

GBERBA Executive Board Minutes

Friday, October 14, 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, Clark Lingbeek, Bill Miller and John Shanahan.
Others Present: Dave Bucklin, 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 – Lingbeek Y – Miller Y - Shanahan

Motion carried, all yes.

Minutes

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Shanahan to approve the August 19, 2022 minutes as presented.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel Y – Lingbeek Miller – Y Y - Shanahan

Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION/ACTION

Financial Report

The Financial Report dated 9/1/22 to 9/30/22 was presented for the Board’s review. Motion by Miller, second by Lingbeek to approve the August financial report as presented.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel Y – Lingbeek Y - Miller Y - Shanahan

Motion carried, all yes.

Accounts Payable

Motion by Shanahan, second by Lingbeek to approve the accounts payable totaling \$27,597.81.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel Y – Lingbeek Y - Miller Y - Shanahan

Motion carried, all yes.

Jim Eigenberg joined...1:05 p.m.

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

Dustin Harrold	17-04(WBIF-WW-21)	Grass Waterway – 400 ft.	Cost \$7,600.00	C-S \$6,460.00
Robert & Cynthia Hargis	07-06(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning – 1 no.	Cost \$1,839.00	C-S \$919.50

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Eigenberg to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contracts - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Harrold 17-04(WBIF-WW-21) Grass Waterway (\$6,460.00); Hargis 7-06(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning (\$919.50).

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

Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA FY2021 BWSR CWF – Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection Grant Agreement (C21-8921) Cost-Share Contract Final Payment

David Gilman & Amanda Bromeland-Gilman	07-02(CWF-WWDW-21)	Well Decommissioning – 1 no.	Cost \$900.00	C-S \$585.00
Henry & Suzanne Harazin	07-03(CWF-WWDW-21)	Well Decommissioning – 1 no.	Cost \$950.00	C-S \$617.00

Motion by Miller, second by Lingbeek to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract final payments FY21 BWSR CWF – Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection Grant Agreement (C21-8921) for Gilman/Bromeland Gilman 07-02(CWF-WWDW-21) Well Decommissioning (\$585.00) and Harazin 07-03(CWF-WWDW-21) Well Decommissioning (\$617.00).

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

Motion carried, all yes.

MAWQCP Contract Approval and Payment

Joel Jansen	MAWQCP(65-5-16)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
Burdell Jansma	MAWQCP(65-5-34)	Worksheet/Certification Incentive	\$300.00

Motion by Shanahan, second by Eigenberg to approve the MAWQCP incentives for Jansen (\$100.00) and Jansma (\$300.00).

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

Motion carried, all yes.

Review Grant Reports

Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant

1W1P Le Sueur River Planning Grant

Update

Watonwan Drinking Water Protection Grant

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Eigenberg to approve moving \$5,032.82 in funds to the Urban Forestry category from Converting Turf to High Quality Natives, Well Decommissioning and Promotional Signage.

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

Motion carried, all yes.

MDH Accelerated Implementation Grant: Groundwater Protection Initiative

Committee meeting review.

Motion by Miller, second by Lingbeek to approve the signing of the Disbursal Agreements MDH Watonwan Groundwater Protection Accelerated Implementation Grant for Watonwan SWCD and Watonwan County.

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

Motion carried, all yes.

CWF Soil Health Grant RFP Update

Policy update.

COORDINATOR REPORT

☆ MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

Update on progress made in areas 5 and 6 – See Certification Specialist Reports. Over 910,000 acres and over 1250 certified producers statewide! **That is over 1,421 square miles and equals more than Cottonwood and Watonwan counties combined!**

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program has launched four 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.

☆ Watonwan River Watershed - Implementation Grant

Working with vendor to update and add pages to the GBERBA website to accommodate the Watonwan River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan and Water Based Implementation Funding grants.

As of September 28, we have encumbered or paid for \$386,552.31 with \$313,924.69 remaining.

Breakdown:	Category	Funding Allotted	Remaining	Encumbered	Paid
	Administration	\$100,157	\$61,659.72		\$38,497.28
	BMPs	\$440,320	\$107,371.81	\$320,580.28	\$12,367.91
	Tech/Eng	\$80,000	\$80,000		
	Project Dev.	\$15,000	\$14,923.50		\$76.50
	Inventory/Map.	\$5,000	\$5,000		
	Planning/Asses.	\$45,000	\$30,000		\$15,000.00
	Education/Infor.	\$15,000	\$14,969.66		\$30.34
	TOTAL	\$700,477	\$313,924.69		
			(45%)		

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

The internal review of the first draft of the plan will begin October 6. The Le Sueur River Watershed Policy Committee decided to be a joint powers collaboration. Fiscal will be done by either Waseca County, Waseca SWCD or Blue Earth SWCD.

★ **CWF 2020 Watonwan Drinking Water Grant**

Request to move funding between categories while staying under the 10% discretionary policy. Request to move \$5,032.82 to be approved by Executive Board on the 14th.

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

State grant funds total \$21,898 with a grant start date of July 15, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023. The Cottonwood and Watonwan staff have met and will be working on groundwater education/outreach efforts from the Watonwan Comprehensive Watershed Mgmt. Plan. Displays – Livestock, Irrigation, Nutrient Mgmt., and the purchase of a rainfall simulator. Brochures – Livestock, MAWQCP, Irrigation, Nutrient Mgmt., Groundwater Quality. Mailings – MAWQCP, Groundwater and Irrigation, Well and Water Quality Testing, Field Day. The designated priority areas were finalized with maps being drawn up by the Watonwan and Cottonwood staff.

★ **BWSR SOIL HEALTH GRANT**

BWSR has awarded GBERBA a Soil Health Implementation Grant totaling \$312,100 with a match requirement of \$31,210.

Work plan and policy have been updated and submitted to BWSR. Policy Board has approved signing the grant agreement, which has been returned to the State. The Executive Board will review the changes to the grant policy and approve.

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 - None

OTHER – None

Meeting adjourned by Chair Tom Appel at 1:40 p.m.

Next meeting date:

Policy Board/Technical Committee Meeting	Friday, November 18, 2022	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, December 16, 2022	1:00 p.m.
Technical Meeting	Friday, December 16, 2022	9:30 a.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date _____