

GBERBA Executive Board Minutes
Wednesday, August 25, 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, Rich Enger, Clark Lingbeek, Bill Miller and John Shanahan.
Others Present: Dave Bucklin, Jill Sackett Eberhart, Kay Gross and Dru Larson.

Chair Tom Appel called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Agenda

Motion by Miller, second by Lingbeek to approve the Executive Board Meeting Agenda with the addition of the Le Sueur River Watershed Planning Grant.

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

Minutes

Motion by Shanahan, second by Lingbeek to approve the June 11, 2021 minutes as presented.

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

INFORMATION/ACTION

Financial Report

The Financial Report dated 7/1/21 to 7/31/21 was presented for the Board's review. Motion by Enger, second by Shanahan to approve the July financial report as presented.

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

Accounts Payable

Motion by Miller, second by Enger to approve the accounts payable totaling \$81,193.39.

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

GBERBA Contract Cancellation

Jeff Moeller 46-09(319-TMDL-16) Alternative Tile Intakes – 4 no. C-S \$1,000.00 Cost \$2,000.00

Motion by Miller, second by Lingbeek to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract cancellation for Moeller (319-TMDL-16-46-09) \$1,000.00.

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

GBERBA Contract Approval

David Gilman/A. Bromeland-Gilman

| | | | |
|-----------|---|----------------|------------------|
| | 07-02(CWF-WWDW-21) Well Decommissioning – 1 no. | C-S \$750.00 | Cost \$1,300.00 |
| JD Tippin | 17-01(WBIF-WW-21) Grass Waterway - | C-S \$6,050.00 | Cost \$33,615.06 |

Motion by Enger, second by Miller to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract approvals for Gillman/Bromeland-Gillman (CWF-WWDW-21-07-02) \$750.00 and Tippin (WBIF-WW-21-17-01) \$6,050.00.

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

GBERBA Contract Final Payment

| | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Randy Sorg | 81-15(319-TMDL-16) | Cover Crops – 141.5 ac. | C-S \$3,086.00 | Cost \$6,172.00 |
| Randy Sorg | 24-04(319-TMDL-16) | Cover Crops – 70 ac. | C-S \$1,542.50 | Cost \$3,085.00 |
| Bill Anderson | 22-31(319-TMDL-16) | Alternative Tile Intakes – 2 no. | C-S \$500.00 | Cost \$1,180.00 |
| Faribault Co DA | 22-54(319-TMDL-16) | Grade Stab/Side Inlets - | C-S \$33,963.75 | Cost \$76,020.00 |
| Eric Volsen | 22-66(319-TMDL-16) | Cover Crops – 745 ac. | C-S \$2,053.10 | Cost \$4,106.20 |
| Ron Volsen | 22-67(319-TMDL-16) | Cover Crops – 745 ac. | C-S \$410.55 | Cost \$821.10 |
| Tom Muller | 17-12(319-TMDL-16) | Cover Crops – 745 ac. | C-S \$2,265.25 | Cost \$4,530.50 |
| Steve Muller | 17-13(319-TMDL-16) | Cover Crops – 745 ac. | C-S \$2,526.63 | Cost \$5,053.25 |
| Andy Linder | 22-70(319-TMDL-16) | Cover Crops – 745 ac. | C-S \$1,948.35 | Cost \$3,896.70 |
| Larry Cowing | 46-10(319-TMDL-16) | Cover Crops – 745 ac. | C-S \$2,250.00 | Cost \$4,824.07 |

Motion by Shanahan, second by Lingbeek to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract final payments for Sorg (319-TMDL-16-81-15) \$3,086.00, Sorg (319-TMDL-16-24-04) \$1,542.50, Anderson (319-TMDL-16-22-31) \$500.00, Faribault County Drainage Authority (319-TMDL-16-22-54) \$33,963.75, E. Volsen (319-TMDL-16-22-66) \$2,053.10, R. Volsen (319-TMDL-16-22-67) \$410.55, T. Muller (319-TMDL-16-17-12) \$2,265.25, S. Muller (319-TMDL-16-17-13) \$2,526.63, Linder (319-TMDL-16-22-70) \$1,948.35 and Cowing (319-TMDL-16-46-10) \$2,250.00.

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

Motion carried, all yes.

MAWQCP Contract Approval and Payment

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|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Ramont Schrock | MAWQCP(17-5-26) | Worksheet Incentive | \$100.00 |
| Jerry & Judy Nelson | MAWQCP(32-5-24) | Worksheet Incentive | \$100.00 |
| James Schubert | MAWQCP(32-5-13) | Certification Incentive | \$200.00 |
| Dave Tauer | MAWQCP(8-6-06) | Worksheet Incentive | \$100.00 |
| Bradley Freyholtz | MAWQCP(65-6-14) | Worksheet/Certification Incentive | \$300.00 |

Motion by Miller, second by Lingbeek to approve the MAWQCP incentives for Schrock, Nelson, Tauer (\$100.00), Schubert (\$200.00) and Freyholtz (\$300.00).

