

GBERBA Executive Board Minutes

Friday, April 10, 2020

Webex Media Communication – Cottonwood SWCD Office

Cottonwood County Attorney Nick Anderson as attorney/chief legal counsel for the board, I am determining that requiring all supervisors to participate in person at board meetings is not practical or prudent. I have made that determination based on the WHO's determination that the COVID 19 outbreak is a health pandemic.

The Cottonwood SWCD Board of Supervisor Declared the Cottonwood SWCD Office – Designated Meeting Location During State of Emergency – Health Crisis

Present: Tom Appel, Clark Lingbeek, Glen Mathiason, Neal Mensing, John Shanahan and Tom Warmka.

Others Present: Dave Bucklin, Dave Copeland, Jill Sackett Eberhart, Kay Gross, Shaina Keseley, Bill Miller and Josh Votruba.

Chairman Neal Mensing called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Agenda

Motion by John Shanahan, second by Tom Warmka to approve the Executive Board Meeting Agenda with the addition of a request for extension for the 319 Greater Blue Earth River Basin TMDL Implementation Grant.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Mensing Y – Appel Y - Lingbeek Y - Warmka Y - Mathiason Y - Shanahan

Motion carried, all yes.

Minutes

Motion by Glen Mathiason, second by Clark Lingbeek to approve the February 14, 2020 minutes as presented.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Mensing Y – Appel Y - Lingbeek Y - Warmka Y - Mathiason Y - Shanahan

Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION/ACTION

Financial Report

The Financial Report dated 3/1/20 to 3/31/20 was presented for the Board's review. Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by Tom Warmka to approve the March financial report as presented.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Mensing Y – Appel Y - Lingbeek Y - Warmka Y - Mathiason Y - Shanahan

Motion carried, all yes.

Accounts Payable

Motion by Glen Mathiason, second by Tom Appel to approve the accounts payable totaling \$36,883.03.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Mensing Y – Appel Y - Lingbeek Y - Warmka Y - Mathiason Y - Shanahan

Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Contract Cancellations

Greenwood Properties LLC	83-01(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 80 ac	Cost \$4,000.00	C-S \$3,000.00
Gary Dannhoff	83-02(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 80 ac	Cost \$4,000.00	C-S \$3,000.00
George Sill	83-03(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 80 ac	Cost \$4,000.00	C-S \$3,000.00

Motion by Neal Mensing, second by Tom Warmka to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract cancellations for Greenwood Properties LLC - 83-01(319-TMDL-16) - \$3,000.00; Gary Dannhoff - 83-02(319-TMDL-16) - \$3,000.00 and George Sill - 83-03(319-TMDL-16) - \$3,000.00.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Mensing Y – Appel Y - Lingbeek Y - Warmka Y - Mathiason Y - Shanahan

Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Contract Approval

Curt Russell	81-09(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 27 ac	Cost \$1,350.00	C-S \$675.00
Ramont Schrock	17-09(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 155 ac	Cost \$7,750.00	C-S \$3,875.00
Blue Earth Co. D.A.	07-09(319-TMDL-16)	Alternative Side Inlets – 10 no	Cost \$37,600.00	C-S \$18,800.00

Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by Tom Warmka to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contracts for Curt Russell - 81-09(319-TMDL-16) - \$675.00; Ramont Schrock - 17-09(319-TMDL-16) - \$3,875.00 and Blue Earth Co. D.A. - 07-09(319-TMDL-16) - \$18,800.00.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Mensing Y – Appel Y - Lingbeek Y - Warmka Y - Mathiason Y - Shanahan

Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Completion

Homewood Farms Limited Prtnsp	83-08(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 80 ac	Cost \$3,500.00 C-S \$2,625.00
AVG II LLC	83-09(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 80 ac	Cost \$3,500.00 C-S \$2,625.00

Motion by Tom Warmka, second by John Shanahan to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract payments for Homewood Farms Limited Prtnsp 83-08(319-TMDL-16) - \$2,625.00 and AVG II LLC – 83-09(319-TMDL-16) - \$2,625.00.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Mensing Y – Appel Y - Lingbeek Y - Warmka Y - Mathiason Y - Shanahan
Motion carried, all yes.

MAWQCP Contract Approval

Cottonwood SWCD	MAWQCP(TS-17-5-03)	Additional Technical Services	\$6,000.00
Marcus Schroeder	MAWQCP(65-6-07)	Worksheet/Certification Incentive	\$300.00

Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by Tom Appel to approve the MAWQCP incentive payments for Cottonwood SWCD – Additional Technical Assistance - MAWQCP(TS-17-5-03) - \$6,000 and Schroeder – Certification Incentive - MAWQCP(65-6-07) - \$300.00.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Mensing Y – Appel Y - Lingbeek Y - Warmka Y - Mathiason Y - Shanahan
Motion carried, all yes.

