

**Whitewater Joint Powers Board Minutes**  
**October 15, 2020**  
**Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center**

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

8 Board Members Present: Matt Flynn, Rich Hall (by phone), Steve Jacob, James Rentz, and Lynn Zabel

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0 Others Present: Sheila Harmes, Coordinator Whitewater Watershed; Adam Beilke, MN Board of Water and  
1 Soil Resources (BWSR)

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3 Board Members Absent: Josh Elsing

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5 **2. Public Comments**

6 None

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8 **3. Approve Minutes of August 20, 2020 Meeting**

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

0 Vote: Yes – All.

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2 **4. Approve Agenda**

3 A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by R. Hall to approve the agenda.

4 Vote: Yes – All.

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6 **5. Approve Consent Items**

7 A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by J. Rentz to approve the bills and payroll to include  
8 additional bills payable received after the packet was sent out.

9 Vote: Yes – All.

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1 **6. Board Reports**

2 J. Rentz mentioned well and erosion projects. Olmsted SWCD approved a memorandum of agreement  
3 with the USDA in relation project to improve turkey habitat. L. Zabel shared about proposed resolutions to  
4 the legislature. R. Hall reported on Wabasha County using Federal CARES money. S. Jacob shared that  
5 Winona County has been meeting with the Army Corps in regards to where to put dredged sand from a pile  
6 by Homer. Marie Kovesci was appointed as the representative of the Winona County Board to the  
7 Mississippi River-Winona and La Crescent Watershed Policy Committee. Matt Flynn reported on Olmsted  
8 County using Federal CARES money.

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

1 **a. Financial Update – Sheila Harmes**

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

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4 **1. 2019 Audit Review**

5 S. Harmes explained the audit review and differences between the audit of the previous year.

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7 On motion by J. Rentz and seconded by S. Jacob, the WWJPB voted to approve the 2019 Audit  
8 Review. Vote: Yes – All.

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0 **b. 319 Nitrogen Reduction Grant Update**

1 **1. Cover Crop Payment 18WW319CCO-04**

2 On motion by S. Jacob and seconded by L. Zabel, the WWJPB voted to approve the cover crop  
3 payment. Vote: Yes – All.  
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**c. Surface Water Assessment Grant Update**

S. Harmes provided a brief summary of monitoring conducted from May through September. Eight sites were monitored either 11 or 12 times by the Whitewater JPB and its partners. Stream transparency measurements were collected and a visual assessment was completed. Water samples were also collected and sent to a lab for analysis for E. coli, chloride, total phosphorus and total suspended solids. Monitoring will continue next summer and MPCA will review two years of data to determine if the streams meet the water quality standards.

**d. Mississippi River-Winona/La Crescent Watersheds Update**

S. Harmes submitted a proposal for the last funding round with BWSR and was awarded a 1W1P (One Watershed One Plan) grant. The partners for the grant include: SWCDs and Counties (Houston, Olmsted, Wabasha and Winona), Stockton-Rollingstone-Minnesota City Watershed District and the City of Winona expressed interest in being involved. S. Harmes gave a brief summary of how other multi-County entities were involved in similar projects in the State. WWJPB discussed representation for the 1W1P through other participating boards, i.e. Counties, SWCD and Cities, and the application and planning process. The Board would like 1W1P updates, as appropriate.

**8. Agency Reports**

Adam Beilke (BWSR): The 2020 BWSR academy, which is a training session for staff, will occur online October 27-29, 2020.

Sheila Harmes: Gave estimate on rates from MCIT for next year. She anticipates receiving the invoice in December. Kevin Kuehner put together a series of videos showing how groundwater moves through the three different karst regimes. S. Harmes will share a link via email to view the videos. The videos will be used in schools and by crop consultants to better meet the needs of their clients.

**9. Next Meeting:** Due to conflicts, it was decided to change the December WWJPB meeting to Wednesday December 16, 2020.

The Whitewater Joint Powers Board adjourned at 9:40 a.m. on motion by R. Hall and seconded by J. Rentz. Vote by roll call: Yes – All.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Anne Schwertel  
PL&ES Administrative Specialist

Signed:   
WWJPB Secretary/Treasurer