

GBERBA Executive Board Minutes

Wednesday, April 27, 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, Bill Miller and John Shanahan.
Others Present: Jill Sackett Eberhart, Jake Gross, and Kay Gross, Brenda Lageson and Carrie Schultz.

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

Agenda

Motion by Enger, second by Miller to approve the Executive Board Meeting Agenda presented with the addition of Worker’s Compensation Insurance Discussion.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel Y – Eigenberg Y – Enger Y – Lingbeek Y - Miller Y - Shanahan
Motion carried, all yes.

Minutes

Motion by Miler, second by Eigenberg to approve the February 11, 2022 minutes as presented.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel Y – Eigenberg Y – Enger Y – Lingbeek Miller – Y Y - Shanahan
Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION/ACTION

Financial Report

The Financial Report dated 3/1/22 to 3/31/22 was presented for the Board’s review. Motion by Enger, second by Lingbeek to approve the March financial report as presented.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel Y – Eigenberg Y – Enger Y – Lingbeek Y - Miller Y - Shanahan
Motion carried, all yes.

Accounts Payable

Motion by Miller, second by Shanahan to approve the accounts payable totaling \$79,695.51.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel Y – Eigenberg Y – Enger Y – Lingbeek Y - Miller Y - Shanahan
Motion carried, all yes.

Worker’s Compensation

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

Justin Schwanke 07-04(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning – 1 no. Cost \$1,250.00 C-S \$625.00

Motion by Enger, second by Lingbeek to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contracts - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Justin Schwanke (WBIF-WW-21-07-04) (\$625.00) Well Decommissioning.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel Y – Eigenberg Y – Enger Y – Lingbeek Y – Miller Y - Shanahan
Motion carried, all yes.

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

| | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Gary Dannhoff | 83-07(WBIF-WW-21) | WASCOB – 1 no. | Cost \$13,760.00 | C-S \$11,696.00 |
| Gary Dannhoff | 83-08(WBIF-WW-21) | WASCOB – 1 no. | Cost \$30,047.00 | C-S \$25,539.95 |
| Gary Dannhoff | 83-09(WBIF-WW-21) | WASCOB – 1 no. | Cost \$36,364.00 | C-S \$30,909.40 |
| Gary Dannhoff | 83-10(WBIF-WW-21) | WASCOB – 1 no. | Cost \$36,785.00 | C-S \$31,267.25 |
| Gary Dannhoff | 83-11(WBIF-WW-21) | WASCOB – 1 no. | Cost \$31,380.00 | C-S \$26,673.00 |
| Gary Dannhoff | 83-12(WBIF-WW-21) | WASCOB – 1 no. | Cost \$27,284.00 | C-S \$23,191.40 |
| Ronald Thiessen | 83-13(WBIF-WW-21) | Grass Waterway–1.8 ac | Cost \$16,740.00 | C-S \$14,229.00 |
| Kermit Carlson | 83-14(WBIF-WW-21) | Cover Crops 188 ac (3yrs) | Cost \$19,740.00 | C-S \$19,740.00 |
| Mark Sill | 83-15(WBIF-WW-21) | Well Decommissioning | Cost \$800.00 | C-S \$400.00 |

Motion by Shanahan, second by Enger to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contracts - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Gary Dannhoff 83-07(WBIF-WW-21) C-S \$11,696.00, Gary Dannhoff 83-08(WBIF-WW-21) C-S \$25,539.95, Gary Dannhoff 83-09(WBIF-WW-21) C-S \$30,909.40, Gary Dannhoff 83-10(WBIF-WW-21) C-S \$31,267.25, Gary Dannhoff 83-11(WBIF-WW-21) C-S \$26,673.00, Gary Dannhoff 83-12(WBIF-WW-21) C-S \$23,191.40, Ronald Thiessen 83-13(WBIF-WW-21) C-S \$14,229.00, Kermit Carlson 83-14(WBIF-WW-21) C-S \$19,740.00 and Mark Sill 83-15(WBIF-WW-21) C-S \$400.00.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel Y – Eigenberg Y – Enger Y – Lingbeek Y – Miller Y - Shanahan
Motion carried, all yes.

Watowan Drinking Water Protection Grant – Policy Change

Motion by Miller, second by Lingbeek to approve the addition of Other Urban Stormwater Practices to the Watowan Watershed Drinking Water Protection (Grant 40) with 85% cost-share not to exceed \$5,000 per practice.
Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel Y – Eigenberg Y – Enger Y – Lingbeek Y – Miller Y – Shanahan
Motion carried, all yes.

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

Joyce Bucklin 17-03(CWF-WWDW-21) Bioretention Basin – 1 no. Cost \$1,375.80 C-S \$1,169.43

Motion by Eigenberg, second by Lingbeek to approve the Cost-Share Contract for Bucklin 17-03(WWDW-21) C-S \$1,169.43.
Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel Y – Eigenberg Y – Enger Y – Lingbeek Y – Miller Y – Shanahan
Motion carried, all yes.

