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

Date and Time: August 12, 2026, 4:30 p.m., in-person at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center and virtually via Microsoft Teams

Note: Some CAC members may be participating in this meeting via interactive technology, in compliance with Minn. Stat. 13D.04 (Open Meeting Law).

1.	Call to Order		
2.	Roll Call		
3.	Audience Comments on Items Not on the Agenda *(please limit audience comments to five minutes)*		
4.	Approval of Agenda	Action	Page 1
5.	Approval of Minutes from the May 13, 2026, meeting	Action	Page 3
6.	Business Items		
	a. Recommend Adoption of the Preliminary Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization 2027 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy	Action	Page 6
	b. Overview of Planned or Processed 2026 Grants from the Partner Project Maintenance and Repair Assistance Grant and Stewardship Grant Programs	Information	Page 11
	c. Presentation of Planned Improvements Associated with Minnesota Trout Unlimited's South Creek Habitat Restoration Project	Information	Page 12
7.	Updates		
	a. Chairperson's Report		
	b. Staff Updates		
8.	Adjourn	Action	

Please note that the August 12, 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/298858655907730?p=07Y4DLVJjN8ZPD3l2b
Meeting ID: 298 858 655 907 730
Passcode: qh3Lf2ty
Dial in by phone: +1 651-273-3070,,702751458# United States, Hastings
Phone conference ID: 702 751 458#

Other Information

Next meeting date: Wednesday, November 18, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.

Please confirm your attendance or absence to 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 by noon the day of the meeting if it is canceled.

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

Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2026

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

All votes were conducted by roll call in compliance with Minn. Stat. 13D.04 (Open Meeting Law).

Attendees

CAC Members

- Brad Blackett
- Kevin Chamberlain
- Alex Franzen
- Steve Hamrick
- Andy Riesgraf (attended virtually due to family schedule)
- Tom Sauer
- Sandy Weber

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 Kevin Chamberlain.

2. **Roll Call**

All members present except Jim Kotz and John Nicolai.

3. **Audience Comments on Items Not on the Agenda**

DRAFT

None.

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Sandy Weber to approve the agenda, seconded by Brad Blackett. Motion carried on a 7-0 vote.

5. Approval of Minutes from the February 11, 2026, Meeting

Motion by Tom Sauer to approve the minutes, seconded by Alex Franzen. Motion carried on a 7-0 vote.

6. Business Items

a. Presentation on 2025 Results from the Vermillion River Monitoring Network

Kelly Perrine gave an overview of the Vermillion River Monitoring Network (VRMN) and the 2025 sampling data available in each major VRWJPO subwatershed that contains a VRMN station. She highlighted improvements and areas of concern in each subwatershed.

Of note, site VR24 in New Market Township continues to exhibit high Escherichia coli (*E. coli*) levels above any other monitoring site. Kevin Chamberlain asked if staff knew what the cause was. Kelly replied that VRWJPO has been working with Scott County staff to narrow it down. Travis added that they had studied DNA samples from the area and found strong indicators of human DNA as the primary contributor, but there are likely other sources contributing to the issue.

The South Creek monitoring site has had a steady decrease in total suspended solids pollution since 2016 at baseflow conditions, which can be attributed to the projects installed in that subwatershed during the 2016-2025 Watershed Management Plan. Meanwhile, total phosphorus tends to spike across the watershed during runoff events. Nitrate levels continue to rise in the South Branch Vermillion River, affecting stations downstream from there as well. North and South Creeks have shown low levels of dissolved oxygen, an important factor in aquatic habitat. All of these data will factor into VRWJPO's improvement project planning.

Information only.

b. Site Visit Immediately Following the Meeting to North Creek in Empire Where an Upcoming Improvement Project will be Completed

Travis Thiel and Jeff Dunn provided background on the research and studies that led to the culvert improvement and replacement projects on North Creek in Empire and Farmington. Stressor identification studies by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and a 2011 geomorphic assessment of the North Creek subwatershed indicated areas where undersized and perched culverts were causing erosion and preventing fish passage upstream. The VRWJPO applied for and received Conservation Partners Legacy Grants from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in 2024 to replace the undersized and perched culverts with properly sized and placed ones, as well as to modify an existing culvert at a residential driveway to deepen continuous stream flow. This will be combined with natural stream narrowing and bank stabilization techniques.

