelerated Implementation grants, and Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) grants.

Capital Improvement Program and Maintenance

Through their capital improvement program (CIP), the VRWJPO plans projects alongside local partners that align with WMP goals, address emerging issues from monitoring and assessments, and benefit local communities. Regular maintenance helps BMPs perform more efficiently. The following CIP and maintenance work was done in 2025.

East Lake Invasive Fish Barrier and Removals

East Lake, a shallow lake in Lakeville, is impaired for TP, a problem exacerbated by invasive common carp and goldfish digging for food in lake bottom sediments. These fish can make their way into the connected North Creek and disrupt ecosystems there. Earlier studies found that carp and goldfish biomass in East Lake had reached 192 lbs./acre, well above the 100 lbs./acre associated with negative water quality impacts.

The VRWJPO, in collaboration with the City of Lakeville and Dakota County, received a $300,000 competitive Clean Water Fund grant from the BWSR in 2023 to install a low-voltage electric barrier between East Lake and its connection with North Creek. Blocking invasive fish movement prevents introduction of additional fish populations and facilitates in-lake removals of invasive fish. The electric barrier began operating in spring 2024 and is turned on from March through November each year. Staff have observed fish being deterred, though not harmed, by the active barrier.

The partners' consultant removed approximately 9,600 lbs. of invasive carp and goldfish biomass over 2024 and 2025 via electrofishing and baited box nets. This reduced carp population to an estimated 67 lbs./acre and goldfish to an estimated 108 lbs./ac. Scientific calculations suggest that the total reduction in the invasive fish populations also could reduce TP loading in the lake by nearly 75 lbs./year. Monitoring of water quality and fish populations will continue, as will invasive fish removal efforts.

Some elected officials and local leaders visited the barrier during the 2025 Vermillion River Watershed Project Site Tour. *See Communications, Outreach, and Public Relations for more on the tour.*

Alimagnet Lake Alum Treatment

Alimagnet Lake, split between the Cities of Apple Valley and Burnsville and surrounded by city park land, is impaired for TP. This has resulted in algae blooms and poor water quality conditions affecting recreation. The VRWJPO and Cities completed projects in 2017 and 2019 that addressed phosphorus entering the lake externally. Now the focus has turned to internal load TP from lake bottom sediment.

The VRWJPO and Cities conducted a feasibility study in 2023 on the effectiveness of aluminum sulfate (alum) treatments to improve Alimagnet Lake's water quality. Alum chemically binds to phosphorus in the water column, forming a heavier particulate material (floc) that sinks to the bottom. This prevents phosphorus from being resuspended in the water column. With the information from the feasibility study, the VRWJPO applied for and received FY23 and FY25 competitive Clean Water Fund grants from the BWSR for alum treatments in Alimagnet Lake.

The treatments are being applied in two doses. The first was completed in fall 2024 and the second is planned for May 2026. Following treatments, the VRWJPO's consultant has monitored lake sediment conditions to inform dosing and quantify treatment effectiveness. Since the first treatment, physical and chemical monitoring of the lake has shown significant increases in water clarity and decreases in TP levels, enough for City of Burnsville staff to report that 2025 Alimagnet monitoring results were among the best ever recorded. The projected TP reduction (115 lbs./year) over 10-14 years would potentially allow the MPCA to remove Alimagnet Lake from the Minnesota Impaired Waters List.

South Creek (Launch Park) Wetland Restoration

The VRWJPO has partnered with the City of Lakeville and Dakota County to begin construction on a 14-acre wetland restoration near an impaired reach of South Creek. In 2023, the City acquired a property previously in agricultural production in the Launch Park Development, adjacent to 220th Street and Galway Lane. They saw an opportunity to reduce TSS loading, attenuate runoff volume, and enhance aquatic life in South Creek. A tributary to South Creek runs through the project area.

The VRWJPO, Dakota County, and City hired a consultant to design the project and contractor who began construction of the wetland restoration in 2025. Completion is anticipated in spring 2026. The project will result in the enhancement of 6.18 acres of floodplain wetland and creation of 1.69 acres of wet meadow wetland.

