

CHIPPEWA RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Joint Powers Board Meeting– April 18, 2025

Community Room 1st Floor

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Holly Kovarik, Jeff Way, Dale Anderson, Larry Mahoney, Rod Wenstrom, John Ledermann, Steve Friedlein, Mark Weimerskirch, Robert Lahman, Ken Johnson, Dennis Feuchtenberger, Paul Gerde, Randy Mitteness, Matt Gilbertson, and Ron Staples

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

Agenda Item	Who	Action	Time
1. Welcome & Introductions-The meeting was called to order by Chairman Staples at 9:00 a.m. Introductions of the members in attendance were made.	Commissioner Ron Staples	-	5 min
2. Approval of Agenda-A motion was made by Paul Gerde to approve the agenda as presented and Randy Mitteness seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.	Commissioner Ron Staples	Decision	5 min
3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes a. February 21, 2025-It was noted that Paul Gerde should be added to the meeting minutes attendee list. A motion was made by Bob Lahman to approve the minutes with the noted correction. Matt Gilbertson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.	Commissioner Ron Staples	Decision	
4. Financial Report a. February/March Treasurer Report-Kovarik provided an update on the treasurer report for February and March. She shared that the deposit in the Eagle Bank account was the final payment for the Planning Grant. We have moved all funds but \$5,000 to the new account at Glenwood State Bank. The deposit increased the balance in the Eagle Bank Account. Kovarik shared that she would coordinate with the Treasurer when signing checks to close out the Eagle Bank Account. A check would need to be cut to then transfer those funds to the Glenwood State Bank account. A motion was made by Matt Gilbertson to approve the February and March Treasurer Report as prepared subject to audit. Larry Mahoney seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. b. Quarterly Reports and Payments-Kovarik reviewed Invoices received that were	Commissioner Ron Staples	Decision	15 min

<p>shared by email with the Joint Powers Board. She shared that not all partners had submitted yet for the quarter. She also shared that the engineering invoices have not yet been received either. She discussed with the JPB that she working with BWSR staff to review all first invoices and attached documentation. The information that was provide to the JPB and the TAC last fall by Teressa Pickar from the Board of Water and Soil Resources was referenced. She shared that every office has a little different format for staff time tracking documentation and invoice templates. Each invoice also is being reviewed and must be in a grant eligible activity as defined in the approved Watershed Based Implementation Funding grant workplan. Each invoice is being reviewed to ensure that it is eligible. Kovarik reviewed the Budget and Expense Summary and Detail Report for the first quarter. A motion was made by Bob Lahman to authorize Kovarik to work with the account signers (Gerde and Staples) to review expenses and make timely payments and reimbursements of quarterly invoicing following the grant and workplan requirements. Kovarik also mentioned that the TAC has not reviewed these expenses yet. She will be going over this at the next TAC meeting and invoices will be refined by the partners as needed to meet our requirements for this funding. In the future payments could be processed in this manner by working with the signers once the TAC has reviewed them. Ken Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.</p>			
<p>5. Old Business</p> <p>a. CRP Cost Share Policy-Kovarik reviewed with the JPB the changes to the cost share policy for the CRP Incentive program. Mark Weimerskirch made a motion to approve the policy changes based on the TACs revision suggestions. Rod Wenstrom seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.</p> <p>b. Coordinator Updates-Kovarik shared that Katie Disrud has been hired for the Watershed Planner and Outreach Coordinator position. There were 13 applications and 6 interviews conducted by the Pope SWCD Personnel Committee</p>	All	FYI/Decision	30 min

<p>and Kovarik. The applicant pool was diverse with varying backgrounds and experience. Katie will start in May. The position is approximately 75% Chippewa and 25% Pope SWCD workload. This was the estimate that we had when we budgeted for the position. The funding for the watershed coordination will be paid by the Watershed Based Implementation Funding. There were questions about Soil Health Program funding. Kovarik shared that the coordinator position is not a technician and is not working on soil health program funding. Kovarik asked the JPB members if there were certain reports or information that they are getting in the other watershed partnerships that they would like to see here.</p> <p>c. Dashboard -Kovarik demonstrated the MS4Front database for new members. She shared that the dashboard is being set up that will track the progress toward the plan goals over the 10 years of the plan. This dashboard is public facing while the internal MS4Front database contains private landowner information. The public can monitor our progress in meeting plan goals. At the next board meeting we should be able to show this dashboard. A target date for completion by Houston Engineering was April 18th.</p>			
<p>6. New Business</p> <p>a. TAC meeting updates-were shared. The group had a short April meeting with many of the same updates heard today. Kovarik shared that Paul Wymar gave an update in March on the WRAPS. It was agreed to see if Paul Wymar would come to the June meeting to present the same WRAPS update to the JPB.</p> <p>b. County Appropriations-Invoicing in May</p>	All	FYI	10 min
<p>7. Next Meeting Topics: Paul Wymar WRAPS update, legislative updates, meeting new coordinator.</p>			5 min
<p>8. Open Discussion/Agency Updates-Commissioner Staples mentioned the Drainage Work Group. There was a discussion that AIS funding is proposed to be cut by 50%. It was also mentioned that Pilt was being proposed to be cut by 35%. There is also a lot of we do not know on federal programs and funding sources at this time.</p>	All	Discuss	
<p>9. Closing-Commissioner Staples adjourned the meeting at 9:48 a.m.</p>	Commissioner Ron Staples		