Immediately following adjournment, committee members and staff traveled to the site along Minnesota Highway 3 in Empire. Jeff further elaborated on the project plans and pointed out the visible structural concerns that are causing the impairments.

DRAFT

Information only.

7. Updates

a. Chair's Report

None.

b. Staff Updates

None.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Alex Franzen to adjourn, seconded by Brad Blackett. Motion carried on a 7-0 vote.

Next Meeting

Date: August 12, 2026

Time: 4:30 p.m.

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

DRAFT

6a. Recommend Adoption of the Preliminary Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization 2027 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy

Meeting Date: 8/12/2026
Item Type: Regular-Information
Contact: Travis Thiel
Telephone: 952-891-7546

Resolution

WHEREAS, the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) requires a budget and the subsequent levy to implement the programs and projects described in its Watershed Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) was presented a preliminary VRWJPO 2027 budget of $1,991,363 at their July 23, 2026, meeting; and

WHEREAS, the presented budget requires a 5 percent levy increase compared to the 2026 levy; and

WHEREAS, the VRWJPB Chair requested staff to develop scenarios between a 3.5 percent and 5 percent levy increase for the VRWJPB to consider at their August 27, 2026, meeting; and

WHEREAS, staff prepared three 2027 budget and levy scenarios for consideration: a 5 percent, 4.25 percent, and 3.5 percent levy increases; and

WHEREAS, the Vermillion River Watershed Community Advisory Committee has reviewed and discussed the preliminary VRWJPO 2027 budget and Vermillion River Watershed Management Tax District levy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vermillion River Watershed Community Advisory Committee hereby recommends approval of the preliminary VRWJPO 2027 Budget totaling $_____ and recommends a Vermillion River Watershed Management Tax District levy of $_____ ($_____ in the Scott County portion of the watershed and $_____ in the Dakota County portion of the watershed).

Background

The preliminary Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) 2027 budget (Attachment A) is $1,991,363, including Clean Water Fund Competitive Funding grants, Clean Water Fund Watershed-Based Implementation Funding grants, Conservation Partners Legacy Grants, and the Watershed Management Tax District levy. The preliminary VRWJPO 2027 budget recommends a Watershed Management Tax District Levy of $1,132,136; $41,338 in the Scott County portion of the watershed and $1,090,798 in the Dakota County portion of the watershed. This amount represents a 5 percent increase in the Watershed Management Tax District levy compared to 2026. The draft budget

reflects recommendations from VRWJPO staff and partners and items from the implementation section of the 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan. Attachments B and C represent the two other budget scenarios requested: a 3.5 percent levy increase ($1,115,963) and a 4.25 percent levy increase ($1,124,049).

An approved preliminary VRWJPO 2027 budget will remain draft until the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) adopts a final VRWJPO 2027 budget and the Dakota and Scott County Boards certify the final Watershed Management Tax District levy in December of 2026. Between the time the preliminary VRWJPO 2027 budget and the final budget are adopted, the VRWJPB can recommend a lower levy in Dakota County and Scott County, but not higher.

Recommendation

Staff requests a recommendation from the Community Advisory Committee regarding their preferred budget and respective levy.

Financial and Staffing Impacts

The scenarios in Table 1 below indicate the different budget, levy, and tax impact options for consideration.

Table 1. Budget, Levy, and Tax Impact Scenarios

Budget	Levy	Dakota County Tax Impact (median residential property)	Scott County Tax Impact (median residential property)
$1,991,363	5%	$10.39	$13.72
$1,983,276	4.25%	$10.30	$13.62
$1,975,190	3.5%	$10.22	$13.51

Previous CAC Actions

None

Attachments

A. Preliminary VRWJPO 2027 Budget (5% levy scenario)
B. Preliminary VRWJPO 2027 Budget (4.25% levy scenario)
C. Preliminary VRWJPO 2027 Budget (3.5% levy scenario)

