

**Whitewater Joint Powers Board
October 16, 2014
Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center**

Minutes

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Matt Flynn called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

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

Others Present: Sheila Harmes, Whitewater; Mark Root; and Joyce Tloutan, Winona County Planning & Environmental Services.

John Keefe arrived at 8:39 a.m.

- 2. Approve Minutes of September 18, 2014 meeting**

A motion was made by Steve Jacob and seconded by Richard Hall to approve the minutes. Vote: Yes – 6 Motion carried.

- 3. Approve Agenda**

Sheila added "Request for Proposal Cover Crops Impacts and Economics" as a discussion item.

A motion was made by Roland Wood and seconded by Steve Jacob to approve the amended agenda. Vote: Yes – 6 Motion carried.

- 4. Approve Consent Items**

Bills & Payroll

Sheila Harmes explained the bills and payroll.

A motion was made by Steve Jacob and seconded by Arlene Nelson to approve the Consent Items. Vote: Yes – 6 Motion carried.

- 5. Board Reports**

Arlene Nelson

Reported at her last meeting resolutions were discussed and SWCD approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Winona County for Weed Management. They were updated on One Watershed One Plan resolution with the Root (river), and discussed the

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

budget. She had traveled to CO, ID, and UT sponsored by Organic Valley and visited (11) eleven organic farms.

Steve Jacob

Reported updating on the Comprehensive Plan and that it is scheduled to go before the Winona County Board on November 13, 2014. He advised the Board that the Winona County Board of Commissioners had set the Property Tax Levy at (0) zero percent; the levy has been the same for the past 5 years.

Richard Hall

He had nothing to report, he just returned from a vacation from Ireland.

Roland Wood

Reported that NRCS has new staff in Wabasha. SWCD is working on the budget and at this time does not know what is available from the state.

John Keefe

Reported on project planned for Cascade Creek to provide storm water retention to slow water flow to Zumbro River.

Matt Flynn

Advised Olmsted County will seek re-bids for the Cascade Creek-Storm Reduction, due to the first bid coming in at double the amount that planned. He advised the One Watershed One Plan had passed.

6. Board Discussion and Action Items

a. Financial Update

Sheila explained the financial update. She submitted an invoice for the Landscape Stewardship Plan project. The audit for 2013 was reviewed, more funds were directed towards contract services than in 2012.

A motion was made by John Keefe and seconded by Steve Jacob to approve the audit. Vote: Yes – 6 Motion carried.

b. Mississippi River – Winona Civic engagement grant report update

Sheila Harmes explained. She reminded the Board the Citizen Summit is scheduled for the November 12th at the Tau Center. Roland Wood, Steve Jacob, and Arlene Nelson stated they will attend. Work is continuing on the strategies for the watershed restoration and protection within the Mississippi River-Winona watershed. This information will be summarized for the Citizen Summit.

c. MN Ag Certainty update

4 (four) Farmers had been certified in the Ag Certainty program. We now have 6 (six) that are certified. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is willing to provide more

funds for the second year of the pilot project. Funds are available to allow Mark Root (Winona SWCD) to be full time with assistance with the program. Funds to increase contract for services with Olmsted and Wabasha SWCDs are also available.

Two farmers seeking certification are applying for state cost share.

A motion was made by Steve Jacob and seconded by Arlene to approve the Cost Share assistance for Ag Cert #2. Vote: Yes – 6 Motion carried.

A motion was made by Roland Wood and seconded by Richard Hall to approve the Cost Share assistance for Ag Cert #3. Vote: Yes – 6 Motion carried.

d. Cover Crop proposal

The National Wildlife Federation is seeking proposals for research projects assessing the economics of cover crops and effectiveness for improving water quality. Proposals cannot exceed \$10,000 and no administrative fees are covered. Deadline is November 21, 2014. Sheila asked for a board discussion. More research is needed, and if this project seemed to be a good fit for farmers in the Whitewater this may be on next month's agenda.

7. Public Comments

None

8. Agency Reports

None

9. Next Meeting: November 13, 2014, due to scheduling conflicts of the Board Chair, Matt Flynn.

Adjournment: 9:37 a.m. Richard Hall made a motion and seconded by John Keefe to adjourn. Vote: Yes – 6 Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

Joyce Tlougan
Recording Secretary

Signed _____
Roland Wood, Secretary/Treasurer