

**Whitewater Joint Powers Board Minutes  
December 15, 2021  
Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center**

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

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

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0 Others Present: Sheila Harmes, Coordinator Whitewater Watershed; Dawn Bernau; Michael Cruse

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2 Board Members Absent: None

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4 **2. Public Comments**

5 None

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7 **3. Approve Minutes of October 21, 2021 Meeting**

8 A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by M. Flynn to approve the minutes.

9 Vote: Yes – All.  
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1 **4. Approve Agenda**

2 On motion by S. Jacob and seconded by M. Flynn, the WWJPB voted to approve the agenda.

3 Vote: Yes – All.  
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5 **5. Approve Consent Items**

6 S. Harmes explained the amended bill payable, due to additional checks written for the 319 grant.

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8 A motion was made by B. Walkes and seconded by S. Jacob to approve the consent items.

9 Vote: Yes – All.  
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1 **6. Board Reports**

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3 **M. Flynn** – Olmsted County has been working on budgets and wrapped up their last meeting the day  
4 before.

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6 **S. Jacob** – Winona County broke ground for the new jail and S. Jacob explained verbiage in a chloride  
7 monitoring grant, brought before the Winona County Board, regarding required vaccination,  
8 masking and testing. The verbiage was in a grant being administered by the MPCA.  
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0 **J. Rentz** – Wrapping up end of the year items, such as contracts, at the Olmsted County SWCD.

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.2 **J. Elsing** – Did not attend the last Winona SWCD meeting as he was working on nitrogen reduction in  
.3 central Wisconsin. Briefly explained the work on nitrogen reduction.  
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5 **L. Zabel** – Discussed cover crop rotation and nitrogen management. Also, he attended the MN Association  
6 of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Convention. MN Department of Agriculture  
7 Commissioner, Thom Peterson, and MN State Conservationist, Troy Daniell, presented on  
8 green payments being available in the farm program. Lynn was able to talk to Tom Peterson  
9 about ways to incentivize those already doing good conservation, as well.  
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1 **B. Walkes** – Discussed his work for a number of years involving nitrogen rates and timely application.  
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3 **7. Board Discussion and Action Items**

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

5 Sheila Harmes gave an update on the Whitewater Joint Powers Board checking and money market  
6 accounts.

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8 **2020 Audit and 2021 Audit Proposal – Peterson Company**

9 On motion by B. Walkes and seconded by J. Rentz, the WWJPB voted to accept the 2021 Audit  
0 Proposal. Vote: Yes – All.

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2 **b. Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan Agreement**

3 **1) Update on grant\***

4 S. Harmes gave an update on the edited agreement, which was done at the previous WWJPB  
5 meeting. The MDA approved the edits on November 10, 2021. Advisory teams will be  
6 developed for the Altura, Utica and Elgin areas. S. Harmes introduced Dawn Bernau and Mike  
7 Cruse, as those assisting with the project.

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9 **2) Presentation from MDA – Dawn Bernau and Mike Cruse**

0 MDA staff members Dawn Bernau and Mike Cruse and the WWJPB members introduced  
1 themselves. Dawn Bernau and Mike Cruse gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the  
2 Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan and the goal. The WWJPB and MDA staff discussed the  
3 plan.

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5 **c. Whitewater Drinking Water Protection Grant Update**

6 **1) Cover Crop payments**

7 On motion by B. Walkes and seconded by J. Rentz, the WWJPB voted to approve the cover  
8 crop payments. Vote: Yes – All.

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0 **d. Moving of Whitewater JPB Office Update**

1 S. Harmes gave an update on moving items to the Winona County Office. The WWJPB decided that a 2  
2 year old computer that included a monitor and keyboard could be offered to the SWCD's for 50% of the  
3 original cost. S. Harmes will also check with Winona County IT to see if there's a need for selling it.

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5 **e. Whitewater JPB 2021 Accomplishments**

6 S. Harmes explained packet attachment of WWJPB 2021 accomplishments.

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8 **8. Agency Reports**

9 None

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1 **9. Adjourn; Next meeting February 17, 2022**

2 On motion by S. Jacob and seconded by B. Walkes, the WWJPB voted to adjourn at 11:25am.  
3 Vote: Yes – All.

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6 Respectfully submitted by:  
7 Anne Schwertel, PL&ES Administrative Specialist

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0 Signed:   
1 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 WWJPB Secretary/Treasurer

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5 **\* Matt Flynn left WWJPB meeting at 9:45AM**