SWCD Cost-Share

VRWJPO provides cost-share funding to the Dakota and Scott SWCDs to work with private landowners undertaking conservation projects that stabilize soil and reduce runoff pollution. These include, but are not limited to, cover crops, grassed waterways, native prairie restorations, and water and sediment control basins and are often on land in agricultural production. Factsheets for 2025 cost-share projects are available on the VRWJPO website.

Maintenance

Ravenna Trail Ravine Repair

In collaboration with Dakota County, the VRWJPO stabilized two severely eroded ravines with rock structures in Ravenna Township in 2023. The rip rap grade control structures and check dams installed were damaged resultant of heavy precipitation events. VRWJPO hired a consultant to add rip rap and minor grading adjustments, clear sediment traps, and seed and stabilize the areas in fall 2025.

Feasibility/Preliminary Engineering

North Creek Culvert Replacements

In 2024, the VRWJPO completed the preliminary design for two channel improvement projects along North Creek in the Cities of Empire (State Highway 3) and Farmington (Denali Way). The VRWJPO applied for a 2024 CPL Grant from the DNR and was awarded $864,155 in grant funds for these projects.

Currently, the project sites have perched culverts that disconnect aquatic habitats and are impassable for aquatic organisms. The creek is significantly over-widened in those areas due to erosion, with shallow depths and limited habitat, because the undersized culverts increase stream flow velocities even at baseflow and exacerbate streambank erosion.

VRWJPO and their engineering consultant finalized the project design, permits, and access agreements in 2025. Construction is planned for summer 2026.

North Creek TSS Reduction at Firelight Way

The City of Lakeville completed a feasibility study on urban BMPs to reduce TSS loading in North Creek in 2024. During the FY24-25 WBIF process, the City and VRWJPO proposed installing a hydrodynamic separator (HDS) on Firelight Way, east of Greenridge Park, to reduce sediment transport in stormwater runoff from surrounding urbanized areas.

An HDS is a stormwater device that uses cyclonic forces to remove pollutants in stormwater runoff, namely TSS. It will be connected to the existing storm sewer system and can remove an average of 1,868 lbs. of TSS per year from stormwater. The VRWJPO has installed these types of devices at multiple project sites in recent years, including several in Lakeville.

The City's consultant completed preliminary design work in 2025. Construction work is slated for summer 2026.

15th St. and Bailly St. Infiltration Basin

The VRWJPO, in partnership with the City of Hastings and Dakota County, is working to systematically reduce TSS and TP reaching the Vermillion River. The intersection of 15th St. E. and Bailly St. is an older area near downtown Hastings with little to no stormwater treatment for its impervious surfaces, as it was developed before modern stormwater treatment requirements. This area discharges stormwater runoff into the lower Vermillion River, listed by the MPCA as impaired for TSS.

The partners will install an infiltration basin on City-owned property from its 43.4-acre drainage area, which is approximately 43 percent impervious surface, to remove TSS and TP from stormwater before it discharges into the Vermillion River. An infiltration basin is an earthen depression where stormwater is directed which can improve stormwater quality by filtering runoff using vegetation, filter soil media, and, if applicable, imported amended soils, into the underlying soils. Estimated pollutant reductions are up to 5,800 lbs./year of TSS and 9 lbs./year of TP.

Preliminary engineering design was completed in 2025, with construction planned for spring 2026. This project will be funded in part by a FY24-25 WBIF grant from the BWSR.

4th St. and Willow St. TSS Reduction

To alleviate TSS loading in the Vermillion River Mainstem, the VRWJPO, City of Farmington, and Dakota County have partnered to install a continuous deflection separator (CDS) at the intersection of 4th St. and Willow St. in Farmington. This area discharges stormwater runoff directly into a reach designated as trout stream by the DNR and is an older area with little to no stormwater treatment.

A CDS is a manufactured treatment device that uses cyclonic forces to remove pollutants in stormwater runoff, namely TSS. It will be connected to the existing storm sewer system, which outlets into the river and can remove an average of 0.50 tons/year of TSS from stormwater. The project will be funded in part by a FY24-25 WBIF grant from the BWSR.

The City hired a consultant in 2025 to complete feasibility level analysis and design for the project. With that done, construction is planned for summer 2026.

Communications, Outreach, and Public Relations

Watershed Tour



Figure 2. VRWJPO Water Resources Engineer Jeff Dunn (yellow) explains the Foxborough Park stormwater improvement project to attendees of the Vermillion River Watershed Tour in September 2025.

