

Whitewater Joint Powers Board Minutes
June 20, 2019
Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center

1. **Call to Order:** Matt Flynn called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

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

Others Present: Sheila Harmes, Coordinator Whitewater Watershed; Nikki Shaw, CCM Apprentice Winona SWCD

Board Members Absent: Richard Hall and Lynn Zabel

2. **Public Comments**

None

3. **Approve Minutes of April 18, 2019 Meeting**

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

Vote: Yes – All.

4. **Approve Agenda**

A motion was made by J. Elsing and seconded by S. Jacob to approve the agenda. Vote: Yes – All.

5. **Approve Consent Items**

Bills & Payroll

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

Vote: Yes – All.

6. **Board Reports and Introductions**

Steve Jacob (Winona County Board): USDA Dairy Census puts Winona County down to 24,000 cows from 29,000. Winona County is down 18.2% since the last census while the entire state is down 0.04%. A couple of months ago, the Winona County Board voted 3-2 to not address the Winona County animal unit cap. Per Matt Flynn, Olmsted County does not have an animal unit cap. Minnesota Southeast Water Resources Board has voted to disband by the middle of July 2019.

James Rentz (Olmsted SWCD Supervisor): The contract with Goodhue for the feedlot grants was approved.

Josh Elsing (Winona SWCD Supervisor): The tough spring has made it hard for farmers. WWJPB discussed prevent planting. There could potentially be an influx in crop prices. J. Elsing's suggestion is to develop a plan because if the earlier season buyers take all the seed stock, those wanting to purchase in the fall, may not be able to.

Matt Flynn (Olmsted County Board): Lake Zumbro is currently being dredged and will continue through the fall. The reclamation of the land will take place over the next couple of years. Zumbro 1W1P started with "kick-off" meetings. The plan and structure will be set up the same way as the Root River Watershed.

7. **Board Discussion and Action Items**

a. Financial Update – Sheila Harmes

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

1) Proposed 2020 Budget

Due to County deadlines, the proposed 2020 budget has already been submitted to Winona County and Wabasha County. S. Harmes will submit to Olmsted County.

On motion by S. Jacob and seconded by J. Rentz, the WWJPB voted to approve the proposed 2020 budget. Vote: Yes – All.

b. Forest Action Plan Grant Update

1) Cost Share payment #8 (Invasive Species Management)

On motion by J. Elsing and seconded by J. Rentz, the WWJPB voted to approve cost share payment #8. Vote: Yes – All.

2) Cost Share payment #9 (Invasive Species and Forest Road Improvement)

On motion by J. Rentz and seconded by J. Elsing, the WWJPB voted to approve cost share payment #9. Vote: Yes – All.

3) Cost Share payment #10 (Invasive Species Management)

On motion by S. Jacob and seconded by J. Elsing, the WWJPB voted to approve cost share payment #10. Vote: Yes – All.

S. Harmes will talk to Jennifer Wahls about conducting a presentation to the WWJPB at the August meeting about her project.

c. 319 Focus Watersheds Focus Program Update

On approval from the WWJPB, S. Harmes had submitted a letter of interest. On June 6th, MPCA requested to conduct a phone interview. S. Harmes, Emily Bartusek and Caitlin Brady were involved in the conference call with the MPCA staff from St. Paul. The MPCA received 40 letters of interest. By the end of June, the MPCA will have the list narrowed down to approximately 15-20 watersheds, who will move on to the second round. The second round will include an in-person visit and tour of the watershed. The final selection of 10 small watersheds should be complete by end of summer. If not chosen, S. Harmes intends to reapply next year.

d. Nitrogen Management Project Update

Jake has been busy with setting up test plots with landowners and conducting soil tests. A joint conservation tour with the Department of Agriculture, University of Minnesota Extension, local SWCDs and the farmers involved with the nitrogen BMP project will occur August 20th to view the fields involved. The tour will address nitrogen management and cover crops. There will also be discussion about how farm activities impact ground water. 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. The rain date for the tour is August 27th.


8. Agency Reports

Nikki Shaw – Introduced herself and explained her plan for the summer is invasive work but the water has been too high. She is also involved with soil work, waterway construction and surveying.

9. Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting is August 15, 2019.

The Whitewater Joint Powers Board adjourned at 9:10 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