

GBERBA Policy Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 28, 2021

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

(All Policy Member Locations are listed with the GBERBA agenda and posted)

Present: Brandon Anderson, Bruce Anderson, Tom Appel, Tony Berg, Wayne Cords, Jim Eigenberg, Rich Enger, Steve Flohrs, Larry Hansen, Don Kropp, Clark Lingbeek, Neal Mensing, Bill Miller, Kevin Paap and John Shanahan.

Others Present: Dan Bartosh, Dave Bucklin, Jill Sackett Eberhart, Jake Gross, Kay Gross, David Haler, Ed Lenz, Carrie Schultz.

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

Introductions

Agenda

Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by Tony Berg to approve the Policy Board agenda as presented with several additions.

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

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Kevin Paap, second by Steve Flohrs to approve the Policy Board Meeting Consent Agenda as presented.

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

Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2021 – Policy Board Meeting.

2022 Financial Institution Designation

United Prairie Bank as designated Financial Institution for GBERBA in 2022.

2022 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 2020 Financial Statement.

2022 - United Prairie Signature Card - Check Signing

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

2022 IRS Mileage Rate

Mileage rate at \$0.585/mile

2022 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 2022 Executive Board

Board serves two years – 2021 start of new term – End December 2022.

Chairman – Tom Appel

Vice Chairman – Clark Lingbeek

Secretary – Bill Miller

Treasurer – Rich Enger

Directors – Commissioner Jim Eigenberg and SWCD Supervisor John Shanahan

INFORMATION/ACTION

Financial Report

The Financial Report dated 12/1/21 to 12/31/21 was presented for the Board's review. Motion by Bill Miller, second by Larry Hansen to approve the financial report as presented.

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

Motion carried.

Accounts Payable

Motion by Tony Berg, second by John Shanahan to approve the accounts payable and pay the bills totaling \$35,494.78.

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

Motion carried.

COST-SHARE PROJECTS

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

Hayden Fast	83-01(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning – 1 no.	Cost \$850.00	C-S \$425.000
Leota Hall Trust	83-02(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning – 1 no.	Cost \$1,050.00	C-S \$525.00
Randy Romsdahl	83-03(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning – 1 no.	Cost \$1,125.00	C-S \$565.50
Brian/Jeanine Williams/ Blue Earth County	07-02(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning – 1 no.	Cost \$2,535.50	C-S \$1,000.00
Nicholas Ott/Molly Blume/ Blue Earth County	07-03(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning – 1 no.	Cost \$2,535.00	C-S \$1,000.00

Motion by Neal Mensing, second by Brandon Anderson to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contracts - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Hayden Fast (WBIF-WW-2183-01) Well Decommissioning C-S \$425.000; Leota Hall Trust (WBIF-WW-21-83-02) Well Decommissioning C-S \$525.00; Randy Romsdahl (WBIF-WW-21-83-03) Well Decommissioning C-S \$565.50; Brian/Jeanine Williams/Blue Earth County (WBIF-WW-21-07-02) Well Decommissioning C-S \$1,000.00; and Nicholas Ott/Molly Blume/ Blue Earth County (WBIF-WW-21-07-03) Well Decommissioning C-S \$1,000.00.

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

Motion carried.

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Partial Payment – FY2021 BWSR WWDW-Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection Grant Agreement (C21-8921)

Karson Duncanson	07-01(CWF-WWDW-21)	Cover Crops 150 ac. 1 st Payment	Cost \$4,950.00	C-S \$3,217.50
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Motion by Bruce Anderson, second by Tony Berg to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract partial payment – FY2021 BWSR WWDW-Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection Grant Agreement (C21-8921) for Karson Duncanson (CWF-WWDW-21-07-01) cover crop cost-share \$3,217.50.

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

Motion carried.

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

Cottonwood County Ditch 21 and WBIF-WW-21 Multipurpose Drainage ISG Cost \$9,500.00
Cottonwood/Watonwan Judicial Ditch No. 1 Management Plan

Motion by Don Kropp, second by Neal Mensing to approve the Multipurpose Drainage Management Plan Professional Agreement through FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) with ISG totaling \$9,500.00 for Cottonwood County Ditch No. 21 and Cottonwood/Watonwan Judicial Ditch No. 1.

