Agenda: Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) Meeting

Date and time

August 27, 2026, 1 p.m., in-person at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center and virtually via Microsoft Teams

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 July 23, 2026, Meeting	Action	Page 3
6. Consent Agenda		
a. Acceptance of Treasurer's Reports	Action	Page 8
7. Approval of Expenses	Action	Page 9
8. Business Items		
a. Public Hearing to Receive Comments on and Adoption of the Preliminary Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization 2027 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy	Action	Page 10
b. Presentation and Overview of Planned and Processed 2026 Expenditures Associated with Maintenance and Repair or Stewardship Grants	Information	Page 15
c. Presentation and Overview of the Minnesota Trout Unlimited South Creek Restoration Project	Information	Page 24
9. Staff Reports		
10. Adjourn	Action	

Please note, the August 27, 2026, Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board meeting will take place **in-person** in Conference Room A at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center, located at 4100 220th Street West, Farmington, MN; and **online** via the Microsoft Teams link below. *Some VRWJPB members may be participating in this meeting via interactive technology, in compliance with Minn. Stat. 13D.04.*

Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/246034382206024?p=hfZ8Hk43gQ2ZQpLZXF
Meeting ID: 246 034 382 206 024

Passcode: Uz9Hi9ZQ
Need help? | System reference
Dial in by phone: +1 651-273-3070,,919319553# United States, Hastings
Find a local number
Phone conference ID: 919 319 553#

Other Information

Next meeting date: September 24, 2026, at 1 p.m. *You will be notified if the meeting is cancelled due to an anticipated lack of quorum.*

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

Date: Thursday, July 23, 2026, 1 p.m., in-person at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center, Farmington, MN, and virtual via Microsoft Teams

JPB Members in Attendance

- Dakota County Commissioner Mike Slavik
- Dakota County Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland
- Scott County Commissioner Tom Wolf

Vermillion River Watershed Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Members in Attendance

- Sandy Weber

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

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

Others in Attendance

- Nikki Stewart, Environmental Resources Department Director, Dakota County (virtual)
- Brian Wisdorf, Assistant County Attorney and VRWJPO Legal Counsel, Dakota County (virtual)
- Vanessa Strong, Water Resources Supervisor, Scott County (virtual)

Agenda

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Slavik at 1 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Slavik, Hamann-Roland, and Wolf were present in-person.

3. Audience Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

None.

4. Approval of Agenda

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Res. No. VRW 26-28: Motion by Commissioner Hamann-Roland to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Wolf. Motion carried on a 3-0 voice vote.

5. Approval of Minutes from the June 25, 2026, Meeting

Res. No. VRW 26-29: Motion by Commissioner Wolf to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Hamann-Roland. Motion carried on a 3-0 voice vote.

6. Approval of Consent Agenda

a. Acceptance of Treasurer's Reports
b. Authorization to Schedule a Public Hearing to Receive Comments on the Preliminary Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization 2027 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy

Res. No. VRW 26-30: Motion by Commissioner Hamann-Roland to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Wolf. Motion carried on a 3-0 voice vote.

7. Approval of Expenses

Travis Thiel presented the expenses from June 1-30, 2026, totaling $87,809.65.

Res. No. VRW 26-31: Motion by Commissioner Wolf to approve the expenses, seconded by Commissioner Hamann-Roland. Motion carried on a 3-0 roll call vote.

8. Business Items

a. Presentation of Summarized Results from the 2025 Vermillion River Monitoring Network Report

Kelly Perrine shared highlights from the 2025 Vermillion River Monitoring Network (VRMN) report, available on the VRWJPO website in full. Key points included:

- Total phosphorus (TP) concentrations in the Upper Mainstem subwatershed were significantly higher than the 2016-2023 levels. Staff attribute this to greater precipitation after several years of drought "flushing" phosphorus from the soil that had built up over time.
- The Upper Mainstem subwatershed continues to show elevated concentrations of Escherichia coli (*E. coli*) bacteria, specifically the VR24 monitoring station near the Vermillion River headwaters in Scott County. Levels are two to three times higher than anywhere else in the watershed. Commissioner Hamann-Roland asked about the potential source, whether it was human or livestock. Kelly replied that both human and animal DNA had shown up in tracing efforts, but the amount of human DNA indicates that a septic system issue is contributing to the problem. VRWJPO Co-Administrator Melissa Bokman Ermer is working on a report on the actions taken so far regarding *E. coli* in the headwaters area. Vanessa Strong added that Scott County has educational materials regarding septic system maintenance and would report back on what's been done with those.
- The South Creek subwatershed continued its trend of decreasing total suspended solids (TSS) levels, which could be attributed to stormwater improvement projects the VRWJPO has completed in that subwatershed.
- The North Creek and Middle Creek subwatershed results are somewhat blended together due to the station locations, though NC808 is more representative of North Creek and NC801 is more

