

GBERBA Policy Board Minutes

Friday, November 20, 2020

WebEx – Web Based (Computer) and/or Conference Call (Phone) Connection

Present: Tom Appel, Tyler Ask, Tony Berg, Doug Christopherson, James Eigenberg, Rich Enger, Steve Flohrs, Larry Hansen, John King, Don Kropp, Clark Lingbeek, Glen Mathiason, Neal Mensing, Bill Miller, Mark Piepho, John Shanahan, Tom Warmka and Clem Windschitl.

Others Present: Chris Bauer, Ashley Broussard, Dave Bucklin, Haley Byron, Jill Sackett Eberhart, Andy Geiger, Kay Gross, Mike Schultz.

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

Introductions

Agenda

Motion by Tom Warmka, second by Tony Berg to approve the Policy Board Meeting Agenda as presented.

Roll Call: Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – John King; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Glen Mathiason; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Mark Piepho; Y – John Shanahan; Y - Tom Warmka; Y – Clem Windschitl.
All yes, motion carried.

Minutes

Motion by Steve Flohrs, second by Bill Miller to approve the September 11, 2020 minutes as presented.

Roll Call: Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – John King; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Glen Mathiason; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Mark Piepho; Y – John Shanahan; Y - Tom Warmka; Y – Clem Windschitl.
All yes, motion carried.

INFORMATION/ACTION

Financial Report

The Financial Report dated 9/30/20 to 10/31/20 was presented for the Board's review. Motion by Mark Piepho, second by Tom Warmka to approve the financial report as presented.

Roll Call: Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – John King; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Glen Mathiason; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Mark Piepho; Y – John Shanahan; Y - Tom Warmka; Y – Clem Windschitl.
All yes, motion carried.

Accounts Payable

Motion by Tony Berg, second by Tyler Ask to approve the accounts payable totaling \$124,466.03.

Roll Call: Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – John King; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Glen Mathiason; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Mark Piepho; Y – John Shanahan; Y - Tom Warmka; Y – Clem Windschitl.
All yes, motion carried.

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Completion

Karson Duncanson	07-01(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 1,060 ac.	C-S \$18,375.00	Cost \$39,750.00
Karl Swenson	81-10(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 120 ac.	C-S \$2,082.65	Cost \$4,165.31
Blue Earth Co. D.A.	07-09(319-TMDL-16)	Alternative Side Inlets – 24 no.	C-S \$24,500.00	Cost \$54,566.35
Le Sueur Co. D. A.	40-01(CWF-MDM-17)	Storage/Treatment Wetland - 1	C-S \$50,000.00	Cost \$54,668.00
Byron Properties of N.R.	81-01(CWF-MDM-17)	Bioreactor – 1 no.	C-S \$608.13	Cost \$810.83
Mark Byron	81-12(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 76 ac.	C-S \$1,387.00	Cost \$2,774.00
Larry Cowing	46-08(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 140 ac.	C-S \$2,345.00	Cost \$4,690.00

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Motion by Don Kropp, second by Clem Windschitl to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract final payments for Karson Duncanson (319-TMDL-16-07-01) - \$18,375.00; Karl Swenson (319-TMDL-16-81-10) - \$2,082.65; Blue Earth Co. D.A. (319-TMDL-16-07-09) - \$24,500.00; Le Sueur Co. D.A. (CWF-MDM-17-40-01) - \$50,000.00; Byron Properties of New Richland (CWF-MDM-17-81-01) - \$608.13; Mark Byron (319-TMDL-16) - \$1,387.00; and Larry Cowing (319-TMDL-16-81-12) - \$2,345.00. Motion carried.

Roll Call: Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – John King; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Glen Mathiason; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Mark Piepho; Y – John Shanahan; Y - Tom Warmka; Y – Clem Windschitl.
All yes, motion carried.

MAWQCP Contract Approval

John Brake	MAWQCP(53-5-13)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
Brent Miller	MAWQCP(51-5-17)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
Scott Haase	MAWQCP(22-6-23)	Worksheet/Certification Incentive	\$300.00
Gleisner Farms LLC	MAWQCP(52-6-02)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
Dan Roemhildt	MAWQCP(81-6-07)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
Willis Sandbulte	MAWQCP(67-5-19)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
Brian Fick	MAWQCP(67-5-20)	Worksheet/Certification Incentive	\$300.00

Motion by Tom Warmka, second by Tony Berg to approve the MAWQCP incentive payments for Brake, Miller, Gleisner Farms LLC, Roemhildt and Sandbulte (\$100.00); Haase and Fick (\$300.00).

