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3 **Whitewater Joint Powers Board Minutes**
4 **August 18, 2022**
5 **Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center**
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7 **1. Call to Order:** Bob Walkes called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

8 Board Members Present: Matt Flynn, Steve Jacob, James Rentz and Bob Walkes

9
10 Others Present: Sheila Harmes, Coordinator Whitewater Watershed

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12 Board Members Absent: Josh Elsing and Lynn Zabel

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14 **2. Public Comments**

15 None

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17 **3. Approve Minutes of June 16, 2022, Meeting**

18 A motion was made by Matt Flynn and seconded by Steve Jacob to approve the minutes.

19 Vote: Yes – All.

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21 **4. Approve Agenda**

22 On motion by Steve Jacob and seconded by Matt Flynn, the WWJPB voted to approve the agenda.

23 Vote: Yes – All.

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25 **5. Approve Consent Items**

26 Sheila Harmes explained the bills payable, as included in the agenda packet.

27
28 A motion was made by James Rentz and seconded by Matt Flynn to approve the consent items.

29 Vote: Yes – All.

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31 **6. Board Reports**

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33 **Steve Jacob** – Winona County is working on budget and the jail project.

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35 **Bob Walkes** – Wabasha County is also working on the budget.

36
37 **Matt Flynn** – Matt Flynn mentioned utilizing ARPA funds for cover crop payments; Sheila Harmes has
38 already begun to look into the possibility.

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40 **James Rentz** – Olmsted SWCD had a nice exhibit at the County Fair and they've started to implement
41 the Lawns to Legumes grant. Revolutionary Earth, a nonprofit organization in
42 Rochester, was nominated the Conservationists of the Year.

43
44 **7. Board Discussion and Action Items**

45
46 **a. Financial Update – Sheila Harmes**

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

49
50 **1) Audit management representation letter, signature**

51 Sheila Harmes explained the audit management letter for signature.

52
53 **2) Draft 2021 Audit**

54 On motion by Steve Jacob and seconded by Bob Walkes, the Whitewater Joint Powers
55 Board voted to approve the draft audit. Vote: Yes – All.

56

57 **b. 2023 CWF Grant Application**

58 August 22, 2022 is the deadline for the next funding cycle of the Clean Water Fund grants. Sheila
59 Harmes prepared a resolution to be signed for approving the Whitewater to be able to apply for a
60 grant under a Projects and Practices category; 20% of these funds are directed to clean drinking
61 water. The application will include funding for sealing abandoned wells. Similar projects have
62 included 75%, with a \$1500 cap. This application will have a higher cap (\$3,000) to cover increased
63 costs.

64
65 On motion by Bob Walkes and seconded by Mike Flynn, the Whitewater Joint Powers Board voted
66 to approve the 2023 CMF grant application. Vote: Yes – All.
67

68 **c. 319 Nitrogen Reduction Grant Update**

69 This grant is coming to a close at the end of September 2022. There's about \$12,000 of unused
70 funds for cover crop payments. These funds as well as educational funds can be used to help
71 farmers with educational initiatives.
72

73 Riverland Community College has an individualized one-on-one program where they will meet with
74 each farmer to discuss their needs, whether it be cash flow management, market analysis,
75 entrepreneurship, etc. The idea is to utilize the grant to pay a portion of the tuition costs, which vary
76 based on farm size – anywhere from \$2000-\$2500. If those that are interested are enrolled by mid-
77 September, grant funds can be used to assist with cost. A final payment form the grant needs to be
78 made before September 23rd to be able to have it paid under the grant (September 30, 2022 end
79 date). Whitewater Joint Powers Board discussed the benefits of cover crops and results/findings
80 provided to the public. Additionally, the board discussed the logistics of the grant request by Sheila
81 Harmes and other educational options for the grant.
82

83 On motion by Mike Flynn and seconded by James Rentz, the Whitewater Joint Powers Board voted
84 to approve a check for up to \$30,000 to be used to assist with tuition costs at Riverland Community
85 College for farmers who enroll in the personalized plan.
86

87 Vote: Yes – All.

88 **d. Update on WinLaC planning process**

89 At the August 8, 2022 meeting, the Policy Committee approved a draft plan for internal review. It is
90 being reviewed by the Policy Committee, the Planning Work Group and the Advisory Committee
91 members. In early October, the 60-day public review will begin. Priority issues were identified
92 through input from the public, from the policy committee and from the advisory committee. The 34
93 priority issues were broken down and grouped with a timeframe of when they will be addressed
94 during the ten-year timeline. Goals were developed for each priority issue. WJPB members
95 received copies of the priorities and goals for the Whitewater planning region are the Action Table
96 was explained. Additionally, the cost-benefit analysis for the implemented practices were explained.
97 Any suggested changes should be given to Sheila Harmes to bring to the advisory committee. The
98 board discussed the different priority areas and the availability of funds for each.
99

100 **e. Local Advisory Team (MDA) grant update**

101 Dawn Bernau and Mike Cruse are conducting a dealership survey to connect with ag partners within
102 the DWSMAs, to find people willing to be on the advisory committee. Meetings are anticipated to
103 start the end of November or the first week of December.
104

105 **8. Agency Reports**

106 No agency reports.
107

108 **9. Adjourn; Next meeting October 20, 2022**

109 On motion by Steve Jacob and seconded by Mike Flynn, the WWJPB voted to adjourn at 9:45am.
110 Vote: Yes – All.
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113 Respectfully submitted by:
114 Anne Schwertel, PL&ES Administrative Specialist

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Signed:  _____
WWJPB Secretary/Treasurer

