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**Whitewater Joint Powers Board  
December 20, 2018  
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, Chuck Fick, Steve Jacob, Josh Elsing, Richard Hall

Others Present: Sheila Harmes, Coordinator Whitewater Watershed; Emily Bartusek, PCA SE Watershed Unit Project Manager; Lance Klessig, Winona SWCD; Kay Qualley, Planning & Environmental Services Director, Chris Meyer, Winona County Commissioner, Mark Daley, Barton Winter

Board Members Absent: Claron Krogness

- 2. Approve Minutes of October 18, 2018 Meeting**

A motion was made by J. Elsing and seconded by C. Fick to approve the minutes.

Voting: Yes – All.

- 3. Approve Agenda**

S. Harmes requested an agenda item, an Audit letter for signature, be added under financials. A motion was made by C. Fick and seconded by S. Jacob to approve the amended agenda.

Voting: Yes – All.

- 4. Approve Consent Items**

**Bills & Payroll**

Sheila Harmes: An amended bills payable was presented, to include 14 cover crop payments associated with the 319 Grant. Also, MCIT will require an electronic payment in January 2019. The amount listed is what the payment was in January 2018; the 2019 payment should be similar. The total payment amount, excluding MCIT, was \$27,410.35.

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

Voting: Yes – All.

- 5. Board Reports**

Josh Elsing (Winona SWCD Supervisor): Cover crops went well for Winona County. He attended the Minnesota Association of SWCD Meeting and found some speakers to be interesting.

Steve Jacob (Winona County Board): Suggested the public comment be put at the beginning of the meeting, instead of the end, in case the WWJPB would like to add agenda items for discussion. There is a Daley Farm expansion application before Winona County for consideration. A regional EIS was ordered for MN and asked if Emily Bartusek knew how that regional EIS would affect the Daley application.

E. Bartusek stated Commissioner Stine denied the feedlot permit for a 5000 head hog operation in Fillmore County. As part of his recommendation, he requested the Environmental Quality Board pursue funding from the legislature to conduct a SE Minnesota regional study on nitrogen

54 contamination and ground water. Commissioner Stine's statement is available online. S. Jacob  
55 also attended the AMC Convention; it included a presentation on One Watershed One Plan from  
56 MCIT

57  
58 Josh Elsing (Winona SWCD Supervisor): Added to his update that he met up with some  
59 Minnesota Representatives and BWSR to discuss the buffer law enforcement. It was important the  
60 State to give more leeway to the local Counties and SWCD's, who are trying to gain compliance. It  
61 was also important to understand that the plans that come in may or may not make sense to them,  
62 but to trust that the Counties and SWCD's are doing what they can.

63  
64 Rich Hall (Wabasha Co. Commissioner): Attended the AMC Convention and the 1W1P  
65 presentation. Wabasha Administrator position will be vacant as of January 2019, so they will be  
66 hiring for new Administrator.

67  
68 Chuck Fick (Wabasha SWCD Supervisor): Attended the State SWCD Convention and liked the  
69 presentation on the soil health. Wabasha County SWCD has two new board members starting  
70 January 2019.

71  
72 Matt Flynn (Olmsted County Board): The 80 acres is prepared to start pumping Lake Zumbro by  
73 spring.

## 74 75 **6. Board Discussion and Action Items**

### 76 77 **a. Financial Update – Sheila Harmes**

78 At the end of October, after subtracting the grant money earned but not yet used, the balance  
79 for the money market and the checking account was \$47,462. By the end of November, the  
80 total had increased due to deposits and was at \$70,079.

#### 81 82 **1) Auditor Letter for Signature**

83 S. Harmes shared two copies of an auditor letter for signature she received for 2018  
84 audit.

### 85 86 **b. Mississippi River – Winona Watershed Planning Framework contract for services**

87 The grant uses GIS to develop maps showing the best locations for best management. BWSR  
88 wanted to use remaining funds for hydrologic conditioning, to be done by Saint Mary's  
89 University as work study, for more watersheds. This process would take inaccuracies out of the  
90 maps that were created by LIDAR. The WWJPB discussed different entities that could complete  
91 the hydrologic conditioning. This agenda item will be brought back at the next board meeting.  
92 The WWJPB would prefer the work stay within the entities directly involved in the WWJPB.