VRWJPO 2027 Preliminary Budget-5% Levy

Expense Budget Category	Expense Budget Activity	Operations and Programs Expenses	CIP Expenses	Expenses Total	2026 Expense Amount	% Change
Administration and Operations	Dakota County VRW Staff	$ 230,000	$ -	$ 230,000	$ 227,000	1%
Administration and Operations	Scott County VRW Staff	$ 15,000	$ -	$ 15,000	$ 15,000	0%
Administration and Operations	Legal Support	$ 26,000	$ -	$ 26,000	$ 25,000	4%
Administration and Operations	Miscellaneous Expenses (per diems, mileage, postage, insurance, etc.)	$ 12,000	$ -	$ 12,000	$ 11,000	9%
Administration and Operations	Training, Conferences, and Certifications	$ 6,000	$ -	$ 6,000	$ 6,000	0%
Planning	Dakota SWCD Incentive Program Policy Assistance	$ 1,500	$ -	$ 1,500	$ 1,500	0%
Planning	VRW Staff	$ 32,000	$ -	$ 32,000	$ 30,000	7%
Inventory, Assessment, & Research	Monitoring	$ 65,000	$ -	$ 65,000	$ 100,000	-35%
Inventory, Assessment, & Research	USGS and DNR Flow Gaging	$ 34,000	$ -	$ 34,000	$ 20,000	70%
Inventory, Assessment, & Research	VRW Staff	$ 38,000	$ -	$ 38,000	$ 20,000	90%
Inventory, Assessment, & Research	General GIS support (Dakota SWCD)	$ 1,000	$ -	$ 1,000	$ 1,500	-33%
Inventory, Assessment, & Research	Equipment/Supplies	$ 2,000	$ -	$ 2,000	$ 1,000	100%
Inventory, Assessment, & Research	Riparian Vegetation Assessment	$ 30,000	$ -	$ 30,000	New	New
Inventory, Assessment, & Research	Stormwater and Climate Resilience Study	$ 172,000	$ -	$ 172,000	New	New
Communications, Outreach, and Public Relations	VRW Staff	$ 120,000	$ -	$ 120,000	$ 108,000	11%
Communications, Outreach, and Public Relations	Dakota SWCD Outreach and Education	$ 40,000	$ -	$ 40,000	$ 40,000	0%
Communications, Outreach, and Public Relations	Scott County SWCD Outreach and Education	$ 2,400	$ -	$ 2,400	$ 2,300	4%
Communications, Outreach, and Public Relations	Communication and Outreach Materials and Supplies, Signage	$ 10,000	$ -	$ 10,000	$ 7,500	33%
Communications, Outreach, and Public Relations	Local Standards/Ordinance and Turf/Salt Workshops	$ 4,000	$ -	$ 4,000	$ 2,500	60%
Communications, Outreach, and Public Relations	Children's Water Festival Support	$ 750	$ -	$ 750	$ 600	25%
Communications, Outreach, and Public Relations	Watershed Partners	$ 5,000	$ -	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	0%
Communications, Outreach, and Public Relations	Stewardship Grant Program	$ 25,000	$ -	$ 25,000	$ 25,000	0%
Regulation	VRW Staff Standards Assistance, Engineering/Environmental Review	$ 73,000	$ -	$ 73,000	$ 45,000	62%
Feasibility & Preliminary Engineering	Preliminary Design, Technical Assistance and Marketing for Capital Improvements (Dakota SWCD)	$ 35,000	$ -	$ 35,000	$ 20,000	75%
Feasibility & Preliminary Engineering	Preliminary Design, Technical Assistance and Marketing for Capital Improvements (VRW staff)	$ 28,000	$ -	$ 28,000	$ 40,000	-30%
Feasibility & Preliminary Engineering	Preliminary Design, Technical Assistance and Marketing for Capital Improvements (Partners/Consulting)	$ 135,000	$ -	$ 135,000	$ 20,000	575%
CIP and Maintenance (General)	Cost Share Programs in Dakota County (SWCD)	$ -	$ 95,000	$ 95,000	$ 60,000	58%
CIP and Maintenance (General)	Cost Share Programs in Scott County (SWCD)	$ -	$ 20,700	$ 20,700	$ 25,000	-17%
CIP and Maintenance (General)	VRW General Cost-share or Miscellaneous Grant Match	$ -	$ 150,000	$ 150,000	$ 40,000	275%
CIP and Maintenance (General)	Past projects maintenance/repair	$ -	$ 40,000	$ 40,000	$ 30,000	33%
CIP and Maintenance (General)	VRW staff construction oversight and grant development and admin	$ -	$ 122,000	$ 122,000	$ 60,000	103%
CIP and Maintenance (General)	Groundwater quantity tactics	$ -	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	New	New
East Lake Fish Management	VRWJPO cost share	$ -	$ 25,000	$ 25,000	$ 10,000	150%
FY24-25 WBIF Farmington 4th & Willow TSS	4th & Willow TSS Reduction grant pass-through	$ -	$ 71,013	$ 71,013	NA	NA
FY24-25 WBIF Farmington 4th & Willow TSS	VRWJPO cash match	$ -	$ 100,000	$ 100,000	NA	NA
South Creek Restoration Project Assistance	VRWJPO cost share	$ -	$ 65,000	$ 65,000	NA	NA
Wetland Bank Credit Sales	Braun Wetland Bank Credit Sales	$ -	$ 150,000	$ 150,000	$ 100,000	50%
Total Expenditures		**$ 1,142,650**	**$ 848,713**	**$ 1,991,363**	**NA**	**NA**
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		

