

**Whitewater Joint Powers Board  
April 17, 2014  
Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center**

**Minutes**

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Matt Flynn called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.  
Board Members Present: Matt Flynn, Roland Wood, Steve Jacob, Richard Hall, John Keefe, and Arlene Nelson.  
Others Present: Sheila Harmes, Rachel Henke, and Joyce Tlougan
  
- 2. Approve Minutes of March 20, 2014**  
A motion was made by John Keefe and seconded by Richard Hall to approve the minutes.  
Voting yes: 6 Motion carried.
  
- 3. Approve Agenda**  
A motion was made by Steve Jacob and seconded by Roland Wood to approve the agenda. Voting yes: 6 Motion carried.
  
- 4. Approve Consent Items**  
Bills & Payroll  
Sheila Harmes explained the bills and payroll listed.  
  
A motion was made by John Keefe and seconded by Steve Jacob to approve the Consent Items.  
Voting yes: 6 Motion carried.
  
- 5. Board Reports**  
Arlene Nelson  
Winona SWCD voted to support the One Watershed One Plan application for the Root River Watershed. The Legislature day at the Capitol went well with visits with Senators Miller and Drazkowski. She had also attended an Organic Valley meeting where the discussion was on grass and milk. Arlene advised that Jim Riddle was invited to Iran to present at an international conference about organic agriculture.  
  
Steve Jacob  
Reported he had attended the Winona County Comp Plan open house. He advised that the topic of discussion at meetings he attended is Ag land prices. Steve stated the One Watershed-One Plan resolution for the Root River Watershed had been approved.  
  
Richard Hall  
Reported that Wabasha County is putting their Water Plan together.

---

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	John Keefe Olmsted SWCD Supervisor

---

Roland Wood

Reported the One Watershed One Plan for the Zumbro River Watershed was approved. Spoke to the uncertainty of the EQIP program.

John Keefe

Advised Angela White is new with NRCS. A Zumbro Watershed performance review was completed; contractors have difficulty working with Olmsted SWCD.

Steve Jacob stated from the Administrative side, what can be done to get a base of customer service. He said he has received comments regarding Winona County's Planning Department: "What a joy they are to work with."

Matt Flynn

Reported One Watershed One Plan passed. A MOU was passed. It's important that this does not become another layer of government.

**6. Board Discussion and Action Items**

- a. Financial Update: Sheila Harmes explained the Check and Money Market, Reconciliation Summary.
- b. DNR Landscape Stewardship Plan Grant Agreement: Sheila explained the contract had been review by the Winona County Attorney for the Whitewater Watershed Landscape Stewardship Plan. The DNR supports the plan. She advised David Schmidt would write the plan, DNR Staff would guide. The grant is for \$25,000.00: \$20,000.00 would be used for plan writing and \$5,000.00 would go to the Whitewater. Some of this will also go to Winona County for office space and computer. The project will be completed in December 2014. A motion was made by Steve Jacob and seconded by Arlene Nelson to enter into an agreement with the DNR Landscape Stewardship Plan Grant. Voting yes: 6 Motion carried
- c. Professional Services Contract for Landscape Stewardship Plan: A motion was made by Roland Wood and seconded by John Keefe to hire David Schmidt to write the plan. Voting yes: 6 Motion carried.
- d. Rental Agreement between WJPB and SWCD: A motion was made by John Keefe and seconded by Richard Hall to accept the rental agreement. Voting yes 6 Motion carried.
- e. Mississippi River – Winona Civic Engagement Grant Report update: Sheila advised that the stressor ID work will be completed in May. An additional story map piece is almost ready to be added to the Mississippi Winona website.
- f. MN Ag Certainty Update: Sheila stated she had attended the Open House Farm Show in Rochester and two open houses: one in St Charles and one in Plainview. Attendance at both was good; approximately 30 at each. She referred to the Bob Hurt

photo for the postcard. The DNR is interested in having producers who rent lands in the Wildlife Management Area to operate in compliance with Ag Certainty.

Mike Flynn commented that the Ag Certainty is getting attention.

- g. Grant Application Update: Sheila had submitted an application for the NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant. She learned that 300 applications had been submitted and that only 40 would be accepted; we were not accepted during the first round.
- h. Biennial Budget Request (FY2016 – 17) Discussion: Sheila stated this is for conservation & water resource needs throughout the state. It is not an application, but an assessment of feasible projects that can be completed, if the necessary funds were available. Sheila is completing a request for funds to complete conservation planning resource maps similar to the maps recently produced for the Middle Branch. She is also adding a request for performance-based incentives for the Farmer-Led Council. What would the Board like to see added to this request? After some discussion, the Board asked that the following be added after discussions with staff in each of the three counties:

\$50,000.00 for Fencing  
\$50,000.00 for cover crops – Grass  
\$100,000.00 for Stream Bank Restoration

- i. JPB 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Discussion: Sheila advised that the Joint Powers Board officially started June 6, 1989. Discussion followed on how to celebrate. It was decided that the Whitewater Joint Powers Board will meet June 12<sup>th</sup> instead of the regular third Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup> and that an open house will take place following the meeting. Invitations will be sent out and cake and refreshments served.
- j. Location for May meeting: The training room at the Whitewater's Visiting Center is not available for the meeting. Instead the board decided to meet in the Discovery Room at the center.

## **7. Public Comments**

There were no public comments

## **8. Agency Reports:**

No agency reports

## **9. Next Meeting:** May 15, 2014

**Adjournment:** 9:55 a.m. Steve Jacob made a motion and seconded by Richard Hall to adjourn. Voting yes: 6 Motion carried

Respectfully submitted by:

Joyce Tloutan  
Recording Secretary

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