

# GBERBA Executive Board Minutes

Friday, February 11, 2022

WebEx Media Communication – Cottonwood SWCD Office

(Addresses of all participants (if meeting by WebEx) have been notices with agenda)

Present: Tom Appel, Jim Eigenberg, Rich Enger, Clark Lingbeek, and John Shanahan.

Others Present: Dave Bucklin, Jill Sackett Eberhart and Kay Gross.

Chair Tom Appel called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

## Agenda

Motion by Shanahan, second by Lingbeek to approve the Executive Board Meeting Agenda presented.

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

Motion carried, all yes.

## Minutes

Motion by Enger, second by Eigenberg to approve the December 17, 2021 minutes as presented.

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

Motion carried, all yes.

## INFORMATION/ACTION

### Financial Report

The Financial Report dated 1/1/22 to 1/31/22 was presented for the Board's review. Motion by Lingbeek, second by Enger to approve the February financial report as presented.

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

Motion carried, all yes.

### Accounts Payable

Motion by Eigenberg, second by Enger to approve the accounts payable totaling \$27,005.72.

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

Motion carried, all yes.

### MAWQCP Contract Approval and Payment

Redwood SWCD	MAWQCP(TS-64-5-08)	Additional Technical Assistance	\$6,000.00
Dan Kellen	MAWQCP(35-5-06)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
Aaron Olson	MAWQCP(35-5-07)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
Matthew Fodness	MAWQCP(67-5-29)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00

Motion by Shanahan, second by Eigenberg to approve the MAWQCP incentives for Redwood SWCD (\$6,000.00) and Kellen, Olson and Fodness (\$100.00).

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

Motion carried, all yes.

### Review Grant Report

#### 1W1P Le Sueur River Planning Grant

Steering team meeting this week, reviewed the outcomes of the Advisory Committee Meeting. Policy Committee meetings the fourth Friday of the month (and have been meeting monthly). Organizational structure will be discussed in the future and will bring in MCIT to help facilitate.

#### Watowan Watershed Implementation Grant

The Technical Committee proposed changes to the Ranking and Scoring Worksheet that were approved by the Policy Board on January 28. Currently the Technical Committee is reviewing suggested content for the State of the Watershed Report and an ongoing record of accomplishments in the watershed for a Comprehensive Plan report. Also, the Technical Committee are reviewing changes in funding pools associated with the work plan, with suggested changes being presented at the March Policy Board Meeting.

**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.

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.

☆ **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.

☆ **1W1P Le Sueur River Watershed Comprehensive Plan**

Reviewing issue statements, looking at strategies and goals and will be taking draft statements to Policy Friday (January 28). Steering and Technical are looking at the next issues including water quantity, wetlands and others.

☆ **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. Twenty-five Drinking Water Area information signs are ordered. These signs when posted will help educate/remind the public about protecting drinking water.

**Staff Reports**

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

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

**MDA – Conservation Corp Member** – Open

**Agency Reports**

**BWSR** – Jill Sackett Eberhart – Grant reviews by BWSR for year end reporting. Bonding year at the legislature, CREP funding request, additional water storage and soil health funding, change for SWCD funding from CWF District Capacity to SWCD Aid through the Department of Revenue. Water Storage Pilot Grant is open, Soil Health Grant Program is working through BWSR and will be coming to the Board in the next couple of months. Working on the MDM Grant with Waseca SWCD and GBERBA Coordinators.

**OTHER** – None

Meeting adjourned by Chair Tom Appel at 1:37 p.m.

**Next meeting date:**

Policy Board Meeting	Friday, March 11, 2022	1:00 p.m.
Technical Meeting	Wednesday, February 23, 2022	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday, April 27, 2022	1:00 p.m.

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