

**GBERBA Executive Board Minutes**

Friday, April 14, 2023

WebEx Media Communication – Cottonwood SWCD Office

(Addresses of all participants (if meeting by WebEx) have been notices with agenda)

Present: Tony Berg, Jim Eigenberg, Rich Enger, Clark Lingbeek, Bill Miller and John Shanahan.

Others Present: Dave Bucklin, Anna Fairbanks, Kay Gross, Nathan Harder and Jill Sackett Eberhart.

Chair Clark Lingbeek called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**Agenda**

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

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

Motion carried, all yes.

**Minutes**

Motion by Berg, second by Miller to approve the February 17, 2023 minutes as presented.

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

Motion carried, all yes.

**INFORMATION/ACTION**

**Financial Report**

The Financial Report dated 3/1/23 to 3/31/23 was presented for the Board’s review. Motion by Eigenberg, second by Enger to approve the February financial report as presented.

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

Motion carried, all yes.

Motion by Miller, second by Berg to approve the accounts payable totaling \$42,557.32

Roll Call Vote – Y – Berg            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)**

Jay Grandprey	31-01(WBIF-WW-21)	Conservation Cover - 0.05 ac.	Cost \$1,198.41	C-S \$1,018.65
Kim & Curt Peterson	31-02(WBIF-WW-21)	Conservation Cover – 0.04 ac.	Cost \$3,635.32	C-S \$3,090.02
Steph & Jim Smith	31-03(WBIF-WW-21)	Conservation Cover – 0.10 ac.	Cost \$4,630.00	C-S \$3,935.50
Brian & Joan Heger	31-04(WBIF-WW-21)	Conservation Cover – 0.012 ac.	Cost \$1,273.00	C-S \$1,082.05
Richard McMullen	17-05(WBIF-WW-21)	Cover Crops – 70 ac/Flat Rate/3 years	Cost \$7,350.00	C-S \$7,350.00

Motion by Enger, second by Eigenberg to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Jay Grandprey (WBIF-WW-21-31-01) Conservation Cover (\$1,018.65), Kim & Curt Peterson (WBIF-WW-21-31-02) Conservation Cover (\$3,090.02), Steph & Jim Smith (WBIF-WW-21-31-03) Conservation Cover (\$3,935.50) and Brian & Joan Heger (WBIF-WW-21-31-04) Conservation Cover (\$1,082.05) and Richard McMullen (WBIF-WW-21-17-05) Cover Crops (\$7,350.00).

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

Motion carried, all yes.

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

Mt. Lake Golf Course	17-05(CWF-WWDW-21)	Tree/Shrub Establishment–70#	Cost \$6,000.00	C-S \$5,020.00
City of Windom	17-06(CWF-WWDW-21)	Tree/Shrub Est–250#	Cost \$6,000.00	C-S \$5,000.00

Motion by Berg, second by Eigenberg to approve the GBERBA cost-share contracts FY2021 BWSR CWF – Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection Grant Agreement (C21-8921) for Mt. Lake Golf Course (CWF-WWDW-21-17-05) Tree/Shrub Establishment (\$5,020.00) and City of Windom (CWF-WWDW-21-17-06) Tree/Shrub Establishment (\$5,000.00).

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

Motion carried, all yes.

**GBERBA FY2022 BWSR CWF – Soil Health Implementation Grant Agreement (C22-6072)**

Dan Bebernes	46-01(CWF-SH-22)	CRP Incentive – 1.61 ac.	Incentive \$322.00
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Motion by Enger, second by Eigenberg to approve the GBERBA Incentive Conservation Activity Reimbursement Contract FY22 BWSR CWF – Soil Health Implementation Grant (C22-6072) for Bebernes 46-01(CWF-SH-22) CRP Incentive (\$322.00).

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

Motion carried, all yes.

