

**Chippewa River Watershed Association
Joint Powers Board (JPB)
Meeting Minutes**

Date: September 19th, 2025
Time: 9:00 – 11:00 am
Location: Pope County Courthouse
Note Taker: Katie Disrud

Agenda Item

Welcome & Introduction

The meeting was started by Ron Staples at 9:00.

Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Paul Gerde. Motion seconded by Rod Wenstrom. Motion passed.

Approval of previous meeting minutes

a) June 20th, 2025

A motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 2025 was made by Mark Weimerskirch. Motion was seconded by Dale Anderson. Motion Passed.

New Business

- a) Chippewa Endowment Fund - SW Initiative
 - 1.) CRWA Policy/Application DRAFT

Jeffery Vetsch from Southwest Initiative Foundation joined the meeting to give the group insight information. In 2006 there was an endowment fund created for the Chippewa River Watershed Project. 17 gifts were contributed to this fund, totaling \$15,080.00. This fund has been sitting inactive for several years, the fund has accrued interest. The total amount in this fund is now \$36,489.38, with \$13,267.67 available to spend now. There is no harm in letting these funds continue to sit. Each year there will be approximately \$1,247.59 to spend on this account. These are considered 'local' dollars – not state or federal. Jeff stated how the group can seek additional gifts for this fund if we wish. Donors would benefit by getting a charitable contribution tax form. Katie then shared that the TAC had approved the 3 pages of endowment fund policy and application draft included in the packet. The group discussed ideas on how these funds could be spent, and what would qualify with these funds. Some things that were mentioned were: Scholarships, Youth Education, and additional cost share.

A motion to approve the 3 pages of policy and application was made by Randy Mitteness. Motion was seconded by Robert Lahman. Motion passed.

- b) WBIF Workplan Amendment for CRP Incentive

There are several CRP applications that come in that we will not have enough funds to pay out. The TAC has suggested that we move funds from the Supply/Equipment line in budget to cover all the incentive payments. There would be a need for \$16,000 to be transferred from the supply budget line, moved to a new category 'CRP Incentive'. It was mentioned that no incentive payments would be allowed in the next workplan – per BWSR.

A motion to approve change in funding was made by Robert Lahman. Motion was seconded by Dale Anderson. Motion Passed.

- c) FY-26 Work Plan
 - 1.) Application opened 9/2/25.
(\$2,178,984.00)

Katie gave update that Chippewa was approved to submit FY-26 workplan 9/2/25. The TAC is currently working on drafting this workplan. If the TAC gets everything drafted at their next meeting, we will bring the FY-26 workplan draft to the October JPB meeting for approval to submit to BWSR.

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Coordinators Report

- a) Chippewa Gathering Review
Survey - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GWSCXPV>
- b) Fact Sheets
- c) Other

Katie gave update to the group on the attendance of the Chippewa Gathering and asked anyone who attended to complete an internal survey to help better plans for future events. The group was given an example of a 2-page (front/back) project fact sheet. These are intended to be printed and shared with the public and posted on the website. Katie was hoping for feedback on this – feedback was given – “Watershed Wins” “From Challenges – to Changes”, a line about reaching to local partners for future opportunities should be added. The group expressed that these would be a good publicity tool, and they would like local offices to promote them once they are populated with project information. Disrud also shared with the group that she attended Governance 101 training last week – which helped her better understand items and learn new skills to help her in this role. She is seeking partnership visits to see more parts of the watershed, and to view different types of practices and projects happening

Financial Report

- a) Fiscal Agent Report
- b) Treasurers Report
- c) Appropriation Requests

Holly Kovarik gave the financial update for the months of June, July, and August. She mentioned how there was miscommunication with the Chippewa River Watershed Association – in the past there must have been an employee with an unemployment claim. This claim was never paid, and the mail was not properly delivered to the correct people. There was a decision by chairman and fiscal agent to pay this bill, and the accrued fees to avoid further fees associated. Kovarik has been working with the accountant (Dana Cole) to make sure there is nothing else outstanding. Since the CRWA doesn't foresee specific staff on board, we will cut ties with this accountant as there is no need to report for staff – being there is no specific Chippewa River Watershed Staff.

**A motion to approve the financial report was made by Paul Gerde. Motion was seconded by John Ledermann.
Motion Passed.**

Next Meeting Topics:

A future meeting, after FY-26 workplan is approved, the group should discuss the budget and create a new FY-26/27 Budget.

Open Discussion/Agency Updates

No agency updates to report.

Discussion within the group about publicity. We looked at an article shared at BWSR on a project within Pomme de Terre Watershed and Grant County. The group expressed how publicizing good conservation work is important and can make a bigger impact.

Closing

Meeting Adjourned at 9:58