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**Whitewater Joint Powers Board
June 16, 2016
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, Rich Hall, Steve Jacob, Claron Krogness, Arlene Nelson, and Roland Wood

Others Present: Ron Benjamin, DNR; Mark Ellefson, DNR; Sheila Harmes, Whitewater Watershed; Vaughn Snook, DNR, and Kevin Zytkevich, DNR

2. Approve Minutes of May 19, 2016

A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by C. Krogness to approve the minutes.
Voting: Yes – 6 (All).

3. Approve Agenda

S. Harmes stated she had an addition to the agenda; Item 6.f for SARE application. A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by R. Hall 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 R. Hall and seconded by R. Wood to approve the Consent Items. Voting: Yes – 6 (All).

5. Board Reports

Steve Jacob

Winona County Board is considering a ban on silica sand industry and it is going to the Planning Commission for review. A moratorium is being considered on new dog kennels. The Board has directed the Planning Department to review this to bring it to the highest standards. The dog kennels are highly regulated and meet every standard. The Board is also having a ½ cent for county road improvements. The next step will be public hearings.

Arlene Nelson

Winona SWCD decided to use Peterson for the next audit. No resolutions were submitted. Letters were sent out to homeowners for the township Nitrate testing; 45% have been returned. The Local Working Group meeting was held after the SWCD meeting. Sixteen qualified candidates applied for the Resource Specialist position; of these ten (10) were selected for interviews. Hailey Boltjes was introduced; she is the intern that is helping with AIS activities this summer. The next meeting will be held at the County Fair.

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

45 Claron Krogness

46 There will be a controversial wetland issues addressed at the next meeting. Olmsted County also
47 recently had their Local Working Group meeting. All supervisors that are up for election have
48 filed; one has a challenger.

49
50 Rich Hall

51 Wabasha County needs to decide which Solar Power company to work with. For upcoming
52 elections, Commissioner Springer has an opponent. No one is challenging Rich Hall.

53
54 Roland Wood

55 The Local Work Group met. Chuck Fick has an opponent. Terry Helbig and Nate Arendt have no
56 challengers. Wabasha County is having a time-consuming WCA violation. SWCD financial
57 problems continue.

58
59 Matt Flynn

60 M. Flynn reported that the building boom continues in Rochester. \$800 million is projected for
61 downtown Rochester and will have an impact on neighboring counties.

62
63 **6. Board Discussion and Action Items**

64
65 a. Financial Update:

66 S. Harmes explained the financial update.

67
68 b. Watershed Assessment of River Stability and Sediment Supply Presentation:

69 Mark Ellefson and Kevin Zytovicz from Minnesota DNR provided an overview of their work to
70 identify stability of streams in the Whitewater and its sediment.

71
72 **Summary of Presentation**

73 WARSSS work included an assessment of sediment sources within the watershed, including
74 erosion from roads, the surface (fields) and streambank erosion. Streams of the Whitewater
75 have 2000,000 tons of sediment; 150,000 tons (75%) is from stream banks. An NRCS
76 sediment budget study done in the 1990's came up with 68% of sediment derived from stream
77 banks. The Whitewater main stem has the largest amount of bank derived sediment per
78 stream mile; it has half of the bank derived sediment load in the river system. In the upland
79 areas of the South Fork, bank derived sediment per mile is higher (twice) than in the Middle
80 and North Fork. Streambanks in Middle and North Forks have very cohesive soils.

81
82 Erosion from roads is a minor part of the sediment budget. The greatest impact areas with
83 erosion from roads are in areas of high road density, primarily from gravel roads. Highest road
84 impact erosion is in the North Branch (near Elgin) and in the lower portion of the South Fork
85 (near St Charles).

86
87 Surface erosion impacts were gleaned from the NRCS sediment budget report from 1997.
88 This was very good for long-term stability, water quality and aquatic habitat.

