

Whitewater Joint Powers Board Minutes
August 15, 2019
Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center

1. **Call to Order:** Matt Flynn called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

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

Others Present: Sheila Harmes, Coordinator Whitewater Watershed; David Schmidt, TNC; Larry Gates, Southeast Landscape Committee; Jennifer Wahls, Landowner Outreach Coordinator

Board Members Absent: None

2. **Public Comments**

None

3. **Approve Minutes of June 20, 2019 Meeting**

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

Vote: Yes – All.

4. **Approve Agenda**

A motion was made by R. Hall and seconded by L. Zabel to approve the agenda. Vote: Yes – All.

5. **Forest Action Plan grant – Summary of Accomplishments – Jen Wahls**

Jennifer Wahls introduced herself and thanked everyone for contributing to the success of the program. Jennifer Wahls continued with a presentation on how the Forest Action Plan grant was funded and a summary of accomplishments. Project work included a focused outreach to landowners with woodlands. Project conclusions: Financial assistance options need to be flexible; and many landowners are not interested in financial assistance, but do want technical assistance. Outreach efforts take time, but are necessary.

6. **Approve Consent Items**

Bills & Payroll

A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by R. Hall to approve the bills and payroll.

Vote: Yes – All.

7. **Board Reports and Introductions**

Steve Jacob (Winona County Board): A couple of weeks ago, the SE Minnesota Water Resources Board met for the final time in the official process of disbanding. Winona County is still involved with the lawsuit regarding the animal unit cap and there has been a struggle with the discussion of where the dairy in Winona County is headed.

Lynn Zabel (Wabasha SWCD Supervisor): There was a booth at the Wabasha County Fair which allowed the public to bring water samples in for nitrate testing. He found there were concerning nitrate levels in some peoples wells.

Richard Hall (Wabasha County Commissioner): Wabasha County is working on the 2020 budget. A couple positions at Wabasha County have opened up in the last couple of weeks.

Josh Elsing (Winona SWCD Supervisor): The water tests results were interesting – there seemed to be a correlation between the depths and location of the wells. It is a red flag that there are more and more water samples determined to be high in nitrates. At their next meeting, the SWCD Board will be developing a policy statement addressing farming trends and impacts to environment.

James Rentz (Olmsted SWCD Supervisor): There were a couple tables at the County Fair that people could bring in water samples to be tested, but he was unaware of the results of the tests.

Matt Flynn (Olmsted County Board): Olmsted County is working on the 2020 budget.

8. Board Discussion and Action Items

a. Financial Update – *Sheila Harmes* Audit Representation letter

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

b. FY 2020 Clean Water Fund Resolutions

1) **Whitewater North Branch Sediment Reduction Projects and Practices**

BWSR has opened up Clean Water Fund grant applications, which are due September 9th. Discussions have occurred in the past regarding sediment in the North Branch, which is one of the reasons for targeting the North Branch for a grant application. The grant would be in partnership with the Olmsted and Wabasha SWCDs. This project would address the infield erosion and it would work complementary to an instream and stream stabilization project that will be starting in 2020.

On motion by J. Elsing and seconded by J. Rentz, the WWJPB voted to submit the grant application.

Vote: Yes – All.

2) **Whitewater Drinking Water Projects and Practices**

In the Projects and Practices section of the Clean Water Fund, up to 20% of the funds have to go towards drinking water protection initiatives. S. Harmes discussed high priority townships, based on water testing, in the Whitewater area and practices that can be implemented to promote clean water. The WWJPB discussed no-till.

On motion by J. Elsing and seconded by R. Hall, the WWJPB voted to apply for the grant.

Vote: Yes – All.

c. Nitrogen Management Project Update

The Nitrogen Management, Soil Health and Cover Crop Field Tour is August 20th. The tour will start at 9:30 AM at the Olmsted SWCD Soil Health Farm and there will be approximately five stops on the tour. This tour is in partnership with Department of Agriculture, Extension and the SWCDs.

d. Whitewater MAWQCP contract amendment

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

9. Agency Reports

None

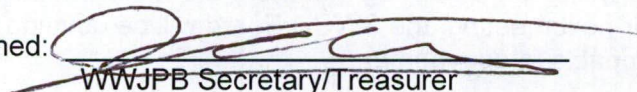
10. Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting is October 17, 2019.

Note: location change to St Charles Community Room, 830 Whitewater Ave, St Charles, MN.

The Whitewater Joint Powers Board adjourned at 9:55 a.m. on a motion of S. Jacob and seconded by J. Elsing. Vote: Yes - All

Respectfully submitted by:
Anne Schwertel, Administrative Specialist

Signed:


WWJPB Secretary/Treasurer