

**JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
THE COUNTY OF DAKOTA AND  
THE VERMILLION RIVER WATERSHED JOINT POWERS ORGANIZATION  
FOR LEGAL SERVICES**

**THIS AGREEMENT** ("Agreement") is made and entered into by and between the County of Dakota, Minnesota ("County") by and through the Dakota County Attorney's Office ("Dakota County Attorney's Office") and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization, ("VRWJPO"), pursuant to the authority conferred upon them by Minn. Stat. § 471.59. The County and the VRWJPO are also referred to herein as the "parties."

**WHEREAS**, the County is a political subdivision of the State of Minnesota, and the Dakota County Attorney's Office is required by law to provide certain legal services to the County and its Board of Commissioners.

**WHEREAS**, the VRWJPO is an independent joint powers entity created by Dakota County and Scott County to cooperatively carry out their responsibilities and duties under Minn. Stat. §§ 103B.211 to 103B.255.

**WHEREAS**, the joint powers agreement between Dakota County and Scott County creating the VRWJPO provides that Dakota County and Scott County shall provide legal services as needed to the VRWJPO in accordance to separate service agreements between the counties and the VRWJPO when deemed necessary by the applicable county.

**WHEREAS**, the VRWJPO desires, and the County is willing, to have the Dakota County Attorney's Office provide legal advice and services to the VRWJPO, its board ("Board") and committees, subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual promises and benefits realized by each party, the parties agree as follows:

1. **Purpose.** The purpose of this Agreement is to enable the County Attorney's Office to provide legal services to the VRWJPO, as detailed herein, and for the VRWJPO to secure such services from the Dakota County Attorney's Office, and to establish the terms on which such services shall be provided.
2. **Term.** Notwithstanding the date of execution of this Agreement, the term of this Agreement shall commence on January 1, 2026 and shall continue in full force until December 31, 2027, unless terminated by either party pursuant to Section 5.e. of this Agreement.
3. **Services Provided by Dakota County.**
  - a. Scope. The County agrees the Dakota County Attorney's Office may provide legal advice and representation to the VRWJPO, its Board and committees subject to the discretion of the County Attorney, on an ad hoc basis.
  - b. Discretion to Decline Services. The Dakota County Attorney's Office shall have discretion to decline to provide legal services under this Agreement if it determines it is unable to provide the services requested. Nothing in this Agreement shall obligate the Dakota County Attorney's Office to provide legal services.
  - c. Discretion to Obtain Services from Other Sources. The VRWJPO shall have sole and complete discretion to obtain legal services (including, without limitation, legal advice and representation) from sources other than the Dakota County Attorney's Office. Nothing in this Agreement shall obligate the VRWJPO to obtain legal services from the Dakota County Attorney's Office.
  - d. Conflicts of Interest. If the Dakota County Attorney's Office determines that its representation of both the VRWJPO and the County and/or County Departments may result in a conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest (as determined under the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct or otherwise), the Dakota County Attorney's Office shall inform the Dakota County Manager and the VRWJPO Administrator and Co-Administrator of the conflict and its effect on the Dakota County Attorney's Office's representation of the VRWJPO and the County and/or

County Departments. The Dakota County Manager and the VRWJPO Administrator and Co-Administrator, with assistance of the Dakota County Attorney's Office, shall consult with their respective boards regarding the conflict of interest issues and may request a waiver of the conflict of interest from their respective boards following disclosure of the information required for informed consent pursuant to the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct.

- e. Withdrawal. The Dakota County Attorney's Office may withdraw from representation of the VRWJPO subject to and in accordance with the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct, at any time by providing written notice of withdrawal to the VRWJPO Authorized Representative.

#### 4. **Payment for Services.**

- a. Hourly Rate. The Dakota County Attorney's Office has agreed to extend its internal rate to the VRWJPO for the term of the Agreement. The VRWJPO shall pay for legal services at the following rate: \$188.99 per hour for attorney time and \$103.62 per hour for paralegal time in 2026 and \$196.55 per hour for attorney time and \$107.76 for paralegal time in 2027.
- b. Costs. The VRWJPO shall reimburse the Dakota County Attorney's Office for any costs incurred by the Dakota County Attorney's Office in connection with providing legal services under this Agreement. Reimbursable costs include, without limitation, long-distance telephone charges, photocopying charges, printing charges, mileage charges (reimbursable at the Internal Revenue Service's then-applicable standard mileage rate), parking charges, delivery fees, messenger service fees, filing fees, deposition costs, witness fees, and other reasonable expenses incurred by the Dakota County Attorney's Office in providing legal services to the VRWJPO under this Agreement.
- c. Billing. The parties have agreed to a monthly transfer of funds through Dakota County Finance. The Dakota County Attorney's Office shall provide a report to the VRWJPO on a monthly basis for legal services provided to the VRWJPO pursuant to this Agreement and any costs incurred by the Dakota County Attorney's Office in connection with providing such services. Said reports shall identify the persons providing legal services to the VRWJPO and itemize the services provided by each such person, the amount of time that each such person spent providing services, and any costs incurred by the Dakota County Attorney's Office in connection with providing such services.