Revenue Budget Category	Revenue Budget Activity	NA	NA2	Revenue Total
Braun Wetland Bank Credit Revenue	NA	NA	NA	$ 150,000
Use of Fund Balance	NA	NA	NA	$ 517,046
Grant Revenue	NA	NA	NA	$ 142,181
Dakota County Levy	NA	NA	NA	$ 1,090,798
Scott County Levy	NA	NA	NA	$ 41,338
Investment Earnings	NA	NA	NA	$ 50,000
Total Revenues	**NA**	**NA**	**NA**	**$ 1,991,363**

VRWJPO 2027 Preliminary Budget-4.25% Levy

Expense Budget Category	Expense Budget Activity	Operations and Programs Expenses	CIP Expenses	Expenses Total	2026 Expense Amount	% Change
Administration and Operations	Dakota County VRW Staff	$ 230,000	$ -	$ 230,000	$ 227,000	1%
Administration and Operations	Scott County VRW Staff	$ 15,000	$ -	$ 15,000	$ 15,000	0%
Administration and Operations	Legal Support	$ 26,000	$ -	$ 26,000	$ 25,000	4%
Administration and Operations	Miscellaneous Expenses (per diems, mileage, postage, insurance, etc.)	$ 12,000	$ -	$ 12,000	$ 11,000	9%
Administration and Operations	Training, Conferences, and Certifications	$ 6,000	$ -	$ 6,000	$ 6,000	0%
Planning	Dakota SWCD Incentive Program Policy Assistance	$ 1,500	$ -	$ 1,500	$ 1,500	0%
Planning	VRW Staff	$ 32,000	$ -	$ 32,000	$ 30,000	7%
Inventory, Assessment, & Research	Monitoring	$ 65,000	$ -	$ 65,000	$ 100,000	-35%
Inventory, Assessment, & Research	USGS and DNR Flow Gaging	$ 34,000	$ -	$ 34,000	$ 20,000	70%
Inventory, Assessment, & Research	VRW Staff	$ 38,000	$ -	$ 38,000	$ 20,000	90%
Inventory, Assessment, & Research	General GIS support (Dakota SWCD)	$ 1,000	$ -	$ 1,000	$ 1,500	-33%
Inventory, Assessment, & Research	Equipment/Supplies	$ 2,000	$ -	$ 2,000	$ 1,000	100%
Inventory, Assessment, & Research	Riparian Vegetation Assessment	$ 30,000	$ -	$ 30,000	New	New
Inventory, Assessment, & Research	Stormwater and Climate Resilience Study	$ 172,000	$ -	$ 172,000	New	New
Communications, Outreach, and Public Relations	VRW Staff	$ 120,000	$ -	$ 120,000	$ 108,000	11%
Communications, Outreach, and Public Relations	Dakota SWCD Outreach and Education	$ 40,000	$ -	$ 40,000	$ 40,000	0%
Communications, Outreach, and Public Relations	Scott County SWCD Outreach and Education	$ 2,400	$ -	$ 2,400	$ 2,300	4%
Communications, Outreach, and Public Relations	Communication and Outreach Materials and Supplies, Signage	$ 10,000	$ -	$ 10,000	$ 7,500	33%
Communications, Outreach, and Public Relations	Local Standards/Ordinance and Turf/Salt Workshops	$ 4,000	$ -	$ 4,000	$ 2,500	60%
Communications, Outreach, and Public Relations	Children's Water Festival Support	$ 750	$ -	$ 750	$ 600	25%