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representative of Middle Creek. TSS levels were consistently higher at NC808, and TP levels at both exceeded the state standard during summer runoff events.

- The South Branch Vermillion River subwatershed continued to have the highest nitrate levels in the VRWJPO, but the lowest *E. coli* levels. The Middle Mainstem subwatershed had the second-highest nitrate levels. Both are still meeting state standards but are high-priority areas for nitrate reduction best management practices (BMPs) in agriculture.
- The Lower Mainstem subwatershed generally met state standards for TSS and TP. Kelly noted that nitrates from the South Branch are affecting the subwatersheds downstream of it, which is a concern for the karst regions and groundwater aquifers in that area.
- Commissioner Slavik asked about development in areas that have previously been farmland and if the land use change is better or worse for the water quality. State standards for stormwater treatment are higher than they used to be in residential developments, but development also comes with impervious surfaces not found in agricultural zones. Kelly answered that the VRWJPO has prioritized stormwater retrofit BMPs in developed areas to help them meet the current standards.

Information only.

b. Presentation and Discussion on the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Preliminary 2027 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy

Travis Thiel handed out copies of the budget and tax impact statements for Dakota and Scott Counties with a proposed 5% increase to the Watershed Management Tax District levy. He reviewed specific line items that were new for 2027 or changed their estimated costs by 15% or greater, as well as revenues needed for a balanced budget. The total of the preliminary 2027 budget was $1,991,363 for both expenses and revenues, with an unassigned fund balance of $873,293 (44 percent of total budget).

Commissioner Slavik asked to confirm that the revenue from wetland bank credits would be restricted only for acquiring another wetland bank in the future. Travis confirmed that was the case.

The tax impact statement for Dakota County listed a 39-cent property tax increase for a median value residential home in 2027, assuming the levy increased by 5%. For Scott County, the increase would be 53 cents.

Commissioner Slavik asked if staff could run scenarios for a lower levy increase, since the Dakota County Board is considering a much higher levy and looking for ways to lessen potential impacts from elsewhere. Travis agreed to run the budget again with a 3.5% levy increase for the public hearing in August. Commissioner Hamann-Roland cautioned against lowering the cash reserves and said she thought the budget was already well-constrained.

Information only.

9. Staff Reports

Jeff Dunn

- The VRWJPO has been working to ensure that small cities and townships in the watershed are able to meet the updated VRWJPO Standards in their local ordinances. Coincidentally, these LGUs are also updating their comprehensive plans, some with assistance from a consultant and some with the Metropolitan Council. This provides the VRWJPO an opportunity to get the necessary local controls from the Standards embedded in the comprehensive plans. Staff have created a model ordinance

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for the townships and small cities to include in the comprehensive plans and drafted a letter to begin the conversations with local leaders, looking to partner with them and not overstep their authority. Jeff confirmed with the JPB to send the letter to township and city clerks, mayors, and township board chairs, and follow up with the Met Council and consultant to keep up-to-date on their progress. Sandy Weber said the townships appreciated the VRWJPO's approach and guidance.

Brita Moore-Kutz

- The VRWJPO will be in the Natural Resources Building of the Dakota County Fair from August 10-16. The Dakota County Water Resources Unit will have an exhibit about septic system care.

Travis Thiel

10. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Hamann-Roland to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Slavik. Motion carried on a 3-0 voice vote.

Next meeting date: Thursday, August 27, 2026, 1 p.m., at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center, Conference Room A, and via teleconference on Microsoft Teams.

