

**GBERBA Policy Board Minutes**  
Friday, September 10, 2021  
WebEx – Web Based (Computer) Connection

**Present:** Bruce Anderson, Tom Appel, Tony Berg, Doug Christopherson, Wayne Cords, Jim Eigenberg, Rich Enger, Steve Flohrs, Don Kropp, Clark Lingbeek, Bill Miller, Neal Mensing, Kevin Paap, and John Shanahan.  
**Others Present:** Bruce Bartosh, David Bucklin, Kay Gross, Dru Larson, Carrie Schultz and Michael Stalberger.

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

**Introductions**

**Agenda**

Motion by Bill Miller, second by Wayne Cords to approve the GBERBA agenda as presented.

Roll Call: Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson, Y – Wayne Cords; Y – Jim Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

**Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Rich Enger, second by John Shanahan to approve the minutes from the July 16, 2021 GBERBA Policy Board Meeting.

Roll Call: Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson, Y – Wayne Cords; Y – Jim Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

**INFORMATION/ACTION**

**Financial Report**

The Financial Report dated 8/1/21 to 8/31/21 was presented for the Board's review. Motion by Tony Berg, second by Steve Flohrs to approve the financial report as presented.

Roll Call: Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson, Y – Wayne Cords; Y – Jim Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

**Accounts Payable**

Motion by Kevin Paap, second by Rich Enger to approve the accounts payable totaling \$16,525.00.

Roll Call: Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson, Y – Wayne Cords; Y – Jim Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

**Cost-Share Report**

**Review Grant Report**

**Le Sueur River Watershed Comprehensive 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 St. Olaf Lake Park 6-8pm 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.

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**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 has completed the Multipurpose Drainage Management Study definition and expectations.

**GBERBA DUES 2022**

**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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**

The grant project funding is complete. The final report is due in September. The end date of the grant is August 31, 2021. This grant is now completed.

**★ 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 has completed the Multipurpose Drainage Management Study definition and expectations.

**★ 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 St. Olaf Lake Park 6-8pm 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.

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**Staff Reports** – In person report by Dru Larson. Emailed out to Policy and Technical Committee.

**Agency Reports**

**BWSR** – Not in Attendance.

**MPCA** – Wayne Cords – Paul Davis in office every day.

**OTHER** – None.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 2:00 p.m. by Chairman Tom Appel.

**Next meeting date:** Technical Committee Meeting – Wednesday, September 22, 2021, 9:30 a.m.  
 Executive Board Meeting – Friday, October 15, 2021, 1:00 p.m.  
 Policy Board Meeting – Friday, November 19, 2021, 1:00 p.m.

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

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Member Contact List						
County	Organization	Name	Address	City	Zip Code	
Blue Earth	County	Kevin Paap	204 S 5th Street	Mankato	56001	Attendance via WebEx
	*Director	SWCD John Shanahan	P O Box 728	Mapleton	56065	Attendance via WebEx
		SWCD Alt. John Rollings	409 First Street E	Vernon Center	56090	N/A
Brown	County	Tony Berg	20218 195th Avenue	New Ulm	56073	Attendance via WebEx
		County Alt. Jeffrey Veerkamp	205 E. George Street	Comfrey	56019	N/A
		SWCD Brandon Anderson	37590 110th Street	Comfrey	56019	N/A
		SWCD Alt. Greg Roiger	22170 Heritage Road	Sleepy Eye	56085	N/A
Cottonwood	*Chairman	County Tom Appel	36810 County Road 8	Mountain Lake	56159	Attendance at Office
		County Alt. Norman Holmen	28606 County Road 1	Comfrey	56019	N/A
	*Vice Chair	SWCD Clark Lingbeek	26992 570th Avenue	Comfrey	56019	Attendance via WebEx
Faribault		SWCD Alt Daryl Tasler	1240 20th Street	Windom	56101	N/A
		County Bruce Anderson	50156 110th Street	Bricelyn	56014	Attendance via WebEx
		County Alt. Neal Mensing	14136 365th Avenue	Blue Earth	56013	Attendance via WebEx
Freeborn		County Brad Edwin	72458 239th Street	Albert Lea	56007	N/A
		County Alt. Dan Belshan	85486 157th Street	Glenville	56036	N/A
		SWCD Donald Kropp	2005 Tower Road	Albert Lea	56007	Attendance via WebEx
		SWCD Alt. David Ausen	69128 260th Street	Alden	56009	N/A
Jackson	*Director	County Jim Eigenberg	P. O. Box 256	Heron Lake	56137	Attendance via WebEx
		County Alt. Scott McClure	71866 375th Avenue	Lakefield	56150	N/A
		SWCD Larry Hansen	87247 520th Avenue	Jackson	56143	N/A
Le Sueur		County John King	403 Ferry Street	Le Sueur	56068	N/A
		SWCD Earl Traxler	27159 376th Street	Le Sueur	56058	N/A
		SWCD Alt. Jim Struck	30566 440th Street	Cleveland	56017	N/A
Martin		County Steve Flohrs	1056 230th Street	Ormsby	56162	Attendance via WebEx
		County Alt.				
		SWCD Tyler Ask	330 Chestnut Street E	Trimont	56176	N/A
Waseca		SWCD Alt. Linda Meschke	1243 Lake Ave Suite 222	Fairmont	56031	N/A
		County Doug Christopherson	14205 275th Avenue	New Richland	56072	Attendance via WebEx
		SWCD Wayne Cords	34341 35th Street	Janesville	56048	Attendance via WebEx
Watsonwan		SWCD				
	*Secretary	County Bill Miller	33113 780th Avenue	Madelia	56062	St. James City Hall
	*Treasurer	SWCD Rich Enger	520 11th Avenue	St. James	56081	Attendance via WebEx
	SWCD Alt. Steve Sodeman	42050 737th Avenue	St. James	56081	N/A	