

## GBERBA Executive Board Minutes

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

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, Jim Eigenberg, Rich Enger, Clark Lingbeek, Bill Miller and John Shanahan.

Others Present: Tony Berg, Dave Bucklin, Jill Sackett Eberhart, Kay Gross, Dru Larson and Mark Schaetzke.

Chair Tom Appel called the meeting to order at 12:57 p.m.

### Agenda

Motion by Enger, second by Lingbeek to approve the Executive Board Meeting Agenda with the addition of BWSR Financial Report Submission for Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel      Y – Lingbeek      Y - Miller      Y-Enger      Y – Shanahan      Y – Eigenberg

Motion carried, all yes.

### Minutes

Motion by Eigenberg, second by Shanahan to approve the February 12, 2021 minutes as presented.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel      Y – Lingbeek      Y - Miller      Y-Enger      Y – Shanahan      Y – Eigenberg

Motion carried, all yes.

### INFORMATION/ACTION

#### Financial Report

The Financial Report dated 3/1/21 to 3/31/21 was presented for the Board's review. Motion by Shanahan, second by Enger to approve the April financial report as presented.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel      Y – Lingbeek      Y - Miller      Y-Enger      Y – Shanahan      Y – Eigenberg

Motion carried, all yes.

#### Accounts Payable

Motion by Miller, second by Lingbeek to approve the accounts payable totaling \$28,317.64.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel      Y – Lingbeek      Y - Miller      Y-Enger      Y – Shanahan      Y – Eigenberg

Motion carried, all yes.

#### GBERBA Contract Amendment

Waseca Co. D.A. CWF-MDM-17-81-02 Time Extension 4-30-2021 to 4-30-2022

Motion by Enger, second by Lingbeek to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract amendment for Waseca County Drainage Authority (CWF-MDM-17-81-02) to extend the install date from 4-30-2021 to 4-30-2022.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel      Y – Lingbeek      Y - Miller      Y-Enger      Y – Shanahan      Y – Eigenberg

Motion carried, all yes.

#### GBERBA Contract Final Payment (Corrective Action)

Le Sueur Co. D.A. CWF-MDM-17-40-01 Storage/Treatment Wetland C-S \$50,000.00 Cost \$75,339.43

Payment not to exceed \$50,000 at 75% cost-share with state or state & non-state funds; Corrective Action – Percent Based Voucher and Practice Certification Form – Contract paid 11-20-2020.

Motion by Enger, second by Lingbeek to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract (CORRECTIVE ACTION) final payment for Le Sueur County Drainage Authority (CWF-MDM-17-40-01) totaling \$50,000.00 this is based on a payment not to exceed \$50,000 at 75% cost-share with state or state and non-state funds completed on a percent based contract and Voucher and Practice Certification Form – Contact paid 11-20-2020.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel      Y – Lingbeek      Y - Miller      Y-Enger      Y – Shanahan      Y – Eigenberg

Motion carried, all yes.

**GBERBA Contract Approval**

Larry Cowing	46-10(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 125 ac.	C-S \$2,250.00	Cost \$4,500.00
Tom Muller	17-12(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 130 ac.	C-S \$2,428.00	Cost \$4,856.00
Steve Muller	17-13(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 145 ac.	C-S \$2,708.00	Cost \$5,416.00
Marie Swedberg	22-68(319-TMDL-16)	Alternative Tile Intakes – 1 no.	C-S \$250.00	Cost \$500.00
Mavis Sabin	22-69(319-TMDL-16)	Alternative Tile Intakes – 1 no.	C-S \$250.00	Cost \$500.00
City of Mt. Lake	17-01(CWF-WWDW-21)	Tree/Shrub Planting – 2 ac.	C-S \$9,010.00	Cost \$10,600.00

Motion by Miller, second by Lingbeek to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract for Cowing (319-TMDL-16-46-10) \$2,250.00; T. Muller (319-TMDL-16-17-12) \$2,428.00; S. Muller (319-TMDL-16-17-13) \$2,708.00; Swedberg (319-TMDL-16-22-68) \$250.00; Sabin (319-TMDL-16-22-69) \$250.00 and City of Mountain Lake (CWF-WWDW-21-17-01) \$9,010.00.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel      Y – Lingbeek      Y - Miller      Y-Enger      Y – Shanahan      Y – Eigenberg

Motion carried, all yes.

**MAWQCP Contract Approval and Payment**

Renville SWCD	MAWQCP(TS-65-6-06)	Additional Technical Assistance	\$6,000.00
Dave Krengel	MAWQCP(07-6-11)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
David Beck	MAWQCP(83-6-11)	Certification Incentive	\$200.00
Cary & Joel Goemann	MAWQCP(22-6-25)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
Chad Drake	MAWQCP(42-5-17)	Certification Incentive	\$200.00
Clinton Benz	MAWQCP(22-6-22)	Certification Incentive	\$200.00
Anthony Dwire	MAWQCP(41-5-20)	Worksheet/Certification Incentive	\$300.00
Douglas Possail	MAWQCP(41-5-21)	Worksheet/Certification Incentive	\$300.00
Duane Possail	MAWQCP(41-5-22)	Worksheet/Certification Incentive	\$300.00
Ridge Enterprises	MAWQCP(59-5-31)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
Bradley Kruisselbrink	MAWQCP(59-5-12)	Certification Incentive	\$200.00
Highland Family Farms	MAWQCP(07-6-12)	Worksheet/Certification Incentive	\$300.00
Justin Thram	MAWQCP(64-5-35)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00

Motion by Enger, second by Lingbeek to approve the MAWQCP incentives for Renville SWCD (\$6,000.00), Dwire, Douglas Possail, Duane Possail, Highland Family Farms (\$300), Beck, Drake, Benz, Kruisselbrink (\$200.00) and Krengel, Goemann, Ridge Enterprises and Thram (\$100.00).

