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**Whitewater Joint Powers Board**  
**August 18, 2016**  
**Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center**

Minutes

**1. Call to Order:** Chair Matt Flynn called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

Board Members Present: Matt Flynn, Richard Hall, Steve Jacob, Claron Krogness, Arlene Nelson, and Roland Wood

Others Present: Daryl Buck, Soil and Water Conservation District; Karlyn Eckman, University of Minnesota (retired); Marcie Weinandt, Minnesota Department of Agriculture; Sheila Harmes, Whitewater Watershed; Joyce Tloutan, Winona County Planning and Environmental Services

**2. Approve Minutes of July 21, 2016**

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

Voting: Yes – 6 (All).

**3. Approve Agenda**

Sheila explained she needed to pull Ag Certainty Update items C.1 and C.2; that they will be addressed at the September meeting. She added item E. One Watershed One Plan Workshop and Item F. Reducing Localized Impacts to River Systems Through Proper Geomorphic Sizing of On-Channel and Floodplain Openings at Road/River Intersections. A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by R. Wood to approve the amended agenda. Voting: Yes – 6 (All).

**4. Approve Consent Items**

**Bills & Payroll**

Sheila Harmes explained all bills and payroll items and stated \$340.96 of unused funds had to be returned to the Carl & Verna Schmidt Foundation. A motion was made by R. Wood and seconded by R. Hall to approve the Consent Items. Voting: Yes – 6 (All).

**5. Board Reports**

Arlene Nelson

Advised that Ordell and Leann Jacobson of Pine Creek have been named Conservation Farmers of the Year. Lance Klessig was hired as the new Resource Specialist. The contract for Haley Boltjes' AIS work has been extended. Also, nitrate testing is going well. Organic Valley hosted Congressman Tim Walz at their (the Nelson) farm. She shared a handout from Organic Valley and advised there has been conversation regarding the need for education on organic farming.

Steve Jacob

Advised there will be a sales tax discussion at the next Winona County Board of Commissioner's Meeting. He reported 500 ATV stickers had been purchased. The Winona County Planning Commission voted on a Frac Sand Mining compromise that consisted of no more than 40 acres

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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	Claron Krogness Olmsted SWCD Supervisor

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45 and no more than 6 mines at any one time. He spoke of the language regarding transportation  
46 and advised another Public Hearing will take place with the Board of Commissioners.

47  
48 Rich Hall

49 Reported the proposed fertilizer distribution center went through the Wabasha County Board of  
50 Commissioners by a 4/1 vote.

51  
52 Roland Wood

53 Reported Bernie Schumacher was named Conservation Farmer of the Year in Wabasha County.  
54 The Forester of the Year was also selected.

55  
56 Claron Krogness

57 Attended the Olmsted SWCD Cover Crop Field Day on August 17<sup>th</sup>, he complimented the  
58 presentation and demonstration. He noted that farmers and crop advisors were in attendance.  
59 Arlene inquired what will be planned for next year. Claron advised he would look into it. He stated  
60 the Conservation Farmer of the Year had not yet been named in Olmsted County.

61  
62 Matt Flynn

63 Agreed with Claron that the Cover Crop Field day was very informative. Martin Larsen will follow  
64 up in the fall on corn crop yields. In reference to the new buffer maps, Matt advised that new  
65 streams now need buffers in Olmsted County.

66  
67 **6. Board Discussion and Action Items**

68 a. Financial Update:

69 S. Harmes explained Ag Certainty had not been expended, there is a \$96,500.00 balance  
70 between the two accounts.

71  
72 b. Knowledge, Attitudes & Practices (KAP) Report for Ag Certainty

- 73 • Marcie Weinandt and Karlyn Eckman gave an overview of the Ag Certainty program and a  
74 summary of findings from the KAP survey.
- 75 • Marcie stated the pilot phase of the Ag Certainty program did what it was supposed to do; it  
76 showed what worked, what did not work and how to best implement the program. The  
77 program is now state-wide. In SE Minnesota the program is administered by the SWCD Area  
78 7 TSA (Glen Roberson) and a subagreement with the Whitewater JPB allows for Whitewater  
79 resources to assist with the program. One year after going statewide, there are now 224  
80 farmers fully certified and 460 new practices have been implemented as a result of the  
81 program. She currently has files for 400 applicants that are now going through the certification  
82 process. Current breakdown of local applications to be processed: Olmsted County – 4,  
83 Wabasha County – 10, and Winona County – 4.
- 84 • Karlyn Eckman spoke to the challenges in trying to link water quality improvement to changes  
85 in human behavior. Little is understood on what drives behavior, but Minnesota and  
86 Wisconsin are leaders in this research. She advised that the KAP (Knowledge, Attitudes and  
87 Practices) surveys were done in three of the Ag Certainty pilots watersheds. The surveys  
88 concentrated on three areas: 1) Gaining knowledge, 2) Changing attitude and 3) Developed  
89 and maintaining practices. The initial survey was done to establish a baseline; the second  
90 survey measured the changes. The surveys showed that improvements were made in  
91 knowledge. There is, however, room for improvement – the survey showed that there is low

92 knowledge of water quality. The respondents in the Whitewater had a much higher awareness  
93 of water quality challenges than the other pilot areas; this can be attributed to greater  
94 awareness of drinking water issues and karst. A number of respondents checked "Don't  
95 know" for a lot of questions, indicating a need for increased education.

- 96 • Karlyn noted that in general people understand that there are issues with water quality and  
97 that "We" need to do something about it, but people don't always make the connection to their  
98 own actions. She also noted that perceived cost (cost to implement and concern for reduction  
99 in farmable acres) is the biggest barrier to implementing new practices. All three pilot area  
100 surveys revealed a change in demographics; more renters are farming than land owners. Also,  
101 many land owners who rent their land do not know what their renter(s) are doing. There is a  
102 challenge to effectively reach renters with a conservation message.
- 103 • A. Nelson stated the need to measure agriculture in quality rather than quantity. Nutritional  
104 value should be measured. She noted that this year there were 6 million more acres of corn  
105 than last year.
- 106 • R. Wood asked if the Farmer-Led Council had an impact on the results. In general the  
107 Whitewater survey went well, a high percentage of people participated without any reminder  
108 letters being mailed. This indicates that farmers here, are engaged and interested. The  
109 Farmer-Led Council is a part of that.
- 110 • Marcie noted the DNR is leasing land for agriculture all this land is managed in a way that  
111 protects good water quality.
- 112 • Karlyn added that land ownership is getting complicated.

113  
114 c. Ag Certainty Update

115 Items C was pulled and will be included in the September 15, 2016 meeting.

116  
117 d. Pollinators Workshop Update

118 S. Harmes stated she is working with the Extension Office for a workshop to take place in  
119 November. She will be working with Arlene Nelson.

120  
121 e. One Watershed One Plan

122 S. Harmes inquired how many Board members plan to attend the One Watershed One Plan  
123 open houses and hearings. Matt Flynn stated he was going to attend the workshop in  
124 Stewartville on September 7th. No one else stated they would attend one. This ensures there  
125 will not be a Whitewater quorum at either of the hearings.

126  
127 f. Reducing Localized Impacts to River Systems Through Proper Geomorphic Sizing of On-  
128 Channel and Floodplain Openings at Road/River Intersections.

129 S. Harmes provided an executive summary of a report that was co-authored by Kevin  
130 Zytkevich, presenter at the April Board meeting. This summary provided diagrams of how  
131 road crossings can be better managed when taking into account the floodplain flow. She will  
132 email the full report to the Board members for their review.

133  
134 **7. Public Comments**

135  
136 Daryl Buck spoke regarding buffers. He stated there are 496 miles of public water courses within  
137 Winona County and 29 public water basins, resulting in 900+ miles of shore land. He advised it is  
138 going to be a huge workload in Winona County. Daryl advised BWSR is developing an app for  
139 reporting, that it lists all the compliant parcels before it will be sent out. Out of 1900 properties 10%  
140 will need work.

142 Sheila Harmes read an email from Shaina Keseley, in her absence, concerning Mississippi River-  
143 Winona Watershed. The TMDL was approved by the EPA on July 15<sup>th</sup> and the Watershed  
144 Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) is on public notice till August 31<sup>st</sup>.  
145

146 **8. Next Meeting:** September 15, 2016  
147 9:58 a.m. A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by A. Nelson to adjourn. Voting: Yes –  
148 All (6).  
149

150 Respectfully submitted by:

151  
152 Joyce Tloutan  
153 Recording Secretary

154 Signed *Roland Wood*  
155 Roland Wood, Secretary/Treasurer  
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