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Certification

Respectfully submitted by

Brita Moore-Kutz

Communications and Outreach Specialist, Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

Attest

_____ _____

Scott County Commissioner Tom Wolf, VRWJPB Secretary/Treasurer Date

2026 Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

July 2026 Treasurer's Report					
Account Category	MTD Actuals	YTD Actuals	% Budget	Budget	Balance
41 – County Levies	544,862	567,620	53%	1,078,225	510,605
41002 – Dakota County Levy	544,862	544,862	53%	1,037,693	492,831
41031 – Scott County Levy	0	22,758	56%	40,532	17,775
43 – Investment Interest & Wetland Bank Revenue	5,770	100,591	67%	150,000	49,409
43099 - Misc Other Revenue	*0*	*50,012*	*50%*	*100,000*	*49,988*
43291 - Interest on Investments	*5,770*	*50,578*	*101%*	*50,000*	*-578*
45 – Permit Revenue	0	0	0%	1,000	1,000
47 – Grant Revenue	24,898	142,358	11%	1,347,391	1,205,033
49 – Operations & CIP Fund Balance	0	0	0%	401,413	401,413
49495 - Use of Fund Balance (Operations)	*0*	*0*	*0%*	*-301,325*	*-301,325*
49495 - Use of Fund Balance (CIP)	*0*	*0*	*0%*	*702,738*	*702,738*
Total Revenue	**575,530**	**810,569**	**27%**	**2,978,029**	**2,167,460**
53 – Salaries	*38,922*	*291,594*	*54%*	*545,000*	*253,406*
53001 - Dakota County Staff Time	*38,922*	*289,472*	*55%*	*530,000*	*240,528*
53039 - Scott County Staff Time	*0*	*2,122*	*14%*	*15,000*	*12,878*
53 – Dept/County Support	48,221	111,264	44%	253,366	142,102
53002 - Administrative & Consulting	*44,548*	*93,329*	*41%*	*227,266*	*133,937*
53004 - Legal	*3,674*	*17,935*	*69%*	*26,100*	*8,165*
54 – Travel & Training	*0*	*500*	9%	*5,440*	4,940
55 – Office Support	*38*	*1,258*	104%	*1,211*	-47
57 – Operations & Programs	52,268	84,766	40%	212,264	127,498
57011 - Monitoring Direct Expenses	*17,014*	*25,773*	25%	*101,500*	75,727
57011 - Public Outreach Direct Expenses	*32,524*	*39,514*	49%	*80,024*	40,510
57011 - Feasibilty Direct Expenses	*2,100*	*12,075*	60%	*20,000*	7,925
57011- Other Direct Expenses	*630*	*7,405*	69%	*10,740*	3,335
59 – CIP	*13,700*	*43,442*	2%	*1,960,748*	1,917,306
Total Expenses	**153,150**	**532,824**	**18%**	**2,978,029**	**2,445,205**
VERMILLION RIVER WATERSHED Surplus/Deficit	**422,380**	**277,744**		**0**	**277,744**

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

4100 220th St. W., Suite 103, Farmington, MN 55024

July 2026 Expense Report

The invoices submitted between June 1 and June 30, 2026
total: $87,809.65

The final invoices submitted between July 1 and July 31, 2026 total:

Invoice	Vendor		Amount
	DC Staff Time	$	38,921.58
Jun-26	DC Legal	$	3,673.99
2584607	Stantec	$	3,587.40
DCP40021	Amazon	$	51.01
Amorrell Pcard	Dakota County SWCD - North Creek Culvert Permits	$	500.00
3558	Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District	$	61,829.98
90194058	USGS	$	9,212.00
00222-0024-2	Emmons & Olivier	$	13,067.00
VRW Letters	Postage for Jeff Dunn Mailing	$	36.66
R-030811-000-6	WSB	$	22,268.50
July Mail	July Mail	$	1.56
	TOTAL	**$**	**153,149.68**

Action Requested: Approval of all expenses as presented

8a. Public Hearing to Receive Comments on and Adoption of the Preliminary Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization 2027 Budget and Watershed Management Tax District Levy

Meeting Date: 8/27/2026
Item Type: Regular-Action
Contact: Travis Thiel
Telephone: (952) 891-7546

Resolution

WHEREAS, the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) is required to adopt an annual budget for the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) by September 1 for the following calendar year; and

WHEREAS, the VRWJPB is authorized by Minn. Stat. § 103B.211 and the Joint Powers Agreement between Dakota and Scott Counties that established the VRWJPO to adopt a budget for the VRWJPO and decide on the total amount necessary to be raised from the Watershed Management Tax District Levy to meet its budget; and

