

**Whitewater Joint Powers Board
August 21, 2014
Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center**

Minutes

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Matt Flynn called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.
Board Members Present: Matt Flynn, Rich Hall, John Keefe, Steve Jacob, Roland Wood.
Board Members Absent: Arlene Nelson.
Others Present: Daryl Buck, SWCD; Pat Conrad, EOR; Sue Glende, Winona NRCS; Sheila Harmes, Whitewater; Derek Husmoen, Winona NRCS; Shaina Keseley, MPCA; Katherine Logan, MPCA; Brein Maki, Winona SWCD; Ben Roush, MPCA; Jason Ulrich, EOR.

- 2. Approve Minutes of July 17, 2014 meeting**
A motion was made by Steve Jacob and seconded by John Keefe to approve the minutes.
Vote: Yes – 5 Motion carried.

- 3. Approve Agenda**
Sheila Harmes asked that the agenda be amended. Two action items under the Mississippi River civic engagement grant (6b) need to be delayed until the September meeting and an action item needs to be added under MN Ag Certainty (6d)
A motion was made by Steve Jacob and seconded by Rich Hall to approve the agenda as amended. Vote: Yes – 5 Motion carried.

- 4. Approve Consent Items**
Bills & Payroll
Sheila Harmes explained the bills and payroll.

A motion was made by Roland Wood and seconded by John Keefe to approve the Consent Items.
Vote: Yes – 5 Motion carried.

- 5. Board Reports**

Steve Jacob
Reported the Comprehensive Plan is moving forward; a public hearing will be scheduled. He attended the second certification for the MN Ag Certainty program near Plainview.

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

Rich Hall

Wabasha County is working through budgets. This one is the toughest ever seen.

Roland Wood

Advised that he attended the certification event at the Hoekstra farm.

John Keefe

The Cascade Creek project work is coming along. Olmsted SWCD nominated Dan Keefe as Conservation Farmer of the year. SWCD lease is almost up and there are discussions to house all in one building.

Matt Flynn

Rochester and surrounding areas will be needing to do a flood control update. This was last done in the 1980's, but the area has grown over that capacity. There were a record number of construction permits during the month of June and that trend will continue.

6. Board Discussion and Action Items

a. Financial Update

Sheila explained the financial update.

b. Mississippi River – Winona Civic engagement grant report update

The two action items needed to be delayed until the September meeting; they cannot be completed until the change order is finalized. The change order will include an extension of end dates for some grant objectives connected to the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies.

The third and final Citizen Summit is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, 2014. The purpose of this Summit will be to solicit input on the strategies from citizens. Like the previous summits, the event will include a dinner and opportunities to discuss ideas for water quality improvements.

The Farmer-Led Council will be meeting after the JPB meeting. This will include a presentation of the SWAT modeling work done in the watershed and will be followed by an informational field day to Jim Frederick's farm. Jim is one of the area farmers participating in a strip trial of variable N application rates. Several FLC members are participating with funding from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

c. Landscape Stewardship Plan Update

Sheila reported David Schmidt is continuing work with data sets for the watershed as well as writing the text for the stewardship plan. Data sets include information on biodiversity, percent perennial vegetation, water quality, public/private ownership of land, parcel and population densities, and land use.

d. MN Ag Certainty update

The second farmer, Tom Hoekstra of Wabasha County, has completed his certification. Matt Wohlman visited his farm on August 11th and he and Tom signed the contract. The day included a tour of his farm operation, which includes 92 acres of

cultivated fields. These fields have an average slope of 8%. In spite of steep slope challenges, the farm has various effective conservation practices in place.

1. Cost share contract

A cost share contract of \$ 2,968 needs to be approved by the board for a farmer participating in the MN Ag Certainty program. This is state cost share incentive money and will be used in addition to federal funds to reach a 75% cost share level.

Steve Jacob made a motion to approve the proposed cost share. John Keefe seconded it.

Vote: Yes – 5. Motion carried.

e. Meeting minutes on website discussion

Sheila Harmes noted that there was an inquiry about the Whitewater website not having JPB meeting minutes posted. Posting meeting minutes on the web site were not done in the past. After some discussion, Steve Jacob made a motion to post the JPB meeting minutes after they are approved by the Board on the website. Rich Hall seconded it.

Vote: Yes – 5. Motion carried.

Sheila will post the meeting minutes for 2014 (Jan – July).

f. Results of Whitewater modeling work – Emmons and Oliver Inc. (EOR)

Jason Ulrich and Pat Conrad from EOR presented a summary of their modeling work completed for the Whitewater Watershed and Garvin Brook Watershed. EOR was under contract with the MPCA to develop modeling for the watershed in support of the MPCA's watershed approach.

EOR staff used a Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) as the model for their work in the watershed. Existing conditions/practices needed to be included in the construction of the SWAT model. Information on current crop rotations, planting schedules, tillage practices, and fertilization/manure practices, feedlots were obtained from state agricultural data sources as well as from input from the Farmer-Led Council.

Long-term stream flow information was used from a USGS site in Beaver to run the model for 1970-2010 time period and simulated an average annual response. Future model work should include flow rates from locations in the upland areas of the watershed. The model was run for sediment load, phosphorus and for nitrates. EOR work also included an assessment of the Garvin Brook Watershed. This watershed, however, had less data to incorporate into the model and agriculture has less of an impact than in the Whitewater.

In the modeling work, EOR evaluated different scenarios to reduce sediment and phosphorus loading and nitrates. The model looked at impacts of adding grassed waterways, dredging sediment ponds, adding sediment ponds, longer rotations, cover crops, no-till/minimum till practices.

Model conclusions:

- Significant reductions in all pollutants are possible.
- The model likely under-predicts effects of pond dredging, grassed waterways and cover crops.

- Assessed streambank erosion fraction (60%) has substantial effect on sediment and phosphorus reduction estimates.
- Point sources are fairly insignificant downstream.

Katheryn Logan commented that when water leaves the landscape it has a lot of energy. Stream banks are more erosive and there is a lot of re-suspension of sediment with large rain events.

7. Public Comments

None

8. Agency Reports

NRCS – Sue Glende reported that local work groups are completed. Meetings had diverse representation and good discussions. She introduced new NRCS employee, Derek Husmoen.

SWCD – Daryl Buck reported that the Prigge family was selected for Conservationist Farmer of the year.

The JPB received a notice from MCIT that it will receive a dividend for 2014. The dividend amount will be sent in November and totals \$654.

9. Next Meeting: September 18, 2014

Adjournment: 10:15 a.m. Steve Jacob made a motion and seconded by John Keefe to adjourn. Vote: Yes – 5 Motion carried.

The meeting was followed by the Whitewater Farmer-Led Council meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sheila Harmes
Recording Substitute Secretary

Signed _____
Roland Wood, Secretary/Treasurer