

**Whitewater Joint Powers Board
July 16, 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, Steve Jacob, and Arlene Nelson.

Absent: John Keefe and Richard Hall.

Others Present: Sheila Harmes, Whitewater Watershed Coordinator and Joyce Tlougan, Winona County Planning & Environmental Services.

2. **Approve Minutes of June 18, 2015**

Sheila Harmes stated she had one correction to the minutes; the Winona County Family Night on the Farm was hosted by "Wirtland Dairy". An email clarifying the information is being attached to the minutes.

A motion was made by Steve Jacob and seconded by Arlene Nelson to approve the minutes as amended. Voting yes: All.

3. **Approve Agenda**

Sheila Harmes advised she had an addition under the Board Discussion and Action Items.

A motion was made by Steve Jacob and seconded by Roland Wood 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 Steve Jacob and seconded by Arlene Nelson to approve the Consent Items. Voting yes: All.

5. **Board Reports**

Arlene Nelson

Arlene advised the Winona SWCD meeting was held at the County Fair. Winona County Recorder Bob Bambenek attended and gave an update on the county's land sales. Jerry Miller gave an update on the Root River One Watershed One Plan and Wanda Anderson was named the new Office Administrator.

Steve Jacob

Steve reported Emily Bartusek is Winona County's new Feedlot Officer. Jason Gilman is leaving Winona County to work for the city of La Crosse. He stated Jason is leaving the county in good shape. Steve noted that Winona County is down to four (4) finalists for the Winona County Administrator's position. He advised he had attended the Southeast Minnesota Water Resources

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

Board meeting; a presentation was given on One Watersheds One Plan (1W1P) for the Root River Watershed. Steve questioned how 1W1P will work better than what is currently being done.

Roland Wood

Reported Rich Hall was at the Wabasha County Board meeting at the Wabasha County Fair. Wabasha SWCD is interviewing four (4) candidates for an open position. They will be doing a tour of the Family Farm of the Year and the Forester of the Year.

Matt Flynn

Reported he is on the One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) Policy Committee and that the plan is a work in progress. Steve Jacob noted that the One Watershed One Plan concept may mirror what the Whitewater Joint Powers Board does. Matt Flynn questioned whether One Watershed One Plan may add another layer of government. Discussion continued about funding, the role of Whitewater JPB, proposed water planning boundaries and whether 1W1P can make a difference in water planning.

6. Board Discussion and Action Items

- a. Financial Update: Sheila Harmes explained the financials.
- b. Cost Share Contract (Ag Certainty #004): One of the producers seeking certification in the Ag Certainty program has completed a BMP and needs approval for payment. Sheila explained the contract and requested approval of the cost share assistance contract payment. A motion was made by Roland Wood and seconded by Arlene Nelson to approve the payment. Voting yes: All.
- c. Ag Certainty Update: After last month's meeting, the Whitewater hosted the state Ag Certainty advisory committee on a tour of the watershed. Sheila distributed and referenced an Agri-News article about that tour. The Ag Certainty program is now expanding from the pilot areas to the entire state. During 2016, the MDA would like Sheila to help with the transition from the pilot area to state-wide implementation and the MDA is considering using the SE SWCD Technical Support JPB to implement the program within the eleven county region in SE Minnesota. A meeting will be held at the Goodhue SWCD on July 17, 2015. Matt asked if the Whitewater JPB would be reimbursed. Yes, the Whitewater will be compensated for time committed to the transition. Sheila said that she could only assist with this effort up to forty (40) percent of her time. Other potential projects should also be considered for the Whitewater.
- d. Bismarck Soil Health Tour Update
Sheila advised she did not get the SARE mini-grant money to help with expenses for local farmers to attend the Bismarck Soil Health Tour, but is following up on another funding source. Funds may be available from the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation. If these funds are available, Sheila will be requesting approval for two (2) checks, one for Registration (\$300.00) and another for hotel (\$900.00), total of \$1200.00. These checks will need to be cut and signed before the next board meeting, but approval is requested at this meeting. A motion was made by Steve Jacob and seconded by Arlene Nelson to approve the disbursement of \$1200.00 if the mini-grant is awarded. Vote: Yes – All. Sheila will coordinate getting the signatures needed on checks before the next meeting.
- e. Board Packet Mailing:
The current system of mailing is working for the Whitewater Joint Powers Board.

f. Action Item – Water Shed Sediment:

Sheila advised that the DNR is doing a Watershed Assessment of River Stability and Sediment Supply (WARSSS) on the Whitewater Watershed. The work is nearly complete; Sheila asked the DNR staff to come to a future JPB meeting to provide information on the project. Sheila asked what specific information the Board would like to hear with respect to this project. Matt stated that he would like information that shows that progress is being made. Roland wanted to know how sudden storms affect the sediment.

Arlene referred to a free Groundwater session for local officials and provided an informational handout. The event will be August 13th from 4:00 – 6:00 at Cascade Meadow Wetlands & Science Center in Rochester.

7. Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

8. Agency Reports:

There were no agency reports.

9. Next meeting:

August 20, 2015

10. Adjournment:

9:34 a.m. Steve Jacob made a motion and Arlene Nelson seconded the motion to adjourn.

Voting: Yes – All.

Respectfully submitted by:

Joyce Tlougan
Administrative Specialist

Signed _____
Roland Wood, Secretary/Treasurer