

**Whitewater Joint Powers Board
June 12, 2014
Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center**

Minutes

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Matt Flynn called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.
Board Members Present: Matt Flynn, Roland Wood, Steve Jacob, Arlene Nelson, Richard Hall and John Keefe.
Others Present: Sheila Harmes; Daryl Buck, SWCD; Brein Maki, SWCD; Nate Green; Megan Gallagher; Shaina Keseley, MPCA; Marcie McLaughlin, MDA; and Joyce Tlougan.

- 2. Approve Minutes of May 15, 2014 meeting**
A motion was made by Roland Wood and seconded by Richard Hall to approve the minutes.
Vote: Yes – 6 Motion carried.

- 3. Approve Agenda**
A motion was made by Steve Jacob and seconded by Richard Hall to approve the agenda. Vote: Yes – 6 Motion carried.

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

A motion was made by Roland Wood and seconded by John Keefe to approve the Consent Items.
Vote: Yes – 6 Motion carried.

- 5. Board Reports**
Arlene Nelson
Advised the SWCD did not have any resolutions to submit. She advised they had approved the County allocation for the 2015 budget. The next SWCD board meeting will take place at the County Fair on July 9th at 1:00. They will have a booth there for the duration of the County Fair.

Steve Jacob
Reported the Family Night at the Farm event will be held June 26th at 5:00 p.m. at the Frickson Farm. He also advised the Comprehensive Plan project is moving forward and it appears the plan will meet its completion deadline.

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	John Keefe Olmsted SWCD Supervisor

Richard Hall

Stated their Feedlot Officer funding had to be sent back to the state.

Roland Wood

Advised that Wabasha SWCD is working on the County Water Plan. He stated their budget had been sent to the County. He also advised Board Members and Commissioners toured the Farmer of the Year and the Forester of the Year.

John Keefe

Reported sixty (60) applications of the AD-1026 (wetland drainage and delineation) have been submitted.

Matt Flynn

Advised Day on the Farm in Olmsted County will take place June 28th at the Twohey farm.

6. Board Discussion and Action Items

a. Financial Update

Sheila explained the financial update and mentioned she will need to submit an invoice to the PCA to increase balance in account. There will also be more money in the budget for Ag Certainty. Roland asked Sheila if money goes to Wabasha County out of the Ag Certainty, Sheila advised in the affirmative.

b. Mississippi River – Winona civic engagement grant report update

Sheila stated that MPCA will be providing stressor ID work. When this is received, the strategies can be developed.

c. Landscape Stewardship Plan Update

Sheila advised that Whitewater contracted with David Schmidt to complete the plan. The first Steering Committee met and will plan to meet every six weeks during the plan writing process. The Landscape Stewardship Plan will complement the strategies developed with the Mississippi River-Winona grant. When completed, the MPCA will focus on the restoration efforts in areas of the watershed that have impairments. The Landscape Stewardship Plan will focus on areas that do not have impairments, but need protection strategies to prevent degradation. Steve Jacob questioned efforts to protect waters that are not impaired. Sheila advised that the WRAPS document addresses both restoration and protection strategies.

d. MN Ag Certainty Update

Sheila advised that (4) four farmers (one from each pilot watershed) have been certified. The names have not been released yet. July 2nd is the date when the names will be released at a state-wide Public Relations/Media event. Matt Wohlman will be coming to each watershed before July 2nd to make local announcements. She advised on July 8th and 9th she will be attending the next pilot watershed meeting. This will be in Fergus Falls. She also advised the board that Senator Carla Nelson

met with farmers at the Feltis Farm near Stewartville. Senator Nelson heard concerns from the farmers in attendance, including Ag Certainty.

7. Public Comments

Student Interns Nate Green and Megan Gallagher, addressed the board. They are working with Olmsted County testing well water for nitrates and other pollutants. An information packet that will be sent to the residents was submitted to each board member.

The project will begin June 12th and will end December 31st, 2014. Water testing kits will be sent to 4,000 homes with the hope for 2,000 being returned. Funding for the project is through the MN Department of Ag. The first mailing will go out June 23rd, one zip code at a time.

Brein Maki advised she will be conducting nitrate tests for drinking water at the County Fair and that anyone can bring in samples. Brein also advised the board that the SWCD had approved the budget for 2015.

Daryl Buck advised he had attended a Soil and Water Conservation District Technicians Assistant meeting in St Cloud. He learned at that meeting there is concern for the SWCD retaining staff. There is no stable funding source and what is now received isn't enough to support staff. He stated changing priorities and funding is a statewide SWCD issue.

Matt Flynn read a letter the Whitewater Joint Powers Board had received from the Winona County SWCD, congratulating the board on the 25th anniversary and thanking them for their services.

8. Agency Reports

Shaina Keseley stated that the updated stressor ID work for the watershed will also coordinate with the Landscape Plan. Once the stressor ID work is ready, she will work with Sheila to develop the strategies portion of the grant work.

9. Next Meeting: July 17, 2014

Adjournment: 9:30 a.m. John Keefe made a motion and seconded by Arlene Nelson to adjourn. Vote: Yes – 6 Motion carried.

The meeting was followed with the 25th Anniversary celebration.

Respectfully submitted by:

Joyce Tlougan
Recording Secretary

Signed _____
Roland Wood, Secretary/Treasurer