WHEREAS, the VRWJPO must hold a public hearing on the preliminary budget and levy prior to their adoption in accordance with the requirements of Minn. Stat. Sec. 103B.211, subd. 1 (a)(5) and the statutes cited therein; and

WHEREAS, notice of the hearing, along with a summary of the preliminary budget and levy, were published in one or more newspapers of general circulation in Dakota and Scott Counties once each week for two successive weeks before the hearing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board hereby adopts 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

VRWJPO staff has prepared a preliminary 2027 budget by assessing the needs of the watershed, strategic planning with the VRWJPB, and the implementation section of the 2026-2035 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan. Any proposed contributions from Dakota County or Scott County which the VRWJPB deems appropriate from the annual property tax levy must be recommended to the Dakota County and Scott County Boards prior to the date by which they shall establish their maximum levy pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 275.065, subd. 1.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the VRWJPB adopt the preliminary VRWJPO 2027 budget of $1,991,363 and Watershed Management Tax District Levy of $1,132,136 (5% increase from 2026).

Financial and Staffing Impacts

The recommended preliminary VRWJPO 2027 budget proposes options of a 3.5%, 4.25%, or 5% increase in the Watershed Management Tax District levy compared to 2026. The proposed 2027 tax impact on the median value residential property in Dakota County and Scott County are identified in Table 1. The proposed levy amount represents the maximum levy amount the VRWJPO will receive from Dakota County and Scott County.

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 Board Actions

None.

Attachments

Attachment: Preliminary VRWJPO 2027 Budget (5% levy scenario)
Attachment: Preliminary VRWJPO 2027 Budget (4.25% levy scenario)
Attachment: 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	$ 8,500	$ -	$ 8,500	$ 7,500	13%
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	Wetland Health Evaluation Program Sponsorship	$ 1,500		$ 1,500	New	New
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		
FY24-25 WBIF Farmington 4th & Willow TSS	VRWJPO cash match	$ -	$ 100,000	$ 100,000		
South Creek Restoration Project Assistance	VRWJPO cost share	$ -	$ 65,000	$ 65,000		
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**		

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	$ 8,500	$ -	$ 8,500	$ 7,500	13%
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	Wetland Health Evaluation Program Sponsorship	$ 1,500		$ 1,500	New	New
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		
FY24-25 WBIF Farmington 4th & Willow TSS	VRWJPO cash match	$ -	$ 100,000	$ 100,000		
South Creek Restoration Project Assistance	VRWJPO cost share	$ -	$ 56,913	$ 56,913		
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**		

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	$ 8,500	$ -	$ 8,500	$ 7,500	13%
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	Wetland Health Evaluation Program Sponsorship	$ 1,500		$ 1,500	New	New
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**

8b. Presentation and Overview of Planned and Processed 2026 Expenditures Associated with Partner Project Maintenance and Repair Assistance Grant and Stewardship Grant Programs

Meeting Date: 8/27/2026
Item Type: Regular-Information
Contact: Jeff Dunn/Brita Moore-Kutz
Telephone: (952) 891-7140 / (952) 891-7967

Resolution

Information only. No action requested.

Background

VRWJPO staff 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

Information only.

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 Stream and Wetland Restoration	Lakeville	Maintenance & Repair	$6,137
Middle Creek Restoration at Pinnacle Reserve	Lakeville	Maintenance & Repair	$7,795
Vermillion River Wet Prairie Restoration	Farmington	Stewardship	$10,000
Linear Park Riparian Improvements	Hastings	Stewardship	$6,180

Previous Board Actions

VRW 25-42; 9/25/2025
VRW 26-14; 3/26/2026

Attachments

Attachment: Stewardship Grant and Operation and Maintenance Grants Overview PowerPoint

Stewardship Grant and Partner Project Operation & Maintenance Program Updates

Brita Moore-Kutz and Jeff Dunn

Stewardship Grants

- High-priority Action in 2026-2035 WMP Implementation Table for Community Relationships
- 2 projects awarded in 2026
- $25,000 budgeted, ~$9,000 remaining for 2026
- $25,000 each year of the WMP; subject to JPB approval in annual budgets

