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**Whitewater Joint Powers Board
January, 19, 2017
Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center**

Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Matt Flynn called the meeting to order at 8:46 a.m.

Board Members Present: Matt Flynn, Steve Jacob, Roland Wood, Claron Krogness, and Rich Hall
Absent: Josh Elsing

Others Present: Daryl Buck, Winona County SWCD; Sheila Harmes, Whitewater Watershed; and Sue Bambenek, Winona County Administration.

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

A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by R. Hall 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 from December holding back the BWSR payment to be discussed in action items. A motion was made by R. Wood and seconded by S. Jacob to approve the Consent Items. Voting: Yes – All.

5. **Board Reports**

Steve Jacob

Steve shared he had attended a meeting in St. Charles about a hog farm expansion. A large number of people present were in opposition. This request for expansion will eventually get to the planning department and the Winona County Board. Steve also stated his concern about the number of water entities Winona County currently works with. He wants to look at the most efficient use of funds.

Claron Krogness

Claron shared that the Klassen's are the "Conservation Farmers of the Year". He also stated how very excited they are about the award. Olmsted SWCD is looking into using some of their capacity funds for cover crops cost share. All the board members from the Olmsted SWCD were re-elected.

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

Josh Elsing
Winona SWCD Supervisor

Claron Krogness
Olmsted SWCD Supervisor

46 Rich Hall
47 He spoke in regard to One Watershed One Plan transitions. It will not happen overnight; it may
48 take 6 – 10 years. RC&D entities, at one time, were federally funded. Now that federal funding
49 has stopped, the number of RC&Ds has dwindled. Only two are left in the state.
50

51 Roland Wood
52 Wabasha SWCD staff are working on getting year-end reports done. He attended a Land
53 Stewardship Project meeting in Plainview and the presenter, from South Dakota, is a no-till farmer
54 for 20 years and uses cover crops in his operation. His yield is 150 bushel corn in an area that
55 has an average yield of 50 bushel corn. Keeping a mat of vegetation on the ground, keeps soil
56 temperature more constant and improves soil health.
57

58 Matt Flynn
59 Matt shared Dodge County is now an un-delegated feedlot due to lawsuits. The state now handles
60 all feedlot permits for them.
61
62

63 **6. Board Discussion and Action Items**
64

65 a. Election of Officers

66 On motion of S. Jacob and second by C. Krogness to re-appoint Matt Flynn as Chair. There
67 were no other nominees. Vote: Yes – All.
68

69 On motion of C. Krogness and second by R. Hall to re-appoint Steve Jacob as Vice – Chair.
70 There were no other nominees. Vote: Yes – All.
71

72 On motion of R. Hall and second by C. Krogness to re-appoint Roland Wood as
73 Secretary/Treasurer. There were no other nominees. Vote: Yes – All.
74

75 b. Financial Update:

76 S. Harmes explained the finances and reported the balance. One deposit from MCIT is for
77 returned dividends for the end of the year.
78

79 c. Ag Certainty Update

80 1. Return of Unused Incentive Grant Funds – S. Harmes stated we tried to spend the
81 funding but some projects fell through. Had these projects been completed, we would
82 have spent all of this money. This money will not be lost, but will come around again in
83 other cost share funds for farmers seeking certification in the upcoming year. S.
84 Harmes also reported this program has hit over 300 participants. On motion of R.
85 Wood and second by C. Krogness the board approved the return of funds. Unused
86 funds total is \$29,525.53. Vote: Yes – All.
87

88 d. 319 Grant Application

89 S. Harmes shared she is working on this application. Section 319 funds are federal funds used
90 to address nonpoint source pollution issues. The Middle Branch and South Branch of the

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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	Josh Elsing Winona SWCD Supervisor	Claron Krogness Olmsted SWCD Supervisor

91 Whitewater both have the TMDL reports for nitrates so are eligible. Sheila shared that she
92 would like this proposal to focus on cover crops and other practices that reduce nitrate loss.
93

94 d. Pollinators Workshop Update

95 S. Harmes advised the workshop scheduled for January 17, 2017, was cancelled due to
96 weather and has been rescheduled to January 31, 2017. The Keynote Speaker will be Thelma
97 Heidel-Baker. Mike Muzzy, NRCS in Olmsted County, will also speak about programs that are
98 available for landowners in the area. The workshop primary audience is farmers; 54 are
99 already signed up.

100
101 **7. Public Comments**

102
103 There were no public comments.
104

105 **8. Agency Reports**


106
107 Daryl Buck reported there are 3 new board members to the SWCD, Josh Elsing, Bill Rowekamp
108 and Dan Kronebusch. In February, the Winona SWCD will discuss the adoption of the One
109 Watershed One Plan. The Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) inventory work has completed 18 sites
110 in the Whitewater Watershed. A couple AIS issues were found, but most sites were good. For
111 Clean Water Fund applications for practices, SE Minnesota received no funding at all this year.
112

113 **9. Next Meeting:** February 16, 2017

114 The Whitewater Joint Powers Board adjourned at 9:45 a.m. on a motion of R. Hall and second by
115 S. Jacob. Vote: Yes – All.
116

117 Respectfully submitted by:

118 Sue Bambenek, Administration

119
120 Signed  _____
121 Roland Wood, Secretary/Treasurer

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