

**Whitewater Joint Powers Board
May 21, 2015
Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center**

Minutes

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Matt Flynn called the meeting to order at 8:41 a.m.
Board Members Present: Matt Flynn, Roland Wood, Steve Jacob, Richard Hall, Arlene Nelson and John Keefe.

Others Present: Sheila Harmes; Winona County Planning & Environmental Services; Daryl Buck; Winona SWCD and Joyce Tlougan; Winona County Planning & Environmental Services.
- 2. Approve Minutes of April 16, 2015**
A motion was made by Steve Jacob and seconded by John Keefe to approve the minutes.
Voting yes: All.
- 3. Approve Agenda**
A motion was made by Steve Jacob and seconded by John Keefe to approve the agenda. Voting yes: All.
- 4. Approve Consent Items**
Bills & Payroll
Sheila Harmes explained the bills and payroll listed. She advised she will submit an invoice to the Mississippi River – Winona. A motion was made by Richard Hall and seconded by Roland Wood to approve the Consent Items.
Voting yes: All.
- 5. Board Reports**
Richard Hall
Richard advised he had gone to the Southeast Minnesota Water Resources Board meeting; Steve Jacob also attends. Sealing wells is a top priority; \$112,000 is available for this.

Roland Wood
Roland advised the Run-off Simulator will be at the Dean Klein farm for Wabasha County Family Night on the farm. He said the simulator is available for everyone.

John Keefe
John advised the lease had been signed for the building (for Olmsted SWCD).

Arlene Nelson
Arlene advised resolutions had been coming in. She also advised the Regional SWCD meeting will be held June 17th. Winona SWCD accepted an audit bid and had advertised for the Office

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

Administrator position. She reminded the group that the Bismarck Tours had been changed to August 5 – Aug 7, 2015.

Steve Jacob

Reported explained the responsibilities of the Feedlot Committee. He reported he is on the Southeast MN Resource Board. He advised John Sloan, who was a charter member of the Joint Powers Board, had passed away and noted that something could be sent from the Board. Winona County is working on an ATV ordinance and Steve explained concerns associated with ATV's and safety. Any new ordinance should be consistent with ordinances of St Charles, Lewiston and Plainview. The Planning Commission will meet this evening; discussion will include feedlot regulations and whether the county 1500 animal unit cap should be lifted. Board members discussed the pros and cons of this action.

Matt Flynn

Olmsted County is figuring out what the State Legislature did with regards to laws, budgets, and the like. He received an update on the Zumbro Watershed; sediment loads have not come in as predicted.

6. Board Discussion and Action Items

- a. Financial Update: Sheila Harmes explained the financials.
- b. Ag Certainty Update: Sheila gave a brief update and read an email from Brad Redlin on latest legislative funding information. There are currently 39 certifications within the state and MDA has a goal of 50 by July. Sheila noted that with the expansion of the Ag Certainty program, farmers with operations outside the Whitewater Watershed can now seek certification. To better clarify this, the current contracts for services with each of the partner SWCD's need addendums stating that farmers outside the Whitewater, but within the three participating counties can also be certified.
 - 1) Addendum for contract for services with Olmsted County SWCD
 - 2) Addendum for contract for services with Wabasha County SWCD
 - 3) Addendum for contract for services with Winona County SWCD

On a motion of Richard Hall and seconded by Steve Jacob the Board approved the above three addendums. Voting Yes: All.

- c. SARE Grant Request for Proposal
Sheila explained the SARE grant and that SARE has "mini grants" for courses, field day, etc, and that she would like to submit a grant application to fund local farmers to attend the Soil Health Tour to Bismarck. On a motion by John Keefe and seconded by Steve Jacob the Board approved the submission of a SARE grant. Voting: Yes – All.
- d. Computer Replacement Update
Sheila advised she spoke with Mark Anderson. He indicated that the Whitewater Joint Powers Board will not need to spend any money on a new computer. His department, (Information Systems), will refurbish one for the Whitewater Joint Powers Board usage.
- e. EDF (Environmental Defense Fund) project work update
Sheila explained she had toured the Middle Branch Whitewater with Mark Tomer. Two years ago he developed maps of the Middle Branch that identified most effective locations for

various best management practices. This was his opportunity to assess whether the maps were accurate.

f. Mississippi River – Winona civic engagement grant report update

Sheila advised the work is finished and that the project will be completed at the end of June.

7. Public Comments

Daryl Buck stated SWCD funding passed the House but that Legacy funding didn't pass anything. Winona County received ten (10) applications for the open position in SWCD and that five (5) will be interviewed.

Sheila Harmes spoke to the passing of John Sloan and asked for permission to send a \$25.00 donation in John Sloan's name, to the rest home where he last resided. On a motion of Steve Jacob and seconded by Richard Hall the Board approved Sheila's request. Voting: Yes – All.

Matt Flynn reminded the Board next month's meeting will be held on June 18th. This meeting will be held at the St Charles Community Room there will be a tour following that meeting.

8. Adjournment: 9:38 a.m. Steve Jacob made a motion and Arlene Nelson seconded the motion to adjourn. Voting: Yes – All.

Respectfully submitted by:

Joyce Tlougan
Recording Secretary

Signed _____
Roland Wood, Secretary/Treasurer