

**Whitewater Joint Powers Board
October 15, 2015
Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center**

Minutes

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Matt Flynn called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

Board Members Present: Matt Flynn, Roland Wood, Arlene Nelson, Steve Jacob, Richard Hall and John Keefe.

Others Present: Mark Root, Winona SWCD; Matt Kruger, Wabasha SWCD; Sheila Harmes, Whitewater Watershed; and Joyce Tlougan, Winona County Planning & Environmental Services.

- 2. Approve Minutes of September 17, 2015**

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

Voting: Yes – All.

- 3. Approve Agenda**

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

Voting: Yes – All.

- 4. Approve Consent Items**

Bills & Payroll

Sheila Harmes explained the bills and payroll and pointed to the fact regarding MVTL, "Adaptive Nutrient Management and the cost of \$180.00", had been omitted on the Bills Payable list. A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by A. Nelson to approve the Consent Items as explained.

Voting: Yes – All.

- 5. Board Reports**

Arlene Nelson

Reported that the MASWCD Annual Meeting is December 6 – 8. Arlene stated that the Winona SWCD supervisors discussed and submitted votes on 14 (fourteen) MASWCD resolutions. Due to Veteran's Day Holiday, next month's meeting was re-scheduled for Thursday, November 12th.

Steve Jacob

Reported Winona County received applications for broadband and the project will start in 2016. He advised 2 (two) solar applications had come in, one of which has been delayed. He advised the project(s) would affect crop land and Winona County zoning. He said the new administrator is on board and doing well and he advised that Jake Overgaard, of the Extension Office ran data on the average rent prices and the corn and bean break-even prices.

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

Spoke to Solar Energy, that his 40 (forty) panels were put up last week and should be in the grid on Monday. Discussion followed regarding Solar Energy. He advised there is a Solar System going in Wabasha but location was not known.

Roland Wood

Advised that Wabasha SWCD is having bookkeeping problems and hope to have it resolved by the end of October.

John Keefe

Reported that the Olmsted SWCD supervisors scheduled a special meeting to fill a supervisor vacancy and to discuss moving staff to a new location. Claron Krogness was appointed to fill the supervisor vacancy. Claron had worked for NRCS previously. The Board also decided to move Olmsted SWCD staff to the Olmsted County Building. Anticipated moving date is January 1, 2016.

Matt Flynn

Added to John Keefe's report and stated they had met with Olmsted SWCD last week to consider options related to office locations. The Olmsted County Public Works Director serves as Supervisor for SWCD. SWCD's projects include much more than rural projects, such as urban runoff issues.

6. Board Discussion and Action Items

- a. Financial Update: Sheila Harmes explained the finances to the Board and explained the reconciliation dollars should have been subtracted rather than added together, that the correct total is \$89,666.55.
- b. Adaptive Nutrient Management Project update: Sheila advised that the end date for the Adaptive Nutrient Management Project grant will be extended. Some funds will not be needed for the tasks originally detailed in the grant. Jake Overgaard, who is doing much of the work with area farmers is working on a revised work plan to include an evaluation of project outcomes and summary reports for each of the farmers that are in the program. These should help with nutrient application decisions in their operations. The amended grant will be brought before the Board at the December JPB meeting.
- c. Ag Certainty Update:
 1. *Approval of amendment to contract for services with Winona SWCD*
Sheila spoke to the grant draft and explained the amendment. She stated the Winona County Attorney had recommended an addendum instead of an amendment. She read the addendum to the Board and pointed to the 2 (two) changes that had been made. A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by A. Nelson to approve the addendum. Voting: Yes – All.
 2. *Approval of payment for payment for Ag Cert #1 Cost Share*
Sheila explained and shared invoices she had received from the farmer in the amount of \$522.11. Sheila requested the board approve the \$522.11 in two (2) payments. A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by J. Keefe to approve the \$522.11 in two (2) payments. Voting: Yes – All.

3. *Approval of Cost Share assistance for Ag Cert #6*
Sheila explained and referred to the file that she presented to Chairperson M. Flynn. On motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by J. Keefe to approve the cost share assistance for Ag Cert #6. Voting: Yes – All.
4. *Approval of Cost Share assistance for Ag Cert #7*
Discussion took place and a motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by R. Hall to approve the cost share assistance for Ag Cert #7. Voting: Yes – All.

7. Public Comments

Sheila advised she has received the signed grant agreement for next year's participation in the Ag Certainty program. Before these funds can be used, the JPB needs to spend down funds in the 2015 grant agreement.

John stated the Trout Unlimited funded project had gone very well. That it was a good project and seems to be very successful; money well spent.

Matt Kruger advised that he will be getting more time in Ag Certainty due to additional people being hired at Wabasha SWCD.

Sheila shared a handout referencing an upcoming Women Caring for the Land event.

Discussion took place regarding the November meeting and existing conflicts by board members to attend. It was decided by consensus there would not be a meeting in November unless something comes up that warrants the Board's decision before the December meeting. In either case, Joyce will post to the media.

8. **Adjournment:** 9:37 a.m. R. Hall made a motion and J. Keefe seconded the motion to adjourn. Voting: Yes – All

8. **Next Meeting:** December 17, 2015

Respectfully submitted by:

Joyce Tlougan
Recording Secretary

Signed _____
Roland Wood, Secretary/Treasurer