

**Whitewater Joint Powers Board  
January 15, 2015  
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, Roland Wood, Steve Jacob, Richard Hall and Arlene Nelson.  
Others Present: Sheila Harmes; Jake Overgaard, Winona Co Extension; Sue Glende, NRCS; Mark Root, Winona SWCD; Brein Maki, Winona SWCD; and Joyce Tlougan.  
Absent: Board Member, John Keefe
  
- 2. Approve Minutes of December 18, 2014**  
A motion was made by Steve Jacob and seconded by Richard Hall to approve the minutes.  
Voting yes: 5 Voting no: 0 Motion carried.
  
- 3. Approve Agenda**  
A motion was made by Steve Jacob and seconded by Arlene Nelson to approve the agenda. Voting yes: 5 Voting no: 0 Motion carried.
  
- 4. Approve Consent Items**  
Bills & Payroll  
Sheila Harmes explained the bills and payroll listed.  
  
A motion was made by Steve Jacob and seconded by Roland Wood to approve the Consent Items.  
Voting yes: 5 Voting no: 0 Motion carried.
  
- 5. Board Reports**  
Arlene Nelson  
Advised that Winona SWCD met January 14<sup>th</sup>. Gerald Mueller is the new Board Supervisor. Paul Schollmeier was elected Chair; Leo Speltz is the new Vice Chair. Arlene will remain the representative for the Whitewater Joint Powers Board (Leo is her back up). She stated the Driftless Area Symposium was coming up. She advised there was discussion on the Winona County Feedlot Officer (open) position. Winona SWCD will be the fiscal agent for the Root One Watershed One Plan pilot project.  
  
Steve Jacob  
Referred to the Winona County Feedlot Officer (open) position and asked for input from the Board on how Wabasha and Olmsted counties address feedlot issues. Matt Flynn

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Joint Powers Board Members

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| Matt Flynn, Chair<br>Olmsted Co. Commissioner               | Steve Jacob, Vice-Chair<br>Winona Co. Commissioner | Richard Hall<br>Wabasha Co. Commissioner |
| Roland Wood, Secretary/Treasurer<br>Wabasha SWCD Supervisor | Arlene Nelson<br>Winona SWCD Supervisor            | John Keefe<br>Olmsted SWCD Supervisor    |

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advised Olmsted County has a Feedlot Technician, Martin Larsen. Olmsted's Feedlot Technician is non-regulatory. Assistance is given to feedlot owners, but the permitting comes from the state. Matt Flynn indicated that this works well in Olmsted County, but the County does not have many feedlots anymore. Olmsted County does not want regulatory authority.

Richard Hall stated Wabasha County gave the Feedlot Officer responsibilities back to the state due to past problems. Steve Jacob asked if the citizens want a Feedlot Officer; both Richard Hall and Roland Wood stated that they do.

The Winona County Board of Commissioners has set up a committee to discuss the position. Other related discussion included the need for farmers to develop a CAP plan. Discussion also included perception of farmers, whether a landowner is more comfortable meeting with someone from the county or from the state. Sue Glende offered to send information/rule packet to Steve Jacob.

Richard Hall

Reported that the Wabasha County Feedlot Officer position was still vacant. He stated Wabasha Commissioners had elections: Mike Wobbe is Chair and Rich Hall is Vice-Chair.

Roland Wood

Advised that the Wabasha SWCD meeting will be next week; he had no updates. He stated Tom Gile (BWSR) is helping staff meet deadlines in the absence of Terri Peters, whose husband had had a serious snowmobile accident.

Matt Flynn

Reported DMC events are coming up.

**6. Board Discussion and Action Items**

- a. Election of Officers: On a motion by Steve Jacob and seconded by Richard Hall, Matt Flynn was nominated for Whitewater Joint Powers Board Chair. Vote: Yes – 5 No – 0. Motion carried  
On a motion by Richard Hall and seconded by Roland Wood, Steve Jacob was nominated for Whitewater Joint Powers Board Vice-Chair. Vote: Yes – 5 No – 0. Motion carried.  
On a motion by Steve Jacob and seconded by Richard Hall, Roland Wood was nominated for Secretary Treasurer. Vote: Yes – 5 No – 0. Motion Carried.
- b. Financial Update: Sheila Harmes explained the Check and Money Market, Reconciliation Summary.
- c. Sheila Harmes referred to copies of contracts in the packets. She advised that Wabasha's contract had increased to \$24,000.00 (with \$19,000.00 in reserve to be split with Olmsted Co); the attorney had approved the contract. On a motion of Steve Jacob and seconded by Richard hall, the Board voted to approve the Wabasha SWCD contract for services. Vote: Yes – 5 No – 0. Motion carried.

- d. Sheila advised Olmsted's contract was for \$24,000.00 (with \$19,000.00 in reserve to be split with Wabasha Co) the attorney had approved the contract. On a motion of Steve Jacob and seconded by Roland Wood, the Board voted to approved the Olmsted SWCD contract for serves. Vote: Yes – 5 No – 0. Motion Carried.
- e. MN Ag Certainty Update: Sheila advised that she had gone to a press conference on Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> in St Paul. She stated there were five (5) people there from the Whitewater Watershed and that the Ag Certainty will receive \$9 million for the next five years to transition the pilot program to a state-wide program. These funds are from NRCS's Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). She stated that Glen Haag and Eric & Lisa Klein attended and were interviewed by reporters. The state advisory committee for Ag Certainty will discuss how to move forward/expand at their next meeting. Mark Root advised there are 35 more people in Winona who want to be certified. He stated he will be spending 50% of his time now in Olmsted County.
- f. Adaptive Nitrogen Management grant update: Jake Overgaard gave a power point presentation on his work completed during the 2014 growing season on the Adaptive Nitrogen Management grant. The project included corn stalk nitrate tests, aerial imagery and two field test strips with variable nitrogen application rates. Participating farmers received maps of their fields, a summary of their Nitrogen management, basal stalk nitrate tests results and tools for evaluating their N application rates. In August a field day was held at one field with test strips. An end-of-the-year meeting in December was held for all participating farmers to review results and discuss options for following years. This project will continue for the 2015 growing season.
- g. Mississippi River – Winona Civic Engagement grant report: Sheila advised the semi-annual report is due at the end of February. She said the Landscape Stewardship meeting held in December was a success; feedback was positive.

## **7. Public Comments**

There were no public comments

## **8. Agency Reports:**

Sue Glende, NRCS: Advised the NRCS EQIP 2015 is going to roll out. She gave a summary of funding options for landowners under various programs. The programs/payment schedules change every year and it is difficult to keep landowners informed of all those changes. Sue discussed that the EQIP funding dedicated to Ag Certainty is closed. She asked that the Board send a letter to the acting state conservationist asking for another sign-up period to allow for more Ag Certainty farmers to be able to get cost share funds.

Brein Maki, SWCD: Advised that the first Policy Committee meeting is scheduled next week for the Root One Watershed One Plan. This is an important meeting; the Policy Committee will be adopting By-Laws. She advised the grant agreement was signed January 14<sup>th</sup>.

Jake Overgaard; Winona Co Extension: Advised there are a number of workshops coming up that he will be attending. He will be rolling out the pesticide application tests.

**9. Next Meeting:** February 19, 2015

**Adjournment:** 10:30 a.m. Richard Hall made a motion and Roland Wood seconded the motion to adjourn. Voting yes: 5 Voting no: 0 Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

Joyce Tlougan  
Recording Secretary

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