Communications, Outreach, and Public Relations	Watershed Partners	$ 5,000	$ -	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	0%
Communications, Outreach, and Public Relations	Stewardship Grant Program	$ 25,000	$ -	$ 25,000	$ 25,000	0%
Regulation	VRW Staff Standards Assistance, Engineering/Environmental Review	$ 73,000	$ -	$ 73,000	$ 45,000	62%
Feasibility & Preliminary Engineering	Preliminary Design, Technical Assistance and Marketing for Capital Improvements (Dakota SWCD)	$ 35,000	$ -	$ 35,000	$ 20,000	75%
Feasibility & Preliminary Engineering	Preliminary Design, Technical Assistance and Marketing for Capital Improvements (VRW staff)	$ 28,000	$ -	$ 28,000	$ 40,000	-30%
Feasibility & Preliminary Engineering	Preliminary Design, Technical Assistance and Marketing for Capital Improvements (Partners/Consulting)	$ 135,000	$ -	$ 135,000	$ 20,000	575%
CIP and Maintenance (General)	Cost Share Programs in Dakota County (SWCD)	$ -	$ 95,000	$ 95,000	$ 60,000	58%
CIP and Maintenance (General)	Cost Share Programs in Scott County (SWCD)	$ -	$ 20,700	$ 20,700	$ 25,000	-17%
CIP and Maintenance (General)	VRW General Cost-share or Miscellaneous Grant Match	$ -	$ 150,000	$ 150,000	$ 40,000	275%
CIP and Maintenance (General)	Past projects maintenance/repair	$ -	$ 40,000	$ 40,000	$ 30,000	33%
CIP and Maintenance (General)	VRW staff construction oversight and grant development and admin	$ -	$ 122,000	$ 122,000	$ 60,000	103%
CIP and Maintenance (General)	Groundwater quantity tactics	$ -	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	New	New
East Lake Fish Management	VRWJPO cost share	$ -	$ 25,000	$ 25,000	$ 10,000	150%
FY24-25 WBIF Farmington 4th & Willow TSS	4th & Willow TSS Reduction grant pass-through	$ -	$ 71,013	$ 71,013	NA	NA
FY24-25 WBIF Farmington 4th & Willow TSS	VRWJPO cash match	$ -	$ 100,000	$ 100,000	NA	NA
South Creek Restoration Project Assistance	VRWJPO cost share	$ -	$ 56,913	$ 56,913	NA	NA
Wetland Bank Credit Sales	Braun Wetland Bank Credit Sales	$ -	$ 150,000	$ 150,000	$ 100,000	50%
Total Expenditures		**$ 1,142,650**	**$ 840,626**	**$ 1,983,276**	**NA**	**NA**
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		

Revenue Budget Category	Revenue Budget Activity	NA	NA2	Revenue Total
Braun Wetland Bank Credit Revenue	NA	NA	NA	$ 150,000
Use of Fund Balance	NA	NA	NA	$ 517,046
Grant Revenue	NA	NA	NA	$ 142,181
Dakota County Levy	NA	NA	NA	$ 1,083,006
Scott County Levy	NA	NA	NA	$ 41,043
Investment Earnings	NA	NA	NA	$ 50,000
Total Revenues	**NA**	**NA**	**NA**	**$ 1,983,276**

