

GBERBA Policy Board/Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 13, 2020

Mankato Armory – Mankato, MN

Present: Tom Appel, Tony Berg, Doug Christopherson, Wayne Cords, Jim Eigenberg, Rich Enger, Steve Flohrs, Clark Lingbeek, Glen Mathiason, Neal Mensing, Bill Miller, Mark Piepho, John Shanahan, Steve Sodeman, Earle Traxler, Tom Warmka and Clem Windschitl.

Others Present: Jerad Bach, Herman Bartsch, Chuck Brandel, Ashley Brenke, Ashley Broussard, Dave Bucklin, Haley Byron, Kari Clouse, Paul Davis, Matt Drewitz, Jill Sackett Eberhart, Danielle Evers, Tom Gile, Alan Gleisner, Bailey Griffin, Kay Gross, Russ Guse, Shane Johnson, Andy Meyer, Rick Moore, Heidi Salminen, Mark Schaetzke, Mike Schultz, Michele Stindtman, Josh Votruba and Katie Wigen.

Call to Order - Chairman Neal Mensing called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Introductions

Agenda

Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by Glen Mathiason to approve the Policy Board/Technical Committee Meeting Agenda as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

Minutes

Motion by Clem Windchitl, second by Earle Taxler to approve the January 10, 2020 minutes as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

TECHNICAL MEETING – Convened at 9:43 a.m. by Chair Heidi Rudolph

Minutes

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Jerad Bach to approve the February 14, 2019 minutes as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION/ACTION

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Cancellation

Terry Groskreutz	81-07(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crop – 30 ac.	Cost \$1,500.00	C-S \$750.00
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Motion by Michele Stindtman, second by Mark Schaetzke to approve the Cost-Share Contract cancellation for Krenz (\$750.00 319-TMDL-16). Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Approval

Andy Linder	22-55(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crop – 243 ac.	Cost \$12650.00	C-S \$6,325.00
Bill Rauenhorst	22-56(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crop – 211 ac.	Cost \$8,440.00	C-S \$4,220.00
Trails End Farms	22-57(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crop – 301 ac.	Cost \$12,040.00	C-S \$6,020.00
J-Ace Farms	22-58(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crop – 870 ac.	Cost \$34,800.00	C-S \$17,400.00
Eric Volsen	22-59(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crop – 465 ac.	Cost \$20,925.00	C-S \$10,462.50
Don Linder	22-60(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crop – 281 ac.	Cost \$12,645.00	C-S \$6,322.50
Terry Groskreutz	81-08(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crop – 30 ac.	Cost \$1,500.00	C-S \$750.00

Motion by Michele Stindtman, second by Dave Bucklin to approve the Cost-Share Contracts for A. Linder, B. Rauenhorst, Trails End Farms, J-Ace Farms, Volsen, D. Linder and Groskreutz (319-TMDL-16 Grant). Motion carried, all yes.

TECHNICAL MEETING Adjourned at 9:45 a.m. by Chair Heidi Salminen

POLICY BOARD MEETING Reconvened by Chair Neal Mensing at 9:45 a.m.

INFORMATION/ACTION

Financial Report

The Financial Report dated 1/31/20 to 2/29/20 was presented for the Board's review. Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by Earle Traxler to approve the financial report as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

Accounts Payable

Motion by Glen Mathiason, second by Mark Piepho to approve the accounts payable and pay the bills totaling \$33,490.91. Motion carried, all yes.

Review Grant Balances and Projects Report.

COST-SHARE PROJECTS

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Cancellation

Terry Groskreutz 81-07(319-TMDL-16) Cover Crop – 30 ac. Cost \$1,500.00 C-S \$750.00

Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by Rich Egner to approve the Cost-Share Contract cancellation for Krenz (\$750.00 319-TMDL-16). Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Approval

Andy Linder	22-55(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crop – 243 ac.	Cost \$12650.00 C-S \$6,325.00
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Motion by Steve Flohrs, second by Jim Eigenberg to approve the Cost-Share Contracts for A. Linder, B. Rauenhorst, Trails End Farms, J-Ace Farms, Volsen, D. Linder and Groskreutz (319-TMDL-16 Grant). Motion carried, all yes.

MAWQCP Contract Approval

Brown SWCD	MAWQCP TS-86-01	Additional Technical Assistance	\$6,000.00
Faribault SWCD	MAWQCP TS-22-6-04	Additional Technical Assistance	\$6,000.00
Karl Guetter	MAWQCP 64-5-34	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
George Sill	MAWQCP 83-6-08	Worksheet/Certification Incentive	\$300.00
Tad Engstrom	MAWQCP 46-6-06	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
Karl Swenson	MAWQCP 81-6-06	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
Loren Otkin	MAWQCP 41-5-18	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00

Motion by Tom Appel, second by Tony Berg to approve the MAWQCP Additional Technical Assistance payment to Brown and Faribault SWCDs (\$6,000 each) and Guetter, Engstrom, Swenson, Otkin (\$100.00 incentive) and Sill (\$300.00 incentive). 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! 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 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.

☆ **Potential Grant Submission NCR SARE**

Staff are looking into a potential grant opportunity through the Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education organization.

☆ **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 Houston 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. This will require a revision of the GBERBA Joint Powers Agreement.

The Watonwan 1W1P Policy Committee would like to request inclusion into the GBERBA Joint Powers Agreement with the understanding that this would include the ability for GBERBA to be the fiscal and reporting agent for the Watonwan 1W1P.

Motion by Tom Appel, second by Clark Lingbeek that GBERBA modify the GBERBA joint powers agreement to serve as the fiscal and reporting agent for the Watonwan 1W1P and to include language to allow future 1W1P's to have GBERBA serve as the fiscal and reporting agent. Motion carried, all yes.

Staff Reports

Area 6 Certification Specialist – Herman Bartsch – See Handout

Area 5 Certification Specialist – Danielle Evers - See Handout

Watershed Technician – Josh Votruba – See Handout

MAWQCP Conservation Corp Member – Ashley Broussard – See Handout

Agency Reports

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart – Next 1W1P planning grant will be open for application at the end of March and end in June. CREP batching period right now. New work plan implementation to meet statute will be coming to replace the BBR process. A few positions open in BWSR, if anyone is interested. March 18th Jason Beckler will be back as a southwest Minnesota area Board Conservationist.

MPCA – Paul Davis – Joanne Boettcher will be leaving and moving to DNR.

DNR – None

Other Business – Heidi Salminen will be leaving after 5+ years at the Watonwan SWCD. Thank you so much for all you have done for your SWCD and GBERBA – it has been fun working with you and our very best wishes on your new endeavors.

Meeting declared adjourned by Chairman Neal Mensing 10:55 a.m.

Presentation – Update on Watershed Modeling PTMApp – Matt Drewitz, BWSR Measures and Outcomes Coordinator

Presentation – Water Storage Project under MDM Grant – Mark Schaetzke, Waseca SWCD Manager

Presentation – Water Storage Project under MDM Grant – Mike Schultz, Le Sueur SWCD Manager

Presentation – Water Storage Projects and Opportunities – Chuck Brandel, Etal, ISG Vice President

Next Meetings

Executive Board Meeting	April 10, 2020	1:00 p.m.
Technical Meeting	April 22, 2020	9:30 a.m.
Policy Board Meeting	May 8, 2020	1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date _____