

# CHIPPEWA RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Joint Powers Board Meeting– December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Please note meeting room change: Community Room 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**

## Meeting Minutes

9:00 a.m. to 11 :00 a.m.

Attendance: Ron Staples, Keith Englund, Mike Cleary, Ken Johnson, Darin Hanson, Larry Mahoney, Robert Lahman, Dale Anderson, Rod Wenstrom, Randy Mitteness, Steve Friedlein, Paul Gerde, Dennis Feuchtenberger, and Orvin Gronseth

Agenda Item	Who	Action	Time
1. Welcome & Introductions-The meeting was called to order by Chair Staples at 9:01 a.m. There were no new members, so the group skipped the introductions.	Commissioner Ron Staples	-	5 min
2. Approval of Agenda with the addition of reorganization of the board-Keith Englund made a motion to approve the agenda and Paul Gerde seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.	Commissioner Ron Staples	Decision	5 min
3. Reorganization of the board: A motion was made by Paul Gerde to nominate Ron Staples for the Chair position. Mike Cleary seconded the motion. Randy Mitteness made a motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Ron Staples as Chair. Bob Lahman seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. A motion was made by Ron Staples for Ken Johnson as Vice Chairman. Larry Mahoney seconded the motion. Keith Englund made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot for Ken Johnson for Vice Chair. Darin Hanson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. Randy Mitteness made a motion to nominate Paul Gerde for the Secretary/Treasurer position and Dale Anderson seconded the motion and to cast a unanimous ballot for Paul Gerde for the Secretary/Treasurer position. The motion passed with all in favor.			
4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes a. November 15, 2024-Rod Wenstrom made a motion to approve the meeting minutes and Randy Mitteness seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.	Commissioner Ron Staples	Decision	
5. Financial Report a. November Treasurer Report b. Houston Engineering Invoice MS4Front Chk#1065 \$4,431.55	Commissioner Ron Staples	Decision	10 min

<p>c. Pope SWCD November Invoice Chk#1066 \$2,590.53</p> <p>d. Rinke Noonan Chk#1064 \$1,551.40 Sub agreement development-Randy Mitteness made a motion to approve items a-d and Larry Mahoney seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.</p> <p>e. Planning Grant Report &amp; closeout-Keith Englund made a motion to approve the final report as presented and Mike Cleary seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.</p> <p>f. Deposit 50% of WBIF received \$1,081613.50</p> <p>g. Interest adjusted to 2%-Kovarik provided an update that based on the previous meeting that all she was authorized to do was to negotiate rates at our current bank. She was able to negotiate the rate to 2% at Eagle Bank. She has also received information from Glenwood State Bank that we could get 4% but it is a variable rate and will fluctuate with the market. It was noted that the rates are coming down but it is still better at Glenwood State than the current rate at Eagle. Ken Johnson made a motion to close the account eventually at Eagle Bank and open a new account at Glenwood State Bank. The intent would be to transfer as much as we can over right away to the new account at Glenwood State and keep the other account open at Eagle bank until we have our checks in hand. The motion authorized Kovarik to determine how much to keep in the old account to be able to cover expenses until the new checks arrive. As soon as everything is fully set up it is the intention of the group to close the account at Eagle Bank. Bob Lahman seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.</p> <p>A motion was made by Larry Mahoney to have Ron Staples, Paul Gerde, and Holly Kovarik as signers on the account at Glenwood State Bank. Bob Lahman seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.</p>			
<p>6. Old Business</p> <p>a. Partnership Sub Agreement Status- Kovarik shared that all partners have submitted the sub agreement and they were signed today.</p>	All	FYI/Decision	30 min

<p>b. MS4 Front Update was provided to the JPB members. Kovarik shared that the system is set up and users are being set up in the system. The partners will be entering information into the portal soon.</p> <p>c. Cost Share Policy-Kovarik shared the update on the policy which is in the packet for review and approval. <b>Dale Anderson made a motion to approve the policy and Rod Wenstrom seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.</b></p>			
<p>7. New Business</p> <p>a. Pope SWCD CRWA Coordinator hiring process. Kovarik provided an update that the SWCD will now be proceeding to hire the Coordinator position. There was discussion about the process and it was shared that this will be an SWCD employee and if the CRWA has concerns about the hiring they would address those to Pope SWCD. The Fiscal and Coordination agreement between Pope SWCD and the CRWA covers how this works for the partnership. Currently the CRWA does not have their own employees.</p> <p>b. Annual Meeting Approval-The group discussed that we would be planning an annual meeting in 2025.</p> <p>c. Meeting time in January -The group agreed to keep the meeting time the same the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month at 9:00 a.m. There are a few members going off of the board Mike Cleary from Douglas SWCD and Keith Englund Douglas County. It was mentioned that as we know the new appointments to the CRWA that this information is shared with Kovarik so she can make the changes to the distribution lists.</p> <p>d. CRP Incentive Application Authorize to submit-Kovarik mentioned that the CRWA has \$135,000 available to the partnership for incentives for the Conservation Reserve Program sign ups. <b>A motion was made by Paul Gerde to submit the application as recommended by the TAC and Keith Englund seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.</b></p>	<p>BWSR Teresea Pickar</p>	<p>FYI</p>	<p>60 min</p>
<p>8. Next Meeting Topics: Scoring and Ranking, project file checklist, Reimbursement Package Requirements</p>			<p>5 min</p>
<p>9. Open Discussion/Agency Updates-Ken Johnson thanked Kovarik for her work on looking into the</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>Discuss</p>	

<p>interest rates. It was a general agreement by the group that we want to do the best we can with the interest on the public dollars. Keith Englund and Mike Cleary also said a few words to the group. They have both been on this JPB for a number of years. The group thanked them for their service.</p>			
<p><b>10. Closing-A motion was made by Keith Englund to adjourn at 9:45 a.m. and Randy Mitteness seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.</b></p>			