

## GBERBA Policy Board Minutes

Friday, September 11, 2020

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

**Present:** Tom Appel, Tony Berg, Doug Christopherson, James Eigenberg, Rich Enger, Steve Flohrs, Don Kropp, Clark Lingbeek, Glen Mathiason, Linda Meschke, Neal Mensing, Mark Piepho, John Shanahan, Tom Warmka and Clem Windschitl.

**Others Present:** Kari Clouse, Kay Gross.

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

### Introductions

#### Agenda

Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by Mark Piepho to approve the Policy Board Meeting Agenda with the addition of a Request for Extension – C17-3714 - FY2017 Multipurpose Drainage Management – GBERBA Grant Agreement and Cost-Share Contract Approval for Faribault County Drainage Authority – 22-02(CWF-MDM-17) - \$3,000.00.

Roll Call: Y - Tom Appel; Y - Tony Berg; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Don Kropp; Y - Clark Lingbeek; Y – Linda Meschke; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Mark Piepho; Y – John Shanahan; Y - Tom Warmka; Y – Clem Windschitl.

All yes, motion carried.

#### Minutes

Motion by Linda Meschke, second by Tony Berg to approve the July 10, 2020 minutes as presented.

Roll Call: Y - Tom Appel; Y - Tony Berg; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Don Kropp; Y - Clark Lingbeek; Y – Linda Meschke; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Mark Piepho; Y – John Shanahan; Y - Tom Warmka; Y – Clem Windschitl.

All yes, motion carried.

Doug Christopherson and Glen Mathiason joined the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

### INFORMATION/ACTION

#### Financial Report

The Financial Report dated 7/31/20 to 8/31/20 was presented for the Board's review. Motion by Mark Piepho, second by Clem Windschitl to approve the financial report as presented.

Roll Call: Y - Tom Appel; Y - Tony Berg; Y - Doug Christopherson; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Don Kropp; Y - Clark Lingbeek; Y – Glen Mathiason; Y – Linda Meschke; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Mark Piepho; Y – John Shanahan; Y - Tom Warmka; Y – Clem Windschitl.

All yes, motion carried.

#### Accounts Payable

Motion by Don Kropp, second by Steve Flohrs to approve the accounts payable totaling \$27,658.86.

Roll Call: Y - Tom Appel; Y - Tony Berg; Y - Doug Christopherson; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Don Kropp; Y - Clark Lingbeek; Y – Glen Mathiason; Y – Linda Meschke; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Mark Piepho; Y – John Shanahan; Y - Tom Warmka; Y – Clem Windschitl.

All yes, motion carried.

#### GBERBA Contract Approvals

|                                     |                    |                                 |                |                   |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Mark Byron                          | 81-12(319-TMDL-16) | Cover Crops – 76 ac             | C-S \$1,900.00 | Cost \$3,800.00   |
| Faribault Co.<br>Drainage Authority | 22-02(CWF-MDM-17)  | Denitrifying Bioreactor – 1 no. | C-S \$3,000.00 | Cost \$120,000.00 |

Motion by Jim Eigenberg, second by John Shanahan to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract for Byron – 81-12(319-TMDL-16) - \$1,900.00 and Faribault County Drainage Authority 22-02(CWF-MDM-17) - \$3,000.00.

Roll Call: Y - Tom Appel; Y - Tony Berg; Y - Doug Christopherson; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Don Kropp; Y - Clark Lingbeek; Y – Glen Mathiason; Y – Linda Meschke; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Mark Piepho; Y – John Shanahan; Y - Tom Warmka; Y – Clem Windschitl.

All yes, motion carried.

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**GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Completion**

Doug Meyer 22-62(319-TMDL-16) Alternative Tile Intakes – 2 no. C-S \$500.00 Cost \$1,173.04

Motion by Tom Appel, second by Rich Enger to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract payment for Meyer -22-62(319-TMDL-16) - \$500.00.

