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# Whitewater Joint Powers Board Minutes August 15, 2023 Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center

1. **Call to Order:** Vice Chair Lynn Zabel called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Board Members Present: Ross Greden, Mark Thein, Marcia Ward and Lynn Zabel

Board Members Absent: Josh Elsing, James Rentz, Bob Walkes

Others Present: Sheila Harmes, Coordinator Whitewater Watershed; Adam Beilke, BWSR

2. **Public Comments**

Marcia Ward commented that since Josh Elsing was elected Winona County Commissioner, he will be shifting roles and most likely will be still on the Whitewater Joint Powers Board representing the Winona County Board, instead of as a Winona SWCD Supervisor.

3. **Approve Minutes of June 15, 2023, Meeting**

A motion was made by Mark Thein and seconded by Marcia Ward to approve the minutes.

Vote: Yes – All.

4. **Approve Agenda**

On motion by Mark Thein and seconded by Ross Greden, the WWJPB voted to approve the amended, agenda, amended to remove items 7b (4 &5).

Vote: Yes – All.

5. **Approve Consent Items**

Sheila Harmes explained the bills payable totaling \$26,815.97. A motion was made by Mark Thein and seconded by Ross Greden to approve the consent items. Vote: Yes – All.

6. **Board Reports**

Lynn Zabel – Wabasha SWCD is participating in a public get together at West Indian Creek project. Also, they've hired a couple people.

Marcia Ward – Winona County will have a shift with Josh Elsing being elected as County Commissioner. The County will repost for the Planning & Environmental Services Director. The HR Director/Asst County Administrator started Monday August 14<sup>th</sup>.

Mark Thein – The Olmsted SWCD lost a board member recently.

Ross Greden – There will be a vacancy at the Winona SWCD as of September so they will be looking to fill a technician position. With Josh Elsing's election as Winona County Commissioner, the SWCD will be filling his SWCD Supervisor position.

7. **Board Discussion and Action Items**

a. **Financial Update – Sheila Harmes**

Sheila Harmes gave an update on the checking and money market accounts. She shared the completed audit, which mentioned three items of concern that centralized around one person overseeing financials. The State has expanded their audit areas to include more scrutiny on financials.

56 **b. Whitewater Drinking Water Protection Grant**

57 **1) Septic System Contract - Kieffer**

58 On motion by Mark Thein and seconded by Ross Greden, the WWJPB voted to approve  
59 the septic system contract for Kieffer, contingent on a variance approval from the Winona  
60 County Board of Adjustment on Thursday August 17, 2023. Vote: Yes – All.

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62 **2) Septic System Contract - Klees**

63 On motion by Mark Thein and seconded by Ross Greden, the WWJPB voted to approve  
64 the septic system contract for Klees. Vote: Yes – All.

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66 **3) Septic System Project Completed for payment - Burke**

67 On motion by Mark Thein and seconded by Marcia Ward, the WWJPB voted to approve  
68 payment for the completed Burke septic system project. Vote: Yes – All.

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70 ~~**4) Cover Crop Contract – Crary**~~

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72 ~~**5) Cover Crop Contract – Klein**~~

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74 **c. Whitewater Well Sealing Grant**

75 **1) Well Sealing Contract - Millard**

76 On motion by Mark Thein and seconded by Ross Greden, the WWJPB voted to approve  
77 the well sealing contract for Millard. Vote: Yes – All

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79 **8. Agency Reports**

80 Adam Beilke (BWSR) – Applications open for new Clean Water Fund competitive grants; these are  
81 due August 24<sup>th</sup>. The projects that the WWJPB discussed in this meeting are  
82 Clean Water Fund grants. Clean Water Fund required match is 10%  
83 (reduced from 25%). Based on legislative action, Watershed-Based  
84 Implementation Funding is projected to increase. There has been a staffing  
85 change in BWSR – Shaina Keseley, a water specialist, has taken a position  
86 at the MPCA.

87  
88 Sheila Harmes – Explained the spreadsheet of current WWJPB grants, as included in the packet.

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90 **9. Adjourn; Next meeting October 19, 2023**

91 On motion by Mark Thein and seconded by Ross Greden, the WWJPB voted to adjourn at 9:15 a.m.  
92 Vote: Yes – All.

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95 Respectfully submitted by:

96 Anne Schwertel, PL&ES Administrative Specialist

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98  
99 Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_  
100 WWJPB Secretary/Treasurer