

**Whitewater Joint Powers Board
July 17, 2014
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, Steve Jacob, Arlene Nelson.
Board Members Absent: Richard Hall and John Keefe.
Others Present: Sheila Harmes; Daryl Buck, SWCD; Jake Overgaard; University of MN Extension/Winona County and Joyce Tlougan; Winona County Planning & Environmental Services.

- 2. Approve Minutes of June 12, 2014 meeting**
A motion was made by Steve Jacob and seconded by Roland Wood to approve the minutes.
Vote: Yes – 4 Motion carried.

- 3. Approve Agenda**
A motion was made by Steve Jacob and seconded by Arlene Nelson to approve the agenda. Vote: Yes – 4 Motion carried.

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

A motion was made by Steve Jacob and seconded by Arlene Nelson to approve the Consent Items.
Vote: Yes – 4 Motion carried.

- 5. Board Reports**
Arlene Nelson
Advised the Winona SWCD meeting took place at the Winona County Fair. At this meeting an overview and discussion of the draft Winona County Comp Plan was done. No new development for partnership discussions with the County.

Steve Jacob
Reported the Comprehensive Plan will go before the Planning Commission at tonight's (July 17, 2014) meeting. He advised numerous people had contributed a lot of hard work to the project.

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 |

Roland Wood

Advised that the Wabasha County SWCD Supervisors had a tour of sites that are candidates for Woodland Manager of the year and the Conservation Farmer of the year. He also advised the Board that Matt Krueger had received a grant that will be used on test plots of corn planted with soy beans and alfalfa. This is a two-year project; the only crop that will be harvested is the corn.

Matt Flynn

Stated he had attended the Glen Haag open house. He is the first certified farmer in the Whitewater Watershed pilot area. Sheila Harmes added that presently between the three (3) counties, 42 residents are interested in joining the project. Matt then advised that the Olmsted County Fair will take place next week. Arlene Nelson commented that she had read an article that stated 5 – 6 years ago 35,000 people attended the Olmsted County Fair and that attendance number now has grown to over 100,000 people.

6. Board Discussion and Action Items

a. Financial Update

Sheila explained the financial update.

b. Adaptive Nitrogen Management Project

Jake Overgaard updated the board on the project and conducted a presentation on the Adaptive Nitrogen Management Project. For the past three years, area farmers have participated in corn stalk nitrate tests. This is an end-of-the-year tool that can be used to tell if the nitrogen application was sufficient or in excess. He stated two (2) farmers have agreed to participate in strip trials, where variable nitrogen application rates are tried and evaluated. This project work also includes funds to add 1000 more acres of aerial imagery for area farmers; Jake will be able to add 15-20 more fields. Participating farmers will be doing more feedback of the program and this will help in the evaluation process.

c. Mississippi River – Winona Civic engagement grant report update

The Stressor ID work is not yet complete. A change order on the grant will need to be done to extend the end date to complete that portion of the grant. Sheila reported the video production is done. The videos showcase what area farmers are doing to protect the watershed while maintaining production of land. These will be shown after the meeting.

d. Landscape Stewardship Plan update

Sheila reported David Schmidt is doing preliminary work on the watershed. She advised that he is incorporating many data sets that assess various aspects of watershed quality and risks. Data sets include information on biodiversity, percent perennial vegetation, water quality, public/private ownership of land, parcel and population densities, and land use. The data will help the steering committee rank and select small watersheds to do more focused protection plans.

e. MN Ag Certainty update

Sheila reported on the Glen Haag event. We received a lot of positive press on the first farmer certification. Articles were included in the Lewiston Journal, Winona Daily News, the Agri-News and the County Today. She advised she had attended a 2-day state advisory committee meeting in Fergus Falls. The meeting included a tour of the Whiskey Creek Watershed. Drainage Management plans are their main concern.

f. Future Grants discussion

Sheila advised the board that the Root Watershed was selected as one of the pilots for the new One Watershed One Plan approach for watershed management. Winona County will be actively involved in that pilot work. Additionally, Winona County Personnel (support staff), are very stretched due to recent staff vacancies. She advised the Board that there will be items that will need to be let go due to this fact; she had to recently decline partnering in one proposal application due to time limits. Matt Flynn asked if there were any future grants that Whitewater could be a part of. The U of M had submitted a proposal to assess small watersheds for specific best management practices for nitrate reduction and included the Whitewater as a potential pilot area in the proposal. The Whitewater was also included in another proposal for stream bank restoration work. Discussion included whether it would be possible to “hire out” for services to complete extra tasks. Steve Jacob suggested taking bids. Matt Flynn wanted it noted that the Board is receptive to outside help.

7. Public Comments

Jake Overgaard advised the Board he is working on an Organic Field Day to take place sometime in August.

A letter from John Jaschke, BWSR Executive Director, was read. It congratulated the Whitewater JPB on 25 years of working to promote a land ethic.

8. Agency Reports

None

9. Next Meeting: August 21, 2014

Adjournment: 9:12 a.m. Steve Jacob made a motion and seconded by Roland Wood to adjourn. Vote: Yes – 4 Motion carried.

The meeting was followed by the Mississippi River – Winona Civic engagement presentation.

Respectfully submitted by:

Joyce Tlougan
Recording Secretary

Signed _____
Roland Wood, Secretary/Treasurer