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Whitewater Joint Powers Board Minutes
June 17, 2021
Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center

1. Call to Order: Josh Elsing called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

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

Others Present: Sheila Harmes, Coordinator Whitewater Watershed; Emily Zanon, MPCA; Megen Kabele, Winona County Planning; Jeffrey Vetsch, University of MN

Board Members Absent: None

2. Public Comments

None

3. Approve Minutes of April 15, 2021 Meeting

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

Vote: Yes – All.

4. Approve Agenda

On motion by M. Flynn and seconded by B. Walkes, the WWJPB voted to approve the agenda. Vote: Yes – All.

5. Approve Consent Items

A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by M. Flynn to approve the amended bills and payroll, not including check # 3116. Vote: Yes – All.

6. Board Reports

S. Jacob – The Winona County Board has the usual discussions about the new jail.

M. Flynn – No updates.

J. Rentz – Olmsted County SWCD approved a couple cost-share applications.

L. Zabel – City of Mazeppa (North Fork Zumbro) is having stream restoration work. This is a DNR-funded project that Wabasha County SWCD is administering.

B. Walkes – No updates.

J. Elsing – Daryl Buck is retiring at the end of July 2021. Winona SWCD has a summer intern (Joe Coleman) to help with Aquatic Invasive Species work. The office space is still uncertain as the NRCS seeks out new office space.

7. Board Discussion and Action Items

a. Financial Update – Sheila Harmes; 2022 Proposed Budget

The WWJPB reviewed the proposed budget and noted the differences. For future, J. Elsing requested that proposed changes be made in red so as to show the differences from the prior year.

5 On motion by M. Flynn and seconded by J. Rentz, the WWJPB voted to approve the proposed 2022
6 budget. Vote: Yes – All.

7
8 **b. 319 Nitrogen Reduction Grant Updated**

9 **1) Presentation on test plots – summary of accomplishments – Jeff Vetsch**

0 Jeff Vetsch, of the University of Minnesota, has been working on nitrogen test plots for the 319
1 nitrogen reduction grant. He gave a 2020 test plot overview, which included 2 test plots. One
2 test plot was in the St Charles area and the other was in the Fremont area. He pointed out that
3 the nitrogen management challenge is that the groundwater and surface water are intricately
4 connected. He works with landowners to help them develop nitrogen management strategies
5 that are tailored to their properties. Typically group meetings would occur with the project but
6 due to COVID, one-on-one follow-ups were conducted with the landowners.

7
8 Discussion ensued regarding a more long-term focus for nitrogen reduction strategies. In
9 drought conditions, crops are stressed. Anions are impacted differently than when in a non-
0 drought time.

1 J. Vetsch continued with an overview of his 2021 test plots, which include 2 in the St Charles
2 area and 1 in the Fremont area.

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4
5 **c. 319 Whitewater Non-Point Source Grant**

6 **1) Approve Grant funds available to the Whitewater JPB**

7 On motion by M. Flynn and seconded by L. Zabel, the WWJPB voted to approve the grant
8 funds. Vote: Yes – All.

9
0 **d. FY 2022 Clean Water Fund Resolution**

1 **1) Whitewater North Branch Sediment Reduction Projects & Practices**

2 On motion by B. Walkes and seconded by J. Rentz, the WWJPB voted to approve the resolution
3 to submit a Clean Water Fund application for erosion reduction practices in the North Fork.
4 Vote: Yes – All.

5
6 **e. Approve Renewal Rental Contract between Whitewater Joint Powers Board and Winona County SWCD**

7 The WWJPB discussed the pros and cons for both office spaces, at Winona County and at the SWCD,
8 for S. Harmes. On motion by M. Flynn and seconded by S. Jacob, the WWJPB voted to table the
9 agenda item until the next meeting when some quotes from Winona County can be provided in regards
0 to rental space for the Winona County Planner for WWJPB work.

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3 **f. Drinking Water Protection Grant Update**

4 A mass postcard mailing was sent to landowners was in the Whitewater watershed to promote cover
5 crops.

6
7 **g. Surface Water Assessment Grant Update**

8 S. Harmes shared that there have been some issues with the shipping process to the lab. She's
9 experimenting with different shipping systems so that those samples with more sensitive holding times
0 are delivered to the lab on time. The shipping issues are not unique to this project, throughout the State
1 other water quality sampling projects are also having difficulties.

2
3 **h. Whitewater Tile Monitoring project**

4 S. Harmes handed out a letter that will be sent to the landowners within the project area. The letter
5 highlights the goals, project details and how the project can benefit the landowners, as well as contact
6 information for the Olmsted SWCD staff in charge.

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8 **8. Agency Reports**

9 Emily Zanon (MPCA) – There has been some talk of a possible State of Minnesota government shut down
0 if the budget isn't resolved by the legislature. The MPCA is being told to be cautiously optimistic.

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9. Adjourn; Next meeting August 19, 2021

On motion by M. Flynn and seconded by B. Walkes, the WWJPB voted to adjourn at 10:40am.
Vote: Yes – All.

Respectfully submitted by:
Anne Schwertel
PL&ES Administrative Specialist

Signed:  _____
WWJPB Secretary/Treasurer