SCAN ME

City of Farmington: Vermillion River Wet Prairie Restoration

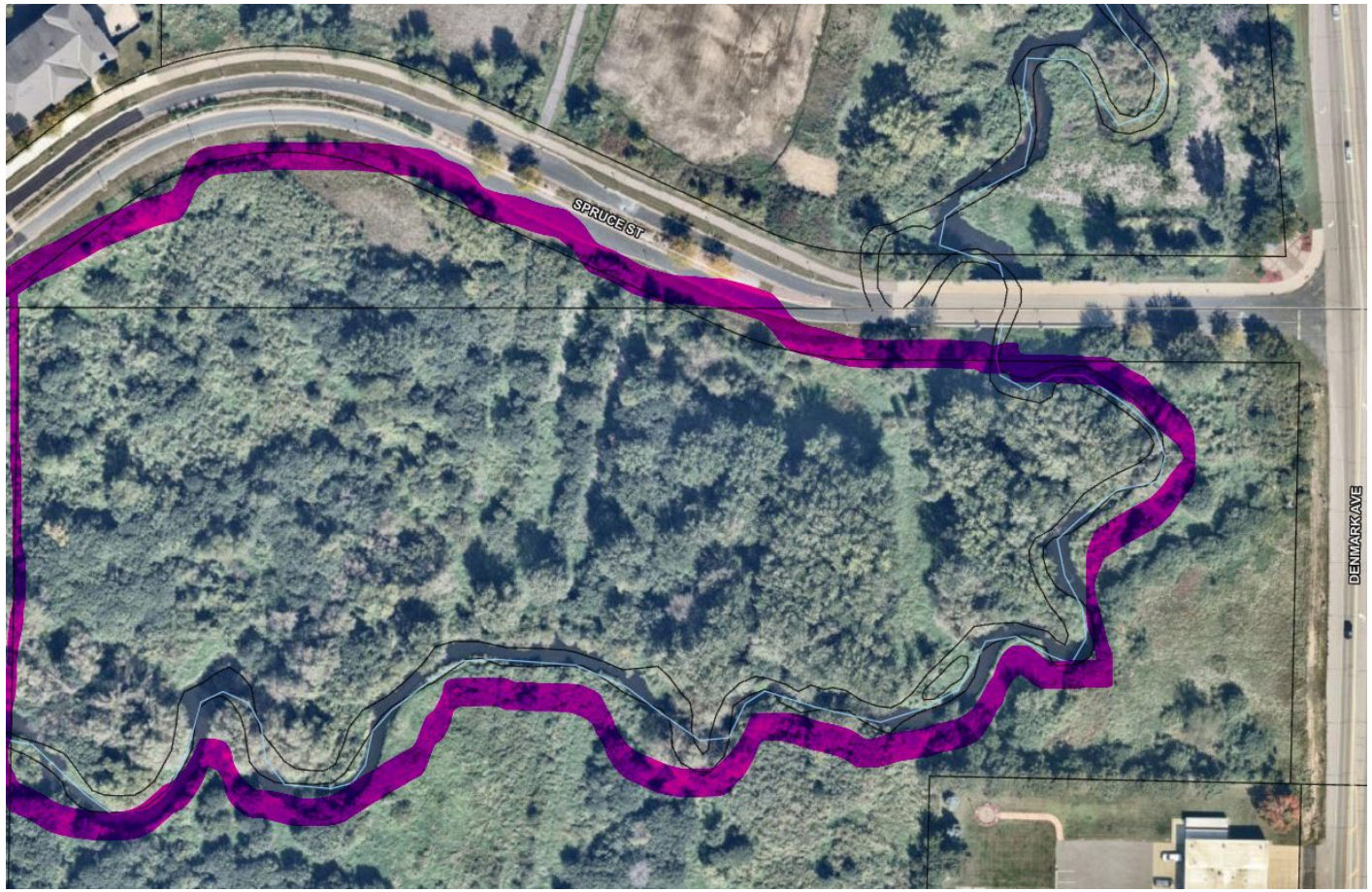
Location: 8 acres of city-owned Vermillion River floodplain immediately south of Spruce St.

