

GBERBA Policy Board Minutes
Friday, September 13, 2019
Blue Earth County Ag Service Center – Mankato, MN

Present: Tyler Ask, Tony Berg, Doug Christopherson, Wayne Cords, James Eigenberg, Rich Enger, Don Kropp, Glen Mathiason, Neal Mensing, Bill Miller, Mark Piepho, Gary Rathman, Daryl Tasler and Earle Traxler.

Others Present: Ashley Brenke, Dave Bucklin, Jill Sacket Eberhart, Kay Gross, Lee Tapper and Josh Votruba.

Chairman Neal Mensing called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

Introductions

Agenda

Motion by Mark Piepho, second by Glen Mathiason to approve the Policy Board Meeting Agenda with the addition of Peterson Company Representation Letter approval and signature. Motion carried, all yes.

Minutes

Motion by Bill Miller, second by Jim Eigenberg to approve the July 19, 2019 minutes as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION/ACTION

Financial Report

The Financial Report dated 7/31/19 to 8/31/19 was presented for the Board's review. Motion by Tony Berg second by Tyler Ask to approve the financial report as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

Accounts Payable

Motion by Jim Eigenberg, second by Mark Piepho to approve the accounts payable totaling \$31,094.31. Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Contract Approval

Mark Byron	81-06(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops (80 ac.)	Cost \$4,000.00	C-S \$2,000.00
Shawn Hassing	22-43(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops (60 ac.)	Cost \$3,000.00	C-S \$1,500.00
Schimek Enterprises	22-44(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops (69 ac.)	Cost \$3,450.00	C-S \$1,725.00

Motion by Glen Mathiason, second by Rich Enger to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share Contract for 319-TMDL-16 Grant 37 for Byron(\$2,000.00), Hassing(\$1,500.00) and Schimek Enterprises(\$1,725.00). Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Completion

Larry Cowing	46-04(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops (75 ac.)	Cost \$2,430.00	C-S \$1,215.00
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Motion by Don Kropp, second by Earle Traxler to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract completion 319-TMDL-16 Grant 37 for Cowing(\$1,215.00). Motion carried, all yes.

MAWQCP Contract Approval

Yellow Medicine SWCD	MAWQCP(TS-87-5-05)	Additional Technical Funds	\$6,000.00
David Heard	MAWQCP(59-5-28)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00

Motion by Glen Mathiason, second by Tyler Ask to approve the MAWQCP incentive payments for Yellow Medicine SWCD (\$6,000.00) and Heard (\$100.00). Motion carried, all yes.

Grant Balances and Projects Report – Disbursed.

November Policy/Technical Meeting Preparation

Discussion on potential topics and speakers; Drainage and Tillage Options (Strip Till). John Lohre and Brady Swanson (DNR) Brooke Hacker – Geomorphology Tool. Buffer speaker – how is it going (GBERBA area).

Peterson Company Representation Letter

Motion by Tyler Ask, second by Mark Piepho to approve the signing of the Representation Letter for Peterson Company to accompany our 2018 audit report. Motion carried, all yes.

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! We are working with MDA to complete an extended five-year budget for the Certification Program.

☆ **2016 MPCA – 319 Drainage Grant - GRANT COMPLETED**

An Outreach Booklet has been printed and will be sent to Drainage staff and elected officials to see conservation opportunities and potential in drainage systems.

319 Drainage Grant: Side inlet structures 50% cost share. These are federal dollars matched by state or local dollars.

☆ **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. New grant policy papers have been generated. Grant End Date 8-31-2020

☆ **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 End Date 12-31-2019. Requested extension to 12-31-2020.**

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

The Watonwan 1W1P Project is in full swing completing the plan language. The Steering Committee last met on August 21 to review progress made on the measurable goals, actions, and programs table. These will need to be completed for all issues in the plan.

☆ **2019 Clean Water Fund Grant Potential**

GBERBA staff submitted a Drinking Water Protection Grant application as well as a MDM Grant application. We should be notified in January (BWSR Board Meeting Packet) with the results.

Staff Reports

Watonwan Watershed Technician – Josh Votruba – See Handout

Area 6 Certification Specialist – Herman Bartsch – See Handout

Area 5 Certification Specialist – Danielle Evers - See Handout

MAWQCP Conservation Corp Member – Lee Tapper – See Handout

Agency Reports

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart – Clean Water Fund Applications - \$10.8 million Projects and Practices – 82 applications requesting \$26.7 million; Drinking Water 15 applications requesting \$4.4 million with \$2.7 million available; MDM \$700,000 available – 7 applications requesting \$1.1 million. These will be obligated at the January BWSR Board Meeting. BWSR Academy Oct 29 – 31 at Breezy Point. Buffer Update will be sent out in the near future, 99% and 98% compliant. Kevin Roth works with the southern portion of Minnesota. NRBG grant agreements have been sent out and will be coming to the County Commissioners for approval. Buffer grants and Capacity grants will be coming out in the near future. Cover Crop Demonstration Grant - \$1 million in funding opening on Monday September 16. Lawn to Legumes Grant – municipalities – not sure if just metro or out state – this will be a contract basis but will also be a demonstration portion to the grant.

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SEPTEMBER 13, 2019

MPCA – Wayne Cords – Watonwan WRAPS and TMDL public notice ends next Friday (September 20). MN River TSS and Impairments in Greater Blue Earth – ends next Friday (September 20) – 224 impairments out on notice from Mankato. With all of those there has been a lot of outreach. Blue Earth stressor ID work and Le Sueur water monitoring (second cycle). Lake Pepin will go out before the end of the year – will have a stakeholder meeting in mid to end of November.

OTHER

The meeting was declared adjourned at 2:41 p.m. by Chairman Neal Mensing.

Next meeting date:	Executive Meeting	October 11, 2019	1:00 p.m.
	Technical Meeting	September 27, 2019	9:30 a.m.
	Policy Board/Technical Joint Meeting	November 8, 2019	9:30 a.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date _____