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Whitewater Joint Powers Board Minutes
December 15, 2022
Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center

1. **Call to Order:** Josh Elsing called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

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

Board Members Absent: Steve Jacob

Others Present: Sheila Harmes, Coordinator Whitewater Watershed; Jeffrey Broberg, member of the public

2. **Public Comments**

Jeff Broberg – requested to present to the WWJPB; he is on agenda for 15-minute presentation.

3. **Approve Minutes of October 20, 2022, Meeting**

A motion was made by James Rentz and seconded by Matt Flynn to approve the minutes.

Vote: Yes – All.

4. **Approve Agenda**

On motion by Matt Flynn and seconded by Lynn Zabel, the WWJPB voted to approve the inclusion of agenda item 7.b. *15 minute water presentation from Jeff Broberg*, add two cover crop payments for approval under 7.c. *Whitewater Drinking Water Protection grant update* and approve the amended agenda. Vote: Yes – All.

5. **Approve Consent Items**

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

A motion was made by Bob Walkes and seconded by James Rentz to approve the consent items.

Vote: Yes – All.

6. **Board Reports**

Matt Flynn – After 26 years of service, Matt Flynn is retiring from the Olmsted County Board at the end of 2022.

James Rentz – The SWCD went over the Murphy wetland bank and coordinated one cost share contract with a dairy to assist with wastewater.

Bob Walkes – Truth and taxation meeting was scheduled for Tuesday evening and levy was at 3%.

Lynn Zabel – Wabasha County SWCD has been busy. Attended the SWCD annual convention in December. Wabasha County's annual conservationist, Eric and Michelle Heins, were the Area Finalists.

Josh Elsing – The Winona SWCD Administrative Assistant position is open. He shared his decision to run for Winona County Commissioner. Two SWCD board members retired, and their spots have been filled with Ross Greden and Tom Scarponcini.

7. **Board Discussion and Action Items**

a. **Financial Update – Sheila Harmes**

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

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b. Jeff Broberg Presentation

Jeff Broberg gave a 15-minute presentation about safe water for private wells.

c. Whitewater Drinking Water Protection Grant update

Sheila Harmes shared two cover crop payments for WWJPB approval. On motion by Bob Walkes and seconded by Lynn Zabel, the WWJPB voted to approve the payments. Vote: Yes – All.

d. 319 Nitrogen Reduction Grant Update

Sheila Harmes wrapped up the 319 Nitrogen Reduction grant including the final report, as included in the agenda packet. All final materials were submitted to the MPCA. Ryan Steele, Farm Business Instructor with Riverland Community College, is available to present to the Board during Spring 2023 on guidance given to area farmers who signed up through 319 Nitrogen Reduction grant.

e. Local Advisory Team (MDA) grant update

The Elgin meeting took place on Tuesday, with 12 people in attendance. Dawn Bernau and Mike Cruse, Department of Agriculture, were presenters. Each person in attendance received a binder with best management practices and alternative practices. For the next meeting, attendees were asked to review the list and let them know what they've tried and what worked and what did not work. Everyone that was there was very engaged and asked a lot of excellent questions. Additional area Local Advisory Team meetings to be held in next few weeks.

f. BWSR Clean Water Fund application update

A grant submitted for well sealings was recently approved by the MPCA, so additional details will be forthcoming. Additionally, Sheila Harmes applied for a grant for a well sealing in Altura. That grant was also approved.

g. 2022 project accomplishments

Sheila Harmes explained the WWJPB 2022 project accomplishments, which include the Whitewater 319 Nitrogen Reduction Grant, Whitewater Watershed Drinking Water Protection Grant and DWSMA Local Advisory Teams.

h. Recognition for Matt Flynn

The WWJPB congratulated Matt Flynn in recognition of over 20 years of service with the WWJPB. He was thanked for his time and service. Matt Flynn gave a few words of thanks and appreciation. A plaque was presented to Matt Flynn.

i. Recognition for Steve Jacob

The WWJPB recognized the many years of service by Steve Jacob on the WWJPB. A plaque will also be given to him.

8. Agency Reports

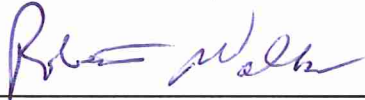
None

9. Adjourn; Next meeting February 16, 2023, to be held at 8:30 am

On motion by Matt Flynn and seconded by Bob Walkes, the WWJPB voted to adjourn at 2:30pm. Vote: Yes – All.

Respectfully submitted by:

Anne Schwertel, PL&ES Administrative Specialist

Signed: 

WWJPB Secretary/Treasurer