Tasks:

- Removal of invasive plant species
- Forestry mulching, followed by cover crop and native wet prairie seeding
- Volunteer recruitment for seeding, supported by Twin Cities Trout Unlimited

Grant Award: $10,000

Goals: Reduce erosion, control invasive species, prepare for future greenway development, engages local volunteers



Friends of the Mississippi River: Hastings Vermillion River Habitat Restoration



Locations: Vermillion River Linear Park & Dakota County Park Conservation Area, Hastings

Tasks:

- Establishment mowing to support native prairie growth
- Spot-spraying invasive plant concentrations
- Volunteer native plugs and shrubs planting event
- Volunteer native pollinator seeding event

Grant Award: $6,179.59



Goals: Reduce erosion and sedimentation, increase pollinator habitat value, engage local community in habitat restoration work along the VR

Operations & Maintenance Program

- Program approved by JPB in March 2026
- $30,000 budgeted in 2026
- 2 projects awarded in 2026 for $13,932
- Program funding subject to JPB budget approval every year

Avonlea Stream and Wetland Restoration

Location: Avonlea Development, Lakeville
Initial Project Partnership: 2016

Tasks:

- Mowing and spot treatment of invasive plant species
- Undesirable tree clearing
- Native plant seeding

Funding Awarded by VRWJPO: $6,137

Goals: Manage invasive plant species to support restoration of native vegetation, enhanced pollinator habitat, and decreased stream channel erosion.



Middle Creek Restoration at Pinnacle Reserve

Location: Pinnacle Reserve Development, Lakeville
Initial Project Partnership: 2021

Tasks:

- Mowing and spot treatment of invasive plant species
- Undesirable tree clearing
- Native plant seeding

Funding Awarded by VRWJPO: $7,795

Goals: Manage invasive plant species to support restoration of native vegetation, enhanced pollinator habitat, and decreased stream channel erosion.



8c. Presentation and Overview of the Minnesota Trout Unlimited South Creek Restoration Project

Meeting Date: 8/27/2026
Item Type: Regular-Information
Contact: Jeff Dunn
Telephone: (952) 891-7140

Resolution

Information only. No action requested.

Background

The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) and other stakeholders have been partnering with Minnesota Trout Unlimited (MNTU) on the design of a proposed South Creek restoration project on Dakota County property near the Vita Attiva development in Farmington. The project is at approximately a 60-percent design phase. Two actions, NE-1 (Projects identified within the South Creek Geomorphic Assessment) and NE-10 (In-stream habitat restoration), in the implementation table of the Vermillion River 2026-2035 Watershed Management Plan (WMP) support this effort. The WMP identifies a total of $65,000 in financial assistance in 2027 for these two implementation actions. VRWJPO staff will provide an overview of the proposed South Creek restoration project design.

Recommendation

Information only.

Financial and Staffing Impacts

The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board (VRWJPB) will act on its preliminary 2027 budget at the August 27, 2026, meeting. Options for providing between $50,000 and $65,000 will be presented to the VRWJPB in different budget and levy scenarios.

Previous Board Actions

None.

