

## **GBERBA Policy Board Minutes**

Friday, January 13, 2023

Blue Earth County Ag Service Center – Mankato, MN

WebEx – Web Based (Computer) and/or Conference Call (Phone) Connection and In-Person

**Present:** Bruce Anderson, Tom Appel, Tyler Ask, Tony Berg, Doug Christopherson, Wayne Cords, Nicole Eckstrom, James Eigenberg, Rich Enger, Steve Flohrs, Don Kropp, Clark Lingbeek, Bill Miller, Neal Mensing, Kevin Paap, Rae Runck and John Shanahan. **(Acknowledgement during voting from those online).**

**Others Present:** David Bucklin, Kay Gross, Brenda Lageson and Jill Sackett Eberhart.

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

### **Introductions**

#### **Agenda**

Motion by Kevin Paap, second by Neal Mensing to approve the GBERBA agenda with the addition to Authorize the Signing of BWSR Final Financial Reports and March Policy/Technical Meeting.

Roll Call: Y – Bruce Anderson; Y – Tony Berg Y – Doug Christopherson Y – Wayne Cords Y – Nicole Eckstrom

Motion carried, all yes.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **Meeting Minutes**

November 18, 2022 – Policy Board and Technical Committee Meeting.

#### **2023 Financial Institution Designation**

United Prairie Bank as designated Financial Institution for GBERBA in 2023.

#### **2023 United Prairie Bank – Line of Credit**

Approve signing for the \$60,000 Line of Credit through the United Prairie Bank with Executive Board Members as authorized signer and provide UPB the 2021 Finance Statement.

#### **2023 - United Prairie Signature Card - Check Signing**

GBERBA check signing remain the same as GBERBA Chair, Secretary, and Administrative Coordinator.

#### **2020 IRS Mileage Rate**

Mileage rate at \$0.655/mile

**2023 Meeting Dates and 2023 Dues** (Change September Policy Board meeting date to 22<sup>nd</sup>).

#### **Standing Committees**

GBERBA Executive Board – (3) Commissioners (3) Supervisors – Meeting Every Other Month Starting in February.

GBERBA Technical Committee – (1) County Staff (1) SWCD Staff Voting Members - with open invitation to other County/SWCD staff and state agency staff wishing to participate. Meet every month.

#### **Consent Agenda**

Motion by Kevin Paap, second by Jim Eigenberg to approve the Policy Board Consent Meeting Agenda with calendar change for September Policy Board Meeting.

Roll Call: Y – Bruce Anderson; Y – Tony Berg Y – Doug Christopherson Y – Wayne Cords Y – Nicole Eckstrom

Motion carried, all yes.

### **CONCLUDE CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **Election of 2023 Executive Board**

Nomination by Tyler Ask for Clark Lingbeek as Chairman. Call for additional nominations. Nominations cease.

Motion by Kevin Paap, second by Jim Eigenberg to approve Clark Lingbeek as Chairman.

Roll Call: Y – Bruce Anderson; Y – Tony Berg Y – Doug Christopherson Y – Wayne Cords Y – Nicole Eckstrom

Motion carried, all yes.

Meeting continued by Chairman Clark Lingbeek.

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Nomination by Neal Mensing for Jim Eigenberg as Vice Chairman. Call for additional nominations. Nominations cease.

Motion by Don Kropp, second by Bill Miller to approve Jim Eigenberg as Vice Chairman.

Roll Call: Y – Bruce Anderson; Y – Tony Berg Y – Doug Christopherson Y – Wayne Cords Y – Nicole Eckstrom  
Motion carried, all yes.

Nomination by Steve Flohrs for Bill Miller as Secretary. Call for additional nominations. Nominations cease.

Motion by Jim Eigenberg, second by Neal Mensing to approve Bill Miller as Secretary.

Roll Call: Y – Bruce Anderson; Y – Tony Berg Y – Doug Christopherson Y – Wayne Cords Y – Nicole Eckstrom  
Motion carried, all yes.

Nomination by Tony Berg for Rich Enger as Treasurer. Call for additional nominations. Nominations cease.

Motion by Bill Miller, second by Neal Mensing to approve Rich Enger as Treasurer.

Roll Call: Y – Bruce Anderson; Y – Tony Berg Y – Doug Christopherson Y – Wayne Cords Y – Nicole Eckstrom  
Motion carried, all yes.

Nomination by Bill Miller for Tony Berg as Director. Call for additional nominations. Nominations cease.

Motion by Jim Eigenberg, second by Neal Mensing to approve Tony Berg as Director.

Roll Call: Y – Bruce Anderson; Y – Tony Berg Y – Doug Christopherson Y – Wayne Cords Y – Nicole Eckstrom  
Motion carried, all yes.