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

Motion carried, all yes.

Review Grant Report

1W1P Le Sueur River Planning Grant

The Policy Committee met in person for the first time in July. There was good discussion on some of the issues within the Le Sueur Watershed. We just finalized the contract with WRC to do the kickoff meeting, online survey, and half-time meeting. Kim is working on getting things together for Sept 16 Kickoff meeting. Location is tentatively Pemberton but may change to an outdoor location to ease pandemic concerns. MPCA, DNR, and WRC are the planned speakers. The Steering Team had their first meeting with ISG and Freshwater. We went over roles, overview, and timeline. We discussed what a successful plan would be, what could threaten the success, and how to set ourselves up for success. Next steps include summarizing the existing data and beginning to draft the issue statements that will be the building blocks of the final plan.

Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant

Multipurpose Drainage Management Studies – Definition and Expectations

Watonwan Watershed – Multipurpose Drainage Management Studies – Definition - Discussion

As for the MDM Studies, our Watonwan Watershed Plan goal is to "Coordinate with the drainage authorities to implement MDM on 10 public drainage systems to improve water quality and flood resiliency in tandem with the maintenance and repair of drainage systems.

Updated version developed by Andy Meyer and Ashley Brenke reviewed and discussed.

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Enger to approve the Multipurpose Drainage Management Plan Policy (will be added to the Grant 41 – WBIF Watonwan Watershed Implementation 2021-2023).

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

Motion carried, all yes.

Interim Report

Interim Report has been submitted for expenditures January 1 – June 30, 2021 with review request to Jill Sackett-Eberhart.

Legal Counsel

Discussion with counsel and two contracts have been developed, one per grant agreement and one per funding source/agency. Reviewed and discussed.

Future Meetings

WebEx will be used for the September 10, 2021 starting at 1:00 p.m.

COORDINATOR REPORT

☆ MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

Update on progress made in areas 5 and 6 – See Certification Specialist Reports. Over 761,000 acres and over 1063 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 (31), integrated pest management (31), wildlife (22) and climate smart (12).

NRCS announced a June 4th application deadline for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP – MAWQCP). RCPP is a partnership between NRCS and MAWQCP. Producers who are seeking certification or are already certified are eligible to receive funding. Priority is given to practices that are needed for a producer to obtain certification. Dru Larson, MN/IA Conservation Corps Member will be assisting with this program in 2021.

☆ 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.

The end date of the grant is August 31, 2021. This grant is now fully encumbered.

☆ 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 has now approved the extension for the entire grant to April 30, 2022.

☆ Watonwan River Watershed - Implementation Grant

Implementation grant funds are available now with the Grant 41 Policy distributed to all GBERBA members and partners. The grant timeline is 3-24-2021 to 12-31-2023. The Project Ranking Worksheet is used for project priority.

Legal counsel has been contracted to review the need for additional contracts with member entities or others and recourse and/or errors and omissions if non-compliance issues arise when completing projects. The Technical Committee is working on the Multipurpose Drainage Management Study definition and expectations, with hope to have that completed by the July 16 Policy Board Meeting. A BWSR interim report is due August 27 for grant expenditures through June 30, 2021.

☆ Le Sueur River Watershed – One Watershed One Plan

The Policy Committee met in person for the first time in July. There was good discussion on some of the issues within the Le Sueur Watershed. We just finalized the contract with WRC to do the kickoff meeting, online survey, and half-time meeting. Kim is working on getting things together for Sept 16 Kickoff meeting. Location is tentatively Pemberton but may change to an outdoor location to ease pandemic concerns. MPCA, DNR, and WRC are the planned speakers. The Steering Team had their first meeting with ISG and Freshwater. We went over roles, overview, and timeline. We discussed what a successful plan would be, what could threaten the success, and how to set ourselves up for success. Next steps include summarizing the existing data and beginning to draft the issue statements that will be the building blocks of the final plan.

☆ **CWF 2020 Watonwan Drinking Water Grant.** The grant funding is available now to encumber! The grant timeline is 3-25-2021 to 12-31-2023. Grant Policy #40 has been distributed to staff, please review for eligible practices and grant guidelines. Project contracts are coming in for funding.

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. (Verbal report)

Agency Reports

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart – BWSR general fund grants are being processed by staff and will be sent out as soon as processed. NRBG agreements will be coming out in the next few weeks. Open meeting law questions are being raised by LGUs and directed to BWSR for help, they will try and work out the different interpretations. CREP outreach grants are being worked on at this time. Buffer and District Capacity grant agreements are not finalized so will be held up a few more weeks – looking toward October. BWSR Academy has been moved to a virtual setting. BWSR staff return to office has been put on hold.

OTHER – None

Meeting adjourned by Chair Tom Appel at 2:10 p.m.

Next meeting date:

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|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Policy Board Meeting | Friday, September 10, 2021 | 1:00 p.m. |
| Technical Meeting | Wednesday, September 22, 2021 | 9:30 a.m. |
| Executive Board Meeting | Friday, October 15, 2021 | 1:00 p.m. |

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date _____