

GBERBA Policy Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, May 13, 2022

WebEx – Web Based (Computer) and/or Conference Call (Phone) Connection and In-Person
(All Policy Member Locations are listed with the GBERBA agenda and posted)

Present: Brandon Anderson, Bruce Anderson, Tom Appel, Tyler Ask, Tony Berg, Doug Christopherson, Jim Eigenberg, Rich Enger, Steve Flohrs, Larry Hansen, Clark Lingbeek, Don Kropp, Neal Mensing, Bill Miller, Kevin Paap and John Shanahan.

Others Present: Dave Bucklin, Jake Gross, Kay Gross .

Call to Order - Chairman Tom Appel called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Introductions

Agenda

Motion by Rich Enger, second by Bruce Anderson to approve the Policy Board agenda with the addition of the 3D Geometrics Committee – High Density LiDAR MN River Watershed.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Jim Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

Minutes

Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by Tony Berg to approve the March 11, 2022, minutes as presented.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Jim Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION/ACTION

Financial Report

The Financial Report dated 4/1/22 to 4/30/22 was presented for the Board's review. Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by Rich Enger 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 – Jim Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

Doug Christopherson and Larry Hansen joined.

Accounts Payable

Motion by Kevin Paap, second by Tony Berg to approve the accounts payable and pay the bills totaling \$25,477.62.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Jim Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

Worker's Compensation – 'If-Any' Coverage – MCIT

Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by Steve Flohrs to approve the purchase of "If-Any" Worker's Compensation Coverage for the Great Blue Earth River Basin Alliance at \$50/year (rate for 2022).

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; N - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Jim Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

Joint Meeting of Policy Board and Technical Committee – July 15

Motion by Jim Eigenberg, second by Kevin Paap to approve the setting the Joint Policy Board/Technical Committee Meeting for Friday, July 15 and authorize the renting the FarmAmerica venue for \$320, and catering for the event (there will be no registration fee for attendance).

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Jim Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

Bill Miller joined.

COST-SHARE PROJECTS

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

Bernetta Hesse 83-17(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning – 1 no. Cost \$900.00 C-S \$450.00

Motion by Rich Enger, second by Brandon Anderson to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Bernetta Hesse (WBIF-WW-21-83-17) (\$450.00) Well Decommissioning.

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

Motion carried.

MAWQCP Contract Approval

Clarksean Family LLC	MAWQCP(87-5-25)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Nathan Buer	MAWQCP(37-5-08)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Adam Miller	MAWQCP(37-5-09)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Dale Miller	MAWQCP(37-5-10)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Mark Lenort	MAWQCP(46-6-12)	Certification Completion	Incentive \$200.00
Zach Post	MAWQCP(32-5-26)	Certification Incentive	Incentive \$100.00
Brian Post	MAWQCP(32-5-27)	Certification Incentive	Incentive \$100.00

Motion by Tony Berg, second by Larry Hansen to approve the MAWQCP incentive payments for Clarksean Family LLC, Buer, A. Miller and D. Miller (\$100.00) and Lenort, Z. Post and B. Post (\$200.00).

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

Motion carried.

Review Grant Balances

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.

BWSR CWF-Soil Health Grant Application

The BWSR Soil Health Grant application was submitted by the deadline on May 9 and totaled \$312,100 with \$31,210 in match. Priority areas located in the Blue Earth, Le Sueur and Watonwan watersheds focusing on DWSMAs and Source Water Protection area.

Le Sueur River Watershed Comprehensive Plan

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 – this was completed with regards to the Le Sueur 1W1P Planning Group.

Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant #41

Discussion

Watonwan Drinking Water Protection Grant – Policy Change

Change approved by Executive Board for the addition of Other Urban Stormwater Practices to the Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection (Grant 40) with 85% cost-share not to exceed \$5,000 per practice.

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 fourth round of interviews in March. No applicant accepted 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.

THIS GRANT IS NOW COMPLETED – TOTAL GRANT EXPENDED - \$285,633.71

Projects - \$207,120.27 In-Kind - \$91,643.37 T&E - \$37,319.81 Administration - \$41,193.63

★ 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 chooses 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 Window. The message is available for other radio stations in the Watonwan Watershed. The policy change to incorporate additional practices under Urban Storm Water category is complete.

Tom Appel left meeting.

Staff Reports

Area 6 Certification Specialist – Herman Bartsch – Reports distributed April 27

Area 5 Certification Specialist – Danielle Evers – Reports distributed April 27

MAWQCP Conservation Corp Member – Not filled at this time

3D Geometrics Committee – High Density LiDAR MN River Watershed – Sean Vaughn, MNIT

Agency Reports

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart – Not in attendance.

MPCA – Not in attendance.

DNR – Not in attendance.

Other Business – None

Meeting declared adjourned by Vice Chairman Clark Lingbeek 9:23 a.m.

Next Meetings

Technical Meeting	Wednesday, May 25, 2022	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, June 17, 2022	1:00 p.m.
Policy Board & Technical Committee Meeting	Friday, July 15, 2022	1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date _____