

## **GBERBA Policy Board Minutes**

Friday, January 10, 2020

Blue Earth County Ag Service Center – Mankato, MN

**Present:** Tom Appel, Tony Berg, Doug Christopherson, Wayne Cords, James Eigenberg, Rich Enger, Steve Flohrs, Don Kropp, Glen Mathiason, Linda Meschke, Bill Miller, Neal Mensing, Mark Piepho, Gary Rathman, John Shanahan and Tom Warmka.

**Others Present:** David Bucklin, Kari Clouse, Kay Gross and Jill Sackett Eberhart.

Chairman Neal Mensing called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

### **Introductions**

#### **Agenda**

Motion by Steve Flohrs, second by Tony Berg to approve the GBERBA agenda with the addition to Authorize the Signing of BWSR Final Financial Reports and March Policy/Technical Meeting. Motion carried. All yes.

#### **Consent Agenda**

Motion by Mark Piepho, second by Don Kropp to approve the Policy Board Meeting Agenda as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

#### **Meeting Minutes**

November 8, 2019 – Policy Board and Technical Committee Meeting.

#### **2020 Financial Institution Designation**

United Prairie Bank as designated Financial Institution for GBERBA in 2020.

#### **2020 United Prairie Bank – Line of Credit**

Approve signing for the \$60,000 Line of Credit through the United Prairie Bank with Tom Warmka, Treasurer, as authorized signer and provide UPB the 2020 General Ledger and Budget.

#### **2020 - United Prairie Signature Card - Check Signing**

GBERBA check signing remain the same as GBERBA Secretary, Treasurer, Director and Administrative Coordinator.

#### **2020 IRS Mileage Rate**

Mileage rate at \$0.575/mile

#### **2020 Meeting Dates and 2020 Dues** (Same as previous year and approved in December 2019)

#### **Election of 2020 Executive Board**

The GBERBA Board is in the second year of a two-year rotation, so the field of officers and directors can remain the same if designed by the whole Board.

Motion by Linda Meschke, second by Mark Piepho to approve the slate of officers as 2019 with Neal Mensing, Chairman, Vice Chairman Tom Appel, Secretary Clark Lingbeek, Treasurer Tom Warmka, Director Glen Mathiason and Director John Shanahan. Motion carried, all yes.

Meeting continued by Chairman Neal Mensing.

#### **Financial Report**

The Financial Report dated 12/1/19 to 12/31/19 was presented for the Board's review. Motion by Glen Mathiason, second by Steve Flohrs to approve the financial report as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

#### **Accounts Payable**

Motion by Tom Warmka, second by Mark Piepho to approve the accounts payable totaling \$24,952.05. Motion carried, all yes.

**PAGE 2**  
**GBERBA POLICY MINUTES**  
**JANUARY 10, 2020**

**GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Final Payment**

Andrew Krusemark 319-TMDL(46-05) Cover Crops (80 acres) Cost \$3,157.33 C-S \$1,578.67

Motion by Linda Meschke, second by Steve Flohrs to approve the Cost-Share contract final payment for Krusemark (\$1,578.67). Motion carried, all yes.

**GBERBA Contract Approval**

Jared Mensing	22-48(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops (37 ac.)	Cost \$1,665.00	C-S \$832.50
Neal Mensing	22-49(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops (32 ac.)	Cost \$1,440.00	C-S \$720.00
Neal Mensing	22-50(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops (75 ac.)	Cost \$3,375.00	C-S \$1,687.50
Neal Mensing	22-51(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops (48 ac.)	Cost \$2,160.00	C-S \$1,080.00
Neal Mensing	22-52(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops (42 ac.)	Cost \$1,890.00	C-S \$945.00
Neal Mensing	22-53(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops (71 ac.)	Cost \$3,195.00	C-S \$1,597.50

Motion by Tom Appel, second by John Shanahan to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share Contracts for 319-TMDL-16 Grant 37 for J. Mensing(\$832.50) and N. Mensing(\$720.00, \$1,687.50, \$1,080.00, \$945.00 and \$15,597.50). Motion carried, all yes. Neal Mensing abstained.

**MAWQCP Contract Approval**

Jim Opdahl	MAWQCP(42-5-11)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Jason Miller	MAWQCP(51-5-12)	Worksheet/Certification Completion	Incentive \$300.00
Duane Baker	MAWQCP(59-5-29)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Terry Aukes	MAWQCP(67-5-16)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00

Motion by Gary Rathman second by Doug Christopherson to approve the MAWQCP incentive payments for Opdahl, Baker, Aukes (\$100.00) and Miller (\$300.00). Motion carried, all yes.

**INFORMATION/ACTION**

**2020 Administrative, Technical and Financial Coordinator(s) Contract**

Motion by Glen Mathiason, second by Doug Christopherson to approve the 2020 GBERBA Contract for Service – Administrative, Technical and Financial Coordinator contract \$52,008.00 with the Cottonwood SWCD. Motion carried, all yes.

**BWSR FINAL FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Motion by Steve Flohrs, second by Tony Berg to approve the signing of all Final Financials for the Board of Water and Soil Resources grant reporting for 2020. Motion carried, all yes.

**March Policy Board/Technical Committee Presentations**

Focus on Drainage topics for the March ideas include Kerry Netzke – Area II; Joe Magner; Mark Hiles and Tom Gile – BWSR Drainage Focus Staff; Houston Engineering – Red River Water Storage Options; Red River – Robb Sipp.

**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! The GBERBA MAWQCP agreement has been extended for another two years.

**☆ 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.

**PAGE 3  
GBERBA POLICY MINUTES  
JANUARY 10, 2019**

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 be continued.**

**☆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. The Policy and Steering Committee will meet on January 15 to fine tune and approve measurable goals, actions, and programs table.

**☆2020 Grant Applications**

GBERBA staff submitted a Drinking Water Protection Grant application as well as a MDM Grant application for the 2020 Clean Water Fund. BWSR will announce the grant awards in January. **Congratulations to Faribault County for the Cover Crop Grant Award!**

**☆2019 MAWQCP Conservation Corps Position**

Lee Tapper has completed the 2019 Corps position requirements. Thank You, Lee! Lee has been hired by the Cottonwood SWCD as a Program Technician.

**☆2020 MAWQCP Conservation Corps Position**

Ashley Broussard has accepted the 2020 position. Her first day at the Cottonwood SWCD office will be the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January.

**Staff Reports** – Emailed out to Policy and Technical Committee

**Agency Reports**

**BWSR** – Jill Sackett Eberhart – Yearly reporting due by February 3, 2020. CREP – CRP Sign-up but changes to the FSA language – BWSR has put in a request for clarification – so not sure when next sign-up is. CREP outreach additional funding until June 30, 2020 – looking to LCCMR for continued funding. BWSR is looking to fill several positions throughout the state and at the main office.

MPCA – Wayne Cords – Responses on the web site MN River and Greater Blue Earth TMDL; Watonwan WRAPS – Comments on Website – should be approved in a week or two; also Middle Minnesota WRAPS; Lower Minnesota WRAPS; All WRAPS and TMDLs should be approved in a week or two. Impaired Waters listing is out there for the first 10 years and onto the next cycle.

**OTHER** – None.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 2:40 p.m. by Chairman Neal Mensing.

**Next meeting date:** Executive Meeting – February 14, 2020, 1:00 p.m.  
Technical Meeting – January 22, 2020, 9:30 a.m.  
Policy Board/Technical Committee Meeting – March 13, 2020, 9:30 a.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_