Roll Call: Y - Tom Appel; Y - Tony Berg; Y - Doug Christopherson; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Don Kropp; Y - Clark Lingbeek; Y – Glen Mathiason; Y – Linda Meschke; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Mark Piepho; Y – John Shanahan; Y - Tom Warmka; Y – Clem Windschitl.  
Motion carried.

**MAWQCP Contract Approval**

|                 |                    |                                   |            |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Redwood SWCD    | MAWQCP(TS-64-5-06) | Additional Technical Assistance   | \$6,000.00 |
| Bryan Ethriem   | MAWQCP(59-5-31)    | Worksheet Incentive               | \$100.00   |
| Craig Rollag    | MAWQCP(67-5-17)    | Worksheet Incentive               | \$100.00   |
| Thomas Balfany  | MAWQCP(87-5-20)    | Worksheet/Certification Incentive | \$300.00   |
| Todd Balfany    | MAWQCP(87-5-21)    | Worksheet/Certification Incentive | \$300.00   |
| William Balfany | MAWQCP(87-5-22)    | Worksheet/Certification Incentive | \$300.00   |
| Chris Balfany   | MAWQCP(87-5-19)    | Certification Incentive           | \$200.00   |
| Loran Haas      | MAWQCP(87-5-23)    | Certification Incentive           | \$300.00   |
| Randy Krause    | MAWQCP(87-5-24)    | Worksheet Incentive               | \$100.00   |
| Darryl Schwartz | MAWQCP(08-6-05)    | Worksheet Incentive               | \$100.00   |
| Clinton Benz    | MAWQCP(22-6-22)    | Worksheet Incentive               | \$100.00   |

Motion by Tony Berg, second by Mark Piepho to approve the MAWQCP incentive payments for Redwood SWCD (\$6,000.00); Thomas Balfany, Todd Balfany, William Balfany, Haas (\$300.00); Chris Balfany (\$200.00); Ethriem, Rollag, Krause, Schwartz and Benz (\$100.00).

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

**Grant Balances and Projects Report – Disbursed.**

**Joint Powers Agreement Update**

Committee met with Ann Goering via WebEx on August 3. Our Joint Powers Agreement is at an age that a total rewrite is being completed, the agreement will be shortened with a lot of the content going into By-Laws for the organization. Ann will be sending out a draft Joint Powers Agreement for the committee to review before our next meeting on September 29.

(Committee Members are Michele Stindtman, Ashley Brenke, Julie Conrad, Tom Appel and Clark Lingbeek.)

**Request for Extension – FY17 Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant**

Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by Doug Christopherson to approve requesting a second extension for the FY17 Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant expiring December 31, 2020 upon discussion with the Technical Committee and if deemed necessary.

Roll Call: Y - Tom Appel; Y - Tony Berg; Y - Doug Christopherson; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Don Kropp; Y - Clark Lingbeek; Y – Glen Mathiason; Y – Linda Meschke; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Mark Piepho; Y – John Shanahan; Y - Tom Warmka; Y – Clem Windschitl.

**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.**

**☆ 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 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 and Le Sueur Watershed**

The Watonwan 1W1P Planning Project has completed the Plan 60 day comment period. The revised plan document is complete. The next step is for the plan to have public hearings in each county. 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.

**☆ 2021 Minnesota Conservation Corps Position**

The Minnesota/Iowa Conservation Corps program has received the GBERBA application for a 2021, one-year position to assist GBERBA with the MAWQCP program.

**☆ 2021 Clean Water Fund Grant Application**

GBERBA staff has submitted a Projects and Practices Drinking Water application for protection of public drinking water sources within the Watonwan Watershed. We should find out in December 2020 if the application receives funding.

**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

**Agency Reports**

**BWSR** – None

**OTHER** - None

The meeting was declared adjourned at 1:26 p.m. by Chairman Neal Mensing.

**Next meeting dates:**

|                      |                    |           |
|----------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Executive Meeting    | August 26, 2020    | 1:00 p.m. |
| Technical Meeting    | August 26, 2020    | 9:30 a.m. |
| Policy Board Meeting | September 11, 2020 | 9:30 a.m. |

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