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**Whitewater Joint Powers Board
December 21, 2017
Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center**

Minutes

- 1. Call to Order:** Matt Flynn called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Board Members Present: Matt Flynn, Rich Hall, Steve Jacob and Roland Wood

Others Present: Allison Bender, Green Corps Member; Daryl Buck, Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District Manager; Sheila Harmes, Coordinator Whitewater Watershed; Kay Qualley, Planning & Environmental Services Director

Board Members Absent: Josh Elsing and Claron Krogness

- 2. Approve Minutes of October 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 R. Wood to approve the agenda.

Voting: Yes – All.

- 4. Approve Consent Items**

Bills & Payroll

Sheila Harmes: For October and November 2017, there is a check payment to Winona County for Sheila Harmes' time with Whitewater and an October 2017 \$10 check for a meal. The check payments to Jennifer Wahls in October and November 2017 were for her time working on the Forest Action Project. The QTH check for November 2017 was a subscription payment to update the website. The December 2017 check to Jennifer Wahls will be voided as the payment was already included in a previous invoice.

A motion was made by R. Hall and seconded by R. Wood to approve the consent items.

Voting: Yes – All.

- 5. Board Reports**

Steve Jacob (Winona County Board): The County Board of Commissioners will be discussing a proposed Buffer Ordinance in the near future. The proposed ordinance is currently at the Planning Commission level.

Rich Hall (Wabasha County Board): Most of the budget was approved at their last meeting. The Planning & Zoning Board for Wabasha County also developed a Buffer Ordinance as requested by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). Their proposed ordinance has been approved by the Planning & Zoning Board and awaiting approval from BWSR.

Roland Wood (Wabasha County SWCD): They are busy with training in new employees.

53 Matt Flynn (Olmsted County Board): There's been a lot of retirements: Richard Devlin, County
54 Administrator; Terry Lee, Olmsted County Environmental Services Coordinator and a retirement of
55 a Financial Officer.

56 Of the 7% levy that was passed, approximately 4.5% will go towards wages and benefits,
57 approximately 1% will towards IT services and the remaining 1.5% will go towards the hiring of
58 new positions within the County.

59
60 **6. Board Discussion and Action Items**

61
62 **a. Whitewater Watershed LEGO Model Project Presentation – Allison Bender, GreenCorps**

63 Allison Bender, a GreenCorps member working on watershed education projects at the
64 Whitewater State Park, was asked by Claron Krogness to present the project to the WWJPB.

65 Allison Bender explained the GreenCorps program and presented the LEGO project. With
66 assistance from WSU staff, students and others, a to-scale topographic model of the
67 Whitewater Watershed will be constructed and used for educational outreach.

68 S. Jacob made a motion and R. Hall seconded it, to provide \$500.00 to help support the LEGO
69 project.

70 Voting: Yes – All.

71
72 **b. Financial Update – Sheila Harmes**

73 Sheila Harmes: Between the money market and checking, the total amount is \$55,634.

74 \$16,280 is from the ACPF Project. Essentially, we have \$39,354.

75
76 **1. MCIT Payment**

77 MCIT is transitioning to automatic payments by 2019. The next payment to MCIT will
78 be due the end of January 2018. At the time of the meeting, S. Harmes did not know
79 the exact amount but the approximate amount she was given by MCIT for property and
80 casualty was \$1,303 and workers comp \$50. S. Harmes asked for approval of
81 payment.

82 On a motion by S. Jacob and seconded by R. Hall, the MCIT payment was approved.

83 Voting: Yes – All.

84
85 **2. Reconciliation Proposal**

86 K. Qualley introduced herself to the WWJPB. She went on to explain the process that
87 has taken place to realign the payment split for Sheila Harmes' position between
88 Winona County and the WWJPB. K. Qualley presented a reconciliation proposal from
89 Winona County and supporting documents, which were included in the agenda packet.
90 During 2016 and the first four months of 2017, the County was overcharging the
91 WWJPB. The County will reimburse the WWJPB for that overcharged amount. In
92 addition, the County would like to offset that payment with a charge for Finance support
93 to the WWJPB retro-active to 2011 when the Winona County-Whitewater agreement
94 was established. The County proposes sending a check for \$1,710.82 to reconcile the
95 financial differences. The allocation for Sheila Harmes' time will be set at 55%/45%
96 (County/WWJPB) for the next two years starting January 1, 2018. WWJPB discussed
97 the proposal.

