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**Whitewater Joint Powers Board**  
**April 21, 2016**  
**Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center**

**Minutes**

**1. Call to Order:** Chair Matt Flynn called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m.

Board Members Present: Matt Flynn, Richard Hall, Steve Jacob, Claron Krogness, Arlene Nelson, and Roland Wood

Others Present: Ron Benjamin, DNR Fisheries; Jennifer Ender, MPCA; Eric Evenson-Marden, Winona County Planning and Environmental Services Director; Sheila Harmes, Whitewater Watershed; Sara Holger, DNR; Katherine Logan; MPCA; Joe Magee, MPCA; Wyman Schultz; Vaughn Snook, DNR Fisheries; Joyce Tlougan; Winona County Planning and Environmental Services; Paul Wotzka; and Mark Zdechlik, Minnesota Public Radio.

**2. Approve Minutes of March 17, 2016**

A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by A. Nelson to approve the minutes.  
Voting: Yes – 6 (All).

**3. Approve Agenda**

A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by R. Wood to approve the agenda. Voting: Yes – 6 (All).

**4. Approve Consent Items**

Bills & Payroll

Sheila Harmes explained all bills and payroll items. A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by R. Hall to approve the Consent Items. Voting: Yes – 6 (All).

**5. Board Reports**

Steve Jacob

Steve has an agenda item that he would like added to next month's agenda. M. Flynn directed him to coordinate with S. Harmes to add that item to next month's meeting.

Arlene Nelson

Advised there are three (3) openings for Supervisors on the SWCD.

**6. Board Discussion and Action Items**

a. Financial Update:

S. Harmes explained she had enclosed information on the preliminary 2017 Whitewater JPB budget in the packets and that she will submit the proposed budget to the participating counties. A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by A. Nelson to approve the proposed budget. Vote: Yes – 6 (All).

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Joint Powers Board Members

Matt Flynn, Chair  
Olmsted Co. Commissioner

Steve Jacob, Vice-Chair  
Winona Co. Commissioner

Richard Hall  
Wabasha Co. Commissioner

Roland Wood, Secretary/Treasurer  
Wabasha SWCD Supervisor

Arlene Nelson  
Winona SWCD Supervisor

Claron Krogness  
Olmsted SWCD Supervisor

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\*b. Presentation on Whitewater Fish Kill:  
Presenter not present, moved forward on the agenda.

c. Watershed Planning Framework Grant:  
S. Harmes explained the grant monies of \$16,000.00 would be used for GIS staff support from Winona County Planning and Environmental Services. She advised she had submitted the grant to Karin Sonneman for review and that it would be submitted to the Winona County Board on April 26, 2016. A motion was made by R. Wood and seconded by A. Nelson to approve the Agreement between the Whitewater Joint Powers Board and Winona County regarding the Watershed Planning Framework Grant. Vote: Yes – 6 (All).

d. Request for Support to a new MN CREP proposal:  
S. Harmes explained Pheasants Forever is submitting a letter to Secretary Vilsack in support of Minnesota CREP. They are seeking widespread support and have asked if the Whitewater JPB would like to be listed as one of the supporting organizations; this list will accompany the letter. She referred to a handout contained in the packet and explained that the CREP includes 54 counties in Southern and Western Minnesota. A motion was made by A. Nelson and seconded by C. Krogness to support the new MN CREP proposal as a part of the coalition. S. Jacob asked if this supported the Governor’s Buffer Law. Katherine Logan advised that the program is voluntary and not mandatory, that the letter supports the CREP Program. S. Jacob advised he agreed with CREP but not as a part of a coalition. He suggested that the Whitewater Joint Powers Board send its own letter rather than be a part of the list of supporting organizations. M. Flynn asked if A. Nelson and C. Krogness wanted to amend their motion, they stated they wanted to remove the motion. A motion was made by C. Krogness and seconded by S. Jacob for S. Harmes to draft a letter of support for the new MN CREP Proposal from the Whitewater Joint Powers Board. Vote: Yes – 6 (All).

e. Agenda Distribution Discussion  
S. Harmes asked for clarification from the Board on how to distribute future agenda packets. She compared what the JPB is currently doing with what other multi-county JPB organizations (Southeast Minnesota Water Resources Board and SE SWCD Technical Support JPB) are doing. J. Tlougan advised the board that the packet information is now sent to all Winona County Townships. S. Jacob stated Winona County wants to be transparent and will distribute as needed within the county. A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by A. Nelson to distribute the packet as is. Vote: Yes – 6 (All).

f. Ag Certainty Update  
S. Harmes referred to a handout contained in the packet. She advised in Southeastern MN there are 67 farmers certified and that state-wide there are 400 farmers who have signed applications for the program. She stated Southeastern MN continues to lead the way.

\*b. Presentation on Whitewater Fish Kill by Jeff Broberg  
M. Flynn started the roundtable of introductions of the Whitewater Joint Powers Board and those in attendance. Afterwards M. Flynn stressed the presentation was for informational purposes only.

- Summary of presentation:
- The unified investigation was conducted as a crime scene investigation, Broberg’s research used an environmental risk management framework, focusing on probabilities.

- 97 • The toxic event that caused the fish kill was sudden.
- 98 • Fish counts for this stream (South Branch) show that it is a very productive stream.
- 99 • Broberg cited manure applications and use of aerial applied fungicides in vicinity of fish kill
- 100 as probable toxic sources.
- 101 • The Minnesota Trout Association is initiating a plan to assist citizens with pesticide misuse
- 102 reporting.

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104 **7. Public Comments**

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106 Vaughn Snook advised Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup> he would be at the Kreidermacher property  
107 conducting electro-shocking of fish. M. Flynn asked if the trout population is improving in  
108 Whitewater streams. Vaughn advised that it was. He stated that typically there is a cyclical  
109 trend, but that the overall slope of fish populations is improving and increasing. (Brown Trout  
110 at 12") The increase is due to reproduction and NOT re-stocking.

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112 Eric Evenson-Marden; Planning and Environmental Services Director introduced himself to the  
113 Whitewater Joint Powers Board.

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115 Mark Zdechlik, MPR reporter, thanked the Board for allowing him at the meeting for Jeff  
116 Broberg's presentation.

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118 A. Nelson spoke to aerial spraying, advised her husband had gotten sick after spraying took  
119 place near their property.

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121 C. Krogness advised there is good conservation practices on the land. He said he thinks the  
122 Board is doing a good job with voluntary conservation.

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124 S. Jacob commented that Jeff Broberg had speculated during his presentation but the state  
125 did not.

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127 R. Wood asked if anyone had learned from Jeff Broberg's presentation, the answer was that  
128 they had.

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131 **8. Next Meeting:** May 19, 2016

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133 **9. Adjournment:** 10:13 a.m. A motion was made by R. Hall and seconded by S. Jacob to adjourn.  
134 Voting: Yes – All (6).

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138 Respectfully submitted by:

139  
140 Joyce Tlougan  
141 Recording Secretary

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143 Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
144 Roland Wood, Secretary/Treasurer