Nomination by Kevin Pap for John Shanahan as Director. Call for additional nominations. Nominations cease.

Motion by Steve Flohrs, second by Rich Enger to approve John Shanahan as Director.

Roll Call: Y – Bruce Anderson; Y – Tony Berg Y – Doug Christopherson Y – Wayne Cords Y – Nicole Eckstrom  
Motion carried, all yes.

Motion by Tom Appel, second by Rich Enger to authorize the following Board Members and GBERBA Administrative Coordinator as named: Clark Lingbeek, Chairman; Jim Eigenberg Vice Chairman; Rich Enger Treasurer and Kay Gross, GBERBA Administrative Coordinator check signing authority and account access for the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance through the United Prairie Bank which includes access to the Checking (#1839), Gold Savings (#1871) and Savings (#3367) and authorizes Clark Lingbeek, Chairman signing authority for the United Prairie Line of Credit totaling \$60,000.

Roll Call: Y – Bruce Anderson; Y – Tony Berg Y – Doug Christopherson Y – Wayne Cords Y – Nicole Eckstrom  
Motion carried, all yes.

**INFORMATION/ACTION**

**Financial Report**

The Financial Report dated 12/1/22 to 12/31/22 was presented for the Board's review. Motion by Kevin Paap, second by Bill Miller to approve the financial report as presented.

Roll Call: Y – Bruce Anderson; Y – Tony Berg Y – Doug Christopherson Y – Wayne Cords Y – Nicole Eckstrom  
Motion carried, all yes.

**Accounts Payable**

Motion by Neal Mensing, second by Tyler Ask to approve the accounts payable totaling \$34,592.74.

Roll Call: Y – Bruce Anderson; Y – Tony Berg Y – Doug Christopherson Y – Wayne Cords Y – Nicole Eckstrom  
Motion carried, all yes.

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

Chad Lange	83-27(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning – 1 no.	Cost \$465.00	C-S \$232.50
Chad Lange	83-28(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning – 1 no.	Cost \$995.00	C-S \$497.50
Doug Sieg	83-29(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning – 1 no.	Cost \$1,070.00	C-S \$535.00
Doug Sieg	83-30(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning – 1 no.	Cost \$1,070.00	C-S \$535.00

Motion by Rich Enger, second by Neal Mensing to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Chad Lange (WBIF-WW-21-83-27) Well Decommissioning (\$232.50), Chad Lange (WBIF-WW-21-83-28) Well Decommissioning (\$497.50), Doug Sieg (WBIF-WW-21-73-29) Well Decommissioning (\$535.00) and Doug Sieg (WBIF-WW-21-83-30) Well Decommissioning (\$535.00).

Roll Call: Y – Bruce Anderson; Y – Tony Berg Y – Doug Christopherson Y – Wayne Cords Y – Nicole Eckstrom  
Motion carried, all yes.

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

Neil Keitzer 83-26(WBIF-WW-21) Landowner Change to Neil Kettner and Effective Life to Perpetuity

Motion by Kevin Paap second by Tony Berg to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract amendment - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Neil Keitzer (WBIF-WW-21-83-26) landowner change to Neil Kettner and effective life to perpetuity.

Roll Call: Y – Bruce Anderson; Y – Tony Berg Y – Doug Christopherson Y – Wayne Cords Y – Nicole Eckstrom  
Motion carried, all yes.

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

Joyce Bucklin 17-03(CWF-WWDW-21) Bioretention Basin – 1 no. Cost \$1,531.91 C-S \$1,169.43

Motion by Rich Enger, second by Steve Flohrs to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract payment FY21 BWSR CWF – Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection Grant Agreement (C21-8921) for Bucklin 17-02(CWF-WWDW-21) Bioretention Basin (\$1,169.43).

Roll Call: Y – Bruce Anderson; Y – Tony Berg Y – Doug Christopherson Y – Wayne Cords Y – Nicole Eckstrom  
Motion carried, all yes.

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

Andrew Karau	83-18(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning	Cost \$845.00	C-S \$422.50
Paul Bergling	83-19(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning	Cost \$500.00	C-S \$250.00
Neil Kettner	83-26(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning	Cost \$850.00	C-S \$425.00

Motion by Kevin Paap , second by Jim Eigenberg to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract final payments FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Andrew Karau 83-18(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning (\$422.50), Paul Bergling 83-19(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning (\$250.00) and Neil Kettner 83-26(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning (\$425.00).

Roll Call: Y – Bruce Anderson; Y – Tony Berg Y – Doug Christopherson Y – Wayne Cords Y – Nicole Eckstrom  
Motion carried, all yes.