About 30 people collaborating on conservation projects and practices attended a tour with the VRWJPO on Thursday, September 25, 2025. Attendees included:

- Dakota County Commissioners Mike Slavik, Bill Droste, and Mary Liz Holberg
- Scott County Commissioner Tom Wolf
- Rosemount Mayor Jeff Weisensel
- Lakeville City Councilmember Dan Wolter
- Lakeville Parks, Recreation, & Natural Resources Committee Member Mark Engler
- Vermillion River Watershed CAC members Josh Borton and Brad Blackett
- Scott SWCD Board Member Rob Casey
- Dakota County Deputy County Manager David McKnight, Assistant County Manager Georg Fischer, Environmental Resources Department Director Nikki Stewart, and other staff
- Scott County staff
- BWSR staff
- Dakota County SWCD staff
- Minnesota DNR staff
- MPCA staff
- Staff from the Cities of Lakeville and Rosemount

The group visited four project locations:

North Creek at Foxborough Park TSS Reduction Project

Much of the North Creek subwatershed was developed before stormwater regulations were implemented. Thus, many of its neighborhoods lack infrastructure to reduce flow rates or stormwater

runoff pollution. A large portion of the stormwater runoff in this 220-acre subwatershed drains directly into North Creek. The City of Lakeville's Foxborough Park had the highest estimated pollutant loading area of all those evaluated. North Creek runs straight through the park.

To remedy this issue, the VRWJPO, Dakota County, and the City constructed a dry pond with a wet sedimentation forebay in Foxborough Park to treat local stormwater headed for North Creek. The forebay has a permanent pool to trap sand, debris, and sediment. A rock gabion wall and sand filter bench were constructed to trap smaller pollutants and remove phosphorus.

It is estimated that the project will reduce TSS loading by 18.4 tons/year and TP by 31.8 lbs./year, as well as improve in-stream habitats and provide stormwater flow rate and flood control to the area. The project was supported by a competitive Clean Water Fund grant from the BWSR and completed alongside North Creek stream stabilization efforts nearby.

East Lake Invasive Fish Barrier and Removals

See description in the Capital Improvement Program and Maintenance *section of this document.*

Stormwater Infiltration Basins at City of Rosemount Public Works and Police Campus

The City of Rosemount completed construction on a new Public Works and Police Campus in 2024. In the campus design, the City included two stormwater infiltration basins that exceeded the VRWJPO Standards' design requirements for runoff volume reduction. Seeking to maximize local partnerships, the City contacted the VRWJPO about cost-share opportunities. The VRWJPO provided $25,000 in cost-share funds.

The funds covered excavation, grading, soil amendments, plantings, and other ancillary costs associated with the work. Landscapers planted native plant species alongside the basins. Stormwater infiltration measures like this can reduce stormwater runoff pollution, reduce local flooding risk, and provide groundwater recharge.

Hoffman Landscaping for Clean Water Raingarden

While VRWJPO staff work with local governments to implement large-scale projects, SWCDs take the lead on direct landowner outreach. One way the Dakota SWCD does this is the Landscaping for Clean Water (LCW) Program, founded in 2009 to help Dakota County residents plant raingardens, native gardens, and shoreline restorations.

In LCW, people learn from Dakota SWCD staff how these gardens can benefit local water quality and wildlife habitat, then design gardens or shoreline restorations for their own yards. They can also apply for $400 grants for their projects, funding provided by Dakota County watershed management organizations (WMOs). Grantees receive on-site technical assistance from SWCD staff before, during, and after project installation. Completed projects include small interpretive signs, educating community members about the environmental benefits of LCW.

Rosemount resident Chris and Ashley Hoffman installed a 275-square-foot native plant raingarden at their home after completing LCW in 2024. Their garden as seen during the tour is pictured on the cover of this report.

Community Outreach

Events

VRWJPO hosted tables at the following community events in 2025:

- Dakota County Fix-It Clinics: Apple Valley (February), Lakeville (June), Farmington (October)
- Dakota County Nitrate Testing Clinic, March
- Lakeville Earth Day Celebration and Watershed Cleanup, April
- Dakota County Take a Kid Fishing Day, June
- Hastings Party in the Park, July
- Dakota County Fair, August
- Our Water Our Future forum, November

Staff provided promotional items such as pencils and dog waste pickup bags, alongside information about watershed projects and programs.

