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Whitewater Joint Powers Board
October 20, 2016
Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center

Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Matt Flynn called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m.

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

Others Present: Sheila Harmes, Whitewater Watershed; Kristine Oman, Winona County Administration, and Stacie Kuehl, Winona County Personnel

2. **Approve Minutes of September 15, 2016**

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

Voting: Yes – All.

3. **Approve Agenda**

A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by C. Krogness to approve the agenda.

Voting: Yes – All.

4. **Approve Consent Items**

Bills & Payroll

Sheila Harmes explained all bills and payroll items. A motion was made by R. Wood and seconded by S. Jacob to approve the Consent Items. Voting: Yes – All.

5. **Board Reports**

Arlene Nelson

Meeting held last week. Turned in voting ballots for resolutions. AIS intern Haley Boltjes has taken a position with FSA. Financial assistance has been approved for conservation farmers of the year to attend annual meeting. Four staff will be attending the BWSR Academy October 23-26. Work continues on buffers, many in compliance. Next meeting is November 9, 2016. Arlene provided a handout promoting the Modern Eco-Ag 2016 Conference scheduled November 30-December 2, 2016 in Nebraska; this is a very good conference to attend.

Steve Jacob

Final public hearing for frac sand was held October 13, 2016; 200+ people attended, over 100 spoke, 60% for the ban, 40% for the compromise. Will come before the County Board at their next meeting, will either vote on it or move to the County Attorney. Solar builds in Rollingstone are starting.

Richard Hall

Wabasha County solar system will be built in front of the Justice Center; will be online before winter. Held a joint meeting with the SWCD; plan to do joint meetings at least twice a year. Two

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

46 Commissioners sit on the SWCD Board, but are only able to attend for one hour before leaving for
47 County Board meeting.

48
49 Roland Wood

50 The County Commissioners have a lack of understanding of how the 24 programs that the SWCD
51 oversee work. Joint meetings should be productive. Signed contracts for cover crops.

52
53 Claron Krogness

54 SWCD completed resolution ballots for the State convention; two are attending. Good sized
55 terrace project this fall. Had a joint tour with the Dodge SWCD; looked at Cascade Meadows
56 project which turned out well. This project diverted water from main channel.

57
58 Matt Flynn

59 Cascade Creek project, which had been in the works for ten years turned out well with holding
60 ponds; will help with the severe flooding problems by County Rd 34.

61
62 **6. Board Discussion and Action Items**

63 a. Financial Update:

64 S. Harmes explained the finances and reported the balance. Budget requests for Ag Certainty
65 2017 work are being completed. Would like more grants to come in; S. Harmes is looking for
66 suggestions on where to look for grants.

67 1. 2015 Whitewater JPB Audit Bound copies of the 2015 audit were distributed.

68 2. 2016 Audit Bid S. Harmes emailed the bid to the Board yesterday; bid of \$2,150
69 was the same as the 2015 audit. A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by C.
70 Krogness to accept the 2016 bid. Voting: Yes – All.

71
72 b. Whitewater WMA Discussion

73 S. Harmes reported that the DNR was not able to attend as key decisions have not been
74 made. Questions from Board members about the Master Plan process and farming guidelines
75 within the WMA were forwarded to Don Nelson. Will receive response via writing or they will
76 attend a future meeting. DNR is looking at the management of all their lands;
77 reducing/eliminating the chemical inputs/insecticides (done by a case-by-case basis), and
78 minimizing the use of fertilizers and herbicides. Until the Master Plan is completed, contracts
79 with cooperators are for one year. The Master Plan revision will be done by June 2017.
80 S. Jacob questioned why the public hasn't been brought in to provide input. Concerns include
81 the following: hunting public don't know this is going on and this will change the amount of
82 feed available, and grazing cattle on state land is a major fencing investment.

83
84 c. Ag Certainty Update

85 S. Harmes reported that Dr. Karlyn Eckman and Marcie Weinandt will be giving a presentation
86 in Atlanta on how the KAP GAP survey was used. Whitewater pilot area was one of three
87 watersheds that the survey was done.

88 Glen Roberson is working on the budgets for 2017; will include Whitewater assistance in that.
89 S. Harmes reported that 272 farmers are certified; includes up to almost 150,000 acres
90 statewide, 495 best management practices in place, 46,000 tons of sediment is reduced per
91 year and nearly 6,000 pounds of phosphorus reduced each year.

92 C. Krogness asked if there was an Ag Certainty expiration date. S. Harmes replied that
93 incentive dollars are to be spent by the end of December 2016. Will need to return \$25,000
94 that was not used, but those funds will go to other SE MN grants so we won't lose the money.

95
96 d. Pollinators Workshop Update

97 S. Harmes advised the date of the workshop was rescheduled from November 15, 2016 to
98 after the first of the year. Funding to be used for room rental and food has not been received.
99

100 e. Whitewater Conservation Farmer Discussion

101 S. Harmes found 37 plaques in the Lewiston office that were obtained from PL566 funds and
102 were to be given to land owners and asked Board members on suggestions for use. S.
103 Harmes will approach farmers certified with Ag Certainty. Guidelines will be in place.
104

105 f. Whitewater Website Re-Design Update

106 S. Harmes reviewed the new website that can be up and running anytime. Site set up by
107 Nancy North of NewGround, Inc., pictures can be changed. Story map will be similar to
108 Mississippi River Winona but it will be clear they are on the Whitewater site. Three maps are
109 in rotation: general, impairments, how Whitewater fits within the Mississippi Watershed. Also
110 has the 10 year Watershed planning process, photos for the Farmer Led Council, and other
111 basic information. Would like more pictures of the local people and upcoming events.
112

113 g. Recognition for Joyce Tlougan

114 S. Harmes reported that Joyce Tlougan resigned after the last meeting. A Certificate of
115 Recognition for four years of Administrative Support was signed by R. Wood and M. Flynn and
116 will be given to Joyce by Sheila.
117

118 **7. Public Comments**

119
120 There were no public comments.
121

122 **8. Agency Reports**

123
124 Received a letter from the USDA thanking the Whitewater Watershed Joint Powers Board for their
125 support of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) proposal for MN. The
126 National office is working with MN state partners as the Farm Service Agency moves forward with
127 review and evaluation of the proposal.
128

129 **9. Next Meeting:** November 17, 2016

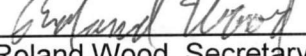
130 M. Flynn will not be in attendance due to Olmsted County budget sessions; S. Jacob will chair the
131 meeting.

132 The Whitewater Joint Powers Board adjourned at 9:27 a.m. on a S. Jacob/R. Hall motion.

133 Voting: Yes – All.
134

135 Respectfully submitted by:

136 Stacie Kuehl, Recording Secretary
137

138 Signed 
139 Roland Wood, Secretary/Treasurer

