

GBERBA Policy Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, September 23, 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, Tony Berg, Brad Edwin, Jim Eigenberg, Rich Enger, Steve Flohrs, Clark Lingbeek, Don Kropp, Clark Lingbeek, Neal Mensing, Linda Meschke, Kevin Paap and John Shanahan.

Others Present: Dave Bucklin, Kay Gross, Nathan Harder and Breanna Wagner. Carrie Schultz, Dan Bartosh, Jill Sackett Eberhart

Call to Order - Chairman Tom Appel called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Introductions

Agenda

Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by Kevin Paap to approve the Policy Board agenda with the addition of 2021 Draft Audit Report and CWF Soil Health Grant Agreement and Work Plan.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Brad Edwin; Y – Jim Eigenberg; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Linda Meschke; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

Minutes

Motion by Jim Eigenberg, second by Brandon Anderson to approve the July 15, 2022, minutes as presented.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Brad Edwin; Y – Jim Eigenberg; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Linda Meschke; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

Rich Enger joined the meeting.

INFORMATION/ACTION

Financial Report

The Financial Report dated 8/1/22 to 8/31/22 was presented for the Board's review. Motion by Tony Berg,

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

Motion carried.

Accounts Payable

Motion by Kevin Paap, second by Brandon Anderson to approve the accounts payable and pay the bills totaling \$34,082.69.

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

Motion carried.

2021 Draft Audit Report

Motion by Steve Flohrs, second by Clark Lingbeek to approve the 2021 Draft GBERBA Audit Report completed by Peterson and Company.

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

Motion carried.

Joint Meeting of Policy Board and Technical Committee – November 18

COST-SHARE PROJECTS

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

Ronald Thiessen 83-13(WBIF-WW-21)	Grass Waterway	New Cost \$21,425.80	C-S \$18,211.93
	Increase in construction materials/excavation		Increase in C-S \$3,982.93

Motion by Rich Enger, second by Brandon Anderson to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract amendment - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Thiessen (WBIF-WW-21-83-13) increase in cost-share \$3,982.93 for a total cost-share encumbered \$18,211.93. Cost increase in construction materials and excavation need to complete the project.

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

Motion carried.

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

Jason Smith	83-22(WBIF-WW-21)	WASCOB – 1 no.	Cost \$64,672.00	C-S \$35,940.40
Jason Smith	83-23(WBIF-WW-21)	Grass Waterway – 2.52 ac.	Cost \$17,505.00	C-S \$10,140.75
Jason Smith	83-24(WBIF-WW-21)	WASCOB – 1 no.	Cost \$20,920.00	C-S \$12,348.00
Dan & Cassie Warwick	83-25(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning – 1 no.	Cost \$1,200.00	C-S \$600.00
Neil Kietzer	83-26(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning – 1 no.	Cost \$895.00	C-S \$447.50

Motion by Jim Eigenberg, second by Bruce Anderson to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Smith (WBIF-WW-21-83-22) (\$35,940.40) WASCOB; Smith (WBIF-WW-21-83-23) (\$10,140.75) Grass Waterway; Smith (WBIF-WW-21-83-24) (\$12,348.00) WASCOB; Warwick (WBIF-WW-21-83-25) (\$600.00) Well Decommissioning and Kietzer (WBIF-WW-21-83-26) (\$447.50) Well Decommissioning.

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

Motion carried.

MDM Plan Professional Agreement Final Payment – FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483)

Watowan County Ditch 1	WBIF-WW-21	Multipurpose Drainage Management Plan	ISG	Cost \$5,500.00
------------------------	------------	---------------------------------------	-----	-----------------

Motion by Kevin Paap, second by Neal Mensing to approve the Multipurpose Drainage Management Plan Professional Agreement through FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) final payment to ISG totaling \$5,500.00 for Watowan County Ditch No. 1.

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

Motion carried.

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

JD Tippin	17-01(WBIF-WW-21)	Grass Waterway – 4.1 ac.	Cost \$51,649.14	C-S \$6,050.00
-----------	-------------------	--------------------------	------------------	----------------

Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by Jim Eigenberg to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract final payment - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Tippin 17-01(WBIF-WW-21) (\$6,050.00).

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

Motion carried.