International Coastal Cleanup Day

Twin Cities Trout Unlimited (TCTU) coordinated with VRWJPO and Dakota County Parks to hold a trash cleanup event along the Vermillion River on September 20, 2025. VRWJPO staff joined local community members at the cleanup. International Coastal Cleanup Day began more than 30 years ago with the goal of collecting and documenting the trash littering the coastline. As the headwaters state of the Mississippi River, Minnesota contributes to the condition of the river in every state along the way to the Gulf of Mexico. When people clean up along tributary rivers to the Mississippi, like the Vermillion, it benefits shorelines for thousands of miles.

Adopt-a-Drain and Metro Watershed Partners

VRWJPO joined the Adopt-a-Storm Drain program in 2019, adding a new community outreach tool to their programs. The year 2025 marked the seventh year of participation. How it works is that volunteers sign up online to adopt storm drains, committing to keeping drains clear of trash, dirt, leaves, grass clippings, de-icing salt, and any other debris. Participants may receive email reminders to clear their drains and track their impact.

Table 6. Adopt-a-Drain statistics for the VRWJPO in 2025 and cumulatively

New drains adopted in 2025	Total drains adopted, 2019-2025	Reported* debris picked up in 2025	Total reported debris picked up 2019-2025
392	961	6,306 lbs.	11,179 lbs.

**These numbers are based on what participants self-reported they picked up from their drains and tracked online.*

Adopt-a-Drain is included in VRWJPO's membership in Metro Watershed Partners, a coalition of Twin Cities-area watershed organizations, cities, counties, and interest groups providing water stewardship education to the public. It is led by the Hamline University Center for Global Environmental Education. VRWJPO Communications and Outreach Specialist Brita Moore-Kutz serves on the Metro Watershed Partners Steering Committee.

Digital Media

The 2016-2025 WMP marked the advent of VRWJPO's digital presence. Staff opened a Facebook page, an Instagram account, and completed a fresh website design, while testing platforms for electronic newsletters. The rise of virtual meeting tools has grown opportunity for coordination and collaboration.

Website, Newsletter, and Social Media Engagement

The VRWJPO sends a quarterly email newsletter to interested people, maintains active accounts on Facebook and Instagram, and manages a website at www.vermillionriverwatershed.org. Below are engagement numbers from 2025:

- Email newsletter: 50% aggregate open rate
- Website: 14,694 user engagements, 29,509 page views
- Facebook: 452 followers, 13,905 post views, 903 engagements (reactions, comments, shares, clicks)
- Instagram: 640 followers, 9,673 post impressions, 360 engagements (likes, comments, shares, follows, saves)

LCW and Lawn Watering Wisdom Digital Marketing Campaign

The majority of Dakota County relies on groundwater for drinking, the same water pumped for irrigation. In 2021, the first of three consecutive years of drought, Dakota County used nearly 10 billion more gallons of groundwater than in 2019. Data from local government units show that the amount of water pumped during irrigation months (May-September) was up to four times that of all other months. Additionally, the public lacks awareness of conservation programs available in Dakota County. Because social media platforms prioritize paid advertisements, organic (unpaid) posts often have limited reach.

To narrow the awareness gap, Dakota County, Dakota SWCD, and four WMOs in the County partnered on a video marketing campaign on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube to promote water conservation practices (Lawn Watering Wisdom, or LWW) and the LCW program. Partners were inspired by a 2021 humorous video series from a conservation district in Utah that led to a 769% increase in participants in the district's landscaping course. The VRWJPO received a Groundwater Protection Accelerated Implementation Grant from MDH for the campaign, funded by the Minnesota Clean Water Fund.

Partners hired a local communications and marketing agency to create geotargeted paid ads for LCW and LWW. Both adsets were targeted towards people aged 28-65+ in Dakota County ZIP codes who were interested in topics such as gardening, home improvement, outdoor activities, environmentalism, and do-it-yourself projects. The agency contracted with a local video production firm to shoot two professional two-minute videos, leveraging humor by portraying interactions between a suburban Dakota County family and their neighbor.

