

## **GBERBA Policy Board Minutes**

Friday, January 22, 2021

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

**Present:** Brandon Anderson, Bruce Anderson, Tom Appel, Tyler Ask, Tony Berg, Doug Christopherson, Brad Edwin, James Eigenberg, Rich Enger, Steve Flohrs, Larry Hansen, John King, Don Kropp, Clark Lingbeek, Neal Mensing, Bill Miller, John Shanahan.

**Others Present:** David Bucklin, Kay Gross, Chad Hildebrand, Dru Larson and Michael Stalberger, Jill Sackett Eberhart and Rachel Wehner, David Haler.

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

### **Introductions**

#### **Agenda**

Motion by Jim Eigenberg, second by Tony Berg to approve the GBERBA agenda with the addition of Pledge Security – United Prairie Bank, Peterson and Company Ltd – Letter of Engagement 2020 Audit, Waseca SWCD – Extension Request Letter to BWSR.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Brad Edwin; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – John King; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Bill Miller; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

#### **Consent Agenda**

Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by Don Kropp to approve the Policy Board Meeting Consent Agenda as presented.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Brad Edwin; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – John King; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Bill Miller; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

#### **Meeting Minutes**

November 20, 2020 – Policy Board Meeting.

#### **2021 Financial Institution Designation**

United Prairie Bank as designated Financial Institution for GBERBA in 2021.

#### **2021 United Prairie Bank – Line of Credit**

Approve signing for the \$60,000 Line of Credit through the United Prairie Bank with Executive Board Member, as authorized signer and provide UPB the 2021 General Ledger and Budget.

#### **2021 - United Prairie Signature Card - Check Signing**

GBERBA check signing remain the same as GBERBA Secretary and Administrative Coordinator.

#### **2020 IRS Mileage Rate**

Mileage rate at \$0.56/mile

#### **2021 Meeting Dates**

#### **Standing Committees**

GBERBA Executive Board – (3) Commissioners (3) Supervisors – Meeting Every Other Month Starting in February.

GBERBA Technical Committee – (1) County Staff (1) SWCD Staff Voting Members - with open invitation to other County/SWCD staff and state agency staff wishing to participate. Meet every month

#### **Election of 2021 Executive Board**

Nomination by Rich Enger for Tom Appel as Chairman.

Call for additional nominations; Nominations cease; Tom Appel declared Chairman for 2021.

Meeting continued by Chairman Tom Appel.

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Nomination by Neal Mensing for Clark Lingbeek as Vice Chairman.  
Call for additional nominations; Nominations cease; Clark Lingbeek declared Vice Chairman for 2021.

Nomination by Neal Mensing, nominated Bruce Anderson as Secretary.  
Call for additional nominations; Nominations cease; Bruce Anderson declared Secretary for 2021.  
Declines position for inability to attend meetings.

Nomination by Rich Enger for Bill Miller as Secretary.  
Call for additional nominations; Nominations cease; Bill Miller declared Secretary for 2021.

Nomination by Bill Miller to nominate Rich Enger as Treasurer.  
Call for additional nominations; Nominations cease; Rich Enger declared Treasurer for 2021.

Motion by Rich Enger to nominate Jim Eigenberg as Director.  
Call for additional nominations; Nominations cease; Jim Eigenberg declared Director for 2021.

Nomination by Clark Lingbeek to nominate John Shanahan as Director.  
Call for additional nominations; Nominations cease; John Shanahan declared Director for 2021.

Motion by Tony Berg, second by Tyler Ask to authorize the the following Board Members and GBERBA Administrative Coordinator as named: Tom Appel, Chairman; Clark Lingbeek, Vice Chairman; Rich Enger Treasurer and Kay Gross, GBERBA Administrative Coordinator check signing authority and account access for the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance through the United Prairie Bank which includes access to the Checking (#1839), Gold Savings (#1871) and Savings (#3367) and authorizes Clark Lingbeek, Vice Chairman signing authority for the United Prairie Line of Credit totaling \$60,000. Glen Mathiason and Tom Warmka will be removed from all GBERBA account information and signing authority.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Brad Edwin; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – John King; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Bill Miller; Y – John Shanahan.  
Motion carried.

**Financial Report**

The Financial Report dated 12/1/20 to 12/31/20 was presented for the Board’s review. Motion by John Shanahan, second by Steve Flohrs to approve the financial report as presented.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Brad Edwin; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – John King; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Bill Miller; Y – John Shanahan.  
Motion carried.

**Accounts Payable**

Motion by Neal Mensing, second by Bill Miller to approve the accounts payable totaling \$36,277.97.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Brad Edwin; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – John King; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Bill Miller; Y – John Shanahan.  
Motion carried.

**GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Final Payment**

Dan Gossman	319-TMDL(81-13)	Cover Crops (130.9 ac.)	Cost \$4,516.05	C-S \$2,258.00
Scott Gossman	319-TMDL(81-14)	Cover Crops (181.71 ac.)	Cost \$6,396.40	C-S \$3,198.00
Darby Harder	319-TMDL(17-10)	Cover Crops (62.3 ac.)	Cost \$2,555.10	C-S \$1,277.55

Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by Neal Mensing to approve the Cost-Share contract final payment for D. Gossman 319-TMDL-16-81-13 (\$2,258.00), S. Gossman 319-TMDL-16-81-14 (\$3,198.00) and Harder 319-TMDL-16-17-10 (\$1,277.55).

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Brad Edwin; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – John King; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Bill Miller; Y – John Shanahan.  
Motion carried.

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**GBERBA Contract Approval**

J-Ace Farms	22-65(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops (746 ac.)	Cost \$28,348.00 C-S \$14,174.00
Eric Volsen	22-66(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops (212 ac.)	Cost \$7,632.00 C-S \$3,816.00
Ron Volsen	22-67(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops (62 ac.)	Cost \$2,232.00 C-S \$1,116.00
Jeff Moeller	46-09(319-TMDL-16)	Alternative Tile Intakes (8 no.)	Cost \$2,000.00 C-S \$1,000.00

Motion by Tony Berg, second by Jim Eigenberg to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share Contracts for J-Ace Farms 319-TMDL-16-22-65 (\$14,174.00), E. Volsen 319-TMDL-16-22-66 (\$3,816.00) R. Volsen 319-TMDL-16-22-67 (\$1,116.00) and Moeller 319-TMDL-16-46-09 (\$1,000.00).

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Brad Edwin; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – John King; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Bill Miller; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

**MAWQCP Contract Approval**

Gavin Laleman	MAWQCP(42-5-16)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Michael Hamann	MAWQCP(67-5-21)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Mark Kooistra	MAWQCP(67-5-22)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Stephen Schreier	MAWQCP(51-5-16)	Certification Completion	Incentive \$200.00
Travis Schreier	MAWQCP(51-5-18)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00

Motion by Larry Hansen, second by John Shanahan to approve the MAWQCP incentive payments for Laleman, Hamann, Kooistra and T. Schreier (\$100.00) and S. Schreier (\$200.00).

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Brad Edwin; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – John King; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Bill Miller; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

**INFORMATION/ACTION**

**PLEDGE OF SECURITIES**

Motion by Neal Mensing second by Steve Flohrs to approve the Pledge of Securities Exhibit A for United Prairie Bank pledging dated 1-11-2021.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Brad Edwin; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – John King; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Bill Miller; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

**2020 AUDIT**

Motion by Jim Eigenberg, second by Bill Miller to approve the signing of the Letter of Engagement with Peterson Company Ltd for the 2020 Audit totaling \$2,775.00.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Brad Edwin; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – John King; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Bill Miller; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

**2021 Administrative, Technical and Financial Coordinator(s) Contract**

Motion by Neal Mensing, second by Larry Hansen to approve the 2021 GBERBA Contract for Service – Administrative, Technical and Financial Coordinator contract \$60,000.00 with the Cottonwood SWCD.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Brad Edwin; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – John King; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Bill Miller; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

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**GBERBA JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT**

Motion by Bill Miller, second by Tony Berg to approve the updated GBERBA Joint Powers Agreement as of January 1, 2021 with all twenty County/SWCD Boards in the Greater Blue Earth River Basin.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Brad Edwin; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – John King; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Bill Miller; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

**GBERBA BY-LAWS**

Motion by Rich Enger, second by Don Kropp to approve the updated GBERBA By-Laws as of January 1, 2021.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Brad Edwin; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – John King; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Bill Miller; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

**WASECA SWCD – EXTENSION REQUEST LETTER to BWSR**

Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by Neal Mensing to approve the submission, and support, of an Extension Request Letter by the Waseca SWCD for the Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant with the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Brad Edwin; Y - James Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – John King; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Bill Miller; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

**March Policy Board/Technical Meeting**

With the ongoing Covid pandemic – we will have these meetings separately through WebEx.

**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.

Introduction of Dru Larson, MN/IA Conservation Corps Member.

**☆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 the new landowners wishing to apply.

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**☆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.

At this time, GBERBA has received a second grant time extension. In addition, GBERBA can pay grant-engineering funds to approved projects even if not constructed prior to grant deadline. The new grant end date is April 30k, 2021. No further extensions will be allowed.

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

The full BWSR Board at the December 17, 2020 meeting approves the Watonwan 1W1P plan. The task now is to draft an Implementation Plan and Budget, by March 2021.

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. Local boards in member counties and SWCD's are approving the document this month.

BWSR has approved the Le Sueur 1W1P Planning grant.

**☆CWF 2020 Watonwan Drinking Water Grant.** BWSR will notify to start grant plan process.

**Staff Reports** – Emailed out to Policy and Technical Committee

**Agency Reports**

**BWSR** – Jill Sackett Eberhart – Introduction to group.

**OTHER** – None.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 2:45 p.m. by Chairman Tom Appel.

**Next meeting date:** Technical Meeting – January 27, 2021, 9:30 a.m.  
Executive Board Meeting – February 12, 2021, 1:00 p.m.  
Policy Board Meeting – March 12, 2021

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