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Whitewater Joint Powers Board Minutes
April 15, 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, Lynn Zabel, Bob Walkes, James Rentz

Others Present: Sheila Harmes, Coordinator Whitewater Watershed

Board Members Absent: None

2. **Public Comments**

None

3. **Approve Minutes of February 18, 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 J. Rentz and seconded by S. Jacob, the WWJPB voted to approve the amended agenda. Agenda item # 7d (1) was amended to say *Olmsted* County SWCD sub-agreement, not Wabasha. 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 to include a check to MVTL labs for soil nitrate tests (319 Grant). Vote: Yes – All.

6. **Board Reports**

S. Jacob – The Winona County Board has been discussing the new jail, chronic wasting disease and has received quite a few applications for solar panels. There has been some erosion issues with some solar projects and a lot of public comment regarding the aesthetics of solar panels.

M. Flynn – Olmsted County has been dealing with geese in city of Rochester.

J. Rentz – Olmsted County SWCD has handled a few cost share contracts.

L. Zabel – Wabasha County SWCD has been working with landowner's conservation practices, which have been incentivized through property tax reductions. MN Dept of Ag may be interested in a pilot program in Wabasha County.

WWJPB discussed land practices, government regulations, program implementations, and education to all landowners in regards to good land practices.

B. Walkes – Zumbro One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) is nearly completed.

J. Elsing – Was not in attendance at the last Winona SWCD meeting but seems to be business as usual.

7. **Board Discussion and Action Items**

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

6 S. Harmes explained the balances for the money market and the checking account.

7
8 **b. Discussion about cost share**

9 WWJPB discussed how cost share information is shared with the WWJPB members. S. Harmes shared
0 information from J. Rentz in regards to other committee practices for sharing landowner information.
1 WWJPB discussed transparency.

2
3 On motion by J. Rentz and seconded by B. Walkes, the WWJPB voted to follow the Winona SWCD
4 example for future cost share reportings. Vote: Yes – All.

5
6 **c. Surface Water Assessment Grant**

7 **1) Approve Amendment**

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

0
1 **2) Approve Amendment to Wabasha County SWCD sub-agreement**

2 On motion by S. Jacob and seconded by J. Rentz, the WWJPB voted to approve the
3 amendment to Wabasha Co SWCD sub-agreement. Vote: Yes – All.

4
5 **d. Drinking Water Protection Grant**

6 **1) Approve Amendment to Olmsted County SWCD sub-agreement**

7 On motion by S. Jacob and seconded by M. Flynn, the WWJPB voted to approve the
8 amendment to the Olmsted County SWCD sub-agreement. Vote: Yes – All.

9
0 **2) Approve Amendment to Wabasha County SWCD sub-agreement**

1 On motion by M. Flynn and seconded by J. Rentz, the WWJPB voted to approve the
2 amendment to the Wabasha County SWCD sub-agreement. Vote: Yes – All.

3
4 **3) Approve Amendment to Winona County SWCD sub-agreement**

5 On motion by B. Walkes and seconded by L. Zabel, the WWJPB voted to approve the
6 amendment to the Winona County SWCD sub-agreement. Vote: Yes – All.

7
8 **e. 319 Nitrogen Reduction Grant Update**

9 **1) Jeff Vetsch Report**

0 S. Harmes provided information from Jeff Vetsch showing the progress with the nitrogen trials.
1 Jeff Vetsch will provide a presentation at the next WWJPB meeting.

2
3 **2) Cover Crop billboard Amendment**

4 The WWJPB discussed the idea of promoting cover crops through billboards as well as quotes
5 and possible locations.

6
7 On motion by S. Jacob and seconded by B. Walkes, the WWJPB voted to approve the cover
8 crop billboard amendment. Vote: Yes – All.

9
0 **3) Approve Amendment to Winona County SWCD sub-agreement**

1 On motion by B. Walkes and seconded by S. Jacob, the WWJPB voted to approve the
2 amendment to Winona County SWCD sub-agreement. Vote: Yes – All.

3
4 **f. 319 Small Watersheds Focus Program Letter of Interest**

5 On motion by J. Rentz and seconded by B. Walkes, the WWJPB voted to approve updated letter of
6 interest for section 319 small watersheds focus program. Vote: Yes – All.

7
8 **g. WinLaC 1W1P Notification**

9 On motion by M. Flynn and seconded by B. Walkes, the WWJPB voted to approve a response letter
0 from WWJPB to WinLaC in regards to the WinLaC planning process. Vote: Yes – All.

2 **8. Agency Reports**

3 None.

4

5 **9. Adjourn; Next meeting June 17, 2021**

6 On motion by S. Jacob and seconded by J. Rentz, the WWJPB voted to adjourn at 10:40am.

7 Vote: Yes – All.

8

9 Respectfully submitted by:

0 Anne Schwertel

1 PL&ES Administrative Specialist

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Signed:



WWJPB Secretary/Treasurer