

GBERBA Executive Board Minutes

Friday, December 16, 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 and Kay Gross.

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

Agenda

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

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel Y – Eigenberg Y – Enger Y – Lingbeek Y – Miller

Motion carried, all yes.

Minutes

Motion by Miller, second by Eigenberg to approve the October 14, 2022 minutes as presented.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel Y – Eigenberg Y – Enger Y – Lingbeek Y – Miller

Motion carried, all yes.

John Shanahan joined

INFORMATION/ACTION

Financial Report

The Financial Report dated 11/1/22 to 11/30/22 was presented for the Board’s review. Motion by Lingbeek, second by Eigenberg to approve the November 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 Enger, second by Lingbeek to approve the accounts payable totaling \$42,119.04.

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)

Lorin Helget 08-01(WBIF-WW-21) WASCOB – 1 no. Cost \$15,115.10 C-S \$12,847.84

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Eigenberg to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Helget 08-01(WBIF-WW-21) WASCOB (\$12,847.84).

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

Motion carried, all yes.

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

Martin SWCD 46-(WBIF-WW021) Project Development – 67 staff hours Payment \$3,133.38
Education/Information – Postage Payment \$120.00

Motion by Enger, second by Miller to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share payment - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Martin SWCD 46(WBIF-WW-21) project development (\$3,133.38) and education/information (\$120.00).

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

Motion carried, all yes.

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

Mitchell Klingsporn 17-02(CWF-WWDW-21) Cover Crops – 120 ac 3-yr flat rate Cost \$15,120.00 C-S \$15,120.00
Summit Farmland IV LLP 83-20(CWF-WWDW-21) Well Decommissioning – 1 no. Cost \$1,750.00 C-S \$875.00

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Shanahan to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract final payments FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Klingsporn 17-02(WBIF-WW-21) Cover Crops (\$15,120.00) and Summit Farmland IV 83-20(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning (\$875.00).

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

Motion carried, all yes.

MAWQCP Contract Approval and Payment

Brent Louwagie	MAWQCP(42-5-25)	Certification Incentive	\$200.00
Ronald Box	MAWQCP(67-5-32)	Certification Incentive	\$200.00

Motion by Enger, second by Eigenberg to approve the MAWQCP incentives for Louwagie and Box (\$200.00).

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

Review Grant Reports

Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant

BWSR Work Plan revision has been completed and approved as of December 12, 2022.

1W1P Le Sueur River Planning Grant

Draft plan is being reviewed/approved by the Policy Committee for the 60-day review.

Watonwan Drinking Water Protection Grant

Request Formal BWSR Work Plan Change

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

Motion by Eigenberg, second by Enger to request the Executive Board to approve a formal work plan change for the FY2021 BWSR CWF – Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection Grant Agreement (C21-8921) and move funding as follows: Move \$4,250.00 from Urban Storm Water category to Urban Tree Planting category; Move \$3,048.00 from Groundwater Practice category to Urban Tree Planting category; Move \$250.00 from Groundwater Practice category to Drinking Water Events. Categories would be as follows:

Motion carried, all yes	Cover Crops	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
	Urban Tree Planting	\$21,732.82	\$29,030.82
	Urban Storm Water	\$5,419.43	\$1,169.43
	Groundwater Practice	\$5,250.00	\$1,952.00
	Promotional Signs	\$343.75	\$343.75
	PSAs	\$504.00	\$504.00
	Drinking Water Events	\$500.00	\$750.00
	Admin	\$9,150.00	\$9,150.00
	Totals	\$54,900.00	\$54,900.00

Additional requests – using the events funds to pay for water testing for about 6 tests in each county (\$20.00 per test).

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

MDH Accelerated Implementation Grant: Groundwater Protection Initiative

The first mailing is scheduled to go out the first two weeks of January with a focus on Nutrient Management Initiative.

CWF Soil Health Grant RFP Update

Program start date 11-7-2022.

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.

Interviews are being conducted on December 9 for the MN Corps MAWQCP 2023 position.

☆ 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 November 18, we have encumbered or paid for \$393,931.81 with \$306,545.19 remaining.

Breakdown:	Category	Funding Allotted	Remaining	Encumbered	Paid
	Administration	\$100,157	\$53,373.89		\$46,783.11
	BMPs	\$440,320	\$99,992.31	\$322,289.78	\$18,037.91
	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	\$298,259.36		
			(43%)		

Formal requesting to BWSR for a work plan change and move \$70,000 from Technical/Engineering to Agricultural Practices and also recording our previous category funding changes.

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

The Le Sueur 1W1P Policy Committee will review the Draft Plan at their meeting on December 15 and decide whether to initiate the 60-day comment period for plan review agencies and the public.

☆ **CFW 2020 Watonwan Drinking Water Grant**

Updated project funding in each category with funds still available to encumber.

☆ **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. Request the purchase of a rainfall simulator with additional funding coming from GBERBA general fund (\$5,697) with \$5,000 in grant funds. WebEx project update on Thursday, December 8 at 10:30 a.m.

☆ **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 approved by BWSR and the grant agreement was executed on November 7, 2022.

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 1:50 p.m.

Next meeting date:

Policy Board Meeting Friday, January 13, 2023 1:00 p.m.

Technical Committee Meeting Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:30 a.m.

Executive Board Meeting Friday, February 17, 2023 1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date _____