

**Whitewater Joint Powers Board  
December 17, 2015  
Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center**

**Minutes**

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Matt Flynn called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

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

Absent: John Keefe.

Others Present: Sheila Harmes, Whitewater Watershed and Stacie Salo, Winona County Personnel.

2. **Approve Minutes of October 15, 2015**

A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by R. Hall to approve the minutes.  
Voting: Yes – 5.

3. **Approve Agenda**

Steve Jacob requested the Board Reports follow Board Discussion and Action Items. Sheila Harmes stated she had an announcement to add to Board Discussion and Action Items as item h. A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by R. Hall to approve the amended agenda.  
Voting: Yes – 5.

4. **Approve Consent Items**

Bills & Payroll

Sheila Harmes explained the two months' worth of bills and payroll listed. A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by A. Nelson to approve the Consent Items.  
Voting: Yes – 5.

5. **Board Discussion and Action Items**

a. Financial Update: Sheila Harmes stated there was \$50,000 between the money market and checking accounts; will send an invoice to Ag Certainty which will bump up the fund balance.

1. *2014 Audit Report*

The 2014 report is the same as 2013 but less money; reviewed with Pat Moga and received his approval.

2. *Audit Contract for 2015*

The Finance Department requested the 2015 contract be moved to earlier in the year. A revised corrected copy of the contract was mailed; 2015 fee is \$2,150, up \$50 from 2014. A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by R. Hall to approve the 2015 Audit Contract. Voting: Yes – 5.

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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	John Keefe Olmsted SWCD Supervisor

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**b. Ag Certainty Update:**

**1. *Approval of amendment to Ag Cert Grant Agreement***

Sheila explained the pilot phase of the program expires at the end of December 2015; \$25,000 will not be used. The amendment moves the funds to the other pilots. A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by A. Nelson to approve the amendment. Voting: Yes – 5.

**2. *Approval of amendment to Ag Cert Incentives Grant Agreement***

Sheila stated there was a total of \$80,000 to provide incentives with an end date of December 31, 2015. Grant agreement can be extended one year. Of the \$68,000 remaining, all is spoken for except \$3,000 which will be able to be depleted by the end of 2016. A motion was made by R. Hall and seconded by S. Jacob to extend the grant. Voting: Yes – 5.

**3. *Approval of payment for Ag Cert #006 Cost Share***

Sheila stated that paperwork was received for a cost share payment to a farmer participating in Ag Certainty. A payment of \$4,379.04 will help cover 75% of the total project cost. A motion was made by R. Wood and seconded by S. Jacob to approve payment. Voting: Yes – 5.

**c. Adaptive Nutrient Management Project Update:** The grant extension amendment that was discussed at the October JPB meeting was not approved by MDA staff. The remaining \$10,000 in funds will be diverted to another nutrient management grant for Southeast Minnesota. The final report is due in February.

**d. Soil Health Workshop Update:** In August some local farmers were able to attend the Soil Health Management Tour in Bismarck, North Dakota. The follow-up local Soil Health Workshop is now scheduled for Friday, February 5, 2016 at the St. Charles Community Room from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Jay Fuhrer, soil scientist from North Dakota will be speaking. Dan Nath is getting soil samples for a rain simulator that can be demonstrated at the event as well. Sheila will email information to the Board when the details are determined.

**e. Mississippi River Winona Grant Report:** Final report and project is complete. Shaina Keseley will be completing MPCA's portion of the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies this winter. Final approved reports were provided to Board members.

**f. Whitewater JPB 2015 Accomplishments:** Board packets included a summary of projects the Whitewater Watershed Project was involved in during 2015. In June tasks under the Mississippi River –Winona civic engagement grant was complete. Ag Certainty has expanded state-wide and Sheila will be involved in the transition for SE Minnesota.

**g. Recognition for John Keefe:** Claron Krogness, newly appointed supervisor to Olmsted SWCD Board, will replace John Keefe on the Whitewater Joint Powers Board. Sheila will bring a Certificate of Recognition to John at the next Olmsted SWCD meeting.

**h. Announcement:** This morning Sheila received an email notice that the grant application she submitted to BWSR was awarded. The application was submitted under the Accelerated Implementation category of Clean Water Funds. The funds will be used to expand the Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework (ACPF) for more small watersheds within the Whitewater.

**6. Board Reports**

Arlene Nelson

Reported that the 2016 budget was approved; two supervisors attended the State Convention; on January 13, 2016 a strategic meeting will follow the regular meeting; and they have been discussing oriental bittersweet.

Steve Jacob

Reported Winona County secured two broadband grants, Rollingstone-Altura-Elba-Whitewater area and the Pickwick area; half state funded, \$100,000 from Winona County and the remainder from HBC. The new Planning Director, Eric Evenson-Marden, will start at the end of December. New road construction project using Otta Seal will be done on two hills this year; currently have Otta Seal on Hwy. 74 north of Elba. Experiencing controversy with two solar projects and six petitions for dog kennels.

Richard Hall

Working on the levy, preliminary levy set for 4%; having many budget meetings; Elgin levy 22% and Plainview levy 13.4%; also working on three solar projects.

Roland Wood

Forestry Day to be held in Wabasha in February (1<sup>st</sup> half of the month); experiencing budget problems, special meeting to be held December 30, 2015.

Matt Flynn

Working on budgets; Truth and Taxation meeting had over 100 business people in attendance due to large increases.

**7. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**8. Agency Reports**

There were no agency reports.

**9. Next Meeting:** January 21, 2016

**10. Adjournment:** 9:31 a.m. A motion was made by R. Hall and seconded by R. Wood to adjourn.  
Voting: Yes – 5

Respectfully submitted by:

Stacie Salo  
Recording Secretary

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