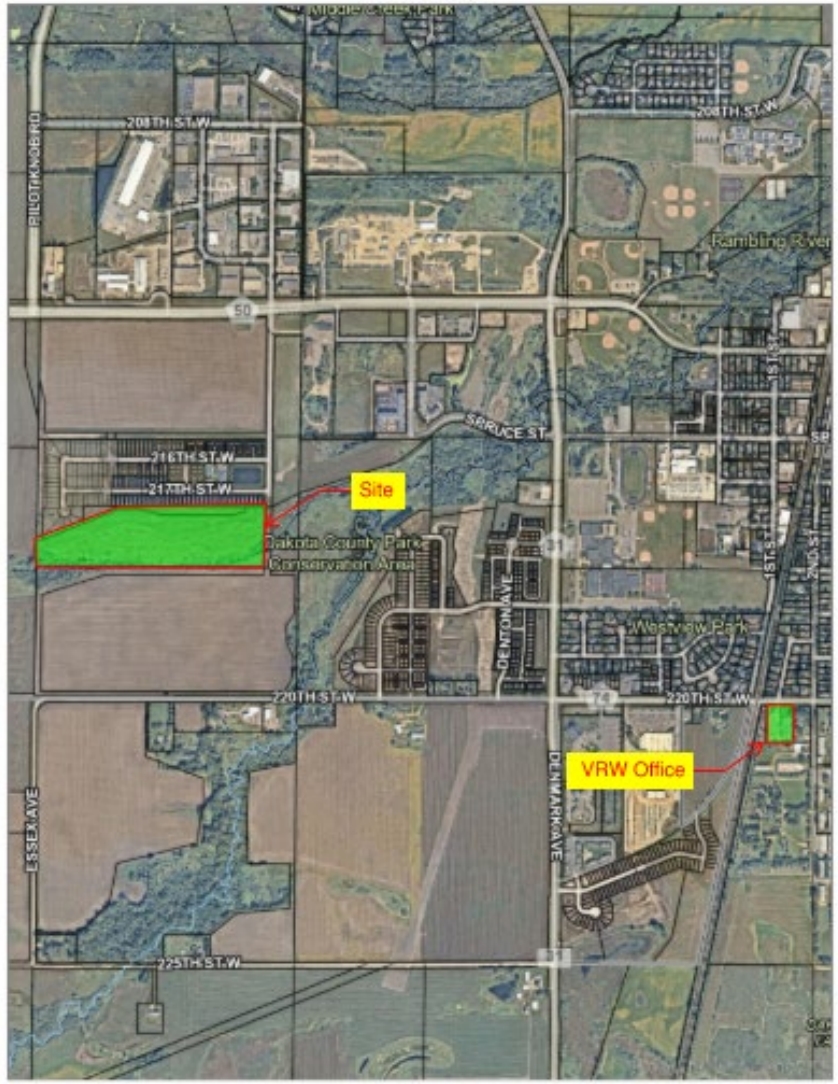
Attachments

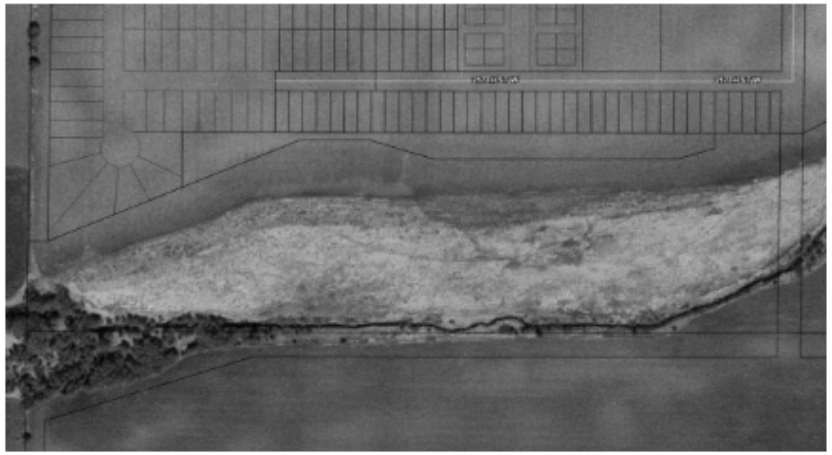
Attachment: Minnesota Trout Unlimited South Creek Restoration Project Overview PowerPoint

Presentation and Overview of the Minnesota Trout Unlimited South Creek Restoration Project

