

GBERBA Policy Board/Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday, November 19, 2021

Mountain Lake Community Center – Mountain Lake, MN

Present: Tom Appel, Tony Berg, Doug Christopherson, Jim Eigenberg, Rich Enger, Steve Flohrs, Larry Hansen, Don Kropp, Clark Lingbeek, Linda Meschke, Neal Mensing, Bill Miller, Greg Roiger and Steve Sodeman (Alt.)

Others Present: Dan Bartosh, Herman Bartsch, Dave Bucklin, Kari Clouse, Jill Sackett Eberhart, Danielle Evers, Alan Gleisner, Tim Grant, Bailey Griffin, Jake Gross, Kay Gross, Brenda Lageson, Laura Quiring, Carrie Schultz, Mark Schaetzke and Lee Tapper.

Call to Order - Chairman Tom Appel called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Introductions

Agenda

Motion by Linda Meschke, second by Tony Berg to approve the Policy Board/Technical Committee Meeting Agenda with the addition of the Watonwan County Ditch No. 1 – Multipurpose Drainage Management Plan and the MDA MAWQCP Partnership Joint Powers Agreement Amendment. Motion carried, all yes.

Minutes

Motion by Steve Flohrs, second by Bill Miller to approve the September 10, 2021 minutes as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

TECHNICAL MEETING – Convened at 9:38 a.m. by GBERBA Technical Coordinator Dave Bucklin

Minutes

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Brenda Lageson to approve the October 20, 2021 minutes as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION/ACTION

NONE

TECHNICAL MEETING Adjourned at 9:39 a.m. by GBERBA Technical Coordinator Dave Bucklin

POLICY BOARD MEETING Reconvened at by Chair Tom Appel at 9:47 a.m.

INFORMATION/ACTION

Financial Report

The Financial Report dated 9/30/21 to 10/19/21 was presented for the Board's review. Motion by Rich Enger, second by Don Kropp to approve the financial report as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

Accounts Payable

Motion by Tony Berg, second by Larry Hansen to approve the accounts payable and pay the bills totaling \$23,384.77. Motion carried, all yes.

COST-SHARE PROJECTS

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Approval

FY2021 BWSR CWF – Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection Grant Agreement (C21-8921)

City of Windom 17-02(CWF-WWDW-21) Tree & Shrub Planting – 50-60 no. Cost \$5,900.00 C-S \$5,000.00

Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by Jim Eigenberg to approve the Cost-Share Contract for City of Windom (\$5,000.00 – CWF-WWDW-21). Motion carried, all yes.

MAWQCP Contract Approval

Pamela Koch	MAWQCP(32-5-25)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Jeffrey Lingl	MAWQCP(65-6-12)	Certification Completion	Incentive \$200.00
William Carda	MAWQCP(8-6-08)	Worksheet/Certification Completion	Incentive \$300.00

Motion by Steve Flohrs, second by Larry Hansen to approve the MAWQCP incentive payments for Koch (\$100.00); Lingl (\$200.00) and Carda (\$300.00). Motion carried, all yes.

Review Grant Balances and Projects Report.

Le Sueur River Watershed Comprehensive Plan

ISG has aggregated a large amount of data for the watershed. Looking at watershed issues and discussion on primary or secondary in nature. First Technical Committee meeting will be in November.

**Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant
Ranking Worksheet and Cheat Sheet Distributed**

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

Motion by Linda Meschke, second by Tony Berg to approve the Watonwan Watershed Based Implementation Funding Grant Proceed Disbursal Agreement between the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance and the Brown and Watonwan Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Motion carried, all yes.

Watonwan County Ditch No. 1 – Multipurpose Drainage Management Plan

Discussion. Request of Jill Sackett Eberhart to see if the additional work (\$4,500) is eligible for Clean Water Funds. Answer will be sent out to the GBERBA Policy Board, Technical staff and others.

Dues 2022

Motion by Neal Mensing, second by Don Kropp to approve the 2022 Dues with the suggested increase of 12% totaling \$47,314.00. Motion carried, all yes.

MDA MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program Partnership Joint Powers Agreement Amendment

Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by Rich Enger to approve the MDA MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program Partnership Joint Powers Agreement Amendment for an additional \$573,893 for 2021 thru 2023. Motion carried, all yes.

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!

GBERBA has the Area 5 and 6 MAWQCP administrative contract approved through 2023 totaling approximately \$574,000, contract will be forthcoming for GBERBA 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 will be assisting with this program in 2021.

☆ 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 Grant Proceed Disbursal Agreements for the Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant have gone out to the 6 Counties and SWCDs for approval (these are not mandatory) agreements will be in place throughout the Watershed Based Implementation Funding stage of the Watonwan Watershed.

The Policy Board has approved the Multipurpose Drainage Management Study definition and expectations. The information has been added to the Grant 41 Policy and redistributed to the elected officials and staff.

★ **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.

Staff Reports

Area 6 Certification Specialist – Herman Bartsch – See Handout

Area 5 Certification Specialist – Danielle Evers - See Handout

MAWQCP Conservation Corp Member – Dru Larson – See Handout

Agency Reports

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart – Grant agreements are out for the NRBG and funding is disbursed when the grant agreement is approved and signed. Work plans for District Capacity, Buffer and State Cost-Share (two fiscal years). CREP batching period in November 17 thru December 21. FY22 Competitive grants are being ranked and will be going to the BWSR Board in December. 63 applications requesting \$22 million with approximately \$12 million available. BWSR Covid-19 protocols with staff out of the office but can attend in person meetings wearing masks (with social distancing).

MPCA – Not in attendance.

DNR – Not in attendance.

Other Business – None

Meeting declared adjourned by Chairman Tom Appel 11:13 a.m.

Presentation – Blue Earth County Well Sealing Program and Importance of Sealing Wells
– Tim Grant, Blue Earth County

Next Meetings

Technical Meeting	Friday, December 17, 2021	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, December 17, 2021	1:00 p.m.
Policy Board Meeting	Friday, January 14, 2022	1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date _____