

**GBERBA Executive Board Minutes**  
Friday, December 17, 2021  
WebEx Media Communication – Cottonwood SWCD Office

Present: Tom Appel, Jim Eigenberg, Rich Enger, Clark Lingbeek, Bill Miller and John Shanahan.  
Others Present: Dave Bucklin, Jill Sackett Eberhart, Jake Gross, Kay Gross and Carrie Schultz.

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

**Agenda**

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Enger to approve the Executive Board Meeting Agenda presented with additions.  
Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel      Y – Eigenberg    Y – Enger      Y – Lingbeek    Y – Miller      Y - Shanahan  
Motion carried, all yes.

**Minutes**

Motion by Miller, second by Eigenberg to approve the October 15, 2021 minutes as presented.  
Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel      Y – Eigenberg    Y – Enger      Y – Lingbeek    Y – Miller      Y - Shanahan  
Motion carried, all yes.

**INFORMATION/ACTION**

**Financial Report**

The Financial Report dated 11/1/21 to 11/30/21 was presented for the Board's review. Motion by Eigenberg, second by Lingbeek to approve the December financial report as presented.  
Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel      Y – Eigenberg    Y – Enger      Y – Lingbeek    Y – Miller      Y - Shanahan  
Motion carried, all yes.

**Accounts Payable**

Motion by Enger, second by Shanahan to approve the accounts payable totaling \$35,854.79.  
Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel      Y – Eigenberg    Y – Enger      Y – Lingbeek    Y – Miller      Y - Shanahan  
Motion carried, all yes.

**GBERBA Partial Payment – FY2017 BWSR Competitive Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant Agreement (C17-3714)**

Waseca Co                      CWF-MDM-17-81-02      Technical Assistance Wetland Creation      Cost \$14,560.00  
Drainage Authority

Motion by Miller, second by Eigenberg to approve the GBERBA partial payment – FY2017 BWSR Competitive Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant Agreement (C17-3714) for the Waseca County Drainage Authority (CWF-MDM-17-81-02) for Technical Assistance Wetland Creation total cost \$14,560.00.  
Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel      Y – Eigenberg    Y – Enger      Y – Lingbeek    Y – Miller      Y - Shanahan  
Motion carried, all yes.

**GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Final Payment - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483)**

Mathias & Cheryl      07-01(WBIF-WW-21)      Well Decommissioning                      Cost \$1,635.00 C-S \$817.50  
Williams

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Enger to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract final payment - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Mathias & Cheryl Williams (WBIF-WW-21-07-01) Well Decommissioning totaling \$817.50.  
Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel      Y – Eigenberg    Y – Enger      Y – Lingbeek    Y – Miller      Y - Shanahan  
Motion carried, all yes.

**GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Approval – FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483)**

Larry Salzwedel      17-03(WBIF-WW-21)      Grass Waterway 331 ft/Diversion – 1      Cost \$5,300.00 C-S \$4,505.00

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Shanahan to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract approval – FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Larry Salzwedel (BIF-WW-21-17-03) grass waterway and diversion total cost-share of \$4,505.00.  
Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel      Y – Eigenberg    Y – Enger      Y – Lingbeek    Y – Miller      Y - Shanahan  
Motion carried, all yes.

**MDM Plan Professional Agreement Approval – FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483)**

Watonwan County      WBIF-WW-21      Professional Agreement for MDM Plan with ISG      Cost \$5,500.00  
Ditch No. 1

Motion by Enger, second by Miller to approve the Multipurpose Drainage Management Plan Professional Agreement through FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) with ISG totaling \$5,500.00 for Watonwan County Ditch No. 1.

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

**MAWQCP Contract Approval and Payment**

Darby Harder	MAWQCP(17-5-24)	Certification Incentive	\$200.00
Ramont Schrock	MAWQCP(17-5-26)	Certification Incentive	\$200.00
Scott Schoper	MAWQCP(17-5-27)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
Kelly Heather	MAWQCP(42-5-21)	Worksheet/Certification Incentive	\$300.00
Cherry Creek Farm	MAWQCP(40-6-09)	Worksheet/Certification Incentive	\$300.00

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Eigenberg to approve the MAWQCP incentives for Schoper (\$100.00), Harder, Schrock (\$200.00) and Heather, Cherry Creek Farm (\$300.00).