Request for Extension – MPCA – 319 – Greater Blue Earth River Basin TMDL Implementation Grant

Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by Tom Appel to approve the request for extension for the MPCA 319 Greater Blue Earth River Basin TMDL Implementation Grant set to expire on August 31, 2020.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Mensing Y – Appel Y - Lingbeek Y - Warmka Y - Mathiason Y - Shanahan
Motion carried, all yes.

Review Grant Report

COORDINATOR REPORT

☆ **MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program**

Update on progress made in areas 5 and 6 – See Certification Specialist Reports. Over 500,000 acres certified! GBERBA has the Area 5 and 6 MAWQCP administrative contract approved through 2021. The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program is launching three new endorsements in addition to 10-year certification a farmer or landowner receives in the program. The endorsements are for soil health, integrated pest management, and wildlife.

☆ **2017 MPCA 319 Grant - Cover Crops and Alternative Tile Intakes**

An Implementation Policy Paper for the grant titled “Greater Blue Earth River Basin TMDL Implementation” has been developed and reviewed at the Technical meeting. This guidance document will be posted on the GBERBA website. Cover crops: \$50.00 dollars per acre maximum, 50% cost share maximum (\$25.00 ac.), 80-acre size maximum per owner. Prioritization required. Alternative intakes: Rock and pattern tile. \$500.00 maximum and 50% cost share. These are federal dollars and require state or local match. Perforated risers, broom and other water quality intakes: \$200.00 maximum and 50% cost share. These are federal dollars and require state or local match.

The grant amendment has been completed and all remaining cost share for projects including Alternative intakes, Side inlets, and Cover crops will be at 50% cost share. **Grant End Date 8-31-2020**

For 2020 the cover crop acre limits are removed. At this point the 50% cost share rate will continue.

There has been some discussion to request an extension of this grant due to 2019 weather conditions and the Covid-19 outbreak.

☆ **2017 CWF Grant- Multipurpose Drainage Management**

Multipurpose Drainage Management - \$301,200: Projects for this Drainage Grant will need to be located in public ditch sheds. **GBERBA member entire counties are eligible.** Priority parameters are developed to identify the eligible ditches. A guidance policy sheet is online.

A grant Work Plan Revision has been approved by the BWSR to allow for CAP 130 Drainage Water Management plans and for Structures for Water Control.

Grant Amendment Agreement has been approved to extend the expiration date to 12-31-2020.

☆ **One Watershed One Plan Planning Grants, Watonwan Watershed**

The Watonwan 1W1P Project is in full swing completing the plan language and reviewing plan sections. A meeting with Huston Engineering took place on March 4, 2020 to assist all parties moving forward. The Watonwan Policy Committee voted to further research GBERBA as the fiscal and reporting agent for the 1W1P Watonwan. The GBERBA Policy board has agreed to revise the Joint Powers Agreement to allow inclusion of 1W1P duties.

☆ **Minnesota Conservation Corps Position**

The Minnesota/Iowa Conservation Corps program has decided to suspend AmeriCorps member field operations in Minnesota beginning on Friday, March 27th and effective through at least Friday, April 10th.

Staff Reports

- Area 6 Certification Specialist** – Herman Bartsch – See Handout
- Area 5 Certification Specialist** – Danielle Evers - See Handout
- Watershed Resource Technician** – Joshua Votruba – See Handout
- MDA – Conservation Corp Member** – Ashley Broussard – See Handout

Agency Reports

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart – BWSR Board Meeting was held in March, will not be a BWSR Board Meeting in April. BWSR information is on the website – COVID-19 response information. Staff are working remotely, but field staff have been denied work access. Requesting again for the May 4 deadline. CREP batching is in the process. BWSR trainings have been either postponed or moved to web access. Lawns to Legumes Citizen ends June 2. 1W1P RFP is open with closing June 12.

OTHER – May meeting for Webex with additional meetings thinking about a larger venue for social distancing.

Meeting adjourned by Chairman Neal Mensing at 1:41p.m.

Next meeting date:	Technical Meeting	Wednesday, April 22	9:30 a.m.
	Policy Board Meeting	Friday, May 8, 2020	1:00 p.m.
	Executive Board Meeting	Friday, June 12, 2020	1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date _____