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**Whitewater Joint Powers Board**  
**March 17, 2016**  
**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, Arlene Nelson, Steve Jacob, Richard Hall,

Members Absent: Claron Krogness

Others Present: Sheila Harmes, Whitewater Watershed; Jake Overgaard, State of Minnesota Extension Office and Joyce Tlougan, Winona County Planning and Environmental Services.

**2. Approve Minutes of February 18, 2016**

A motion was made by R. Hall and seconded by S. Jacob to approve the minutes.

Voting: Yes – 5 (All).

**3. Approve Agenda**

S. Harmes stated the Bills Payable document had been omitted from the package but she had brought hard copies to the meeting.

She added "6h." to the agenda, Meeting Agenda Schedules". She also added "6i." for a "Letter of Support" and "6j", for "SARE Grant Application". A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by R. Wood to approve the amended agenda. Voting: Yes – 5 (All).

**4. Approve Consent Items**

Bills & Payroll

Sheila Harmes explained all bills and payroll items. A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by R. Hall to approve the Consent Items. Voting: Yes – 5 (All).

**5. Board Reports**

Steve Jacob

Reported he had attended the Governor's Water Summit. It was well-attended and included breakout groups for discussions. The SE Minnesota Water Resources Board decided not to apply for an application for a Well Sealing Study. Steve advised that an ATV Ordinance had passed in Winona County.

Arlene Nelson

Reported that Winona County Recorder, Bob Bambenek, had been at the Soil and Water Conservation District meeting and reported on land sales. Terms for three of Winona SWCD Supervisors will expire at the end of the year. She advised the SWCD has a booth at the County Fair. There will be a "Beginning Farmer Gathering" on Saturday, March 19 in Millville; this is a Land Stewardship Project. The SFA Southeast Chapter hosted a "Life of the Soil" event on March

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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

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45 5<sup>th</sup> in Lewiston. It went very well with 157 attendees; Dr. Don Huber, Dr. Art Dunham and Dr.  
46 Michael McNeil presented.

47  
48 Richard Hall

49 Rich Hall reported that Wabasha County re-bonded its Criminal Justice Building at a rate of 1.62%  
50 from 4% with a savings of \$140,000.00. He said the reason Wabasha County received the 1.62%  
51 is because it is double-A rated. Richard said the county is talking about solar power for the school,  
52 county, and Wabasha city. He said Minnesota is 22% green power, at the top of the list of 27  
53 states.

54  
55 Roland Wood

56 Reported the Wabasha SWCD meetings have moved to the fourth Tuesday instead of the third  
57 Tuesday of each month. He said Wabasha SWCD is getting their finances in order.

58  
59 Matt Flynn

60 Reported the Legislature met for 2 ½ days and there are 1200 bills introduced.

61  
62 **6. Board Discussion and Action Items**

63 a. Financial Update:

64 S. Harmes explained the balance for both accounts is over 166,890.00.

65  
66 b. Adoptive Nutrient Management Project:

67 Jake Overgaard of the University of Minnesota Extension Office gave a factual-based  
68 presentation on the Adoptive Nutrient Management project.

69  
70 Summary of presentation:

71 Much of Jake's project work focused on nitrogen. Nitrogen is an input that is needed for  
72 improved corn yield and it is an expense for farmers. The goal is to determine the optimum  
73 amount of nitrogen – resulting in good corn yield while keeping nitrogen expenses at a  
74 minimum. Much of Jake's work has focused on helping farmers determine the optimum  
75 nitrogen application rate that is appropriate for each field.

76  
77 Project work began in 2012 with basal stalk sampling and aerial imagery for seven farmer  
78 participants. Each year, project work has increased; to include more participation from  
79 interested farmers, nitrogen rate test plots, and coordination with crop advisors. For the 2016  
80 growing season 57 nitrogen rate test plots and three advanced test plots are planned.  
81 Participating farmers are from Fillmore, Houston, Olmsted Wabasha and Winona Counties.

82  
83 Jake provided statistics from nitrogen rate test plots from one farmer for a two-year period.  
84 For each year, there was no statistical difference in yield between the two nitrogen application  
85 rates. This indicates that less nitrogen was needed to produce the corn; using less nitrogen  
86 improves the bottom line. Jake noted that corn hybrids are better at absorbing nitrogen and  
87 soils already provide nitrogen to corn crops.

88  
89 Conclusions:

- 90  
91
  - Change is happening
  - The SE Nitrogen BMP program is modeled after this project

- 92 • Project reach has increased (now includes greater farmer participation, more staff
- 93 support and crop advisor support)
- 94 • Multi-year funding will strengthen connections with farmers
- 95 • Sharing of data

96  
97 Steve Jacob commended Jake's work. Jake has gained credibility in working on this project.

