

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45

**Whitewater Joint Powers Board**  
**March 16, 2017**  
**Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center**

**Minutes**

Prior to the start of the meeting, introductions were made. Chuck Fick, Wabasha SWCD Supervisor, is filling in for Roland Wood and Josh Elsing is the new Winona SWCD Supervisor serving on this Board.

**1. Call to Order:** Matt Flynn called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

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

Others Present: Chuck Fick, Wabasha SWCD Supervisor - alternate to Roland Wood; Jake Overgaard, UM Extension; and Sheila Harmes, Whitewater Watershed

Board Members Absent: Roland Wood

**2. Approve Minutes of January 19, 2017**

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 there were 2 months of bills (February & March). The February bill was for an expenses associated with Ag Certainty meetings held in St. Paul for 3 days and a website fee. The March bill was for payment to Winona County for Sheila's work and also \$50 to Goodhue SWCD to help pay for Ag Certainty meeting expenses.

**5. Board Reports**

Josh Elsing

Being new to the Board he filled the Board in on what his background is. He does agronomy work with clients throughout the state. Winona SWCD is working on getting payments approved. SWCD is also working on trying to get local school districts interested in participating in the Envirothon.

Steve Jacob

There are a few Conditional Use Permit applications coming forward; dairy expansions, hog barn expansions.

---

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  
47 At the last SWCD meeting, a decision was made not to financially support RC&D this year. At the  
48 SE Minnesota Water Resource Board Meeting, it was announced that the administrator, Linda  
49 Dahl, will be retiring in June. Discussions included how the Water Resources Board and SE  
50 Technical Service Area JPB can collaborate.

51  
52 S. Jacob also announced that he completed an application to fill the vacant County Commissioner  
53 seat on the State Board of Water and Soil Resources Board. These positions are appointed by  
54 the Governor. The Farm Bureau has provided a letter of recommendation. Would the Whitewater  
55 JPB also provide a letter of support? A motion was made by C. Krogness and seconded by R.  
56 Hall to send a letter of support for S. Jacob. Voting: Yes – All  
57 Sheila will check when the application deadline is and compose a letter for Matt’s signature if  
58 deadline is prior to next Board meeting.

59  
60 Rich Hall

61 Spent a couple of days in Appeals Court; as County Attorney is appealing wages.

62  
63 Claron Krogness

64 C. Krogness was not at the February SWCD meeting, but Wabasha SWCD in January had tabled  
65 the RC&D request. The tree sales are declining this year.

66  
67 Chuck Fick

68 Wabasha is doing some office reorganization. Matt Kruger is now working 85% of his time with Ag  
69 Certainty, so need to reassign some of his duties. Also, SWCD is looking for half-time  
70 administrative assistant.

71  
72 Matt Flynn

73 Olmstead next Tuesday will have a public hearing to increase sales tax. We now have .25% and  
74 can increase an additional .25% or .5%. We have authority to go up to .75%.

75  
76  
77 **6. Board Discussion and Action Items**

78 a. Financial Update

79 S. Harmes explained finances for January & February and reported the balance.

80  
81 b. Rental Agreement between WJPB and Winona SWCD - Office Rent and Utilities

82 Slight increase from last year’s rate of \$108.00 and that is due to utility fee increase.

83 A motion was made by C. Krogness and seconded by S. Jacob to approve rental agreement.

84 Voting: Yes – All

85  
86 c. Forest Action Plan to Support Landscape Stewardship Program

87 Sheila gave a little background on this program. In 2014 the Whitewater JPB administered a  
88 grant agreement with the MN Dept of Natural Resources to complete a Mississippi River –  
89 Winona Watershed Landscape Stewardship Plan. David Schmidt was under contract to  
90 provide professional services and complete project deliverables. The plan was completed by

