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**Whitewater Joint Powers Board
August 17, 2017
Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center**

Minutes

1. Call to Order: Matt Flynn called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Board Members Present: Matt Flynn, Steve Jacob, Claron Krogness, Rich Hall, Chuck Fick (substituting for Roland Wood), and Josh Elsing

Others Present: Sheila Harmes, Coordinator Whitewater Watershed; Amanda Gentry, Winona County SWCD

Board Members Absent: Roland Wood

2. Approve Minutes of June 15, 2017

A motion was made by C. Fick and seconded by R. Hall to approve the minutes.

Voting: Yes – All.

3. Approve Agenda

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

Voting: Yes – All.

4. Approve Consent Items

Bills & Payroll

Sheila Harmes: There are two bills payable for Winona County for her time with Whitewater. Also, funds for Jennifer Wahls for her work on the Forest Action Plan Project. Lastly, there's a rental check for Winona SWCD. The Winona SWCD check will be in next month's reconciliation.

A motion was made by C. Fick and seconded by S. Jacob to approve the consent items.

Voting: Yes – All.

5. Board Reports

Josh Elsing (Winona County SWCD): The Winona County Fair was last month and a hot topic was washouts due to rain. Jamie and Amy Mundt were recipients of the Winona County SWCD 2017 Outstanding Conservationist Award. Winona County SWCD's intern, Sara Rother completed her internship and went back to school. Before leaving, she presented a slideshow of her work while she was with Winona County SWCD.

Steve Jacob (Winona County Board): County Board of Commissioners had asked for an overview of the water groups that interact in Winona County. Sheila put together a great presentation for the County Board that included federal, state and local water organizations and their functions. S. Jacob requested Sheila present that information to the WWJPB.

S. Jacob noted that the 1995 Joint Powers Agreement said that the meetings shall be held every other month beginning with January, which is where the meeting schedule is right now. The Agreement also stated Olmsted County shall be the financial agent and S. Jacob questioned if

54 that document should be updated. There was discussion regarding the appointment of an
55 alternate for the Secretary/Treasurer position.

56
57 Rich Hall (Wabasha County Board): The County is working on the budget; it's coming in a little
58 lower than usual. Also, still working on the dredge sand problem. S. Jacob commented on the
59 need for several permits for a project of that size.

60
61 Chuck Fick (Wabasha County SWCD): R. Wood asked him to fill in for him at Whitewater
62 meetings on a per day basis. Wabasha SWCD recently lost a Technician and Assistant
63 Technician. Announcements are out and SWCD is accepting applications to fill the vacancies.
64 Discussion ensued regarding staffing levels, the potential of regionalizing NRCS offices and a
65 shortage of engineer Job Approval Authority (JAA) requirements for projects.

66
67 Claron Krogness (Olmsted County SWCD): Dorothy retired July 27th. Olmsted County awarded
68 Larson Family Farms the 2017 Conservation Farmer of the Year.

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70 Matt Flynn (Olmsted County Board): The County is working on the budget and the numerous
71 permits that need to be done for Lake Zumbro.

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

75 a. Financial Update

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77 1.) Audit management representation letter, signature

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79 On a motion by C. Krogness and seconded by C. Fick, the Audit management letter
80 was approved. Voting: Yes – All.

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82 2.) 2016 Draft Audit

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84 S. Harmes explained this agenda item was information for the board members, no vote
85 needed.

86
87 3.) Update of financial account records (Whitewater-Winona County Agreement)

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89 S. Harmes stated that due to a shift of responsibilities, there was an imbalance of
90 payment for her time to Winona County from Whitewater. This was discussed at the
91 last meeting in June and the board approved S. Harmes' allocation be reduced so that
92 it would average out over time. S. Jacob stated he spoke with the Winona County
93 Administrator who indicated that Winona County's intentions are to be 100%
94 transparent and if there's any overpayment, there will be a refund. S. Harmes added
95 that her allocation has gone from 67% to 50% for the remainder of this year. For the
96 2018 budget, her allocation will be 45%.

97
98 b. Secretary/Treasurer alternate designation

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100 On a motion by S. Jacob and seconded by R. Hall, the WWJPB voted to create a
101 Secretary/Treasurer alternate position. Voting: Yes – All.

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103 On a motion by C. Krogness and seconded by R. Hall, the WWJPB voted to select J. Elsing as
104 an alternate Secretary/Treasurer until 2018. Voting: Yes – All.

106 c. Aquatic Invasive Species Project work in Whitewater Watershed – Amanda Gentry, Winona
107 County SWCD

108 Amanda Gentry, who has been working with the Aquatic Invasive Species Project for over two
109 years, gave a PowerPoint presentation. The following is a summary:
110

111 Winona County first received funds to support an Aquatic Invasive Species program in 2014. The
112 County sent the funds to SWCD to implement. During the first year of the program, a prevention
113 plan had to be developed to include inventory and monitoring protocol. Wisconsin DNR has
114 excellent monitoring guidelines and this was used as a template for the County's plan. Jen Wahls,
115 Wabasha SWCD, also helped with the process. After the first year, the protocol was modified.

116 Monitoring progress: In the Whitewater Watershed, 18 sites were monitored. Weather during the
117 summer of 2017, however, made monitoring difficult. Frequent rain events flushed the system,
118 water was turbid and a lot may have been missed. Last year weather allowed for better
119 monitoring; a lot of diversity was recorded. Each stream is scheduled to be monitored every 5
120 years to determine if new species are being established.

121 Invasive species: Curly leaf pond weed has been established in Minnesota a long time and it has
122 now naturalized. Its presence does not warrant a water infested. Reed canary grass will fill in a
123 wetland over time by filtering out solids and holding them in the wetland. This invasive was found
124 at all sites. Another invasive, the rusty crayfish is very aggressive; it has been observed by others
125 in other streams of the County. Amanda noted that some species are especially troublesome.
126 The New Zealand mud snail, for example, cannot be digested within a fish digestive system. This
127 snail was not detected in Winona County.

128
129 d. Ag Certainty Update

130 S. Harmes stated that as of this week, 443 producers are certified, which covers 260,000
131 acres. Since the start of the program, over 800 new practices reduced 8500 tons of sediment
132 per year, saved 12,000 tons of soil per year and reduced 10,000 lbs. of phosphorous per year.
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135 e. Rochester Town Hall 25 x 25 Update

136 S. Harmes shared handouts that were available at the 25x25 Town Hall Meeting on July 31st in
137 Rochester, MN. It was the first Town Hall meeting in the state and Governor Dayton attended.
138 The handout from the State Environmental Quality Board (EQB) highlighted water quality
139 concerns for Southeast Minnesota. S. Harmes also shared surveys that were handed out at
140 the Winona County Fair that showed responses to water quality questions. She also shared
141 Rochester's answers to questions that people had. There were about 300 people in
142 attendance at the Rochester Town Hall meeting.
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146 **7. Public Comments**

147 S. Harmes received a letter from MCIT stating WWJPB will receive a refund in November from
148 their payment made earlier in the year. Also, she shared copies of an informational letter from a
149 group opposed to the new fertilizer plant in Wabasha County. Lastly, this past week there was an
150 article in the newspaper about the National Association of County Agriculture Agents honoring
151 UMN-AG Extension Agent, Jake Overgaard with the 2017 Achievement Award.
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8. Agency Reports

None

9. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be October 19, 2017.

The Whitewater Joint Powers Board adjourned at 9:55 a.m. on a motion of R. Hall and seconded by C. Fick. Voting: Yes - All

Respectfully submitted by:
Anne Schwertel, Administration

Signed  _____
Roland Wood, Secretary/Treasurer