98  
99 c. Whitewater Website Revision Proposal:

100 S. Harmes gave the background on the Whitewater website; when Angie Glad resigned,  
101 Nancy North continued the work to make updates to the site. Nancy noted that this website  
102 needed updating. Sheila asked Nancy for a proposal to update the site. That proposal was  
103 \$5880.00. A maintenance proposal of \$1200.00 per year was also submitted. Discussion took  
104 place regarding the maintenance of the website. Sheila stated Nancy would train her to  
105 maintain the site. It was decided that Nancy will train S. Harmes and J. Tlougan to maintain  
106 the site. On motion of S. Jacob and seconded by A. Nelson the board approved the hire of  
107 Nancy North for \$5880.00 to re-design and re-launch the Whitewater Website. Vote: Yes – 5  
108 (All)

109  
110 d. Agenda Distribution Discussion

111 S. Harmes advised the Board of changes in protocol regarding the Board packets. For  
112 example, the lines in the minutes are now numbered. This protocol also includes sending the  
113 agenda packet from all committees and boards to all other committees and boards within  
114 Winona County. The reason for this is transparency; this information is already public  
115 information and it is better to provide too much information than to not provide enough  
116 information. J. Tlougan stated that the Whitewater JPB agenda packets are going to all  
117 Winona County committee/boards. S. Jacob asked if Joyce and Sheila misunderstood the  
118 directive, both advised the directive was very clear. S. Jacob advised that this protocol was not  
119 the intent of Winona County Board, he will follow-up. S. Harmes advised the Whitewater Joint  
120 Powers Board that they could opt out of receiving other committee/board agendas. On a  
121 motion of Arlene Nelson and seconded by Richard Hall the board approved to opt out of  
122 receiving other Winona County agenda packets. Vote: Yes – (5)

123  
124 e. Biennial Budget Request (BBR) Discussion

125 S. Harmes she needed an estimate of how much money the Whitewater needs from the state  
126 for conservation, water quality, soil nutrition, and extra programs. Each LGU needs to submit  
127 this to BWSR by April 15<sup>th</sup>. The Board members discussed what was submitted two years ago  
128 and what would be logical requests to include in this BBR. This BBR can include a continued  
129 request for Agricultural Planning Framework, support to Farmer-Led Council and stream bank  
130 restoration. S. Jacob inquired on the cost. Sheila referred to the previous BBR requests. Matt  
131 Flynn suggested that the requests stay the same. On a motion of S. Jacob and seconded by  
132 R. Hall the board approved Biennial Budget Request to be submitted to BWSR. Before  
133 submitting, Sheila will coordinate with staff from Olmsted, Wabasha and Winona Counties.

134  
135 f. Watershed Planning Framework Grant Update

136 S. Harmes advised she will need a contract between the Whitewater Joint Powers Board and  
137 Winona County for GIS services to support the project. Sheila advised she will send the  
138 contract to County Attorney Karin Sonneman for review; it will be available at next month's  
139 meeting.

140  
141 g. Ag Certainty Update

142 S. Harmes advised that there was a booth at the Agri News Farm Show to increase  
143 awareness for the program. The booth did result in some farmers signing up for Ag Certainty.  
144

145 h. Meeting Agenda Schedules

146 S. Harmes advised the Board that Jeff Broberg had requested to present a 30 – minute  
147 presentation on the South Branch fish kill to the Board. Entities such as the DNR, MDA, and  
148 PCA would be invited to attend. The Board gave permission for Mr. Broberg to present a 30 –  
149 minute informational presentation. It will be on the April 21, 2016 agenda.  
150

151 i. Letter of Support

152 S. Harmes explained that she was contacted by Neal Mundahl (WSU). He is preparing a  
153 proposal to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund for a project entitled  
154 “Responsive Water Quality Monitoring: Southeastern Minnesota Trout Streams”. He asked for  
155 a letter of support from this Board. After discussion the board decided not to provide a letter of  
156 support; this board prefers to support projects that result in on-the-ground projects rather than  
157 research-based projects.  
158

159 j. SARE Application

160 S. Harmes is seeking the Board’s approval to apply for a SARE mini-grant to apply for funds  
161 for a farmer-led council trip to North and South Dakota with a local follow-up education event,  
162 similar to what was done this past year (trip to Burleigh County in August 2015 and local soil  
163 health workshop in February 2016). She stated the grand deadline is May 31, 2016. S. Jacob  
164 advised he had heard positive things about last year’s project. On a motion of A. Nelson and  
165 second by S. Jacob the board voted to approve the application. Vote: Yes – All (5)  
166

167 **7. Public Comments**

168 There were no public comments.  
169

170 **8. Next Meeting:** April 21, 2016  
171

172 **10. Adjournment:** 10:53 a.m. A motion was made by R. Hall and seconded by S. Jacob to adjourn.

173 Voting: Yes – All (5)  
174  
175  
176

177 Respectfully submitted by:

178  
179 Joyce Tlougan  
180 Recording Secretary  
181

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