

**Whitewater Joint Powers Board
April 16, 2015
Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center**

Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Matt Flynn called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

Board Members Present: Matt Flynn, Roland Wood, Steve Jacob, Richard Hall, Arlene Nelson
Board Member John Keefe arrived at 8:45 a.m.

Others Present: Sheila Harmes; Winona County Planning & Environmental Services; and Joyce Tloutan; Winona County Planning & Environmental Services.

2. **Approve Minutes of March 19, 2015**

A motion was made by Steve Jacob and seconded by Richard Hall to approve the minutes.
Voting yes: 5; Motion carried.

3. **Approve Agenda**

A motion was made by Steve Jacob and seconded by Roland Wood to approve the agenda.
Voting yes: 5; Motion carried.

4. **Approve Consent Items**

Bills & Payroll

Sheila Harmes explained the bills and payroll listed. A motion was made by Arlene Nelson and seconded by Richard Hall to approve the Consent Items.

Voting yes: 5; Motion carried.

5. **Board Reports**

Arlene Nelson

Reported the rental agreement with the Whitewater Joint Powers Board had been approved. She stated there was conversation regarding the county fair which is July 8th and the possibility of SWCD getting a booth next to Winona County Planning. The CTRT program agreement with the Soil and Water District is complete. Arlene advised that August 4th – 6th is the Bismarck Soil Health Tour, SWCD plans to send a supervisor and would like more people to go. She stated it is a good tour and takes two full days to complete. Sheila advised Daryl Buck had received an email that said the date had been pushed back. Arlene advised that SWCD had approved a draft budget and will be posting an office administrator job announcement. At the Organic Valley meeting they are promoting positive projects such as SOS "Save Our Soil". Arlene shared the Dairy's New Pioneers handout.

Steve Jacob

Advised there is a public hearing this evening, (April 16th) creating a feedlot appeal committee. An advantage of an appeal committee is more accountability. If a feedlot owner does not agree with the Feedlot Officer's decision, the concerns can be addressed by the feedlot appeal

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

committee; the intent is there will be no argument. Steve attended a joint meeting between the Whitewater Farmer-Led Council and the Rush Pine Farmer-Led Council at Whitewater State Park. The Councils discussed the 50-foot buffer initiative. There were 21 people in attendance.

Richard Hall

Had nothing to report.

Roland Wood

Advised the 5th Grade Class is having a field day on May 12. He also advised that SWCD is working on their budget.

Matt Flynn

Reported he attended the Root Watershed One Watershed One Plan Public Kick-off Open House in Fountain on April 8th. It was well-attended. He also advised Dodge County officials are having feedlot problems.

John Keefe

Had nothing to report.

6. Board Discussion and Action Items

- a. Financial Update: Sheila Harmes reported \$33,000.00 had been received into the account from the Mississippi Winona Civic engagement grant.

1. Audit contract:

Sheila stated this contract would be for a 2014 Audit. The contract would be for \$2,100.00 with Peterson Company Ltd. A motion was made by Steve Jacob and seconded by John Keefe to approve the audit contract. Vote: Yes, all.

2. Approval of Proposed 2016 budget:

Sheila reported that Pat Moga would like the JPB budget request for 2016 before the end of the month. A motion was made by Richard Hall and seconded by Steve Jacob to approve the proposed budget. Vote: Yes, all.

- b. Letter of Support for Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework:

Ann Lewandowski, U of M Water Resources Center, was invited to submit a proposal for a Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG). As a part of this proposal, she needs letters of support for in-kind matches in resources. Her CIG proposal will involve expansion of the Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework (ACPF) into several small watersheds in Minnesota. The ACPF was developed in Iowa by Mark Tomer, NRCS-Agricultural Resource Center. GIS maps are produced using LiDAR, soils and land use data; the maps identify the most suitable locations for various best management practices. Mark Tomer produced these for the Middle Branch in 2014. The grant provides training for local staff and includes an evaluation to determine its usefulness in making conservation decisions. Steve Jacob stated the maps would generate tangible conversations with farmers and that it could be a great tool. Sheila suggested that the JPB (with support for Winona County Planning GIS staff) could provide \$12,000 in match over 3 years. Frankie Mpagi, Winona County GIS technician, has already received the training and Todd Zielsdorf can attend at a future date. Sheila discussed this with Jason Gilman, Winona County Planning Director, and he agrees with the in-kind support from his staff. The maps can also be produced for other small watersheds in Winona County besides the Whitewater, such as Garvin Brook. Steve stated that if Jason and Sheila

agree with the letter of support, he does. A motion was made by Steve Jacob and seconded by Arlene Nelson to support the letter of support. Vote: Yes, all.

c. Computer Replacement:

Sheila explained that the Winona County Finance Department keeps Whitewater Joint Powers Board's (WWJPB) financial accounts separate from the County's computer. The county owned computer designated for JPB use is dying. Pat Moga asked if the WWJPB could purchase a replacement. Sheila consulted with Mark Anderson, Winona County Information Systems; a replacement cost will be available at the next meeting.

d. EDF Project Work Update:

Mark Tomer, who produced maps using the ACPF (discussed earlier in the meeting) will be in the area on May 14th. This visit is a follow-up meeting to do "ground-truthing" for the maps. This grant was through the Olmsted SWCD.

e. Ag Certainty Update:

Sheila Harmes advised there are currently 18 certified farmers in Whitewater. The Middle Sauk pilot area is expanding regionally. This pilot area will as well, but not as fast. Roland Wood stated we should be able to expand in our three counties, Sheila replied in the affirmative. The Whitewater will be hosting the Ag Certainty State Advisory Committee in June.

f. Mississippi River – Winona Civic Engagement Grant Report Update

Sheila Harmes advised that project work is almost complete.

The following discussion took place:

Sheila Harmes advised that Glen Haag and John Bruihler, Whitewater Farmer-led Council and Rush-Pine Framer Led Council presidents are drafting a letter regarding the buffer issue, to Governor Mark Dayton.

John Keefe stated Floyd had retired and that the position will be posted.

7. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

8. Adjournment: 9:18 a.m. Steve Jacob made a motion and Arlene Nelson seconded the motion to adjourn. Voting yes, All.

8. Next Meeting: May 21, 2015

Respectfully submitted by:

Joyce Tlougan
Recording Secretary

Signed _____
Roland Wood, Secretary/Treasurer