

**Whitewater Joint Powers Board Minutes
February 20, 2020
Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center**

1. Call to Order: Matt Flynn called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

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

Others Present: Sheila Harmes, Coordinator Whitewater Watershed; Sarah Holger

Board Members Absent: None

2. Public Comments

None

3. Approve Minutes of December 13, 2019 Meeting

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

Vote: Yes – All.

4. Approve Agenda

S. Harmes asked that Sara Holger's presentation be moved up on the agenda and to add *J. 319 Focus Watershed Program*. A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by J. Elsing to approve the amended agenda. Vote: Yes – All.

5. Whitewater State Park – Centennial Presentation – Sara Holger

Sara Holger presented a summary of the events that led to the start of the Whitewater State Park and what has happened since. She included testimony from citizens that were around during the development and presented the overall history of the park.

6. Approve Consent Items

A motion was made by J. Elsing and seconded by R. Hall to approve the bills and payroll.

Vote: Yes – All.

7. Board Reports

- Steve Jacob (Winona County Board): At the last Winona County Board, the Mississippi-Winona-LaCrescent One Watershed One Plan was on the agenda. Will share County Board discussion with the One Watershed One Plan agenda item.

8. Board Discussion and Action Items

a. Election of Officers

On motion by L. Zabel and seconded by J. Elsing, the WWJPB voted to keep the officers as is for 2020:

Chair – Matt Flynn, Vice Chair – Steve Jacob, Secretary/Treasurer – Josh Elsing and Alternate Secretary/Treasurer – Lynn Zabel. Vote: Yes – All.

b. Financial Update – Sheila Harmes

S. Harmes explained the balances for the money market and the checking account. S. Harmes also explained expected future deposit amounts.

c. Whitewater State Park – Centennial Presentation – Sara Holger

Agenda item moved to #5 on the agenda.

d. 2020 Rental Agreement Approval

Rental agreement is with the Winona SWCD, who signed at their last meeting. The agreement is for March 19, 2020 – March 19, 2021. On motion by J. Elsing and seconded by L. Zabel, the WWJPB voted to approve the 2020 rental agreement. Vote: Yes – All.

6 **e. 319 Nitrogen Reduction Grant**

7 **1) Grant Amendment Approval**

8 On motion by J. Elsing and J. Rentz, the WWJPB voted to approve the grant amendment.
9 Vote: Yes – All.

0 **2) Cover Crop payments**

- 1 18WW319-CCO-03
- 2 18WW319-CCO-04
- 3 18WW319-CCO-08
- 4 18WW319-CCO-09

5 S. Harmes shared cover crop payment information. On motion by J. Elsing and seconded by R. Hall, the
6 WWJPB voted to approve the cover crop payments. Vote: Yes – All.

7 **f. Surface Water Assessment Grant Update**

8 **1) Grant Agreement Approval**

9 This is for monitoring eight stream sites and two lake sites in Lake Winona to assist with the watershed
0 approach for monitoring water quality. The grant agreement, right now, is between the Whitewater and
1 the MPCA. Once the agreement is approved, sub-agreements will need to be developed with Winona
2 County, Root River SWCD and Wabasha SWCD as they are partners listed in the work plan.

3 On motion by J. Elsing and J. Rentz, the WWJPB voted to approve the grant agreement. Vote: Yes – 5
4 (JE, MF, LZ, RH, JR); No – 1 (SJ). Motion carries.

5 **g. Whitewater Drinking Water Protection Grant**

6 **1) Grant Agreement Approval**

7 In the fall of 2019, the WWJP approved S. Harmes to apply for two grants on behalf of the Whitewater.
8 One grant was for the North Branch Whitewater to do a sediment reduction program in partnership with
9 Olmsted and Wabasha SWCDs, which was not awarded. The other application was a drinking water
0 protection grant and that was granted. S. Harmes described the specifics with the grant application
1 information and what the grant is comprised of.

2 On motion by J. Rentz and L. Zabel, the WWJPB voted to approve the grant agreement.
3 Vote: Yes – All.

4 **h. 2019 Whitewater JPB Accomplishments**

5 S. Harmes shared a summary of the accomplishments by the WWJPB in 2019.

6 **i. One Watershed One Plan Discussion**

7 S. Harmes shared that they're trying to move forward with an application for the Mississippi-Winona-La
8 Crescent watershed. Six watersheds will be chosen for this round. The application comes out in March
9 and is due in June. If selected, the planning process will begin late fall and go into 2021 with the plan
0 being completed by June 30, 2023; implementation to be early 2024. There is no requirement for a Joint
1 Powers Board to be involved but should they choose to be, it would be up to this board.

2 S. Jacob discussed concerns with changing political boundaries established years ago in regards to
3 watersheds. With the competitive process, it will be difficult for elected officials to understand who is
4 interacting with whom and for the public to understand who to go to for water concerns. He did not want
5 to see redundancy with watershed activities and board participation.

6 **j. 319 Focus Watershed Program**

7 At the BALMM meeting the day before, there was a presentation on the 319 Focus Watershed program.
8 S. Harmes asked to resubmit a letter of interest. S. Harmes suggested she complete an assessment of
9 watersheds and at the next meeting, this board provide input on which watershed an interest letter could
0 be submitted for. No objections to the suggestion.

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9. Agency Reports

None

10. Next Meeting: Friday April 17, 2020 **Note the date change*

The Whitewater Joint Powers Board adjourned at 10:40 a.m. on motion by S. Jacob and seconded by R. Hall.

Respectfully submitted by:
Anne Schwertel, Administrative Specialist

Signed: 

WWJPB Secretary/Treasurer