89
90 **Past and Current impacts**

91 Past land use (during 1930s) is main cause of high sediment loads. Historical floodplain filling
92 has increased bank height (channel incision). The historical floodplain was identified. The

93 river system now has a new floodplain that is higher than the historical floodplain. Increased
94 bank heights make banks less stable leading to increases in lateral erosion rates - the higher
95 the bank, the less stable, the faster they erode. Flood peaks are now more exaggerated and
96 this results in more flooding. Streams naturally meander. New floodplain creation generally
97 starts from the top of the stream and works its way downstream. New floodplain creation is a
98 process that works through accelerated bank erosion and takes a very long time.
99

100 The WARSSS evaluates the existing conditions and determines what the potential conditions
101 will be, if given enough time.
102

103 Now that the WARSSS assessment is done, it is driving the Master Plan. The plan will use a
104 prioritized approach to restoring the watershed based upon disproportionate sediment
105 contribution. In this watershed, it can be restored using a top-down approach and the Master
106 Plan will include cost estimates and summaries of sediment reductions.
107

108 **Ideas to improve**

- 109 • Impact can be reduced through road crossing designs that use a geomorphic
110 approach; floodplains need to be considered. In the long-term, road crossings
111 designed this way will have decreased maintenance costs.
- 112 • Consider water and sediment in channel design. Allow the stream to meander.
- 113 • Ideally, start from upstream segments and work down; last to improve will be main
114 stem
115

116

117

118 c. Ag Certainty Update:

119

120 In SE Minnesota, there are now 66 certified farmers totaling over 38,000 acres. Statewide 400
121 applicants have been received. A press release was provided announcing a partnership with
122 Land O' Lakes to promote the Ag Certainty program through their crop consultants.
123

- 124 1. Amendment to sub-agreement between TSA and Whitewater JPB
125 State legislature passed the Ag Certainty appropriation and funding will continue through
126 2017. Included was an amendment to the current agreement between the TSA and
127 Whitewater. The amendment will extend the end date from June 30, 2016 till December
128 31, 2016. S. Jacob made a motion to approve the amendment to the agreement between
129 the SE SWCD Technical Support Joint Powers Board and the Whitewater JPB; R. Hall
130 seconded it. Voting: Yes – 6 (All).
131
- 132 2. Approval of cost share assistance for Ag Cert #9
133 One Whitewater Watershed farmer is seeking Ag certainty certification needs cost share
134 for a grade stabilization structure. All fields have been evaluated and he meets
135 certification criteria. C. Krogness made a motion to approve the cost share assistance
136 contract for Ag Cert #9. A. Nelson seconded it. Voting Yes – 5; R. Hall abstained.
137

138 d. Watershed Planning Framework Grant Update

139

140 S. Harmes provided an update. Grant is executed and 50% of grant funds were received. A
141 meeting was held with Daryl Buck to help identify thresholds for the mapping project. Marty
142 Mollenhauer will complete hydro-conditioning next week.
143

143 e. Xerces Society agenda discussion

144 At last month's meeting A. Nelson suggested that someone from then Xerces Society may be
145 a good for speaker for a future event. The Xerces Society is a non-profit group focused on
146 invertebrate conservation. S. Jacob suggested that more research be completed before the
147 Board makes a decision.
148

149 f. SARE application

150 In March this Board approved an application for a mini-grant application to help fund local
151 farmers to attend soil management workshops in North and South Dakota and follow up with a
152 local field day. This application was submitted and was not awarded. Eleven (11) applicants
153 were received and only one was selected.
154

155 **7. Public Comments**

156
157 Arlene noted that three Winona SWCD supervisor positions are up for election. She did not
158 file, it was a difficult decision. Josh Elsing has filed to replace her. Of the two other open
159 positions, one is unopposed and the other seat has two candidates.
160

161
162 **8. Next Meeting:** July 21, 2016
163

164 **9. Adjournment:** On motion of S. Jacob, and seconded by R. Hall, the Whitewater Joint Powers
165 Board adjourned 10:40 a.m. Voting: Yes – All (6).
166

167
168
169 Respectfully submitted by:

170
171 Joyce Tloutan
172 Recording Secretary
173

174 Signed _____
175 Roland Wood, Secretary/Treasurer