98 On a motion by R. Hall and seconded by R. Wood, the reconciliation proposal was
99 approved. Voting: Yes – All.

100
101 **c. Ag Certainty Update**

102 **1. Funding Request for 2018**

103 At the last meeting, \$10,000 was approved for S. Harmes to assist in promoting the Ag
104 Certainty Program. The Administrator, Bridgette Timm, would prefer to limit fund
105 requests to increments of \$2500 and use fund requests instead of a sub-agreement.

106 The WWJPB and other attendees discussed the role the WWJPB will take with
107 assisting the Ag Certainty Program and what loans are available through financial
108 institutions to assist farmers.

109 On motion by S. Jacob and seconded by R. Hall, the WWJPB voted to approve a
110 \$2500 fund request for the water certification program. Vote: Yes-All.
111

112 **d. Whitewater JPB 2017 Accomplishments**

113 S. Harmes shared that currently there are 504 certified farmers for the Ag Certainty Program.
114 Also, Joey Nadeau is back with Winona County and will continue assisting with the agricultural
115 planning framework. Jennifer Wahls is working on the Forest Action Plan and will be having an
116 open house in January 2018 for landowners. J. Wahls received approval to use some of the
117 funds for stewardship plans. Lauren Jensen, the GreenCorps worker for Winona County, is
118 working on the history of the WWJPB.
119

120 S. Jacob expanded on the positive impacts of the WWJPB projects and how that incites others
121 to participate in programs.
122

123 The WWJPB and other attendees discussed the progress being made with updating dairy
124 farmer's manure holding facilities and cover crops. K. Qualley added that at the feedlot
125 workshop earlier in December, there was a lot of discussion about rye and radishes are the
126 top cover crops. There was also talk about the need for self-terminating cover crops.
127

128 **7. Public Comments**

129 D. Buck gave an update on the Buffer Ordinance progress. For Winona County, there is about
130 a 91-92% compliance rate. Approximately 6% were going to get into compliance after harvest
131 season but with the late harvest, it won't be until spring 2018. Once that additional 6% are in
132 compliance, Winona County will be over 97% compliant.

133 The numbers he was able to get for the Stockton-Rollingstone-MN City Watershed, which was
134 almost identical to the Winona County numbers. He believes Whitewater has the same
135 numbers, if not better, due to the state land that is included in that area.
136

137 D. Buck also reported that the Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District was
138 approved for the Cooperative Weed Management Area Grant by BWSR. The grant is worth
139 \$15,000 and will be used for oriental bittersweet control.
140

141 S. Harmes shared an email from Don Nelson as an update on the Wildlife Management Area
142 Plan. Per the email, there has been no progress on the plan since this summer and the
143 funding for the planner has run out. The plan will need to be completed by area staff as time
144 permits.
145

146 Per D. Buck and S. Harmes, \$850,000 in implementation funds were granted to the Root River
147 Watershed Comprehensive Plan; these funds are for the next two 2 years.
148

149 **8. Agency Reports**

150
151 Roland Wood (Wabasha SWCD): R. Wood shared an update on the moving of the dredge
152 sand with the Corps of Engineers. The Corps of Engineers have pushed out the plan
153 completion date six months. This gives more time to work on specifics of the dredged sand
154 issue. In the meantime, the Corps of Engineers will hold some hearings to receive public
155 feedback on their plans.
156
157
158

159 **9. Next Meeting:** The next scheduled meeting is February 15, 2018.

160

161 The Whitewater Joint Powers Board adjourned at 10:21 a.m. on a motion of R. Hall and seconded
162 by S. Jacob. Voting: Yes - All

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164

165

166 Respectfully submitted by:

167 Anne Schwertel, Administrative Specialist

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171

Signed: Clark Fieck 2-15-18
WWJPB Secretary/Treasurer