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

**Minutes**

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

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

Others Present: Sheila Harmes, Coordinator Whitewater Watershed, Adam Beilke, Board of Water and Soil Resources

Board Members Absent: Claron Krogness

**2. Approve Minutes of August 17, 2017**

A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by J. Elsing to approve the minutes.

Voting: Yes – All.

**3. Approve Agenda**

Sheila Harmes requested to add two announcements at the end of the agenda.

A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by R. Hall to approve the agenda as amended.

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, two invoices for Jennifer Wahls for her work on the Forest Action Plan Project and a payment to the auditor in the amount of \$2,150. Lastly, there's a check to Bernard Bus Company, which is related to the Ag Certainty grant.

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

Voting: Yes – All.

**5. Board Reports**

Josh Elsing (Winona County SWCD): The new SWCD program, \$30 for 30 acres for 3 years (3-3-3) program has taken off and filled up fast. The list is exceptionally long and people are still calling or stopping in to see if they can be a part of the program. The program was limited to those new to cover crops. There was a hiccup with some of their funding through the State and the County is working with them to assist in getting that back.

Steve Jacob (Winona County Board): County Board of Commissioners had a conditional use permit come through for the Heritage Hills Dairy. It was approved by the County Board on a 4-1 vote.

53 Rich Hall (Wabasha County Board): Planning & Zoning is very busy as people are trying to get  
54 their projects done before winter.

55  
56 Roland Wood (Wabasha County SWCD): We have hired two new technicians (Bill Wayne and  
57 Mitch Rigelman) and SWCD is now fully staffed.

58  
59 Matt Flynn (Olmsted County Board): The County Administrator, Richard Devlin, will be retiring at  
60 the end of the month – 44 years on the job. He is the longest serving administrator in the state of  
61 Minnesota.

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

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66 **a. Water Resource Management Presentation**

67 Sheila Harmes gave a Power Point presentation on water management. The presentation  
68 included an overview of federal, state, regional and local entities that deal with water or land  
69 management in SE Minnesota. Rich Hall asked that this presentation be given to the  
70 Wabasha County Board.

71  
72 **b. Financial Update**

73 Sheila Harmes: Through the end of August, between the money market and checking, the total  
74 amount is \$57,739. By the end of September, it was down to \$46,476 – that was just paying  
75 off bills and taking out the money that was set aside that was already received in a grant. Matt  
76 Flynn asked about the status of the reconciliation with Winona County. Steve Jacob noted  
77 that the County Administrator is currently reviewing that. Matt Flynn noted that there are  
78 similarities between the Whitewater JPB and the Southeast Minnesota Water Resources  
79 Board, except that the SEMWRB serves 10 counties and the Whitewater serves only three.  
80 This will be on the agenda for the December 21, 2017, WWJPB meeting.

81  
82 1.) 2016 Audit Review

83 On a motion by S. Jacob and seconded by R. Hall, the 2016 Audit Review was  
84 approved. Voting: Yes – All.

85  
86 2.) 2017 Audit Bid

87 S. Harmes received a bid from Michael Peterson, for \$2,200, which was \$50 more than  
88 last year.

89 On a motion by J. Elsing and seconded by R. Hall, the 2017 Audit Bid was approved.  
90 Voting: Yes – All.

91  
92 **c. Whitewater Watershed Joint Powers Board revision**

93 S. Harmes presented some suggested changes to the Whitewater Watershed Joint Powers  
94 Board agreement as it was outdated. She inserted information regarding the  
95 Secretary/Treasurer position and alternate Secretary/Treasurer. She discussed verbiage for  
96 conducting meetings every other month. She submitted the suggested changes to the County  
97 Attorney, but there are 6 signatures from different entities that need to be collected. At this  
98 time, S. Harmes is hoping to have the updated agreement on the next agenda for discussion.  
99 Board members suggested adding in the language that special meetings may be called as  
100 needed.

101  
102 **d. Ag Certainty Update**

103 S. Harmes stated that as of this week, 474 producers are certified, which covers 275,000  
104 acres. Since the start of the program, approximately 855 new practices have been  
105 implemented. The Ag Certainty program is transitioning over to the Water Resources Board

106 and Bridgette Timm will be the Administrator. S. Harmes will need to submit a fund request to  
107 Bridgette Timm for the next two years. S. Harmes also planned to ask if she could assist in  
108 promoting the program for \$10,000 per year. The \$10,000 would cover promotional events,  
109 room rentals and for her time to help promote the program. S. Harmes would have the  
110 agreement with the Water Resources Board at the next meeting.  
111

## 112 7. Public Comments

113 S. Harmes stated that the budgets that were passed through the state for agricultural  
114 appropriations (\$13 million the first year and \$13 for the second year) are available. Funding  
115 is available for farmer-led water management councils and implementing farmer-led water  
116 improvement practices. Sheila Harmes spoke with the staff at the Department of Agriculture to  
117 let them know of interest in funding for the Whitewater and Rush-Pine farmer-led councils.  
118 When funding is available, Sheila Harmes would like to submit an application.  
119

120 S. Harmes brought up an agenda item from the Winona County Board meeting. The agenda  
121 item was to approve the closing of a fund for the Whitewater Watershed debt repayment and  
122 transfer remaining funds. She believed it was from when Megan Kranz-McGuire was the  
123 Coordinator for the Whitewater and she had done the bacteria reduction grant. One of the  
124 other grants she had received was a loan program for people to upgrade their septic systems.  
125 All the loans have been repaid. This was a just a notice to close it out and the remaining funds,  
126 \$2,224, went to the Winona County General Fund.  
127  
128

## 129 8. Agency Reports


### 130 a. BWSR – Adam Beilke – One Watershed One Plan

131 Adam Beilke gave an update to the One Watershed One Plan program. In 2015, five  
132 watersheds (including the Root Watershed) were selected for the first round of watershed-  
133 based plans. Each year more watersheds are selected to begin the planning process; the goal  
134 is to have seven watershed plans started per year. Statewide, the goal is to have plans for  
135 each watershed by the year 2025. To get there, appropriations from the legislature provide  
136 funding for the planning process; local staff provides feedback and works with the consultant  
137 to shape the plan. The next Watershed grant application will be this upcoming spring. The  
138 board members discussed actively working towards the One Watershed One Plan in Se  
139 Minnesota.  
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## 143 9. Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting is December 21, 2017.

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145 The Whitewater Joint Powers Board adjourned at 9:56 a.m. on a motion of S. Jacob and  
146 seconded by J. Elsing. Voting: Yes - All  
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150 Respectfully submitted by:  
151 Anne Schwertel, Administrative Specialist  
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153  
154 Signed:   
155 Roland Wood, Secretary/Treasurer