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

Gary Dannhoff	83-07(WBIF-WW-21)	WASCOB – C-S Increase	Increase \$3,706.85	New C-S \$15,402.85
Gary Dannhoff	83-08(WBIF-WW-21)	WASCOB – C-S Increase	Increase \$7,098.35	New C-S \$32,638.30
Gary Dannhoff	83-09(WBIF-WW-21)	WASCOB – C-S Increase	Increase \$9,405.25	New C-S \$40,314.65
Gary Dannhoff	83-11(WBIF-WW-21)	WASCOB – C-S Increase	Increase \$9,316.77	New C-S \$35,989.77
Gary Dannhoff	83-12(WBIF-WW-21)	WASCOB – C-S Increase	Increase \$7,381.66	New C-S \$30,573.06

Motion by Miller, second by Eigenberg to approve the cost-share contract amendments FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Gary Dannhoff 83-07(WBIF-WW-21) WASCOB (\$15,402.85); Gary Dannhoff 83-08(WBIF-WW-21) WASCOB (\$32,638.30); Gary Dannhoff 83-09(WBIF-WW-21) WASCOB (\$40,314.65); Gary Dannhoff 83-11(WBIF-WW-21) WASCOB (\$35,989.77) and Gary Dannhoff 83-12(WBIF-WW-21) WASCOB (\$30,573.06).

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

**GBERBA MDH – Grant 42 – Groundwater Protection Initiative – Watonwan Watershed**

Brown SWCD	Grant 42-MDH	First Mailing – 189 Letter/Brochure	Cost \$351.54
Cottonwood SWCD	Grant 42-MDH	First Mailing – 243 Letter/Brochure	Cost \$451.98
Martin SWCD	Grant 42-MDH	First Mailing – 106 Letter/Brochure	Cost \$197.16
Watonwan Co/SWCD	Grant 42-MDH	First Mailing – 404 Letter/Brochure	Cost \$751.44
Blue Earth County	Grant 42-MDH	First Mailing – 276 Letter/Brochure	Cost \$513.36
Watonwan Co/SWCD	Grant 42-MDH	Administration/Coordination – 24 hrs	Cost \$992.64

Motion by Eigenberg, second by Miller to approve the GBERBA MDH – Grant 42 Groundwater Protection Initiative Watonwan Watershed first mailing for Brown SWCD (\$351.54); Cottonwood SWCD (\$451.98); Martin SWCD (\$197.16); Watonwan Co/SWCD (\$751.44); Blue Earth County (\$513.36) and Watonwan Co/SWCD Admin (\$992.64).

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

**GBERBA FY2022 BWSR CWF – Soil Health Implementation Grant Agreement (C22-6072)**

Brown SWCD	CWF-SH-22	Education Information – Soil Health Workshop – 50 attendees	\$3,803.07
Freeborn SWCD	CWF-SH-22	Education Information – Soil Health Workshop – 125 attendees	\$3,197.15
Jackson SWCD	CWF-SH-22	Education Information – Soil Health Workshop – 55 attendees	\$3,663.38
Martin SWCD	CWF-SH-22	Education Information – Soil Health Workshop – 40 attendees	\$2,826.64

Motion by Enger, second by Berg to approve the GBERBA Incentive Conservation Activity Reimbursement Contract FY22 BWSR CWF – Soil Health Implementation Grant (C22-6072) for Brown SWCD (\$3,803.07); Freeborn SWCD (\$3,197.15); Jackson SWCD (\$3,663.38) and Martin SWCD (\$2,826.64).

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

**MAWQCP Contract Approval and Payment**

Jennifer Blecha	MAWQCP(43-6-06)	Worksheet-Certification Incentive	\$300.00
Trent Johnson	MAWQCP(51-5-23)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
Brian Knips	MAWQCP(53-5-17)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
Preston Mauer	MAWQCP(64-5-38)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
Richard Mauer	MAWQCP(64-5-39)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
Justin Morin	MAWQCP(64-5-40)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
Fredrick Callens	MAWQCP(87-5-26)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
Garret Niska	MAWQCP(87-5-27)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00

Motion by Shanahan, second by Berg to approve the MAWQCP incentives for Blecha (\$300.00); Johnson, Knips, P. Mauer, R. Mauer, Morin, Callens and Niska (\$100.00).

