

**Whitewater Joint Powers Board
December 15, 2016
Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center**

Minutes

1. Call to Order: Chair Matt Flynn called the meeting to order at 8:39 a.m.

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

Absent: Rich Hall and Claron Krogness

Others Present: Matt Kruger, Wabasha County SWCD; Angela LaCroix, Green Corp; Sheila Harmes, Whitewater Watershed; Kristine Oman, Winona County Administration; and Sue Bambenek, Winona County Administration.

2. Approve Minutes of October 20, 2016

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

Voting: Yes – All.

3. Approve Agenda

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

Voting: Yes – All.

4. Approve Consent Items

Bills & Payroll

Sheila Harmes explained all bills and payroll items to include October & November. A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by A. Nelson to approve the Consent Items. Voting: Yes – All.

5. Board Reports

Arlene Nelson

Arlene shared a certificate that she received at the state SWCD meeting. The township nitrate testing went well; over 900 participated. Two (2) interns will be hired during 2017 to assist with Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program inventories. Personnel committee recommendations were approved. Three board members, including A. Nelson, are leaving the Board of Supervisors. Newly elected Supervisors are Andy Kronebusch, Bill Rowekamp, and Josh Elsing. A. Nelson cited a recent report on a research project by Boston University comparing conventional farms with organic farms. Soil health data scored better for organic farms. Arlene shared that she has appreciated working with the Whitewater Board and will miss everyone.

Steve Jacob

Steve thanked Arlene for her service to the Whitewater Board. Winona County adopted the ban on frac sand mining. Steve shared information regarding the number of different organizations that address water quality that he interacts with and expressed concern over the number.

Joint Powers Board Members

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| 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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Roland Wood

He attended annual SWCD Convention. Roland questioned whether there are enough consultants to assist with the transition to One Watershed One Plan for the state. He also updated on the Wabasha County SWCD budget.

Matt Flynn

Matt shared that there is a Root One Watershed One Plan Policy Committee meeting on Monday (December 19, 2016). This is the final meeting before approval of the plan.

6. Board Discussion and Action Items

a. Financial Update:

S. Harmes explained the finances and reported the balance. One deposit from MCIT is for returned dividends for the end of the year.

b. Ag Certainty Update

1. Amendment to sub-agreement between SE SWCD Tech Support and WWJPB

The SE SWCD Technical Joint Powers Board currently has a sub-agreement with Whitewater JPB to assist with the transition to statewide implementation. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is amending the current grant. The amendment extends the grant until December 2017 and adds funding (\$29,500). Winona County Attorney, Karin Sonneman has reviewed the amendment. A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by A. Nelson to approve. Voting: Yes – All

2. Approval of cost share payment for Ag Cert #008 S. Harmes shared Ag Cert file #008 regarding septic system upgrade. She advised that the cost share is \$10,000 to assist with the upgrade. A motion was made by A. Nelson and seconded by S. Jacob to approve. Voting: Yes – All

3. Approval of cost share payment for Ag Cert #013 S. Harmes shared Ag Cert File #013 regarding terrace repair. M. Kruger shared that terrace repair began in the summer of 2016 and was recently finished. The old terraces were repaired and brought up to standard. Approximately 1.5 miles of terrace work was completed. Sheila advised that the cost share is \$4,950, which brings the total up to 75% of the cost of the repairs. A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by R. Wood to approve. Voting: Yes – All

4. Approval of cost share payment for Ag Cert #014 S. Harmes shared Ag Cert File #014 regarding assistance with cover crop plantings on 78.5 acres. The cover crop planting was confirmed. Sheila advised that the cost share is \$4,633.90, which is 75% of the total cost of seed and rental of a no-till drill. Sheila also noted that WJPB received \$80,000 to use as incentive funds for promoting Ag Certainty. There were others that signed up for incentives, but for various reasons, these did not happen. Funds not spent before December 31, 2016 need to be returned to MDA; this is about \$29,000. These funds will come back to Ag Certainty in SE Minnesota. A motion was made by R. Wood and seconded by S. Jacob to approve. Voting: Yes – All

c. 319 Grant Application

S. Harmes shared that the next Section 319 grant application period will open soon. Section 319 funds are federal funds used to address nonpoint source pollution issues. The EPA has

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91 set aside \$2.5 million for the State of Minnesota. This application round will open sometime in
92 early January and will close in February. The Mississippi River – Winona Watershed Total
93 Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report and the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies
94 (WRAPS) are completed and approved. These documents identify implementation projects to
95 improve water quality and support an application for funding. The Middle Branch and South
96 Branch of the Whitewater both have the TMDL reports for nitrates. Sheila shared that she
97 would like this proposal to focus on cover crops and other practices that reduce nitrate loss. A
98 motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by A. Nelson to approve a WJPB application.
99 Voting: Yes – All.

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101 d. Pollinators Workshop Update

102 S. Harmes advised the date of the workshop is January 17, 2017, at Tri-County Electric
103 Cooperative in Rushford, MN. The Keynote Speaker will be Thelma Heidel-Baker. Mike
104 Muzzy from Olmsted NRCS will also speak about programs that are available for landowners
105 in the area. The workshop primary audience is farmers.

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107 e. Whitewater JPB 2016 Accomplishments

108 S. Harmes reviewed the WJPB accomplishments; detailed information is in the packet. S.
109 Jacob had follow-up questions about the status of the Whitewater Wildlife Management Area
110 Master Plan. S. Harmes responded that the WJPB has not received a response to questions
111 previously asked. Informational meetings will soon be scheduled. S. Jacob indicated that it is
112 important to have input from hunters as well as farmers.

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114 f. Recognition for Arlene Nelson

115 A Certificate of Recognition was presented to Arlene Nelson for five years of service on the
116 Whitewater Watershed Joint Powers Board. She will be missed.

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118 **7. Public Comments**

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120 There were no public comments.


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122 **8. Agency Reports**

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124 Matt Kruger introduced Angela LaCroix. She is working and is working on a tree inventory project
125 for the Green Corps.

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127 **9. Next Meeting:** January 19, 2017

128 The Whitewater Joint Powers Board adjourned at 9:27 a.m. on a S. Jacob/R. Wood motion.
129 Voting: Yes – All.

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131 Respectfully submitted by:
132 Kristine Oman, Recording Secretary

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134 Signed 
135 Roland Wood, Secretary/Treasurer

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