

**Whitewater Joint Powers Board Minutes**  
**April 18, 2019**  
**Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center**

1. **Call to Order:** Matt Flynn called the meeting to order at 8:25 a.m.

Board Members Present: Matt Flynn, Richard Hall, Steve Jacob, James Rentz, Josh Elsing and Lynn Zabel

Others Present: Sheila Harmes, Coordinator Whitewater Watershed; Jake Overgaard, Winona County Extension Educator/Agriculture Productions Systems; Emily Bartusek, PCA SE Watershed Unit Project Manager; Barton Winter

Board Members Absent: None

2. **Public Comments**

None

3. **Approve Minutes of February 21, 2019 Meeting**

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

Vote: Yes – All,

4. **Approve Agenda**

A motion was made by L. Zabel and seconded by R. Hall to approve the amended agenda, to include two additional Forest Action Grant cost share payments. Vote: Yes – All.

5. **Approve Consent Items**

**Bills & Payroll**

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

Vote: Yes – All.

6. **Board Reports and Introductions**

James Rentz (Olmsted SWCD Supervisor): No update given.

Steve Jacob (Winona County Board): The Winona County frac sand lawsuit is at the Supreme Court of Appeals level. The Daley Farms have appealed the Winona County variance decision. The SE MN Water Resources Board voted on March 11<sup>th</sup> to disband and explained the next steps to be taken by the Counties involved in the SE MN Water Resources Board.

Lynn Zabel (Wabasha County SWCD Supervisor): A couple of Wabasha Commissioners and staff attended the Legislative Day at the Capital and shared discussions that occurred.

Rich Hall (Wabasha Co. Commissioner): A new Wabasha County Administrator will start May 13, 2019.

Josh Elsing (Winona SWCD Supervisor): Briefly discussed levy authority on boards and legislative responsiveness for funding. SWCD is actively looking to team up with owner/operators or those willing to invest to get more equipment on the ground for Winona County. At the NRCS working group meeting last week, the group went through their priorities and all remained the same, except the priority watershed will now be Rollingstone Creek.

Matt Flynn (Olmsted County Board): Lake Zumbro is scheduled to be dredged soon.

7. **Board Discussion and Action Items**

**a. Financial Update – Sheila Harmes**

S. Harmes explained the balances for the money market and the checking account.

**b. Nitrogen Management Project Update - Jake Overgaard**

J. Overgaard introduced himself and explained his assistance role with the Whitewater Joint Powers Board. He gave a presentation regarding cumulative rainfall and soil and crop nitrate testing.

The following is a summary of his presentation:

Jake has assisted local farmers in nitrogen management since 2013; in the past five years, his involvement included test plots. Nutrient management is the most costly, next to land rentals, so it is important to manage this efficiently for better farm profitability.

The 2018 growing season was very challenging with above average rainfall rates. Pre-plant and pre-side dress soil tests were used to determine how much nitrate was carried over from previous growing season and how much was needed in fertilizer applications. In-season aerial imagery helped determine field best locations to collect samples. Basal stalk nitrate tests identified how much of the applied nitrate was left over in the corn stalk (not used). This was driven by how much nitrogen was applied, how much mineralized, how much the corn crop used and how much rain impacted the crop. Due to variability in weather from year to year, management decisions should be based on a trend over time.

**1) Cover Crop Payment 18WW319CCO-07**

On motion by S. Jacob and seconded by R. Hall, the WWJPB voted to approve the cover crop payment. Vote: Yes – All.

**c. Whitewater Joint Powers Agreement Update and Adoption of Operating Procedures**

**1) Adoption of Public Comments Procedures**

On motion by S. Jacob and seconded by L. Zabel, the WWJPB voted to approve the Public Comments Procedures. Vote: Yes – All.

**2) Adoption of Attachment A to Whitewater Joint Powers Agreement Amendment**

On motion by J. Elsing and seconded by S. Jacob, the WWJPB voted to approve the adoption of attachment A to the Whitewater Joint Powers Agreement Amendment.  
Vote: Yes – All.

**d. Forest Action Plan Grant Update**

**1) Cost Share payment #4 (Invasive Species Management)**

**2) Cost Share payment #5 (Invasive Species and Forest Road Improvement)**

**3) Cost Share payment #6 (Reforestation)**

**4) Cost Share payment #7 (Invasive Species Management along fence line)**

On motion by S. Jacob and seconded by J. Elsing, the Whitewater Joint Powers Board voted to approve cost share payments #4 - #7. Vote: Yes – All.

**e. 319 Focus Watershed Letter of Interest**

On motion by J. Elsing and J. Rentz, the Whitewater Joint Powers Board voted to send an updated letter of interest for the 319 Small Watersheds Focus program. Vote: Yes – All.

**f. SE Minnesota Water Resources Board Status Update**

S. Harmes and S. Jacob gave information regarding the disbandment of the SE MN Water Resources Board and the allocation of the grants being administered by the board.

**8. Agency Reports**

Emily Bartusek – MPCA has been working with county water planners on the Mississippi River-Winona Watershed (includes Whitewater Watershed) to set up water monitoring sampling for next year. MPCA will meet in the fall, once they have an established list of sites that will be sampled, to determine which agencies would do the water monitoring with the assistance of grants from the MPCA.

Barton Winter – He is interested in the North Branch Whitewater being approved for the 319 Focus Watershed as he feels that has the greatest need. The WWJPB suggested having B. Winter send verbiage, in written form, to S. Harmes and the WWJPB.

**9. Next Meeting:** The next scheduled meeting is June 20, 2019.

The Whitewater Joint Powers Board adjourned at 10:40 a.m. on a motion of J. Elsing and seconded by J. Rentz. Vote: Yes - All

Respectfully submitted by:  
Anne Schwertel, Administrative Specialist

Signed:

  
~~WWJPB Secretary/Treasurer~~

