

**Whitewater Joint Powers Board Minutes
August 19, 2021
Whitewater State Park Visitor's Center**

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

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

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8 Others Present: Sheila Harmes, Coordinator Whitewater Watershed

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0 Board Members Absent: Mike Flynn

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2 **2. Public Comments**

3 None

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5 **3. Approve Minutes of June 17, 2021 Meeting**

6 A motion was made by B. Walkes and seconded by L. Zabel to approve the minutes.

7 Vote: Yes – All.

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9 **4. Approve Minutes of July 15, 2021 Special Meeting**

0 A motion was made by S. Jacob and seconded by L. Zabel to approve the minutes.

1 Vote: Yes – All.

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3 **5. Approve Agenda**

4 On motion by S. Jacob and seconded by B. Walkes, the WWJPB voted to approve the amended agenda,
5 to include 8b (3) Bednar cost share payment.

6 Vote: Yes – All.

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8 **6. Approve Consent Items**

9 A motion was made by J. Rentz and seconded by B. Walkes to approve the amended consent items, to
0 include payment check #'s 3126-3129.

1 Vote: Yes – All.

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3 **7. Board Reports**

4 **S. Jacob** – The Winona County Board continues to work on building the new jail and they approved the
5 Healthy Lake Winona grant.

6 **J. Rentz** – Completed a basin contract extension. Olmsted County SWCD contributed to the County LiDAR
7 expense. The per diem rate was bumped up as well.

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9 **L. Zabel** – No updates.

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1 **B. Walkes** – Wabasha County is working on budgets.

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3 **J. Elsing** – The August 10th Winona Co SWCD Soil Health Field Day, organized by Lance Klessig, was
4 well attended and a success. There remains an opening for the District Manager; Wanda
5 Anderson is filling in as Interim.

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9 **8. Board Discussion and Action Items**

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1 **a. Financial Update – Sheila Harmes; 2022 Proposed Budget**

2 **2020 Audit – Petersen Company, Ltd management letter**

3 S. Harmes explained the balances for the money market, the checking account and the audit letter for
4 signature. On motion by S. Jacob and seconded by B. Walkes, the WWJPB voted to approve and sign
5 the 2020 audit letter from Petersen Company Ltd. Vote: Yes – All.

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b. 319 Nitrogen Non-point Source Grant Update

1) Review of Funds spent to date

S. Harmes explained the 319 Grant Funds and the collaborative efforts between the SWCD's to determine a prioritized use list. The total amount eligible to receive was \$47,046. S. Harmes explained limitations on fund use, such as \$5000 for equipment purchases, in-kind matches and what purchases have been made by SWCD's.

2) Approve Payments for anticipated invoices before September 15, 2021

On motion by B. Walkes and seconded by L. Zabel, the WWJPB voted to approve anticipated invoices capped at \$8066. Vote: Yes – All.

3) Cost Share for Bednar

On motion by S. Jacob and seconded by B. Walkes, the WWJPB voted to approve Bednar's cost share payment contingent on Olmsted SWCD approval. Vote: Yes – All.

c. Office Rent Options Discussion

WWJPB discussed the schedule of the Winona County Planner/Watershed Coordinator, the workspaces being used at the Winona County SWCD and Winona County and available storage spaces at both locations.

On motion by S. Jacob and seconded by B. Walkes, the WWJPB voted to move the Director's physical location to be full-time at Winona County. Winona County will not charge additional rent for the Office space they already provide for the Water Planner position. Also discussed was that the motion to move S. Harmes would be effective January 1, 2022.

S. Jacob amended his motion to include the effective date of January 1, 2022, seconded by B. Walkes. Vote: Yes – All.

d. FY 2022 Clean Water Fund Proposal Update

S. Harmes submitted an erosion reduction project for the North Fork Whitewater so it would include Olmsted SWCD and Wabasha Co SWCD. She will find out in December if this will be funded for next year.

e. Surface Water Assessment Grant Update

The grant is coming to a close – three stream monitoring dates are scheduled and one more lake monitoring during September. There are continued problems with shipping samples which has required work to be redone. We have worked with different shipping systems so that those samples with more sensitive holding times are delivered to the lab on time. The shipping issues are not unique to this project, other water quality sampling projects throughout the state are also having difficulties. The lab in Rochester is not certified for all the parameters that are tested under this program, so is not on the approved lab list. The WWJPB discussed possible solutions, should the grant be awarded in the future.

9. Agency Reports

S. Harmes shared that it was the 14th anniversary of the big flood.

10. Adjourn; Next meeting October 21, 2021

On motion by J. Rentz and seconded by L. Zabel, the WWJPB voted to adjourn at 10:37am. Vote: Yes – All.

Respectfully submitted by:
Anne Schwertel, PL&ES Administrative Specialist

Signed: 
WWJPB Secretary/Treasurer