

**Whitewater Joint Powers Board Minutes**  
**February 18, 2021**  
**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, Lynn Zabel, Bob Walkes, James Rentz

Others Present: Sheila Harmes, Coordinator Whitewater Watershed

Board Members Absent: Josh Elsing

**2. Public Comments**

None

**3. Approve Minutes of December 16, 2020 Meeting**

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

Vote: Yes – All.

**4. Approve Agenda**

S. Harmes requested 7. e. 2) cover crop payment be added to the agenda.

**5. Board Reports**

**S. Jacob** – The Winona County Board is going through process of new jail funding. The DNR is asking to cull deer on Winona County land. Winona County is working hard on vaccine distribution and the County is involved in a couple large court cases.

**J. Rentz** – Olmsted County SWCD has a new chair, Cheryl Winters. All SWCD members were assigned their committees.

**L. Zabel** – Wabasha County SWCD has two new members. Jennifer Wahl is doing work on the Zumbro floodplain, which may have developed some land trust possibilities.

**B. Walkes** – Is new to the committee and is just getting his feet wet with meeting fellow committee members and the associated responsibilities.

**M. Flynn** – No new reports.

**6. Approve Consent Items**

A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by B. Walkes to approve the amended bills and payroll to include the MCIT payment, the University of MN payment for soil sampling reimbursement, the University of MN for test plot coordination and a cover crop payment. Vote: Yes – All.

**7. Board Discussion and Action Items**

**a. Election of Officers**

On motion by S. Jacob and seconded by L. Zabel, the WWJPB voted on the nomination of Josh Elsing as WWJPB Chair. Vote: Yes – All.

On motion by J. Rentz and seconded by B. Walkes, the WWJPB voted on the nomination of Lynn Zabel as WWJPB Vice Chair. Vote: Yes – All.

Lynn Zabel assumed roll as Vice Chair to continue running the meeting.

On motion by S. Jacob and seconded by J. Rentz, the WWJPB voted on the nomination of Bob Walkes as WWJPB Secretary/Treasurer. Vote: Yes – All.

On motion by S. Jacob and seconded by B. Walkes, the WWJPB voted on the nomination of James Rentz as alternate WWJPB Secretary/Treasurer. Vote: Yes – All.

Regarding signatures on checks: As new officers, B. Walkes and J. Rentz will be authorized to sign checks. S. Jacob and M. Flynn asked to be removed from the list of authorized signatures. Authorized signatures are: Josh Elsing, Lynn Zabel, Bob Walkes, James Rentz and Sheila Harmes.

**b. Financial Update – Sheila Harmes**

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

**1. Update on cash reserve balances**

S. Harmes explained historically how much the WWJPB has had for cash reserve balances, per request by WWJPB members at a previous WWJPB meeting.

**c. Approve Attachment A to Whitewater Joint Powers Board Agreement Amendment**

On motion by J. Rentz and seconded by B. Walkes, the WWJPB voted to approve the review of Attachment A to the Whitewater Joint Powers Board Agreement. Vote: Yes – All.

**d. Drinking Water Protection Grant**

The Board of Water and Soil Resources authorized a grant extension to better accommodate a three-year cover crop contract.

**1. Approve Grant Amendment**

S. Harmes explained the amendment was for the grant extension. On motion by S. Jacob and seconded by B. Walkes, the WWJPB voted to approve the amendment. Vote: Yes – All.

**e. 319 Nitrogen Reduction Grant Update**

**1. Cover Crop Update**

S. Harmes went over a cover crop summary for 2018-2020 comparing contracted acres and additional acres where cover crops were planted. Also shared was the pounds of nitrogen reduced. S. Harmes will put together a list of questions and follow up with the cover crop recipients to determine how well the process unfolded.

**2. Cover Crop Payment**

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

**8. Agency Reports**

None.

**9. Adjourn; Next meeting April 15, 2021**

On motion by S. Jacob and seconded by J. Rentz, the WWJPB voted to adjourn at 9:25am. Vote: Yes – All.

Respectfully submitted by:

Anne Schwertel

PL&ES Administrative Specialist

Signed:   
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WWJPB Secretary/Treasurer