The videos were edited into shorter versions for Facebook and Instagram, with full versions on YouTube, and shared on the Dakota SWCD's channels. Partners shared the social media toolkits with Dakota County LGUs to encourage them to share campaign content on their respective pages.

For a full recapitulation of the campaign, read this final report.

Landscaping for Clean Water



Figure 3. Screengrab of the Landscaping for Clean Water marketing video, featuring the hypothetical Dakota County family with large plants.

The first targeted video ad, focused on LCW, launched in February 2025, coinciding with the start of LCW classes, and ran through the end of May 2025.

- 151,422 people saw the ads.
- 357 people registered for the LCW introductory class during the campaign, up by 80 from 2024.
- Key messages included:
    - Lower maintenance requirements for native plants (once established) than non-native ones.
    - Lower cost of native plant gardens compared to non-natives.
    - Free LCW class and grant opportunity.
    - Environmental benefits of native plant raingardens to water quality and pollinator habitat.

Lawn Watering Wisdom

The second targeted ad, focused on LWW, ran from February through August 2025, hitting the highest-irrigation months. Viewers were directed to the Dakota County Water Wise Pledge.

- 142,323 people saw the ads.
- 427 people clicked on the link to the Water Wise Pledge. The campaign was optimized for video views rather than link clicks, so this amount was seen as positive.
- The summer of 2025 received much more precipitation than the drought years that motivated the campaign.
- Key messages included:
    - Achieving healthy lawns with less water.
    - Saving water and money over the summer.
    - Don't irrigate if it rains.
    - Check sprinklers for leaks and use smart irrigation system

Education

Landscaping for Clean Water

Below are statistics for LCW in the Vermillion River Watershed.

Table 7. LCW projects implemented in the VRWJPO in 2025 and in total from 2016-2025

Project Type	Projects installed in 2025 in the VRWJPO
Raingardens	8
Native Gardens	9
Shoreline Plantings	1
2025 Total	18
Total 2016-2025	**156**

Lawns Re-Imagined

In 2024, VRWJPO, Dakota County, and Dakota SWCD piloted a new program called Lawns Re-Imagined. Looking to increase the use of a type of turfgrass that requires less water, fertilizer, and mowing, the partners held two workshops about the benefits of these lawn types, along with technical guidance for site preparation, seeding, and long-term maintenance. From there, landowners can apply to receive one-on-one assistance from SWCD staff and free seed to complete a fall seeding.

Eleven landowners completed Lawns Re-Imagined projects in 2025.

Dakota County SWCD Outdoor Education Days

Dakota SWCD hosts Outdoor Education Days each September on the prairie behind the Dakota County Fairgrounds, near an area of the South Branch Vermillion River sometimes called “Big Slough.” Over four days, around 800 fifth graders from Farmington, Lakeville, and Apple Valley rotated through five stations. VRWJPO staff managed the Water station, which teaches students about the finite amount of freshwater on Earth, the importance of the Vermillion River, and what they can do to keep water clean.

Vermillion River Watch

In 2025, the VRWJPO continued financial support of Dakota County SWCD’s work with educators and students to collect macroinvertebrates and habitat data from the Vermillion River, identify macroinvertebrates, and compare species type and abundance to biological metrics. This experience engages students in improving water resources and encourages them to consider related fields of study. Students from Rosemount High School participated in Vermillion River Watch in 2025.

Scott Clean Water Education Program (SCWEP)

SCWEP, led by Scott SWCD, educates Scott County residents using the theme of “Clean Water Starts with Me!” VRWJPO helps fund SCWEP, which holds educational workshops, classroom lessons for third

through eighth graders, and Outdoor Education Days, and submits informational articles to local publications.

Metro Children's Water Festival

Dakota County staff take a leadership role in the Metro Children's Water Festival planning and implementation. VRWJPO provided financial support for schools to participate in the event. More than 1,600 students attended in-person, with the virtual option remaining available for everyone.

