

**Whitewater Joint Powers Board Minutes
December 13, 2019
Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center**

1
2
3
4
5 **1. Call to Order:** Matt Flynn called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

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

7
8 Others Present: Sheila Harmes, Coordinator Whitewater Watershed; Lance Klessig, Winona SWCD

9
0 Board Members Absent: Richard Hall

1
2 **2. Public Comments**

3 None

4
5 **3. Approve Minutes of October 17, 2019 Meeting**

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

7 Vote: Yes – All.

8
9 **4. Approve Agenda**

0 A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by J. Elsing to approve the amended agenda. The agenda was amended to remove item 7b: Whitewater State Park – Centennial Presentation. Vote: Yes – All.

1
2
3 **5. Approve Consent Items**

4
5 **Bills & Payroll**

6 A motion was made by J. Elsing and seconded by S. Jacob to approve the bills and payroll and pay the MCIT bill "as billed" electronically once received by Sheila Harmes.

7 Vote: Yes – All.

8
9
0 **6. Board Reports**

1 Steve Jacob (Winona County Board): At the 12/12/2019 meeting, the Winona County Board approved two Root Watershed One Watershed One Plan amendments.

2
3
4 James Rentz (Olmsted SWCD Supervisor): Martin Larsen and Angela White are working on a cover crop workshop to be held next month.

5
6
7 Lynn Zabel (Wabasha SWCD Supervisor): Wabasha SWCD will support BWSR's Natural Resources Conservation Services Regional Conservation Partnership Program proposal. Also, through a partnership with the Wapashaw Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America and funding from the Upper Mississippi River Initiative, the SWCD contracted with Melendy Miller to interview farmers to record their hard work and commitment to conservation.

8
9
0
1
2
3 Josh Elsing (Winona SWCD Supervisor): Cover crop projects are going well. He discussed the funding for the projects and the different entities involved with the funding process. The SWCD had received their audit and are still in discussions regarding their office building.

4
5
6
7
8
9
0
1
2
3 Matt Flynn (Olmsted County Board): One of the dikes broke during the Lake Zumbro dredging project so cleanup is underway. Olmsted County bought Fisherman's Inn as an expansion of the County's nearby White Bridge Pier site. The location allows the County to add a boat launch, recreational area and parking for greater access to the lake.

4 **7. Board Discussion and Action Items**

5
6
7 **a. Financial Update – Sheila Harmes**

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

6 **1. 2018 Audit**

7 S. Harmes shared the final copy of the 2018 audit. On motion by J. Elsing and seconded by J.
8 Rentz, the WWJPB voted to approve the 2018 audit. Vote: Yes – All.

9
0 **2. 2019 Audit Contract**

1 S. Harmes shared a quote for the cost of the 2019 audit, to be completed by the same company
2 that currently conducts the WWJPB audits. The cost would be \$50 more.

3
4 On motion by L. Zabel and seconded by J. Elsing, the WWJPB voted to approve the 2019 audit
5 contract. Vote: Yes – All.

6
7 **b. Whitewater State Park – Centennial Presentation – Sara Holger**

8 Removed from the agenda.

9
0 **c. Computer Replacement**

1 S. Harmes explained the computer in Lewiston needs to be replaced due to expiration of programs
2 occurring January 14, 2020. Technical support, software updates will no longer be supported. Per Mark
3 Anderson, Winona County IT Director, the computer is outdated and needs replacement. The cost for a
4 new computer would be about \$600-\$700, per Winona County IT.

5
6 On motion by J. Elsing and J. Rentz, the WWJPB voted to purchase a new computer and software.
7 Vote: Yes – All.

8
9 **d. Whitewater Nitrogen Reduction Grant Update**

0 **1) Cover Crop payments**

1 S. Harmes shared cover crop payment information. On motion by S. Jacob and seconded by L. Zabel,
2 the WWJPB voted to approve the cover crop payments. Vote: Yes – All.

3
4 **e. Surface Water Assessment Grant Update**

5 As part of the State's Watershed Approach, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is preparing for
6 monitoring for the Mississippi River-Winona and La Crescent watersheds. For 2020 and 2021, eight (8)
7 sites need to be monitored on stream sites and two (2) sites in Lake Winona. The MPCA have
8 additional sites where they will conduct biological monitoring, assessing fish and macroinvertebrates and
9 habitat. The 8 stream sites and 2 lake sites are available for local governments to conduct the
0 monitoring. The MPCA will pay staff time, equipment, mileage, and lab fees. No match is required. Other
1 SWCD's are interested in being partners to assist in monitoring of the sites. S. Harmes should have the
2 grant finalized and ready for the February WWJPB meeting. The MPCA would like to start the grant
3 work March 2, 2020.

4
5 The WWJPB discussed regional water quality and initiatives. With the collection of data, the WWJPB
6 would like to see practices implemented.

7
8 **f. FY 2020 Clean Water Fund Application Update**

9 S. Harmes submitted the two grants in September on behalf of the Whitewater. The awarded funds were
0 to be announced in December, but is now pushed out to January 2020.

1
2 **8. Agency Reports**

3 Lance Klessig: There is tremendous interest in soil health and the use of YouTube videos to share people's
4 stories. It has been a busy and good year for cover crops. In one year, there are approximately 65 new
5 landowners that tried cover crops in Winona County.

6
7 **9. Next Meeting:** February 20, 2020

8
9 The Whitewater Joint Powers Board adjourned at 9:25 a.m. on motion by J. Elsing and seconded by J.
0 Rentz.

2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

Respectfully submitted by:
Anne Schwertel, Administrative Specialist

Signed: 
WWJPB Secretary/Treasurer

