

# GBERBA Executive Board Minutes

Friday, October 9, 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, Neal Mensing and John Shanahan.

**Others Present:** Ashely Broussard, Dave Bucklin, Kari Clouse, and Jill Sackett Eberhart.

Chairman Neal Mensing called the meeting to order at 1:21 p.m.

### Agenda

Motion by Shanahan, second by Lingbeek to approve the Executive Board Meeting Agenda with the addition of the discussion concerning a Multipurpose Drainage Grant Extension request.

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

Motion carried, all yes.

### Minutes

Motion by Shanahan, second by Appel to approve the August 26, 2020 minutes as presented.

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

Motion carried, all yes.

### INFORMATION/ACTION

#### Financial Report

The Financial Report dated 9/1/20 to 9/30/20 was presented for the Board's review. Motion by Lingbeek, second by Appel to approve the September financial report as presented.

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

Motion carried, all yes.

#### Accounts Payable

Motion by Appel, second by Lingbeek to approve the accounts payable totaling \$27,829.36.

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

Motion carried, all yes.

#### GBERBA Contract Cancellation

Faribault Co. D.A.	22-02(CWF-MDM-17)	Bioreactor – 1 no.	C-S \$3,000.00	Cost \$120,000.00
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Motion by Appel, second by Lingbeek to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract cancellation for Faribault Co. Drainage Authority – 22-02(CWF-MDM-17) - \$3,000.

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

Motion carried, all yes.

#### GBERBA Contract Approval

Dan Gossman	81-13(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 130.9 ac	C-S \$2,618.00	Cost \$5,236.00
Scott Gossman	81-14(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 181.71 ac	C-S \$3,634.00	Cost \$7,268.00

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Shanahan to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contracts for D. Gossman – 81-13(319-TMDL-16) - \$2,618.00 and S. Gossman – 81-14(319-TMDL-16) - \$3,634.00.

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

Motion carried, all yes.

**GBERBA Contract Final Payment**

Tom Muller	17-11(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 130 ac.	C-S \$2,778.75	Cost \$5,557.50
Roger Hubmer	07-11(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 305 ac.	C-S \$6,072.00	Cost \$12,144.00

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Appel to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract final payment Muller – 17-11(319-TMDL-16) - \$2,778.75 and Hubmer – 07-11(319-TMDL-16) - \$6,072.00.

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

Motion carried, all yes.

**MAWQCP Contract Approval**

Carey Mattison	MAWQCP(42-5-15)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
DT Kramer Farms Inc	MAWQCP(67.5-15)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
Tad Engstrom	MAWQCP(46-6-06)	Certification Incentive	\$200.00

Motion by Shanahan, second by Lingbeek to approve the MAWQCP incentives for Mattison and DT Kramer Farms Inc (\$100.00) and Engstrom (\$200.00).

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

Motion carried, all yes.

**Review Grant Report**

**Joint Powers Agreement Update**

The committee has met virtually with Ann Goering twice to review draft Joint Powers Agreement and draft By-Laws. At this time we have the DRAFT Joint Powers Agreement out for review with comments requested back to Kay Gross by Monday, November 9 so we can discuss at our GBERBA Policy Board Meeting in November. DRAFT By-Laws will be coming out the end of this week or the beginning of next (October 9-13) and will be distributed to the as was the JPA. The drafts are being sent to all GBERBA Policy Board Members, Technical Staff and Watonwan 1W1P Policy Committee and Steering Team.

Bailey Griffin from ISG is working with their Marketing Department to create a logo for the front cover of the Joint Powers Agreement showing the watersheds and counties. This is being done at no cost to GBERBA. Comments will need to be back to Kay by November 9, 2020.

**November Joint Policy/Technical Meeting – Discussion**

The option of having an in-person joint meeting was discussed. Either Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> or Friday November 20<sup>th</sup>. We can have it at the Windom Community Center, where there is ample room for social distancing. Setup and dumpster fee is \$100.00, rent for the whole space is \$60.00 per hour and half the space is \$40.00 per hour. Coffee and donuts can be brought in as well as a box lunch. It was recommended that we charge a \$15.00 registration fee to help cover the cost. Discussion followed. Jill from BWSR does not think the state people would be allowed to attend. Motion by Lingbeek, second by Appel to move the meeting to November 20<sup>th</sup>.

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

Motion carried, all yes.

An email will be sent out early next week to find out if there is enough interest to hold a joint, in-person meeting.

**Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant Request – Discussion**

This grant can only be extended out to April 30<sup>th</sup>. Is that enough time to get project completed? Mark Schaetzke, Engineer & Ditch Inspector has doubts that project can be completed due to the weather. If project not completed by deadline, that will look bad as we asked for the extension and did not meet the deadline. Jill questions what it is that takes so long to get completed. With or without the extension, project is still being planned.

Tom Appel left the meeting at 2:00. No longer have a quorum so there was no vote to move forward with this. Will wait till the November meeting to finalize this discussion.

## COORDINATOR REPORT

### ☆ MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

Update on progress made in areas 5 and 6 – See Certification Specialist Reports. Over 625,000 acres and over 900 certified producers statewide!

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.

**For 2020, the cover crop acre limits are removed. At this point the 50% cost share rate will continue. GBERBA staff has requested and received an extension of this grant due to 2019 weather conditions and the Covid-19 outbreak. The new end date of the grant will be August 31, 2021.**

This grant funding is now running short. Funding will be awarded as available. Please pass this notice on to new landowners wishing to apply.

### ☆ 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.**

GBERBA will not apply for a second grant time extension at this time. GBERBA can pay grant-engineering funds to projects even if not constructed prior to grant deadline.

### ☆ One Watershed One Plan Planning Grants, Watonwan and Le Sueur Watershed

The Watonwan 1W1P Planning Project has completed the Plan 60 day comment period. The revised draft plan document is complete. After all public hearings are complete; the plan then goes to a state agency review.

The BWSR Board has chosen the Le Sueur Watershed for a 2021 planning grant!

The GBERBA Policy board has agreed to revise the Joint Powers Agreement to allow inclusion of 1W1P duties. A GBERBA committee is working to assist with writing a new GBERBA Joint Powers document. The new document would allow for the Watonwan, Le Sueur, and Blue Earth Watersheds to participate if the individual watersheds 1W1P boards see a benefit to do so.

## Staff Reports

**Area 6 Certification Specialist** – Herman Bartsch – See Handout

**Area 5 Certification Specialist** – Danielle Evers - See Handout

**MDA – Conservation Corp Member** – Ashley Broussard – See Handout

## Agency Reports

**BWSR** – Jill Sackett Eberhart – Everyone was updated on the Watonwan 1W1P. FY21 NRBG, last of the grants has gone out. FY21 Buffer & Capacity have been opened and can start doing workplans. Busy preparing for the academy.

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**MPCA** – None

**OTHER** – Kari noted that GBERBA will be seeking the \$60,000.00 from United Prairie Bank before the end of the year. Some of the Cottonwood SWCD checks will need to be held, depending on funds. Also cover crop cost share payments will be held until December meeting and dispersed then.

Meeting adjourned by Neal Mensing at 2:20 p.m.

**Next meeting date:**

Technical Committee Meeting	Wednesday, October 28, 2020	9:30 a.m.
Policy Board Meeting	Friday, November 20, 2020	1:00 p.m.
Technical Committee Meeting	Friday, November 20, 2020	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, December 18, 2020	1:00 p.m.

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