---

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

---

91 December 2014. Because this worked so well with a contract in place; Sheila was asked  
92 about a year ago by Lindberg Ekola, State Representative for MN Forest Resources Council, if  
93 she would be interested in serving as a fiscal for any other opportunities that promote the SE  
94 Landscape Committee initiatives and objectives of the completed Landscape Stewardship  
95 Plan; and an opportunity has come up. The program is entitled, "Integrating Forest Action  
96 Plan Implementation with Landscape Stewardship Approaches in Forested Watersheds of the  
97 Mississippi River in North Central and Southeast Minnesota". Sheila has referred to this as the  
98 "Forest Action Plan". Sheila has provided a final copy for everyone to review; as some  
99 changes have been made since the draft was sent out last week with the Board packets. As  
100 outlined in Exhibit A, \$45,000 will be provided and needs to be spent before the end of 2017.  
101 Other funds for 2018 will be added to this contract from the Nature Conservancy. The contract  
102 will provide for an individual to meet with private landowners who have wooded areas to help  
103 them develop forest stewardship or conservation plans. Contacts with landowners will be  
104 primarily in the lower portion of the Zumbro Watershed and the Whitewater Beaver & Weaver  
105 areas. Work will include meeting with landowners to assess what their goals are and helping  
106 them achieve their goals. This person would be under contract and report to three people; S.  
107 Harmes, Larry Gates - Chair of SE Landscape Committee, and David Schmidt -The Nature  
108 Conservancy.

109  
110 On motion of C. Krogness and seconded by J. Elsing to enter into this Grant Agreement.

111 Voting: Yes – All.

112  
113 d. Ag Certainty Update

114 There will be an internal program audit next month. This is just part of the transparency laws  
115 to make sure everything is the way it should be in the program. There are about 70 in SE  
116 Minnesota and 40 in the Whitewater waiting to get certified. State-wide, we have reached over  
117 200,000 acres that are certified.

118  
119 e. 319 Grant Application Update

120 March 6<sup>th</sup> was the deadline for the application and Sheila did submit it. The application  
121 focuses on the Middle and South Branch of the Whitewater, as both have the TMDL reports for  
122 nitrates so are eligible. This grant would start in 2018 and run through August 2021. This  
123 work continues what Jake is doing right now and enrolls farmers and their crop consultants in  
124 strategies to reduce nitrate loading. We will find out this summer if we will receive funding for  
125 this. It is competitive with about 25% of the applicants getting awarded. Sheila has asked for  
126 \$232,000.

127  
128 f. Pollinators Workshop Update

129 The meeting was held on January 31, 2017 and 75 people were in attendance. Mike Muzzy  
130 was there and gave a short presentation on all the federal programs that are available for  
131 prairie plantings and pollinator habitats. Thelma pointed out that a study was done in  
132 Manitoba where a canola crop took three acres out of production and put in pollinators. This in  
133 turn resulted in a higher yield on the remaining acres because they had pollinators on the  
134 borders. Funds to support this event were available through a grant that Winona County has  
135 with the MPCA for region-wide education initiatives.

---

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

---

136  
137  
138  
139  
140  
141  
142  
143  
144  
145  
146  
147  
148  
149  
150  
151  
152  
153  
154  
155  
156  
157  
158  
159  
160  
161  
162  
163  
164  
165  
166  
167  
168  
169  
170  
171  
172  
173  
174  
175  
176

g. Nitrogen Management Project Update

Jake Overgaard, Extension Educator for Winona County, has been working on nitrogen management projects since 2012. He has been doing nitrogen management plots through the SE MN Nitrogen Outreach Program which is funded by Clean Water Funds. Partners in nitrogen management include the SE Technical JPB, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, UM-Extension and the University of Minnesota. Participating farmers get aerial imagery, basal stalk nitrate tests results and other testing in addition to yield. A lot of educational information is given to farmers to assist with nitrogen application decisions and end of year meetings are held.

In 2016, we experienced a wetter than average month of September, and overall a warmer than average temperature for the year. The plots are pretty basic, typically 2 or 3 treatments of nitrogen. The farmers are generally learning a lot and sharing their experiences with others as to what they are learning. In the end-of-the year meeting for 2016, most of the attendees indicated that they learned and plan to make changes in nitrogen management for 2017; 62% indicated that they would not do a Nitrogen plot without the program and 47% plan to reduce nitrogen application rates.

In the Corn on Corn rotations, there was no statistical difference between variable application rates, and side-dressing showed no statistical yield difference.

J. Elsing noted that plot tests don't look at soil types between each field and that nitrogen inhibitors don't always "pan out".

**7. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**8. Agency Reports**

None

**9. Next Meeting:** April 20, 2017

The Whitewater Joint Powers Board adjourned at 10:10 a.m. on a motion of C. Krogness and second by S. Jacob. Voting: Yes - All

Respectfully submitted by:  
Sue Henderson, Administration

Signed   
Roland Wood, Secretary/Treasurer

---

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

---