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

Motion carried.

MAWQCP Contract Approval

Cottonwood SWCD	MAWQCP(TS-17-5-04)	Technical Assistance	Incentive \$6,000.00
Mitchell Pederson	MAWQCP(41-5-23)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Dan Roemhildt	MAWQCP(81-6-07)	Certification Completion	Incentive \$200.00
PM Farms	MAWQCP(64-5-36)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00

Motion by Larry Hanson, second by Steve Flohrs to approve the MAWQCP technical assistance and incentive payments for Cottonwood SWCD (\$6,000.00); Pederson and PM Farms (\$100.00) and Roemhildt (\$200.00).

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

Motion carried.

Review Grant Balances and Projects Report.

2022 Calendar

2022 Administrative, Technical and Financial Coordinator(s) Contract

Motion by Bill Miller, second by Neal Mensing to approve the 2022 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 - Tony Berg; Y – Wayne Cords; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

2021 Audit

Motion by Tony Berg, second by Bruce Anderson to approve the signing of the Letter of Engagement with Peterson Company Ltd for the 2021 Audit totaling \$3,000.00.

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

Motion carried.

MN Department of Agriculture Joint Powers Agreement

Motion by Rich Enger, second by Kevin Paap to approve the Joint Powers Agreement between the MN Department of Agriculture and GBERBA to provide reimbursement to partner SWCDs for Technical Assistance provided implementing practices funded by the NRCS through their RCPP-LM financial assistance program February 15, 2022 through December 31, 2023 totaling \$5,000.00.

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

Motion carried.

Le Sueur River Watershed Comprehensive Plan

Policy Committee did meet today with discussion on Advisory Committee recommended goals. Main focus is on issues and goals pertaining to those issues. Rough draft by spring 2022.

Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant

WBIF Ranking Scoring Sheet

Motion by Rich Enger, second by Bill Miller to approve the addition of a ACPF/PTMApp question for the project placement (highlighting priorities of our plan) and placing a 10-point value on the ranking and scoring worksheet, with intentions to review in six-months.

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

Motion carried.

Motion by Neal Mensing, second by Larry Hansen to clarify multiple practices in a contract will be given points as an additional practice (each practice receiving their applicable points in the ranking and scoring worksheet).

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

Motion carried.

State of the Watershed Report

Goals

Work Plan Review

COORDINATOR REPORT

☆ MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

Update on progress made in areas 5 and 6 – See Certification Specialist Reports. Over 806,000 acres and over 1155 certified producers statewide! **That is over 1,259 square miles, and equals more than Cottonwood and Watonwan counties combined!**

GBERBA has the Area 5 and 6 MAWQCP administrative contract approved through 2023 pending agreement approval. 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.

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.

☆ 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 Policy Board has approved the Multipurpose Drainage Management Study definition and expectations. This information is now part of the Grant #41 Policy. Work continues on several projects looking for grant funding.

★ **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.

★ **CBF 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. We will discuss sign numbers at the next Technical meeting.

Staff Reports

Area 6 Certification Specialist – Herman Bartsch – See Handout

Area 5 Certification Specialist – Danielle Evers - See Handout

MAWQCP Conservation Corp Member – Not filled at this time

Agency Reports

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart – County and SWCD staff are working on grant reporting, all reports due February 1st. BWSR has several grants open currently. Habitat Enhancement Landscape Program (HELP) deadline February 23. Cooperative Weed Management Program deadline February 23. Lawns to Legumes Demonstration Neighborhoods due February 3, Homeowners program open till February 15 (Blue Thumb). Pilot Water Storage Program water storage implementation proposal, grant will open soon, needs to have a feasibility study completed.

MPCA – Not in attendance.

DNR – Not in attendance.

Other Business – None

Meeting declared adjourned by Chairman Tom Appel 2:23 p.m.

Next Meetings

Executive Board Meeting	Friday, February 22, 2022	1:00 p.m.
Technical Meeting	Wednesday, February 23, 2022	9:30 a.m.
Policy Board Meeting	Friday, March 11, 2022	1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date _____