Smart Salting and Turfgrass Trainings

The VRWJPO annually supports training for maintenance professionals on Smart Salting and turfgrass maintenance with financial contributions, event promotion, and staff time. The workshops are facilitated by the MPCA. In 2025, VRWJPO supported:

- One Smart Salting Sidewalks and Parking Lots certification workshop attended by 38 people

Financial Statement

Final Treasurer's Report for Calendar Year 2025

Table 8. 2025 VRWJPO revenues

Source	Amount
County levies	$1,028,878
Permits	$70
Grant revenue	$132,284
Investment earnings and wetland bank revenue	$252,279
Total Revenues	**$1,413,511**

Table 9. 2025 VRWJPO expenses

Category	Amount
Salaries	$500,035
Department/County Support	$77,494
Office Support	$2,468
Operations and Programs	$195,448
CIP	$437,477
Total Expenses	**$1,212,922**

2026 Budgeted Work Plan and Activities

Table 10. Budget categories, items, and projected costs for VRWJPO in 2026

Category	Item	Amount
Administration and Operations	Dakota County VRW staff	$227,000
	Scott County VRW staff	$15,000
	Legal support	$25,000
	Miscellaneous Expenses (per diems, mileage, postage, insurance, etc.)	$11,000
	Training, conferences, and certifications	$6,000
Planning	Dakota County SWCD Incentive Program Policy Assistance	$1,500
	VRW staff	$30,000
Inventory, Assessment, and Research	Monitoring	$100,000
	USGS and DNR Flow Gaging	$20,000
	VRW Staff	$20,000
	General GIS support (Dakota SWCD)	$1,500
	Equipment/Supplies	$1,000
	Enhanced Street Sweeping Assessment	$45,000
Communications, Outreach, and Public Relations	VRW staff	$108,000
	Dakota SWCD Outreach and Education	$40,000
	Scott SWCD Outreach and Education	$2,300
	Communication and Outreach Materials and Supplies	$7,500
	Local Standards/Ordinance and Turf/Salt Workshops	$2,500
	Metro Children's Water Festival Support	$600
	Metro Watershed Partners Membership	$5,000
	Stewardship Grant Program	$25,000

Category	Item	Amount
	Digital Accessibility Requirement Assessment and Improvements	$9,000
Regulation	VRW Staff – Permitting, Standards Assistance, Engineering/Environmental Review	$45,000
Feasibility and Preliminary Engineering	Preliminary design, technical assistance, and marketing for capital improvements (Dakota SWCD)	$20,000
	Preliminary design, technical assistance, and marketing for capital improvements (VRW Staff)	$40,000
	Preliminary design, technical assistance, and marketing for capital improvements (consulting)	$20,000
CIP and Maintenance - General	Cost-share programs in Dakota County (SWCD)	$60,000
	Cost-share programs in Scott County (SWCD)	$25,000
	VRWJPO general cost-share or miscellaneous cash match	$40,000
	Past projects maintenance/repair	$30,000
	VRW staff construction oversight and grant development and admin	$60,000
CIP and Maintenance - Projects	FY24 CWF Alimagnet Lake Alum Treatment (Phase 1)	$121,423
	Alimagnet Phase 1 VRWJPO cash match	$17,331
	FY25 CWF Alimagnet Lake Alum Treatment (Phase 2)	$52,000
	Alimagnet Phase 2 VRWJPO cash match	$5,500
	FY24-25 WBIF Lakeville Firelight Way TSS Reduction grant pass-through	$165,870
	Firelight Way VRWJPO cash match	$10,000
	FY24-25 WBIF Hastings 15th & Bailey TSS Reduction grant pass-through	$177,350
	15th and Bailey VRWJPO cash match	$111,000

Category	Item	Amount
	FY24-25 Farmington 4th & Willow TSS Reduction grant pass-through	$63,912
	VRWJPO cash match	$39,207
	FY25 CPL North Creek at Denali Way	$364,155
	Denali Way VRWJPO cash match	$25,000
	FY25 CPL North Creek at Highway 3	$500,000
	Highway 3 VRWJPO cash match	$25,000
	Apple Valley EVR-P55 Stormwater Pond Retrofit VRWJPO cost-share	$18,000
	Braun wetland bank credit sales	$100,000
	Subtotal of Expenditures	**$2,848,648**

Appendix: 2025 Resolutions of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board

January 23, 2025

VRW 25-01: Approval of Agenda

VRW 25-02: Approval of Minutes from the December 5, 2024, Meeting

VRW 25-03: Approval of Consent Agenda

a. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
b. Delegation of Authority to Administrator and Co-Administrator

VRW 25-04: Approval of Expenses

a. Expenses from November 1 – November 30, 2024, totaling $435,340.93
b. Expenses from December 1 – December 31, 2024, totaling $610,517.85