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

**Review Grant Report**

**2022 Administrative-Technical-Financial Coordinator Contract for Service (RECOMMEND TO POLICY)**

**2022-2023 Area 5 and 6 MDA Area Certification Specialists Contract for Services**

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Eigenberg to approve the 2022-2023 Area 5 and 6 MN Department of Agriculture Water Quality Certification Specialists Contract for Services with the Cottonwood SWCD and Pipestone SWCDs.

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

**GBERBA 2020 Audit**

**GBERBA 2022 Calendar**

**GBERBA MAWQCP 2022 Corps Member**

**1W1P Le Sueur River Planning Grant**

The Steering Team and Technical Advisory Committee reviewed 36 draft issues statements created through a comprehensive watershed data review performed by ISG. The issue statements that rose to the top will be presented to the Policy Committee on December 16<sup>th</sup>. After the Policy Committee meeting planning partners will begin to focus their efforts on identifying priority areas starting with lakes and groundwater.

**Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant**

**Watonwan Watershed - Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) – Disbursal Agreements**

Motion by Enger, second by Lingbeek to approve the Watonwan Watershed Based Implementation Funding Grant Proceed Disbursal Agreement between the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance and the Cottonwood and Martin Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Blue Earth and Watonwan Counties.

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

**New Proposed Projects**

Cottonwood-Watonwan Judicial Ditch No. 1  
Cottonwood County Ditch No. 21  
Consensus to request bids on for the MDM Plans

**COORDINATOR REPORT**

★ **MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program**

Update on progress made in areas 5 and 6 – See Certification Specialist Reports. Over 790,000 acres and over 1100 certified producers statewide!

New agreement amendment has been approved and signed with the MN Department of Agriculture totaling \$573,893.00 for January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023.

Dru Larson, MN/IA Conservation Corps Member completed his term on December 7, 2021. Jake Gross and I participated in the interview process for the 2022 MAWQCP GBERBA Corps member.

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, wildlife and climate smart.

★ **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. There are \$24,000 dollars left in this grant. GBERBA needs another project or two.

★ **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.

The first Multipurpose Drainage Management Plan has been requested for Watonwan County Ditch No. 1 with a request for a contract with ISG to complete the plan for \$5,500. Member counties and SWCDs are in the process of submitting their WBIF Disbursement Agreements with GBERBA. Technical Committee will be discussing the ranking and scoring spreadsheet, new proposals for projects and yearly reporting.

★ **Le Sueur River Watershed – One Watershed One Plan**

The Kickoff meeting went well with decent weather, a good turnout (50-60), and good discussion. Kim and WRC crew are synthesizing the information collected that night as well as the online survey responses. Haley has resumed the day-to-day responsibilities for the planning effort. ISG is working at aggregating the data and trying to come up with a first draft of issue statements. The Steering Team discussed inviting citizens to the Technical Advisory Committee and identifying others who may have good experience or perspectives to weigh in on portions of the draft 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. Drinking Water Area information signs will be ordered soon.

**Staff Reports**

**Area 6 Certification Specialist** – Herman Bartsch – Written Report

**Area 5 Certification Specialist** – Danielle Evers – Written Report

**MDA – Conservation Corp Member** – Dru Larson – Final Report

**Agency Reports**

**BWSR** – Jill Sackett Eberhart – BWSR has 19 vacancies at this time (wetlands, easements and engineering – have the most). If you have grant agreements, please get them signed and sent in before Kevin Bigalke leaves at the end of 2021. Grant reporting is coming up during the month of January. This area was approved for several competitive grants, so congratulations to those offices/entities. The BWSR Board has also approve the next biennium for Watershed Based Implementation Funding which includes the Watonwan, Le Sueur (\$860,588) and Des Moines (\$1,414,031).

**OTHER** – None

Meeting adjourned by Chair Tom Appel at 2:03 p.m.

**Next meeting date:**

Policy Board Meeting	Friday, January 14, 2022	1:00 p.m.
Technical Meeting	Wednesday, January 26, 2022	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, February 11, 2022	1:00 p.m.

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