VRWJPO 2027 Preliminary Budget-3.5% Levy

Expense Budget Category	Expense Budget Activity	Operations and Programs Expenses	CIP Expenses	Expenses Total	2026 Expense Amount	% Change
Administration and Operations	Dakota County VRW Staff	$ 230,000	$ -	$ 230,000	$ 227,000	1%
Administration and Operations	Scott County VRW Staff	$ 15,000	$ -	$ 15,000	$ 15,000	0%
Administration and Operations	Legal Support	$ 26,000	$ -	$ 26,000	$ 25,000	4%
Administration and Operations	Miscellaneous Expenses (per diems, mileage, postage, insurance, etc.)	$ 12,000	$ -	$ 12,000	$ 11,000	9%
Administration and Operations	Training, Conferences, and Certifications	$ 6,000	$ -	$ 6,000	$ 6,000	0%
Planning	Dakota SWCD Incentive Program Policy Assistance	$ 1,500	$ -	$ 1,500	$ 1,500	0%
Planning	VRW Staff	$ 32,000	$ -	$ 32,000	$ 30,000	7%
Inventory, Assessment, & Research	Monitoring	$ 65,000	$ -	$ 65,000	$ 100,000	-35%
Inventory, Assessment, & Research	USGS and DNR Flow Gaging	$ 34,000	$ -	$ 34,000	$ 20,000	70%
Inventory, Assessment, & Research	VRW Staff	$ 38,000	$ -	$ 38,000	$ 20,000	90%
Inventory, Assessment, & Research	General GIS support (Dakota SWCD)	$ 1,000	$ -	$ 1,000	$ 1,500	-33%
Inventory, Assessment, & Research	Equipment/Supplies	$ 2,000	$ -	$ 2,000	$ 1,000	100%
Inventory, Assessment, & Research	Riparian Vegetation Assessment	$ 30,000	$ -	$ 30,000	New	New
Inventory, Assessment, & Research	Stormwater and Climate Resilience Study	$ 172,000	$ -	$ 172,000	New	New
Communications, Outreach, and Public Relations	VRW Staff	$ 120,000	$ -	$ 120,000	$ 108,000	11%
Communications, Outreach, and Public Relations	Dakota SWCD Outreach and Education	$ 40,000	$ -	$ 40,000	$ 40,000	0%
Communications, Outreach, and Public Relations	Scott County SWCD Outreach and Education	$ 2,400	$ -	$ 2,400	$ 2,300	4%
Communications, Outreach, and Public Relations	Communication and Outreach Materials and Supplies, Signage	$ 10,000	$ -	$ 10,000	$ 7,500	33%
Communications, Outreach, and Public Relations	Local Standards/Ordinance and Turf/Salt Workshops	$ 4,000	$ -	$ 4,000	$ 2,500	60%
Communications, Outreach, and Public Relations	Children's Water Festival Support	$ 750	$ -	$ 750	$ 600	25%
Communications, Outreach, and Public Relations	Watershed Partners	$ 5,000	$ -	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	0%
Communications, Outreach, and Public Relations	Stewardship Grant Program	$ 25,000	$ -	$ 25,000	$ 25,000	0%
Regulation	VRW Staff Standards Assistance, Engineering/Environmental Review	$ 73,000	$ -	$ 73,000	$ 45,000	62%
Feasibility & Preliminary Engineering	Preliminary Design, Technical Assistance and Marketing for Capital Improvements (Dakota SWCD)	$ 35,000	$ -	$ 35,000	$ 20,000	75%
Feasibility & Preliminary Engineering	Preliminary Design, Technical Assistance and Marketing for Capital Improvements (VRW staff)	$ 28,000	$ -	$ 28,000	$ 40,000	-30%
Feasibility & Preliminary Engineering	Preliminary Design, Technical Assistance and Marketing for Capital Improvements (Partners/Consulting)	$ 135,000	$ -	$ 135,000	$ 20,000	575%
CIP and Maintenance (General)	Cost Share Programs in Dakota County (SWCD)	$ -	$ 95,000	$ 95,000	$ 60,000	58%
CIP and Maintenance (General)	Cost Share Programs in Scott County (SWCD)	$ -	$ 20,700	$ 20,700	$ 25,000	-17%
CIP and Maintenance (General)	VRW General Cost-share or Miscellaneous Grant Match	$ -	$ 150,000	$ 150,000	$ 40,000	275%
CIP and Maintenance (General)	Past projects maintenance/repair	$ -	$ 40,000	$ 40,000	$ 30,000	33%
CIP and Maintenance (General)	VRW staff construction oversight and grant development and admin	$ -	$ 122,000	$ 122,000	$ 60,000	103%
CIP and Maintenance (General)	Groundwater quantity tactics	$ -	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	New	New
East Lake Fish Management	VRWJPO cost share	$ -	$ 25,000	$ 25,000	$ 10,000	150%
FY24-25 WBIF Farmington 4th & Willow TSS	4th & Willow TSS Reduction grant pass-through	$ -	$ 71,013	$ 71,013	NA	NA
FY24-25 WBIF Farmington 4th & Willow TSS	VRWJPO cash match	$ -	$ 100,000	$ 100,000	NA	NA
South Creek Restoration Project Assistance	VRWJPO cost share	$ -	$ 48,827	$ 48,827	NA	NA
Wetland Bank Credit Sales	Braun Wetland Bank Credit Sales	$ -	$ 150,000	$ 150,000	$ 100,000	50%
Total Expenditures		**$ 1,142,650**	**$ 832,540**	**$ 1,975,190**	**NA**	**NA**
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		

