

**GBERBA Executive Board Minutes**

Friday, June 17, 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: Dave Bucklin, Jill Sackett Eberhart, Kay Gross, Nathan Harder, Carrie Schultz and Breanna Wagner.

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

**Agenda**

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

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

**Minutes**

Motion by Miller, second by Shanahan to approve the April 27, 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 5/1/22 to 5/31/22 was presented for the Board’s review. Motion by Enger, second by Lingbeek to approve the May 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 Eigenberg, second by Lingbeek to approve the accounts payable totaling \$30,140.59.

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)**

Brad Asendorf    83-16(WBIF-WW-21)    Grade Stab, Grass Waterway, WASCORB    Cost \$49,902.90    C-S \$26,849.76

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Miller to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contracts - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Brad Asendorf (WBIF-WW-21-83.-16) (\$26,849.76) Ag Structural Practices.

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

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

Mark Sill      83-15(WBIF-WW-21)    Well Decommissioning – 1 no.      Cost \$720.00    C-S \$360.00

Motion by Miller, second by Eigenberg to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract final payment - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Mark Sill (WBIF-WW-21-83-15) (\$360.00) well decommissioning.

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

**GBERBA Approval - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483)**

Watowan SWCD    83(WBIF-WW-21)    Education-Information – Shoreline Mailing (41 no.)    Cost \$30.34  
Project Development - Staff Time – 4.5 hours    Cost \$76.50

Motion by Enger, second by Lingbeek, to approve the FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) Education and Information cost (\$30.34) for the Watowan SWCD (Landowner Mailing) and Project Development cost (\$76.50) for Staff Time totaling \$106.84.

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

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

Cottonwood SWCD 17(CWF-WWDW-21) Promotional Signage – Drinking Water Protection (25) Cost \$343.75  
Cottonwood SWCD 17(CWF-WWDW-21) Public Service Announcements (46) Cost \$504.00

Motion by Eigenberg, second by Miller to approve the FY21 BWSR CWF – Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection Grant Agreement (C21-8921) Promotional Signage (\$343.75) and Public Service Announcements (\$504.00).  
Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel Y – Eigenberg Y – Enger Y – Lingbeek Y – Miller Y - Shanahan  
Motion carried, all yes.

**MAWQCP Contract Approval and Payment**

Tim Gossen	MAWQCP(81-6-09)	Certification Incentive	\$200.00
Bradley Verly	MAWQCP(65-6-11)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
Richard VanderZiel	MAWQCP(64-5-37)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
Mitchell Pederson	MAWQCP(32-5-26)	Certification Incentive	\$200.00
Clinton Eastman	MAWQCP(32-5-27)	Worksheet/Certification Incentive	\$300.00
Daniel Zimmerli	MAWQCP(46-6-07)	Worksheet/Certification Incentive	\$300.00
Dave Krengel	MAWQCP(46-6-08)	Certification Incentive	\$200.00
Brian Fruechte	MAWQCP(41-5-27)	Certification Incentive	\$200.00

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Shanahan to approve the MAWQCP incentives for Eastman, Zimmerli (\$300.00), Gossen, Pederson, Krengel, Fruechte (\$200.00) and Verly, VanderZiel (\$100.00).  
Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel Y – Eigenberg Y – Enger Y – Lingbeek Y – Miller Y - Shanahan  
Motion carried, all yes.

**Review Grant Reports**

**Joint GBERBA Policy Board/Technical Committee Meeting – Friday, July 15, FarmAmerica, Waseca Update**

Rich Enger left the meeting

**1W1P Le Sueur River Planning Grant**

Steering committee working on funding and the implementation tables. Advisory committee did meet in June, WRAPS data has been updated, working on the implementation tables. Policy committee is working through the administrative aspect.

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

**Watonwan Drinking Water Protection Grant**

**MDH Accelerated Implementation Grant: Groundwater Protection Initiative**

We have been selected for funding, now working on grant goals and budget update.

**CWF Soil Health Grant RFP Update**

Grant application totaled \$312,100 with \$31,210 for match.

**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.

In discussions with the MAWQCP Certification Specialists, MN Iowa Corps Staff and MDA Staff, we have decided to forego the 2022 MAWQCP Conservation Corps position. We plan to request a position again for 2023.

★ **Watonwan River Watershed - Implementation Grant**

An additional grant report has been completed and will be updated monthly to reflect the funds remaining to be encumbered, by activity, in the implementation grant. We are 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 policy committee is working through what kind of plan administration we would like for implementation. There are pros and cons to using a collaboration or an entity and members have not come to a consensus yet. Our next policy meeting will have this as a main topic. Blue Earth has agreed to help us draft up the wording. The steering team spent a full day working on the implementation table. The table format is organized by practice and then 9 sub-watersheds. Our starting point was the amount of conservation in the watershed in the last ten years plus the anticipated increase in conservation with WBIF. These numbers will change to reflect what is feasible and what the resource goals are. Summary reports from the Midpoint meeting and survey have been put together by WRC and will be reviewed to see if there are any changes suggested by the public.

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 chooses to use GBERBA as their implementation source.

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

The policy change to incorporate additional practices under Urban Storm Water category is complete.

★ **MDH 2022 Watonwan Groundwater Protection Accelerated Implementation Grant**

MDH is requesting revisions to the proposal with grant award totaling \$18,480.

**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 – Soil health grants will be awarded at the August BWSR Board meeting. CREP batching period will be open for a short time. Tennessee warnings for cost-share funding.

**OTHER** – None

Meeting adjourned by Chair Tom Appel at 1:49 p.m.

**Next meeting date:**

Technical Meeting	Wednesday, June 22, 2022	9:30 a.m.
Policy Board/Technical Committee Meeting	Friday, July 15, 2022	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, August 19, 2022	1:00 p.m.

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