

**Whitewater Joint Powers Board
February 19, 2015
Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center**

Minutes

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Matt Flynn called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m.
Board Members Present: Matt Flynn, Roland Wood, Steve Jacob, Richard Hall, John Keefe, and Leo Speltz.
Others Present: Sheila Harmes; Winona County Planning & Environmental Services; Mark Root, Winona SWCD; Brein Maki, Winona SWCD; and Joyce Tlougan; Winona County Planning & Environmental Services.

Absent: Board Member, Arlene Nelson.
- 2. Approve Minutes of January 15, 2015**
A motion was made by John Keefe and seconded by Steve Jacob to approve the minutes.
Voting yes: 6 Voting no: 0 Motion carried.
- 3. Approve Agenda**
A motion was made by Steve Jacob and seconded by John Keefe to approve the agenda.
Voting yes: 6 Voting no: 0 Motion carried.
- 4. Approve Consent Items**
Bills & Payroll
Sheila Harmes explained the bills and payroll listed. (Note: One check, Ag Cert #003, included in the "Bills Payable" list needs to be approved under agenda item 6b.1)
A motion was made by Steve Jacob and seconded by John Keefe to approve the Consent Items.
Voting yes: 6 Voting no: 0 Motion carried.
- 5. Board Reports**
Leo Speltz
He had attended the Legislation Day at the Capital. A bill will be introduced regarding funding for technical help for SWCDs. Leo advised that Democrats support the bill; Republications may fight it so as to not raise taxes. Brein Maki added that the money that Drazkowski is proposing for SWCDs is coming from the Clean Water Fund; other options are from the General Fund.

Steve Jacob
Advised taxes for Ag Land in Winona County will increase zero (0) percent for the upcoming tax cycle. The Winona County Board of Commissioners is working on filling

Joint Powers Board Members

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| 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 |

the Feedlot Officer position and considering available options, such as a shared position with Wabasha County. He advised they are hearing from citizens not to turn the position over to the state; to keep it local. He advised that Winona County is still looking for a County Administrator; the last candidate had withdrawn. The County will hire a firm to assist with the process.

Richard Hall

Reiterated Wabasha County is working with Winona County regarding the Feedlot Officer position. They have been meeting with BWSR but not much has been accomplished yet.

Roland Wood

Advised that Wabasha had hired a person for Aquatic Invasive Species program; Jennifer Walz starts March 15th. He advised things are getting better in Wabasha County. Roland added that Don Baloun, NRCS state conservationist, retired. Also, Dave Copeland, NRCS, is going to retire. These NRCS positions are not yet permanently filled. Terri Peters has started back at work.

John Keefe

Floyd Whitaker will begin a phased retirement from Olmsted SWCD. He will retire in August.

Matt Flynn

Reported septic tank ordinance is under review. He advised that people are passionate about it. It took 1½ years of work and is almost finished. Matt also advised that there will be a special levee in Olmsted County to help finance affordable housing - \$2.6 million dollars on property alone. Matt stated building codes are harder in Olmsted County, so housing cost goes up. The federal HUD is decreasing, so County has to make up for the difference.

6. Board Discussion and Action Items

- a. Financial Update: Sheila Harmes explained the Checking and Money Market, Reconciliation Summary.
- b. Ag Certainty Update: Mark Root advised Ag Certainty will be expanding. Matt Flynn asked if the four (4) watersheds chosen will remain priority and Mark stated they would. He said \$9 million dollars will be used for the state expansion of the program. Currently Mark is working 50% in Winona County and 50% in Olmsted County for certifications. 35 – 40 came into the Winona office and 17 are finished.

Sheila Harmes advised that the Whitewater Advisory Committee will meet at the Whitewater State Park office Tuesday, February 24th at 10:00 a.m. She referred to the KAP survey document that had been distributed at the meeting. The KAP survey was mailed out after Thanksgiving and without any reminders, there was a 33% response rate – enough for a statistically valid summary.

Mark Root will be presenting at the Clean Water Summit, Saturday, February 21st at Normandale University. He will give an overview of the certification process. He

stated he met with the DNR regarding 25 tracts of land the DNR rents out. Those farmers on DNR land can be manage the rented land as if it were certified, but are not required to certify their own land.

1) Approval of payment for Ag Cert #003 cost share

One producer in the Ag Certainty program has successfully completed structural conservation practices. The Joint Powers Board has state funds to assist with implementation of practices. The JPB needs to approve a cost share of \$7,195.42 for Ag Cert #003.

Roland Wood made a motion to approve the coast share payment Ag Cert #003, Steve Jacob seconded it.

Voting yes: 6 Voting no: 0 Motion carried.

c. Landscape Stewardship Plan Update: Sheila Harmes advised David (Schmidt) is nearly finished with the plan. She said that David had been hired with the Nature Conservancy. His duties for this new position includes developing a Landscape Stewardship Plans for the Cannon and Zumbro Watersheds.

d. Mississippi River – Winona Civic Engagement grant report update:

Sheila Harmes advised Darrell Buck will finish the Restoration and Protection Strategies Tables by the end of the month. These can be used for a One Watershed One Plan or for county water plans. Jake Overgaard has scheduled the next Farmer Led Council meeting for Tuesday, February 24th at the Whitewater Visitor Center at 1:00 PM.

7. Public Comments

Brien Maki stated the SWCD is collaborating with Winona County and are working with Trout Unlimited for a get-together at Farmer's Park. She stated the One Watershed One Plan meeting went well and that the next step is to plan a public hearing open house. Winona SWCD is the fiscal agent; Fillmore SWCD is the day-today contact.

8. Next Meeting: March 19, 2015

Adjournment: 9:24 a.m. Richard Hall made a motion and Steve Jacob seconded the motion to adjourn. Voting yes: 6 Voting no: 0 Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

Joyce Tlougan
Recording Secretary

Signed _____
Roland Wood, Secretary/Treasurer