**MAWQCP Contract Approval**

William Vogel MAWQCP(8-6-09) Worksheet Completion Incentive \$100.00

Motion by Neal Mensing second by Tyler Ask to approve the MAWQCP incentive payment for Vogel (\$100.00)

Roll Call: Y – Bruce Anderson; Y – Tony Berg Y – Doug Christopherson Y – Wayne Cords Y – Nicole Eckstrom  
Motion carried, all yes.

**Review Grant Reports**

**2023 Calendar**

**2022 Administrative, Technical and Financial Coordinator(s) Contract**

Motion by Rich Enger, second by John Shanahan to approve the 2023 GBERBA Contract for Service – Administrative, Technical and Financial Coordinator contract \$90,000.00 with the Cottonwood SWCD.

Roll Call: Y – Bruce Anderson; Y – Tony Berg Y – Doug Christopherson Y – Wayne Cords Y – Nicole Eckstrom  
Motion carried, all yes.

**2022 Audit**

Motion by Jim Eigenberg, second by Neal Mensing to approve the signing of the Letter of Engagement with Peterson Company Ltd for the 2022 Audit totaling \$3,300.00.

Roll Call: Y – Bruce Anderson; Y – Tony Berg Y – Doug Christopherson Y – Wayne Cords Y – Nicole Eckstrom  
Motion carried, all yes.

**Watowan Watershed Implementation Grant**  
**Le Sueur River Watershed Planning Grant**  
**Watowan Drinking Water Protection Grant**

Work Plan Revision Request going to BWSR

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

First Mailing Completed (1,218)

**CWF GBERBA Soil Health Implementation Grant**

1st Training–JAA Soil Health – Feb 14 (Brown Cottonwood Freeborn Jackson Martin Waseca Watowan

**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 Watowan 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 were conducted on December 9 with Anna Fairbanks accepting the MN Corps MAWQCP 2023 position and she will start at the Cottonwood SWCD on January 18.

**★ Watowan River Watershed - Implementation Grant**

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

As of December 16, we have encumbered or paid for \$418,193.86 with \$282,283.14 remaining.

<b>Breakdown:</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Funding Allotted</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>Encumbered</b>	<b>Paid</b>
	Administration	\$100,157	\$53,373.89		\$46,783.11
	BMPs	\$510,320	\$157,269.47	\$319,017.62	\$34,032.91
	Tech/Eng.	\$10,000	\$10,000		
	Project Dev.	\$15,000	\$11,790.12		\$3,209.88
	Inventory/Map.	\$5,000	\$5,000		
	Planning/Asses.	\$45,000	\$30,000		\$15,000.00
	Education/Infor.	\$15,000	\$14,849.66		\$150.34
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$700,477</b>	<b>\$282,283.14</b>	<b>\$319,017.62</b>	<b>\$99,176.24</b>
			<b>(40%)</b>		

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

The Le Sueur 1W1P document is out for 60-day comment. Haley Byron with Waseca County will continue to act as coordinator for the 1W1P effort for implementation and Waseca SWCD will do the fiscal coordination. The group will be working on Joint Powers Collaboration, By-laws, and policy for implementation.

**★ CWF 2020 Watowan Drinking Water Grant**

Will be completing a request to BWSR for a Work Plan Revision.

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

First mailing is being sent out as of January 1, with an emphasis on MN Nutrient Management Initiative through the MN Department of Agriculture. Approximately 1,218 letters and brochures were sent out by Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, Martin and Watowan SWCDs/Counties.

State grant funds total \$21,898 with a grant start date of July 15, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023. The Cottonwood and Watowan staff have met and will be working on groundwater education/outreach efforts from the Watowan 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.

**★ 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.

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**Staff Reports** – Emailed out to Policy and Technical Committee

**Agency Reports**

**BWSR** – Jill Sackett Eberhart – Annual grant reporting due February 1. New generation of Elink will be coming soon with an update and training for staff, Julie Westerlund, 1W1P Coordinator, planning grants will be coming out in the spring. LCCMR funding for pilot, partner with watershed plans with perennial acres as a priority, webinar on January 25. Watonwan Comprehensive Watershed Plan have a priority for perennial cover and an opportunity for project funding,

**MPCA** – None

**OTHER** – None.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 2:30 p.m. by Chairman Clark Lingbeek.

**Next meeting date:**

<b>Policy Board Meeting</b>	<b>Friday, March 17, 2023</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Technical Committee Meeting</b>	<b>Wednesday, January 25, 2023</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Executive Board Meeting</b>	<b>Friday, February 17, 2023</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>

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