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**Whitewater Joint Powers Board
February 18, 2016
Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center**

Minutes

1. Call to Order: Chair Matt Flynn called the meeting to order at 8:42 a.m.

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

Others Present: Sheila Harmes, Whitewater Watershed; and Joyce Tlougan, Winona County Planning and Environmental Services.

2. Approve Minutes of January 21, 2015

A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by R. Hall 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 amended 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 Richard Hall to approve the Consent Items. Voting: Yes – 6 (All).

5. Board Reports

Arlene Nelson

Advised that the SWCD Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol will be on March 21 & 22, 2016. The Governor's Water Summit is scheduled for February 27, 2016; registrations to attend this were filled up within a week. Winona SWCD is advertising for a Resource Specialist Position. Arlene also advised the SWCD had approved their contract with Olmsted County (SE Minnesota Water Analysis Lab) for Township Nitrate Testing project work.

Steve Jacob

Reported that he had attended the Drainage and Wetland Conference. He said there was discussion on Lake Pepin and its filling of sediment; 70% of the sediment is from the Minnesota River and 20% from farm/field runoff. He said he found that Southeast Minnesota is more focused on Watersheds than other areas of the state. Steve informed the Board that Winona County is moving forward with a fleet management system. An ATV Ordinance would be discussed at the

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

44 February 23rd Winona County Board of Commissioners meeting. Steve advised the Board that
45 Winona County will be hiring a permanent Independent County Surveyor.
46

47 Richard Hall

48 Richard advised Wabasha County has solar system and dog kennel applications coming in. He
49 said he found the Strategic Session useful, that they discussed where they want to be in 5 years.
50

51 Roland Wood

52 Roland reported that Friday, February 12th was Forestry Day in Wabasha County, there were 53
53 attendees at the gathering. He said Jen Wahls is now the official weed inspector; the contract
54 includes additional activities in addition to AIS tasks. Wabasha SWCD decided not to support
55 RC&D this year.
56

57 Claron Krogness

58 Claron advised that Olmsted SWCD also questioned membership to RC&D. RC&D used to be
59 funded through NRCS; that funding is no longer available. Claron cited that there is a need to
60 promote what SWCDs are doing for landowners through press releases with support from area
61 newspapers.
62

63 Matt Flynn

64 Reported that Olmsted County is having permit issues with the US Army Corp of Engineers. Due
65 to a 2-year waiting period for permits, two Olmsted County Commissioners are going to
66 Washington to talk to representatives about their concerns. As a result of delays in the permit
67 process, the County is being penalized when contracts are delayed.
68

69 **6. Board Discussion and Action Items**

70 a. Financial Update:

71 Sheila Harmes explained the balance is over \$106,000.00 and that \$60,000.00 will soon be
72 deposited from the Ag Certainty grant, adding to the balance.
73

74 b. Watershed Planning Framework Grant:

75 Sheila Harmes explained that activities for this grant are in two phases. The first part will be
76 completing the maps for two small watersheds in the Mississippi River – Winona Watershed.
77 The second part includes ground-truthing the maps and getting feedback from landowners.
78 The work plan has been submitted and once approved, the Whitewater will receive \$32,560 to
79 complete the project. The grant agreement for the project is available for the Board to review
80 and approve. Rich Hall made a motion to approve the Mississippi River-Winona Watershed
81 Planning Framework grant agreement. Steve Jacob seconded it.
82 Voting: Yes – 6 (All).
83

84 c. Ag Certainty Update:

85 Sheila Harmes explained that the second round of the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices
86 (KAP) survey will be started in the Whitewater Watershed. The original survey was completed
87 two years ago. Currently, there are 91 farmers certified in the state, 44 of which are located in
88 Southeast Minnesota. Sheila Harmes advised that the Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton
89 League is holding a Watershed Summit on March 12, 2016 in Bloomington. The agenda
90 includes a recognition of certified farmers.

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- d. Soil Health Workshop Update:
Sheila Harmes advised that the combined Whitewater/Rush Pine Farmer-Led Council Soil Health Workshop was held on February 5, 2016 in St Charles. There were 65 attendees. She said she had received positive results from the attendees and that it was a very good mix of landowners.
Roland Wood said he had attended the Land Stewardship Project's Soil Health Workshop at the American Legion Club on February 4th. Jay Fuhrer was the featured speaker at this event, as well. He said the turnout was good; more than they had expected.

Additional Information:

Sheila reported she had attended the BALMM meeting on February 17th, presentations included information on using chemistry to interpret groundwater trends and importance of maintaining long term monitoring sites. Portions of the presentations included monitoring results in the Whitewater Watershed.
Roland Wood advised he had attended the Buffers Webinar; no new information was provided in the webinar.

7. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

8. Next Meeting: March 17, 2016

- 10. Adjournment:** 9:42 a.m. A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by R. Hall to adjourn.
Voting: Yes – 6 (All).

Respectfully submitted by:

Joyce Tlougan
Recording Secretary

Signed _____
Roland Wood, Secretary/Treasurer