Roll Call: Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – John King; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Glen Mathiason; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Mark Piepho; Y – John Shanahan; Y - Tom Warmka; Y – Clem Windschitl.
All yes, motion carried.

Grant Balances and Projects Report – Disbursed.

GBERBA 2019 Audit – Review and Discussion.

Motion by Jim Eigenberg, second by Rich Enger to approve the 2019 Financial Audit for the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance.

Roll Call: Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – John King; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Glen Mathiason; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Mark Piepho; Y – John Shanahan; Y - Tom Warmka; Y – Clem Windschitl.
All yes, motion carried.

GBERBA Joint Powers Agreement – Review and Discussion

Motion by Mark Piepho, second by Steve Flohrs to approve the GBERBA Joint Powers Agreement and request approval by all member counties and SWCDs by December 31, 2020.

Roll Call: Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – John King; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Glen Mathiason; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Mark Piepho; Y – John Shanahan; Y - Tom Warmka; Y – Clem Windschitl.
All yes, motion carried.

Clark Lingbeek joined the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

GBERBA By-Laws – Review and Discussion

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Request for Extension – FY17 Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant

Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by Bill Miller to approve requesting a second extension for the FY17 Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant expiring December 31, 2020 with new end date of April 30, 2021.

Roll Call: Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – John King; Y – Don Kropp; Y - Clark Lingbeek; Y – Glen Mathiason; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Mark Piepho; Y – John Shanahan; Y - Tom Warmka; Y – Clem Windschitl.
All yes, motion carried.

Coordinator Report

☆ MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

Update on progress made in areas 5 and 6 – See Certification Specialist Reports. Over 700,000 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 has launched 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 this grant titled "Greater Blue Earth River Basin TMDL Implementation" is found on the GBERBA web site. Cover crops: \$50.00 dollars per acre maximum, 50% c/s (\$25.00 ac.). Prioritization required. Alternative intakes: Rock and pattern tile. \$500.00 maximum with 50% cost share.

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.

For 2020, the cover crop acre limits are removed. 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 to identify the eligible ditches. A guidance policy sheet is online.

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

The Grant expiration date is 12-31-2020.

At this time, GBERBA WILL apply for a second grant time extension. In addition, GBERBA can pay grant-engineering funds to approved projects even if not constructed prior to grant deadline. If approved the new grant end date will be April 30, 2021.

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

The Watonwan 1W1P plan is going to a Southern Regional BWSR Board meeting where staff will deliver a plan presentation on November 19, 2020 at 9 am.

A GBERBA committee is working to assist with writing a new GBERBA Joint Powers Agreement document and By-laws. The new JPA document would allow for the Watonwan, Le Sueur, and Blue Earth Watersheds 1W1P boards to utilize the GBERBA structure if the individual watersheds 1W1P boards see a benefit to do so.

BWSR has approved the Le Sueur 1W1P Planning grant.

Staff Reports

Area 6 Certification Specialist – Herman Bartsch – See Handout

Area 5 Certification Specialist – Danielle Evers - See Handout

MAWQCP Conservation Corp Member – Ashley Broussard – See Handout

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Agency Reports

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart – FY21 Clean Water Fund will be on the BWSR Board Meeting agenda. That meeting will also have the Watonwan River Comprehensive Water Management Plan up for approval. New protocol through BWSR, all offices moving their physical office needs to be approved by the BWSR State Board. Grant reporting will be coming up soon which needs to be done by Feb. 1 or 30 days after completion.

OTHER – Thanks so much to Ashley Broussard for her work on MAWQCP and our TECHNICAL GURU!!!!
Glen Mathiason expressed his pleasure in working with the GBERBA members and will miss everyone. Tom Warmka expressed his well wishes and will miss all members.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 2:13 p.m. by Chairman Neal Mensing.

Next meeting dates:

Executive Meeting	Friday, December 18	1:00 p.m.
Technical Meeting	Friday, December 18	9:30 a.m.
Policy Board Meeting	Friday, January 8, 2021	1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date _____