#### 5. **General Provisions.**

- a. Independent Contractor. For purposes of this Agreement, the County Attorney and staff of the Dakota County Attorney's Office shall be deemed to be independent contractors, and not employees of the VRWJPO. Any and all agents, servants, or employees of the Dakota County Attorney's Office, while engaged in the performance of any work or services required to be performed by the County Attorney under this Agreement, shall not be considered employees of the VRWJPO, and any and all claims that may or might arise against the VRWJPO, its agents or employees as a consequence of any act or omission on the part of the VRWJPO, its agents and employees or other persons, shall in no way be the obligation or responsibility of the County, Kathryn M. Keena or successor, or the Dakota County Attorney's Office.
- b. Indemnification. Each party to this Agreement shall be liable for the acts of their own officers, employees, and/or agents and the results thereof to the extent authorized by law and shall not be responsible for the acts of the other party, its officers, agents, and employees. The parties agree that the provisions of the Municipal Tort Claims Act, Minn. Stat. Ch. 466 and other applicable laws govern liability arising from the parties' acts or omissions. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to allow a claimant to obtain separate judgments or separate liability caps from the individual parties. Nothing in this Agreement is intended as a waiver of any liability limits to which the parties are otherwise entitled under law.
- c. Notices. Except as provided elsewhere in this Agreement, any notice or demand ("Notice") must be in writing and provided as follows to the other party's Authorized Representative: (a) personal

delivery; (b) first class mail; or (c) nationally recognized overnight courier, with tracking service and all fees and costs prepaid. Except as provided elsewhere in this Agreement, a Notice is effective only if the Authorized Representative has received the Notice ("Receipt"). Receipt is effective when Notice is delivered pursuant to the above-approved methods. However, if the Authorized Representative rejects or otherwise refuses to accept the Notice or if the Notice cannot be delivered because of a change of address for which no Notice was provided, then Receipt is effective upon rejection, refusal, or inability to deliver.

- d. Authorized Representative. The following named persons, or their successors, are designated as the Authorized Representatives of the parties for purposes of this Agreement and notices described in 5.c. of this Agreement. The parties shall provide Notice to each other of any change to the Authorized Representative, which will be effective without necessitating written amendment of the Agreement.

TO THE COUNTY ATTORNEY:

Kathryn M. Keena, or successor  
Dakota County Attorney  
1560 Highway 55  
Hastings, MN 55033  
(651) 438-4438

TO THE VRWJPO:

Tom Wolf, or successor  
Chair  
4100 220<sup>th</sup> Street West, #103  
Farmington, MN 55024  
(952) 440-6805

- e. Termination. Either party may terminate this Agreement without cause upon giving at least 30 days written Notice. In the event of termination under this Section, and if requested by the VRWJPO, the County Attorney will provide the VRWJPO with copies of documents in the possession of the Dakota County Attorney's Office related to the provision of legal services under this Agreement. Upon termination, the Dakota County Attorney's Office shall be entitled to receive compensation for the legal services provided in a satisfactory manner up to and including the effective date of termination, including any costs incurred in providing such services.
- f. Data Practices. The VRWJPO and the County agree that all data created, collected, received, stored, used, maintained or disseminated in connection with the performance of activities pursuant to this Agreement shall be treated in accordance with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. Ch. 13, and the Minnesota Rules implementing the Act, as well as any other applicable state or federal law that applies to such data.
- g. Knowing and Voluntary Agreement. The VRWJPO acknowledges that it has entered into this Agreement knowingly and voluntarily. The VRWJPO also acknowledges that it had a reasonable opportunity to consult with an attorney of its choosing in connection with the negotiation and preparation of this Agreement, and that it has not relied on any advice of the Dakota County Attorney's Office in negotiating, preparing, or entering into this Agreement. Any ambiguity, inconsistency, or question of interpretation or construction will not be resolved strictly against the party that drafted this Agreement. It is the intent of the parties that all language used in this Agreement be constructed and construed to give its natural and ordinary meaning and effect, regardless of any rule to the contrary.
- h. Amendments. Any alterations, variations, or modifications of the provisions of this Agreement shall be valid only when reduced to writing, approved by the parties' respective boards, and signed by the Authorized Representatives.
- i. Waiver. The waiver of any of the rights and/or remedies arising under the terms of this Agreement on any occasion by either party hereto shall not constitute a waiver of any rights and/or remedies in respect to any subsequent breach or default of the terms of this Agreement. The rights and remedies provided or referred to under the terms of this Agreement are cumulative and not mutually exclusive.
- j. Severability. The provisions of this Agreement shall be deemed severable. If any part of this Agreement is rendered void, invalid, or unenforceable, such rendering shall not affect the validity

and enforceability of the remainder of this Agreement, unless the part or parts that are void, invalid, or otherwise unenforceable substantially impair the value of the entire Agreement with respect to either party.

- k. Entire Agreement. This Agreement shall constitute the entire Agreement between the parties and may not be modified orally or in any other manner except in writing signed by both parties.

**ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES**

**Each party agrees the electronic signatures of the parties included in this Agreement are intended to authenticate this writing and to have the same force and effect as wet ink signatures.**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the undersigned governmental units, by action of their governing bodies, have caused this Agreement to be executed in accordance with the authority of Minnesota Statute §471.59.

**COUNTY OF DAKOTA**

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathryn M. Keena  
Dakota County Attorney

Date of Signature \_\_\_\_\_

County Board Res. # \_\_\_\_\_

**VERMILLION RIVER WATERSHED JOINT  
POWERS ORGANIZATION**

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Wolf, or successor  
Board Chair

Date of Signature \_\_\_\_\_

VRW Res. # \_\_\_\_\_