

GBERBA Policy Board Minutes

Friday, March 12, 2021

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

Present: Brandon Anderson, Bruce Anderson, Tom Appel, Tony Berg, Doug Christopherson, Rich Enger, Steve Flohrs, Larry Hansen, Don Kropp, Clark Lingbeek, Linda Meschke, Bill Miller, Kevin Paap, and John Shanahan.

Others Present: David Bucklin, Kay Gross, Melanie Krueger, Brenda Lageson, Tracy Lund, Lee Tapper and Scott Salsbury, Jill Sackett Eberhart and Amanda Strommer.

Chairman Tom Appel called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Introductions

Agenda

Motion by Tony Berg, second by Bruce Anderson to approve the GBERBA agenda with the addition of Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant Extension Request and Grant Amendment.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Linda Meschke; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes

Motion by Steve Flohrs, second by Kevin Paap to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Linda Meschke; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION/ACTION

Financial Report

The Financial Report dated 2/1/21 to 2/28/21 was presented for the Board's review. Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by Tony Berg to approve the financial report as presented.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Linda Meschke; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

Accounts Payable

Motion by Linda Meschke, second by Brandon Anderson to approve the accounts payable totaling \$26,071.47.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Linda Meschke; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Cancellation

Ramont Schrock	319-TMDL-16-17-09	Cover Crops	C-S \$3,875.00
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Motion by Bill Miller, second by Clark Lingbeek to approve the GBERBA cost-share contract cancellation for Ramont Schrock 319-TMDL-16-17-09 totaling \$3,875.00.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Linda Meschke; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Approval

Randy Sorg	319-TMDL-16-81-15	Cover Crops – 144.3 ac	Cost \$7,215.00 C-S \$3,607.00
Randy Sorg	319-TMDL-16-24-04	Cover Crops – 80 ac	Cost \$4,000.00 C-S \$2,000.00

Motion by Don Kropp, second by Steve Flohrs to approve the GBERBA cost-share contract for Randy Sorg 319-TMDL-16-81-15 (\$3,607.00) and Randy Sorg 319-TMDL-16-24-04 (\$2,000.00).

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Linda Meschke; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

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MAWQCP Contract Approval

Yellow Medicine SWCD	MAWQCP(TS-87-5-07)	Additional Technical Assistance	\$6,000.00
David Beck	MAWQCP(83-6-11)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Elwayne Petersen	MAWQCP(67-5-26)	Worksheet/Certification Completion	Incentive \$300.00
Chad Drake	MAWQCP(42-5-17)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Chris Schreier	MAWQCP(42-5-18)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Larry Smith	MAWQCP(67-5-27)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00

Motion by Kevin Paap, second by John Shanahan to approve the MAWQCP incentive payments for Yellow Medicine SWCD (\$6,000.00) Beck, Drake, Schreier and Smith (\$100.00) and Peterson (\$300.00).

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Linda Meschke; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

Review Grant Report

Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant 2021-2013 Grant Agreement

Motion by Rich Enger second by Larry Hansen to approve the signing of BWSR Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement C21-2483 totaling \$700,477.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Linda Meschke; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant Extension Request

Motion by Bruce Anderson, second by Bill Miller to approve the submission of an Extension Request for the BWSR Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant C17-3714 for a grant extension to April 30, 2022.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Linda Meschke; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant Amendment

Motion by Doug Christopherson, second by Tony Berg to approve the BWSR Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant Amendment C17-3714 with the new expiration date of April 30, 2022 and authorization Chairman Tom Appel to sign grant amendment when issued by BWSR.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Linda Meschke; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

**Presentation – Amanda Strommer and Tracy Lund, MN Department of Health
Source Water Assessment Program and Surface Water Intake Plans**

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.

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★ **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 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 30, 2021. Waseca SWCD asked BWSR for a project time extension for the Waseca (water storage) wetland restoration. BWSR has stated that the language in the grant will not allow any further extensions. BWSR staff has said they are looking for other dollars to fund the project.

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

The BWSR Budget Request for Implementation has been completed and approved by BWSR. The Implementation Work Plan will be completed by March 31, 2021 to access the 1W1P grant funding this spring.

The Le Sueur River 1W1P group has asked Mark Schaetzke to give 1W1P updates to GBERBA. Currently the Le Sueur group are working on the work plan narrative, timeline and budget. They are expecting a first policy board meeting in March, and then begin the work of selecting a consultant after that.

★ **CWF 2020 Watonwan Drinking Water Grant**. GBERBA Executive board has signed the Grant agreement, and staff has returned to BWSR. GBERBA staff will be completing a grant work plan and budget in Elink. The grant funding should be available this spring.

Staff Reports – Emailed out to Policy and Technical Committee

Agency Reports

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart – Work is being done in conjunction with GBERBA staff on the FY21 Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection Grant. Budget Request has been submitted and moving on to Work Plan completion and approval by Jill to move to BWSR for final approval. Now we will work on the new grant amendment for the Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant extending to 4-30-2022.

Continuing on elink reporting and reconciliations. Moving forward on Le Sueur 1W1P with planning funding possible in the near future. March 30 BWSR will have a morning of training for local staff. There will also be follow-up training on cost-share paperwork in April.

Legislation - Climate change initiatives and soil health initiatives (could be potential grant funding for these initiatives).

MSU-WRC – Kim Musser – Water storage bill at the legislature.

OTHER – None.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 2:27 p.m. by Chairman Tom Appel.

Next meeting date: Technical Meeting – Wednesday, March 24, 2021, 9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting – Wednesday, April 28, 2021, 1:00 p.m.
Technical Meeting - Wednesday, April 28, 2021, 9:30 a.m.
Policy Board Meeting – Wednesday, May 14, 2021

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date _____