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

Waseca SWCD CWF-MDM-17-81-02 Technical Assistance Wetland Restoration Cost \$2,153.31

Motion by Enger, second by Lingbeek to approve the GBERBA payment – FY2017 BWSR Competitive Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant Agreement (C17-3714) for the Waseca SWCD (CWF-MDM-17-81-02) for Technical Assistance Wetland Creation total cost \$2,153.31.
Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel Y – Eigenberg Y – Enger Y – Lingbeek Y – Miller Y – Shanahan
Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Cost-Share Payment - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watowan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483)

Blue Earth County 07-02(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning 1 no. Cost \$2,535.50 C-S \$1,000.00
Blue Earth County 07-03(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning 1 no. Cost \$2,766.80 C-S \$1,000.00

Motion by Shanahan, second by Lingbeek to approve the Cost-Share contract payment for Blue Earth County 07-02(WBIF-WW-21) C-S \$1,000.00 and Blue Earth County 07-03(WBIF-WW-21) C-S \$1,000.00.
Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel Y – Eigenberg Y – Enger Y – Lingbeek Y – Miller Y – Shanahan
Motion carried, all yes.

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

Waseca County WF-MDM-17-81-02 Wetland Restoration – 2.71 ac. Cost \$80,386.72 C-S \$50,000.00
Drainage Authority

Motion by Enger, second by Miller 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 Wetland Restoration cost-share \$50,000.00.
Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel Y – Eigenberg Y – Enger Y – Lingbeek Y – Miller Y – Shanahan
Motion carried, all yes.

MAWQCP Contract Approval and Payment

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Farm America | MAWQCP(81-6-09) | Worksheet/Certification Incentive | \$300.00 |
| Dean Schroeder | MAWQCP(65-6-11) | Certification Incentive | \$200.00 |
| Jay Stolp | MAWQCP(64-5-37) | Worksheet Incentive | \$100.00 |
| Zach Post | MAWQCP(32-5-26) | Worksheet Incentive | \$100.00 |
| Brian Post | MAWQCP(32-5-27) | Worksheet Incentive | \$100.00 |
| Butler Farms Inc. | MAWQCP(46-6-07) | Certification Incentive | \$200.00 |
| Eugene/Clinton Butler | MAWQCP(46-6-08) | Certification Incentive | \$200.00 |
| Mike/Deb Butler | MAWQCP(46-6-09) | Certification Incentive | \$200.00 |
| Wally Oeding | MAWQCP(67-5-30) | Worksheet Incentive | \$100.00 |

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Eigenberg to approve the MAWQCP incentives for Farm America (\$300.00), Schroeder, Butler Farms Inc, Eugene/Clinton Butler and Mike/Deb Butler (\$200.00) and Stolp, Zach Post, Brian Post, Oeding (\$100.00).
Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel Y – Eigenberg Y – Enger Y – Lingbeek Y – Miller Y – Shanahan
Motion carried, all yes.

Review Grant Report

1W1P Le Sueur River Planning Grant

The Le Sueur 1W1P Planning Partners held a successful public meeting April 4th in Pemberton and are looking forward to seeing the results from the that effort and public survey. Big thank you to the Water Resources Center for planning the event! Planning Partners are currently figuring out what our plan implementation organizational structure will be and are beginning work on the implementation table.

Information on updated dues for Steele County/SWCD were presented.

Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant - Discussion Reporting Progress and Comp Plan – Planning Region Reduction Goals Ranking Sheet Update

MDH Accelerated Implementation Grant: Groundwater Protection Initiative

If selected the estimated grant start date would be July 1, 2022, with kick-off meeting in August 2022 and the grant end date is June 30, 2023.

CWF Soil Health Grant RFP Update

Discussion.

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.

The 2022 MAWQCP Conservation Corps position is still open. We had a third round of interviews in March. The applicant did not accept the position. The next opportunity to fill the position is May 2022.

☆ 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.

☆ Watonwan River Watershed - Implementation Grant

The GBERBA Technical Committee has reviewed the progress during the first nine months of the Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant with the Policy/Executive Board approving changes to the ranking a scoring worksheet and moving funds from Technical and Engineering to Cover Crops (\$25,000). We are in the process of gathering information for progress reporting and the State of the Watershed Report which will be available by the Policy Meeting in July.

☆ 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. The good crowd attended the midpoint public meeting in Pemberton on April 4, 2022. A survey will also be available to all watershed residents to provide input on current plan content.

GBERBA dues schedule (approved 11-2021) was updated to include Steele County, this is for their information in the event that the Le Sueur Comprehensive Planning group choses to use GBERBA as their implementation source.

☆ **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 in. These signs when posted will help educate/remind the public about protecting drinking water. A “Protect your drinking water” public information message is playing for one month on KDOM Radio Windom. The message is available for other radio stations in the Watonwan Watershed.

Request for Policy change to incorporate additional practices under Urban Stormwater category.

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 – BWSR Assistant Director of Regional Operations has been hired (Justin Hanson) and the Assistant Director of Strategies and Operations is open.

OTHER – None

Meeting adjourned by Chair Tom Appel at 2:24 p.m.

Next meeting date:

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|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Policy Board Meeting | Friday, May 13, 2022 | 1:00 p.m. |
| Technical Meeting | Wednesday, May 25, 2022 | 9:30 a.m. |
| Executive Board Meeting | Friday, June 17, 2022 | 1:00 p.m. |

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date _____