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel      Y – Lingbeek      Y - Miller      Y-Enger      Y – Shanahan      Y – Eigenberg

Motion carried, all yes.

**Review Grant Report**

**BWSR – Non-Compliance Letter - Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant**

**GBERBA Procedure for Acquiring Grant Funding**

Motion by Enger, second by Eigenberg to approve the submission of the GBERBA Procedures for Acquiring Grant Funding to BWSR in regards to the Non-Compliance Letter concerning CWF Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant to satisfy the corrective actions (which also included a new voucher for Le Sueur County Drainage Authority (CWF-MDM-17-40-01)).

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel      Y – Lingbeek      Y - Miller      Y-Enger      Y – Shanahan      Y – Eigenberg

Motion carried, all yes.

**Financial Report Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant**

Motion by Miller, second by Lingbeek to allow the GBERBA Administrative Coordinator to sign and submit the Financial Report for the Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant including the request for the next forty percent of cost-share funding.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel      Y – Lingbeek      Y - Miller      Y-Enger      Y – Shanahan      Y – Eigenberg

Motion carried, all yes.

**Grant 41 – Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant 2021-2023 Policy**

Motion by Enger, second by Lingbeek to approve the Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant 2021-2023 Policy.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel      Y – Lingbeek      Y - Miller      Y-Enger      Y – Shanahan      Y – Eigenberg

Motion carried, all yes.

### Grant 40 – Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection Grant Policy Update

Motion by Miller, second by Shanahan to approve the Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection Grant Policy Update.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel            Y – Lingbeek    Y - Miller            Y-Enger            Y – Shanahan    Y – Eigenberg  
Motion carried, all yes.

### Request for Legal Counsel Review

Motion by Shanahan, second by Eigenberg to approve the review of the GBERBA JPA/By-Laws and GBERBA Grant Agreements in regards to the need for additional contracts with local entities for Cost-Share Contracts and Staff Reimbursement.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel            Y – Lingbeek    Y - Miller            Y-Enger            Y – Shanahan    Y – Eigenberg  
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 750,000 acres and over 1000 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 low. Funding is awarded as available. Please pass this notice on to 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.

At this time, GBERBA has received a third grant time extension. In addition, GBERBA can pay grant-engineering funds to approved projects even if not constructed prior to grant deadline. BWSR staff has now approved the extension for the entire grant to April 30, 2022. GBERBA staff are working through a non-compliance issue with BWSR on this grant.

### ☆ Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant

The Implementation Work Plan has been approved by SWCD. The implementation grant funds are available now. The grant timeline is 2021 to 12-31-2023. Grant Policy will be reviewed and approved at the May GBERBA Policy Board Meeting.

### ☆ 1W1P Le Sueur River Planning Grant

The Le Sueur River 1W1P Planning Grant has officially been executed which means they can finally start billing against it for approved expenses. The steering team has been working on putting a recommended RFQ for consulting services together along with a list of consultants to notify and a ranking sheet. The group was impressed with the Watonwan ranking sheets and incorporated large portions into the recommended Le Sueur ranking sheets. They have a goal of doing the kickoff meeting in June, but time is quickly slipping by and will still need to contract for this and allow adequate planning time. The Policy Committee is currently scheduled to meet monthly and will be in a virtual format for now. Our next Policy Committee meeting is Friday, April 23, so possible updates at the 28<sup>th</sup> Technical and Executive Board Meetings.

☆ **CWF 2020 Watonwan Drinking Water Grant.** The grant funding is available now to encumber! The grant timeline is 2021 to 12-31-2023. With new GBERBA Procedure for Acquiring Grant Funding, we will be making some minor changes to the Drinking Water Protection Grant Policy and will present that at the May GBERBA Policy Board Meeting. These changes will only be inclusions of install by dates, percentages, and other minor changes in dealing with Cost-Share contracts.

☆ **GBERBA Procedures for Acquiring Grant Funding**

GBERBA staff has been working on a Non-Compliance issue with Grant 39 and with that is completing a Procedures for Acquiring Grant Funding Policy. This will be an in-depth review of all requirements before contracts are encumbered or grant funds are expended to local entities, staff, TSA engineers, private consultants or others. This will be a work in progress, but we would like to have the first approval by the GBERBA Policy Board on May 14.

**Staff Reports**

**Area 6 Certification Specialist** – Herman Bartsch – Will be sent out once a month.

**Area 5 Certification Specialist** – Danielle Evers – Will be sent out once a month.

**MDA – Conservation Corp Member** – Dru Larson – Will be send out once a month.

**Agency Reports**

**BWSR** – Jill Sackett Eberhart – BWSR Academy at Cragun’s – Tuesday – Thursday (week of Halloween). In-person event is being planned. Legislative Session – Environmental Omnibus Bill – Senate, House and Governor’s input is out there.

**OTHER** – None

Meeting adjourned by Chair Tom Appel at 2:37 p.m.

**Next meeting date:**

Policy Board Meeting	Friday, May 14, 2021	1:00 p.m.
Technical Meeting	Wednesday, May 26, 2021	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, June 11, 2021	1:00 p.m.

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