VRW 25-05: Consideration and Appointment of John Nicolai to the Vermillion River Watershed Community Advisory Committee

VRW 25-06: Authorization to Execute a Grant Agreement with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources for FY25 Clean Water Fund Grant for Phase 2 of the Alimagnet Lake Alum Treatment Project

VRW 25-07: Authorization to Execute Two Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Agreements with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for North Creek Channel Improvement Projects in Empire and Farmington

April 24, 2025

VRW 25-08: Approval of Agenda

VRW 25-09: Approval of Minutes from the January 23, 2025, Meeting

VRW 25-10: Approval of Consent Agenda

a. Acceptance of Treasurer's Reports
b. Authorization to Submit the 2024 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Annual Activity Report and Financial Statement to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

VRW 25-11: Approval of Expenses

a. Final expense report for December 1 – December 31, 2024, totaling $72,448.74
b. Expenses for January 1 – January 31, 2025, totaling $43,864.17
c. Expenses for February 1 – February 28, 2025, totaling $42,818.20
d. Expenses for March 1 – March 31, 2025, totaling $53,339.95

VRW 25-12: Approval of Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Community Advisory Committee Bylaws

VRW 25-13: Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County for 2025 Legal Services

VRW 25-14: Approval of Proposed Amendments to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization 2025 Budget

VRW 25-15: Approval to Procure a Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Insurance Policy from the Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust

May 22, 2025

VRW 25-16: Approval of Agenda

VRW 25-17: Approval of Minutes from the April 24, 2025, Meeting

VRW 25-18: Approval of Consent Agenda

a. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report

VRW 25-19: Approval of Expenses from April 1-April 30, 2025, totaling $52,073.94

VRW 25-20: Approval of Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Wetland Banking Policy

June 26, 2025

VRW 25-21: Approval of Agenda

VRW 25-22: Approval of Minutes from the May 22, 2025, Meeting

VRW 25-23: Approval of Consent Agenda

a. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
b. Authorization to Insert Proposed Revisions to the VRWJPO Standards into the 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan

VRW 25-24: Approval of Expenses from May 1-May 31, 2025, totaling $65,615.36

July 24, 2025

VRW 25-25: Approval of Agenda

VRW 25-26: Approval of Minutes from the June 26, 2025, Meeting

VRW 25-27: Approval of Consent Agenda

a. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
b. Authorization to Schedule a Public Hearing to Receive Comments on the Draft Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization 2026 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy

VRW 25-28: Approval of Expenses from June 1-June 30, 2025, totaling $51,630.47

August 28, 2025

VRW 25-29: Approval of Agenda

VRW 25-30: Approval of Minutes from the July 24, 2025, Meeting

VRW 25-31: Approval of Consent Agenda

a. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report

VRW 25-32: Approval of Expenses from July 1-July 31, 2025, totaling $133,238.43

VRW 25-33: Motion to Open Public Hearing to Receive Comments on the Draft Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization 2026 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy

VRW 25-34: Motion to Close Public Hearing to Receive Comments on the Draft Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization 2026 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy

VRW 25-35: Adoption of Draft Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization 2026 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy

VRW 25-36: Authorization to Release the Draft 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan for a 60-Day Review and Comment Period

September 25, 2025

VRW 25-37: Approval of Agenda

VRW 25-38: Approval of Minutes from the August 28, 2025, Meeting

VRW 25-39: 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

VRW 25-40: Approval of Expenses from August 1-August 31, 2025, totaling $78,972.58

VRW 25-41: Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County for an Enhanced Street Sweeping Program Assessment

VRW 25-42: Adoption of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Capital Improvement Program Watershed Partner Project Maintenance and Repair Financial Assistance Policy

December 4, 2025

VRW 25-43: Approval of Agenda

VRW 25-44: Approval of Minutes from the September 25, 2025, Meeting

VRW 25-45: 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

VRW 25-46: Approval of Expenses from September 1-September 30, 2025, totaling $60,765.73; and from October 1-October 31, 2025, totaling $124,989.18

VRW 25-47: Adoption of the VRWJPO Final 2026 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy

VRW 25-48: Authorization to Provide Written Responses to Comments Submitted During Draft 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan 60-Day Review