Revenue Budget Category	Revenue Budget Activity	NA	NA2	Revenue Total
Braun Wetland Bank Credit Revenue	NA	NA	NA	$ 150,000
Use of Fund Balance	NA	NA	NA	$ 517,046
Grant Revenue	NA	NA	NA	$ 142,181
Dakota County Levy	NA	NA	NA	$ 1,075,215
Scott County Levy	NA	NA	NA	$ 40,748
Investment Earnings	NA	NA	NA	$ 50,000
Total Revenues	**NA**	**NA**	**NA**	**$ 1,975,190**

6b. Overview of Planned or Processed 2026 Grants from the Partner Project Maintenance and Repair Assistance Grant and Stewardship Grant Programs

Meeting Date: 8/12/2026
Item Type: Regular-Information
Contact: Jeff Dunn/Brita Moore-Kutz
Telephone: 952-891-7140/952-891-7967

Resolution

Information only. No action requested.

Background

Jeff Dunn will provide an overview of two grant requests through the new Partner Project Maintenance and Repair Assistance Grant Program for maintenance needs at previously completed projects done with partners. Brita Moore-Kutz will provide an overview of two grant requests through the new Stewardship Grant Program for riparian improvement activities near the Vermillion River in Farmington and Hastings.

Recommendation

Not applicable.

Financial and Staffing Impacts

The VRWJPO 2026 budget includes $30,000 for maintenance and repair, which the Partner Project Maintenance and Repair Assistance Grant Program is paid from; and $25,000 for the Stewardship Grant Program. *Table 1* below indicates the cost of each grant request or maintenance project planned and funded in 2026.

Table 1. Grant Requests

Project Name	City	Grant Program	Cost
Avonlea	Lakeville	Maintenance & Repair	$6,137
Pinnacle Reserve	Lakeville	Maintenance & Repair	$7,795
South Creek Veg. Mgmt.	Farmington	N/A	$3,587
Vermillion River Wet Prairie Restoration	Farmington	Stewardship	$10,000
Linear Park Riparian Improvements	Hastings	Stewardship	$6,180

Attachments

None.

6c. Presentation of Planned Improvements Associated with Minnesota Trout Unlimited's South Creek Habitat Restoration Project

Meeting Date: 8/12/2026
Item Type: Regular-Information
Contact: Jeff Dunn
Telephone: 952-891-7140

Resolution

Information only. No action requested.

Background

Staff will present an overview of the planned South Creek and riparian restoration project led by Minnesota Trout Unlimited. The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) is planning to provide financial assistance for the project in 2027.

Funded through the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund, the project will restore an important coldwater tributary (South Creek) by converting an existing drainage ditch into a naturally meandering stream and reconnecting it to its historic floodplain. The restoration will improve water quality, enhance aquatic habitat, and provide long-term benefits for trout and other native species.

The project is currently in the design phase and construction is anticipated to start in spring 2027, pending permit approvals and completion of final designs.

Recommendation

Not applicable.

Financial and Staffing Impacts

Depending on the VRWJPO 2027 budget that ends up being adopted, the VRWJPO could provide up to $65,000 toward Minnesota Trout Unlimited's South Creek Habitat Restoration Project.

Previous CAC Actions

None.

Attachments

None.