

**Whitewater Joint Powers Board
September 17, 2015
Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center**

Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Matt Flynn called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Board Members Present: Matt Flynn, Roland Wood, Arlene Nelson, and John Keefe

Absent: Board Members Steve Jacob and Richard Hall

Others Present: Shaina Keseley, MPCA; Mark Root, Winona SWCD; Tom Gile, BWSR; Sheila Harmes, Whitewater Watershed; and Joyce Tlougan, Winona County Planning & Environmental Services.

2. **Approve Minutes of August 20, 2015**

A motion was made by Roland Wood and seconded by John Keefe to approve the minutes.

Voting yes: All

3. **Approve Agenda**

Sheila Harmes stated that she would like to add item "f" under Action Items.

A motion was made by John Keefe and seconded by Arlene Nelson to approve the agenda as amended. Voting yes: All

4. **Approve Consent Items**

Bills & Payroll

Sheila Harmes explained the bills and payroll listed. A motion was made by Roland Wood and seconded by John Keefe to approve the Consent Items.

Voting yes: All

5. **Board Reports**

Arlene Nelson

Reported the SWCD met Wednesday and approved the sub-agreement with the SE SWCD Technical Support JPB to employ Mark for continued work on Ag Certainty during 2016. She advised on October 27 – 29th, they will send staff to the BWSR Academy.

John Keefe

Reported that Floyd Whitaker is now retired; Skip Langer has taken over his position. He said he heard about more costs associated with SWCD's move to Olmsted County. He also said that he

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

took Erik Smith (USGS) around the watershed after the August meeting and found some potential sites for the Subsurface Drainage Impacts on Groundwater Study.

Roland Wood

Advised they hadn't had a meeting. He had attended an area district meeting on September 15th in Elgin that provided opportunities for questions about buffers and how SWCD could work with landowners. At this meeting, a 50 feet buffer was marked out from the stream; it reached into 7 rows of corn. He said it was a good turn out and the meeting was very informative.

Matt Flynn

Reported the preliminary budget for Olmsted County is finished. John asked about the Lake Shady project, Matt said more funding is coming in and was approved last week. He said it is now under budget and that bids are coming in. They would like to approve the bids and start work this Fall.

6. Board Discussion and Action Items

- a. Financial Update: Sheila Harmes updated the Board on finances.
- b. Mississippi River – Winona Watershed Pollutant Reduction Project: Shaina Keseley, MPCA, gave a report to Board members on progress to date and background information on the Pollutant Reduction Project for the Mississippi River-Winona Watershed. MPCA contracted with Emmons & Oliver Resources, Inc. to complete the TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) study and the report is currently in a 30-day public review period until September 24th. A TMDL identifies the pollutants that are causing impairments and determines how much of each pollutant can enter a waterbody and still meet water quality standards.

Half of the work is done for the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) for the Watershed. She complimented Sheila, Daryl Buck and Nancy North on their work on portions of the WRAPS. Shaina will complete the MPCA's portion of the WRAPS this winter. Matt asked if progress was being made. The public needs to know that improvements are being made. Matt asked that a fact sheet or summary be put together with information on water quality results. Shaina suggested that we refer to the data analysis report that was completed for the watershed.

- c. One Watershed One Plan Report: Tom Gile, BWSR, reported One Watershed One Plan in the state. The Minnesota Legislature gave BWSR the authority to assist local governments in transitioning water plans to plans that are based on watershed boundaries rather than political boundaries. He advised that 2016 is the transition year with a goal to transition to One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) in Minnesota by 2025. A total of \$4.2 million was appropriated by the Legislature to help facilitate this over the next two years.

Including the Root River Plan area, there are five pilots in the state. The others are Lake Superior North, North Fork Crow River, Red Lake River and Yellow Medicine River. Unlike the

other pilot areas, the Root River Plan Area does not have any overarching entity that can provide structure for the development of a 1W1P. Houston Engineering is assisting the Root River Plan area with plan development. He said areas where there are no local water boards in place causes complexity. Tom referred to a map that he distributed to Board Members depicting *suggested* boundaries. If the Mississippi River-Winona Watershed were to transition to 1W1P, it does not mean that the Whitewater JPB would have to change its format. He then opened up for questions. Matt stated the Whitewater Joint Powers Board just want a good product. Shaina added there is a link between BWSR and WRAPS regarding the One Watershed One Plan project; that the two entities work and talk with each other.

d. Ag Certainty Update:

1. Approval of sub-agreement TSA 7 and Whitewater Joint Powers Board:

Sheila asked for approval of the sub-agreement contingent on the County Attorney's approval. Afterwards she explained she would get the document to Matt for signature, then to the SE SWCD Technical JPB. On a motion by Arlene Nelson to approve the sub-agreement contingent on the County Attorney's approval and seconded by John Keefe to grant approval. Voting: Yes – All

2. Approval of Cost Share assistance for Ag Cert #5:

Sheila shared the contract with the Board and explained the cost share. On a motion by Roland Wood and seconded Arlene Nelson the approved the cost share assistance for Ag Cert #5. Voting: Yes – All

e. CWP proposal update:

Sheila submitted a request for proposal under BWSR's Accelerated Implementation grant application. The application is to expand Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework within the Whitewater and Winona County. The grant total is \$32,560.00.

f. Female Landowners NRCS Grant:

Sheila explained that Beth Kallestad is working on coordinating three "Women Caring for the Land" events. One of these events will be held during October in St Charles and the focus is Soil Health. She asked the board if the Whitewater logo can be used to publicize the event. A motion was made by John Keefe and seconded by Arlene Nelson to approve partnership in the "Women Caring for the Land" event. Voting: Yes – All

7. Public Comments

Mark Root reported the Ag Certainty project has gone state-wide. Applications continue to come in; 70 people are on his list with half of them in the Whitewater. Matt advised this information must go out to the public.

Matt asked Shaina if there were any updates on the recent fish kill. Shaina stated there was nothing conclusive. By the time the MPCA and other state agencies got to the location the water was already flushed down. Final fish tissue analysis is not back yet and that the MDA is heading the investigation. Shaina will let the Board know of any updates in the investigation.

8. Adjournment: 9:38 a.m. John Keefe made a motion and Roland Wood seconded the motion to adjourn. Voting: Yes – All

8. Next Meeting: October 15, 2015

Respectfully submitted by:

Joyce Tlougan
Recording Secretary

Signed _____
Roland Wood, Secretary/Treasurer