

**Whitewater Joint Powers Board  
September 18, 2014  
Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center**

**Minutes**

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Matt Flynn called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.  
Board Members Present: Matt Flynn, Rich Hall, Steve Jacob, and Roland Wood.
- Others Present: Sheila Harmes, Whitewater; Brein Maki, Winona SWCD; and Joyce Tloutan, Winona County Planning & Environmental Services

Arlene Nelson arrived at 8:40 a.m.  
John Keefe arrived at 8:42 a.m.

- 2. Approve Minutes of July 17, 2014 meeting**  
A motion was made by Steve Jacob and seconded by Richard Hall to approve the minutes. Vote: Yes – 4 Motion carried. Nelson and Keefe not present.

- 3. Approve Agenda**  
A motion was made by Steve Jacob and seconded by Roland Wood to approve the agenda. Vote: Yes – 4 Motion carried. Nelson and Keefe not present.

- 4. Approve Consent Items**  
Bills & Payroll  
Sheila Harmes explained the bills and payroll.

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

**5. Board Reports**

Steve Jacob  
Reported the Comprehensive Plan will go before the Planning Commission this evening. He advised a lot of hard work had gone into the Plan.

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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	John Keefe Olmsted SWCD Supervisor

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Rich Hall

Just returned from vacation; nothing to report.

Roland Wood

Advised Wabasha County is working on the budget.

John Keefe

Advised he had no report.

Matt Flynn

Olmsted County finished their budget. He stated they work on it all year instead trying to put it together in September.

Arlene Nelson

Advised she had just returned from vacation; she had nothing to report.

## **6. Board Discussion and Action Items**

### **a. Financial Update**

Sheila explained the financial update.

### **b. Mississippi River – Winona Civic engagement grant report update**

Sheila Harmes explained payment on the contract for services with Nancy North. A new contract for services needs to be signed. The current contract end date is October 2014; a change order made on the Mississippi River-Winona grant changed the end dates for the tasks that Nancy is working on until February 2015.

A motion was made by Steve Jacob and second by Arlene Nelson to approve the Contract for Services with Nancy North. Vote Yes: 6 Motion carried.

Sheila Harmes advised Brien Maki will be assisting with development of the Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) work. A contract for services with Winona SWCD needs to be approved for these tasks to be completed. She advised that the Citizens Summit will take place February 12<sup>th</sup> at the Tau Center.

A motion was made by Steve Jacob and second by Richard Hall to approve a Contract for Services with the Winona SWCD. Vote Yes: 6 Motion carried.

### **c. MN Ag Certainty update**

The Whitewater JPB has received the second portion of the Ag Certainty implementation funds for the first year of the pilot program. Sheila Harmes is asking for the Board's approval for the FY2015 MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program grant agreement. The amount of this grant agreement is \$56,250.00. The second year implementation funds will soon be available. Sheila will be attending the next pilot meeting in St Cloud on Sept 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

A motion was made by Steve Jacob and second by Richard Hall to approve the 2015 MN Agriculture Water Quality Certification Program grant agreement. Vote Yes: 6 Motion carried.

**d. Trout Unlimited Letter of Support**

Trout Unlimited (TU) is seeking a letter of support from the Joint Powers Board for their proposal for a new Regional Conservation Partnership Program that includes the Driftless Area. Matt Flynn suggested changes to the draft letter included in the Board packets. The letter needs to be more positive and specifically mention the need to support a project with local TU chapters and projects within the Whitewater Watershed. He stated the Board would like to work with Trout Unlimited in our area and asked that Sheila re-draft the letter to include wordage such as “Our intent is to work with Trout Unlimited in our area.”

Steve Jacob agreed with Matt. He stated the Board is focusing on the future. Sheila will make the recommended edits to the draft letter and email to board members for review. Matt Flynn will sign the final letter.

A motion was made by Steve Jacob and second by Richard Hall to approve the draft support letter as discussed. Vote Yes: 6 Motion carried.

**e. Landscape Stewardship Plan update**

Sheila Harmes had a packet of maps to show the board how GIS mapping can be used to identify subwatersheds as priority areas. David Schmidt is using this mapping framework to identify “conservation opportunity areas” for the Landscape Stewardship Plan. Maps depicted biodiversity, habitat quality scores, private ownership, population density, and risk scores.

John Keefe stated he would have liked to have seen the roads depicted on the maps. Having just watershed boundaries is not enough to get a good reference of locations. Steve Jacob noted that there was a lot of variability in the scores. Sheila Harmes discussed that this work will help identify the areas of the watershed that will benefit most from protection strategies.

John Keefe discussed the Root River One Watershed One Plan and asked for some clarification. Sheila gave background information on the plan from the year 2011 to present. Both Olmsted and Winona Counties are participants in the development of a watershed-scale plan for the Root River Watershed.

Brien Maki explained the process is just planning. Later, each of the participating LGUs can choose to participate in the implementation or not.

Steve Jacob stated the State wants to use watershed boundaries and not political boundaries for water management.

**7. Public Comments**

None

**8. Agency Reports**

None

**9. Next Meeting:** October 16, 2014

**Adjournment:** 9:35 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