

## GBERBA Policy Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 11, 2022

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, Tyler Ask, Tony Berg, Rich Enger, Steve Flohrs, Larry Hansen, Clark Lingbeek, Neal Mensing, Bill Miller, Kevin Paap and John Shanahan.

**Others Present:** Dan Bartosh, Dave Bucklin, Jill Sackett Eberhart, Jake Gross, Kay Gross.

**Call to Order** - Chairman Tom Appel called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

### Introductions

#### Agenda

Motion by Tony Berg, second by Clark Lingbeek 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 - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

#### Minutes

Motion by Kevin Paap, second by Bill Miller to approve the January 28, 2022, minutes as presented.

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

Motion carried.

### INFORMATION/ACTION

#### Financial Report

The Financial Report dated 2/1/22 to 2/28/22 was presented for the Board's review. Motion by Rich Enger, second by Larry Hansen to approve the financial report as presented.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; 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 Brandon Anderson to approve the accounts payable and pay the bills totaling \$34,883.36.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; 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)

Wesley Beck	83-04(WBIF-WW-21)	Cover Crops – 80 ac. 3 yr.	(1 yr. single 2 yrs. multi)	C-S \$9,520.00
David Beck	83-05(WBIF-WW-21)	Cover Crops – 68.76 ac. 3 yr.	(1 yr. single 2 yrs. Multi)	C-S \$8,182.44
Byron Christenson	83-06(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning – 1 no.	Cost \$900.00	C-S \$450.00

Motion by Steve Flohrs, second by Bill Miller to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contracts - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Wesley Beck (WBIF-WW-21-83-04) Cover Crops C-S \$9,520.00; David Beck (WBIF-WW-21-83-05) Cover Crops C-S \$8,182.44 and Byron Christenson (WBIF-WW-21-83-06) (\$450.00) Well Decommissioning.

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

Motion carried.

**GBERBA Technical and Engineering Request for Funding – FY2017 BWSR – CWF – Multipurpose Drainage Management GBERBA Grant Agreement (C17-3714)**

Waseca Co. D.A. 81-02(CWF-MDM-17)	Technical and Engineering	C-S \$8,340.00
Waseca SWCD 81-02(CWF-MDM-17)	Technical and Engineering	C-S \$5,000.00

Motion by Rich Enger, second by Bruce Anderson to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share request of funding for Waseca County Drainage Authority (\$8,340.00) (CWF-MDM-17-81-02) and Waseca SWCD (\$5,000.00) (CWF-MDM-17-81-02) for technical and engineering services.

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

Motion carried.

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

Waseca Co Drainage Authority	CWF-MDM-17-81-02	Technical Assistance Wetland Creation	Cost \$8,340.00
---------------------------------	------------------	---------------------------------------	-----------------

Motion by Kevin Paap, second by Larry Hansen to approve the GBERBA 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 \$8,340.00.

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

Motion carried.

**MAWQCP Contract Approval**

Tim Gossen	MAWQCP(42-5-22)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Melissa Edmondson	MAWQCP(65-6-15)	Worksheet/Certification Completion	Incentive \$300.00
Mark Lenort	MAWQCP(46-6-12)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Scott Veenker	MAWQCP(17-5-28)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Gary Dannhoff	MAWQCP(83-6-12)	Worksheet/Certification Completion	Incentive \$300.00
Nicholas Thooft	MAWQCP(41-5-24)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Donald Olsen	MAWQCP(41-5-25)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Keith Olsen	MAWQCP(41-5-26)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Brian Fruenchte	MAWQCP(41-5-27)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00

Motion by Bill Miller, second by Tony Berg to approve the MAWQCP technical assistance and incentive payments for Gossen, Lenort, Veenker, Thooft, D. Olsen, K. Olsen, Fruenchte (\$100.00) and Edmondson and Dannhoff (\$300.00).

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

Motion carried.

**Review Grant Balances**

**2022 GBERBA Clean Water Fund Application**

Motion by Kevin Paap, second by Bruce Anderson to approve the submission of a Soil Health CWF grant application for GBERBA.

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

Motion carried.

**Le Sueur River Watershed Comprehensive Plan**

The group is wrapping up issue statements, measurable goals, and strategies, and will be switching gears to begin work on the implementation table and plan administration structure. Planning for the midpoint public meeting is in full swing and will be held on the evening of April 4th in Pemberton. A survey will also be available to all watershed residents to provide input on current plan content.

**Watowan Watershed Implementation Grant #41 (Review January – March)**

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

Motion by Kevin Paap, second by Brandon Anderson to approve the Watowan Watershed Based Implementation Funding Grant Proceed Disbursal Agreement between the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance and Cottonwood County.

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

Motion carried.

**WBIF Ranking Scoring Sheet – Changes approved by Policy Board**

**Goals**

**State of the Watershed Report**

**Work Plan Review and Proposed Changes**

Motion by Steve Flohrs, second by Larry Hansen to move \$25,000 from Technical and Engineering to Cover Crops which is under our 10% grace through the grant agreement.

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

Motion carried.

**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**

**☆ Watowan 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.

The 2022 MAWQCP Conservation Corps position is not filled. The next opportunity to fill the position is May 2022. This is due to a lack of applicants.

**☆ 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.

**☆ Watowan 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. The GBERBA Board has approved several cost share contracts for project funding.

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

The group is wrapping up issue statements, measurable goals, and strategies, and will be switching gears to begin work on the implementation table and plan administration structure. Planning for the midpoint public meeting is in full swing and will be held on the evening of April 5<sup>th</sup> in Pemberton. A survey will also be available to all watershed residents to provide input on current plan content.

**☆ CWF 2020 Watowan 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 in. These signs when posted will help educate/remind the public about protecting drinking water.

**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 – CREP batching period will be opening, looking at a \$9 million request to the legislature this session. Water Quality and Storage Pilot Program RFP is open currently. Soil Health Initiative Program (CWF) will go to the BWSR Board on March 23, with RFP released on March 28, \$3.5 million available. Grant reporting is looking toward April 1<sup>st</sup> to respond. BWSR Spring Training, March 29, online, and only during the morning (free, but need to register). BWSR is allowed to invite the public into the offices starting April 2022.

**MPCA** – Not in attendance.

**DNR** – Not in attendance.

**Other Business – None**

Meeting declared adjourned by Chairman Tom Appel 2:08 p.m.

**Next Meetings**

Technical Meeting	Wednesday, March 23, 2022	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday, April 27, 2022	1:00 p.m.
Policy Board Meeting	Friday, May 13, 2022	1:00 p.m.

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