### 93 94 **c. Whitewater Watershed Joint Powers Agreement Amendment**

95 Due to some updates needing to be done with an outdated agreement, an amendment to the  
96 agreement was completed with attorney input. S. Harmes sent the amendment to the Attorneys  
97 of Winona County, Olmsted County and Wabasha County and received good feedback and  
98 recommendations.

99  
100 S. Jacob made a motion to replace the words "habitat for all plants and animals" with "plant and  
101 animal habitat" and adopt the agreement amendment; seconded by C. Fick. Vote: Yes – All.

### 102 103 104 **d. Winona County Administration Support**

105 K. Qualley explained the approximate annual administrative support for the WWJPB. The  
106 WWJPB discussed the spreadsheet included in the packet which specifically outlined the

107 services provided and the cost of the services. A yearly invoice will be submitted to the  
108 WWJPB.

109  
110 On motion by R. Hall and seconded C. Fick, the WWJPB voted to approve the \$2,000 payment  
111 to Winona County for Administrative support. Vote: Yes – All.  
112

113 **e. Forest Action Plan Grant Update**

114 S. Harmes gave an update on Jennifer Wahl's work. J. Wahl is working on three projects that  
115 involve cost-share incentives. The grant will be finishing up in April.  
116

117 **f. 319 Nitrogen Reduction grant update**

118 **1) Cover crop payments**

119 There are 14 cover crop payments to be approved. A color-coordinated handout was given  
120 to WWJPB members showing the landowners who have participated in the cover crop  
121 program.  
122

123 On motion by J. Elsing and seconded by S. Jacob, the WWJPB voted to approve the 14  
124 cover crop payments, including the correction to #207. Vote: Yes – All.  
125

126 **g. Whitewater JPB accomplishments**

127 S. Harmes presented a summary of WWJPB's 2018 accomplishments.  
128

129 **7. Public Comments**

130 Kay Qualley, Planning & Environmental Services Director: Planning and Environmental Services  
131 received a grant through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to eradicate Oriental  
132 Bittersweet in Winona County. With Permission from landowners, the MDA is using drones, to look  
133 in the valleys where Oriental Bittersweet was identified as a problem by homeowners.  
134

135 Mark Daley, Daley Farms of Lewiston: Daley Farms is going through the permitting process for  
136 their expansion and was in attendance to garner some support for their proposed plan. M. Daley  
137 explained their current cover crops and plans to add with their expansion. WWJPB Chair, M.  
138 Flynn, said if the WWJPB as a board gave a statement on the expansion project, they would need  
139 to have a public hearing. Individually, members can weigh in. The WWJPB did not make a  
140 statement on the Daley Farms expansion.  
141

142 Barton Winter: In attendance to receive information about improving the drainage in the North  
143 Branch of the Whitewater. He is also interested in information about land conservation in  
144 southeast Minnesota.  
145

146 Chris Meyer: Introduced herself as a newly elected Winona County Commissioner – 1<sup>st</sup> District,  
147 effective January 2019.  
148

149 Lance Klessig, SWCD: In attendance in case there were any questions about the cover crop  
150 program. SWCD is also working to collect information with the Department of Agriculture on the  
151 Oriental Bittersweet project that K. Qualley mentioned. WWJPB discussed some images provided  
152 for the cover crop program.  
153

154 Emily Bartusek, MPCA: The MPCA is continuing to scan and archive whitewater stream channel  
155 slides provided by S. Harmes. Secondly, there has been discussion between MPCA, DNR and  
156 private entities about measuring the difference in trout habitat restoration project methods and  
157 what is the best practice. Justin Watkins is the contact.  
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159 Rich Hall: Requested a tour in the spring to look at the cover crop projects.

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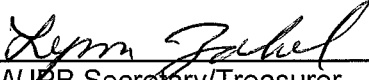
**8. Agency Reports**

None

**9. Next Meeting:** The next scheduled meeting is February 21, 2019.

The Whitewater Joint Powers Board adjourned at 9:57 a.m. on a motion of R. Hall and seconded by J. Elsing. Vote: Yes - All

Respectfully submitted by:  
Anne Schwertel, Administrative Specialist

Signed:   
WWJPB Secretary/Treasurer