MAWQCP Contract Approval

Dominic Schultz	MAWQCP(22-6-26)	Certification Completion	Incentive \$200.00
Jaren Howe	MAWQCP(43-6-05)	Worksheet/Certification Completion	Incentive \$300.00
Eugene Halbur	MAWQCP(59-5-33)	Worksheet/Certification Completion	Incentive \$300.00
Patrick Lienemann	MAWQCP(81-6-11)	Worksheet/Certification Completion	Incentive \$300.00
Ronald Bos	MAWQCP(67-5-32)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Chad Versteeg	MAWQCP(67-5-33)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00

Motion by Linda Meschke, second by Tony Berg to approve the MAWQCP incentive payments for Bos and Versteeg (\$100.00); Schultz (\$200.00) and Howe, Halbur and Lienemann (\$300.00).

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

Motion carried.

Review Grant Balances

Le Sueur River Watershed Comprehensive Plan

The Le Sueur Policy Committee did decide to go with a collaboration and will decide in the future who will be the fiscal and administrative contacts for the group. A full plan is now ready for review by the Policy Committee, October-November moving toward 60-day review.

Watowan Watershed Implementation - Grant 41

Motion by Brandon Anderson, second by Kevin Paap to approve the updating of the GBERBA website to incorporate the Watowan 1W1P and the additional information needed for reporting and the public. Cost is \$80.00.

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

Motion carried.

Watowan Drinking Water Protection Grant – Policy Change – Grant 40

Motion by Linda Meschke, second by Steve Flohrs to approve the Grant Policy Update for Converting Turf to High Quality Natives category deleting the Maximum Cost \$300/acre Maximum Cost-Share \$225/acre to 85% of estimated project cost NTE \$2,500 per project.

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

Motion carried.

MDH Accelerated Implementation Grant: Groundwater Protection Initiative

See Report.

BWSR CWF- GBERBA Soil Health Implementation – Grant 43

Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by Tony Berg to approve the signing of the BWSR – CWF – GBERBA Soil Health Implementation Grant (C22-6072) totaling \$312,100 and approve the Work Plan and Grant Policy, with the stipulation that the Technical Committee review and approve the Work Plan and Grant Policy and make any changes before the grant agreement is returned to BWSR for final signatures.

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

Motion carried.

COORDINATOR REPORT

☆ MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

Update on progress made in areas 5 and 6 – See Certification Specialist Reports. Over 858,786 acres and over 1234 certified producers statewide! **That is over 1,259 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

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. Mid-year Elink reporting for this grant is completed and submitted to BWSR. 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 August 19, we have encumbered or paid for \$319,092.73 with \$381,384.27 remaining.

Breakdown:	Category	Funding Allotted	Remaining	Encumbered
	Administration	\$100,157	\$61,659.72	
	BMPs	\$440,320	\$174,831.39	\$259,170.70
	Tech/Eng	\$80,000	\$80,000	
	Project Dev.	\$15,000	\$14,923.50	
	Inventory/Map.	\$5,000	\$5,000	
	Planning/Asses.	\$45,000	\$30,000	\$5,500
	Education/Infor.	\$15,000	\$14,969.66	
	TOTAL	\$700,477	\$381,384.27	\$264,670.70
			(54%)	

☆ 1W1P Le Sueur River Watershed Comprehensive Plan

The Policy Committee is deciding on the organizational structure for the plan implementation on Thursday, September 22. The internal review of the first draft of the plan will begin October 6. Things are moving along!!

☆ CWF 2020 Watonwan Drinking Water Grant

Review and request approval for cost-share in category Converting Turf to High Quality Natives. Request to state 85% of estimated project cost not to exceed \$5,000 per project.

☆ 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. Within the next few weeks an informational meeting will be held for the local staff on grant implementation throughout the Watonwan Watershed.

☆ BWSR SOIL HEALTH GRANT

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

At this time a work plan and policy are being completed by staff. When approved by Board Conservationist a grant agreement will be executed.

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

Agency Reports

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart Jill talked about what was discussed at the August BWSR Board Meeting. They had a tour along with their meeting.

1. The FY23 Buffer Laws and Local Capacity will be combined and were approved in August. Staff should be receiving notifications in eLink to start working on plans.
2. FY23 MRBG (Agreement between PCA and BWSR)
3. 1W1P grants have been approved and awarded. Cottonwood Watershed is included in the approval.
4. Soil Health grant approval update-GBERBA has been awarded in the first round. 2nd round of approval will be announced in December.
5. General fund money was allocated to BWSR and has been approved. Soil Health cost share will be awarded to districts. Plan is for \$14,000/district. The goal is to create local soil health efforts.

MPCA – Not in attendance.

DNR – Not in attendance.

Other Business – None

Meeting declared adjourned by Chairman Tom Appel 2:12 p.m.

Next Meetings

Technical Meeting	Wednesday, September 28, 2022	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, October 14, 2022	1:00 p.m.
Policy Board & Technical Committee Meeting	Friday, November 18, 2022	1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date _____