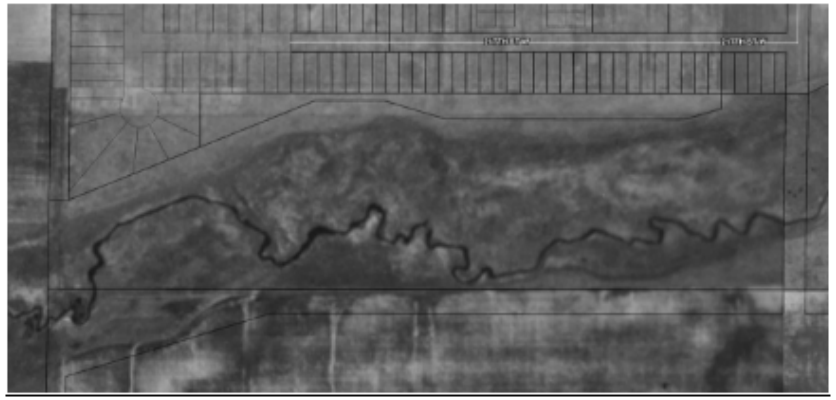
Jeff Dunn

Location Map

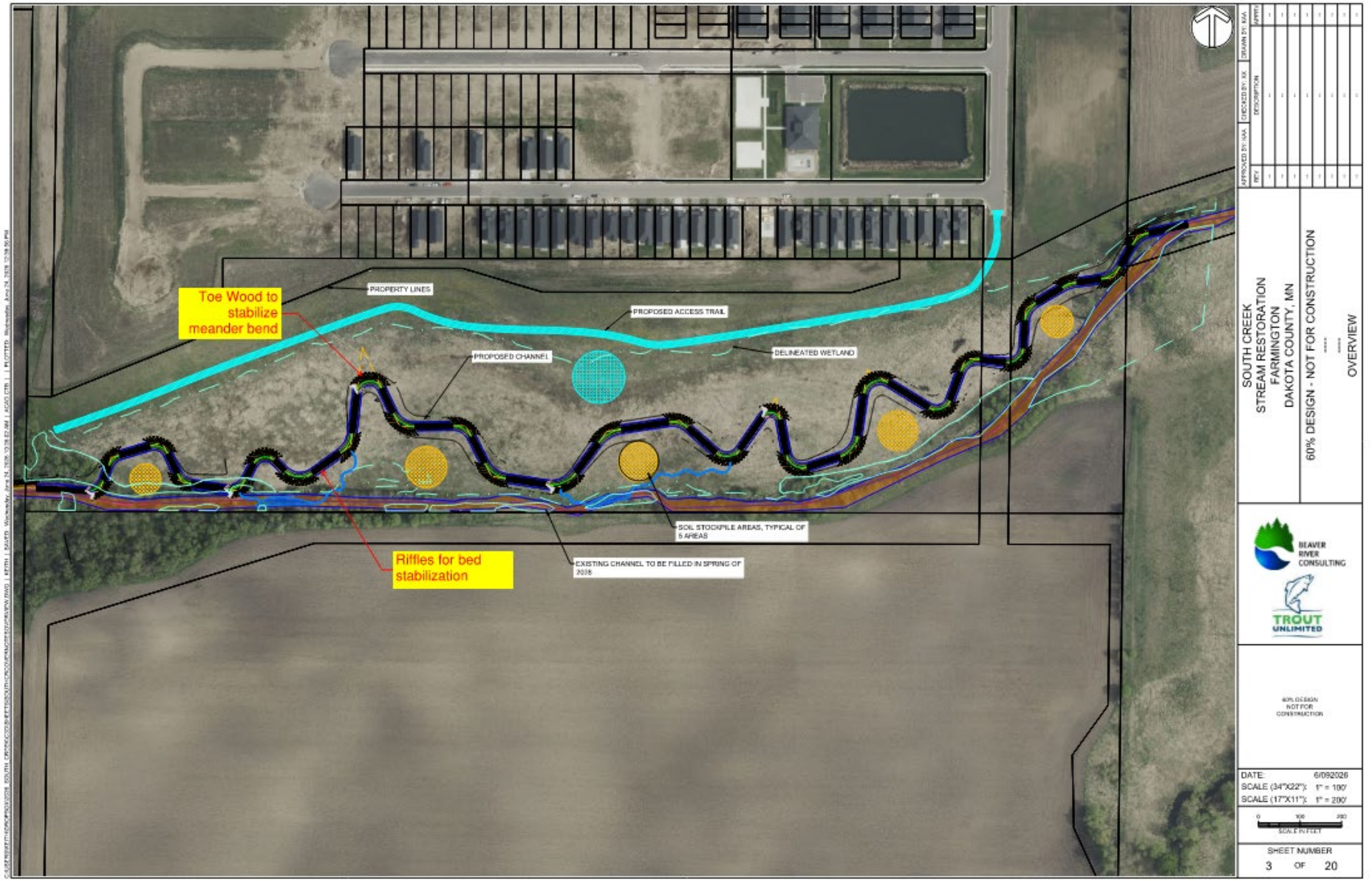




2000



1951


Toe Wood to stabilize meander bend
PROPERTY LINES
PROPOSED ACCESS TRAIL
PROPOSED CHANNEL
DELINEATED WETLAND
SOIL STOCKPILE AREAS, TYPICAL OF 5 AREAS
EXISTING CHANNEL TO BE FILLED IN SPRING OF 2026
Riffles for bed stabilization
SOUTH CREEK
STREAM RESTORATION
FARMINGTON
DAKOTA COUNTY, MN
60% DESIGN - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION
OVERVIEW
BEAVER RIVER CONSULTING
TROUT UNLIMITED
DATE: 6/09/2026
SCALE (34"X22"): 1" = 100'
SCALE (17"X11"): 1" = 200'
SHEET NUMBER
3 OF 20