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

**Banking Institution**

Motion by Enger, second by Miller to approve a recommendation to the Policy Board to change our banking institution from United Prairie Bank to Bank Midwest in May/June 2023 with signers being the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Administration Coordinator and with the Chairman signing the account and loan documentation.

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

**Review Grant Reports**

**Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant**

MS4Front – Comprehensive Plan and WBIF Tracking System  
 Demonstration by Brian Fisher, HEI, at the April Technical Meeting.  
 Ending First Round of Funding and Moving toward next Round of Funding

**1W1P Le Sueur River Planning Grant**

Policy committee meeting monthly, prepping for implementation, and working on the agreement. Public hearing (Pemberton) Friday, March 24, with final draft to go to the state soon. State comments have been addressed. Ready to submit and working toward watershed implementation.

**Watonwan Drinking Water Protection Grant**

Working on May 7-13 Drinking Water Week mailing/insert in utility billings and or paid informational advertising.

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

Working on May 7-13 Drinking Water Week mailing/insert in utility billings and or paid informational advertising. Water Testing Event in each Watonwan Watershed County.

**CWF Soil Health Grant RFP Update**

Working on grant promotion by SWCDs.

**Coordinator Report: Dave Bucklin and Kay Gross**

**★ MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program**

Update on progress made in areas 5 and 6 – See Certification Specialist Reports. Over 920,000 acres and over 1300 certified producers statewide! **That is double the land size in Blue Earth County!** The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program has endorsements in addition to certification. The endorsements are for soil health, integrated pest management, wildlife, and climate smart.

A new incentive has been approved by the Technical Committee and Executive Board to get landowner referrals from local agronomists and pay an incentive if the referral results in a MAWQCP worksheet completion. Incentive would be \$50/referral and worksheet completion or \$100/referral and certification completion.

**★ 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 April 14, we have encumbered or paid for \$419,959.47 with \$280,517.53 remaining.

<b>Breakdown:</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Funding Allotted</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>Encumbered</b>	<b>Paid</b>
	Administration	\$100,157	\$36,629.71		\$63,527.29
	BMPs	\$510,320	\$108,079.37	\$366,685.22	\$35,555.41
	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>\$216,348.86</b>	<b>\$366,685.22</b>	<b>\$117,442.92</b>
			<b>(31%)</b>	<b>(69%)</b>	

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

Policy committee meeting monthly, prepping for implementation, and working on the agreement. Public hearing (Pemberton) Friday, March 24, with final draft to go to the state soon. State comments have been addressed.

**CWF 2020 Watonwan Drinking Water Grant**

The Drinking Water Grant is in its final year. The grant deadline is 12/31/2023. We are on target to finish the grant and use all funds available. GBERBA staff are planning a Drinking Water event during Drinking Water Week – May 7 – 13.

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

State grant funds total \$21,898 with a grant start date of July 15, 2022 and now ending June 28, 2024. 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.

On January 1, 2023, the first mailing was completed. The emphasis of the mailing was the MN Nutrient Management Initiative through the MN Department of Agriculture. 1,218 letters sent by SWCDs/Counties of Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, Martin and Watonwan. The MN Department of Health approved a one-year grant extension. The new end date is June 28, 2024.

**BWSR SOIL HEALTH GRANT**

Program start date 11-7-2022. Under education, Soil Health Workshops in Heron Lake and Fairmont (I90) and Owatonna and Sleepy Eye (Hwy14) and a NRCS cover crop training for JAA are complete. Promotional efforts are now focusing on the available incentives for cover crops, no/strip-till, manure management, and CRP.

**Staff Reports**

**Area 6 Certification Specialist** – Herman Bartsch – Written Report

**Area 5 Certification Specialist** – Danielle Evers – Written Report

**MDA – Conservation Corp Member** – Anna Fairbanks – Written Report

**Agency Reports**

**BWSR** – Jill Sackett Eberhart – Goodbye till August!! John Shea will be the Board Conservationist during Jill’s absence.

**OTHER** – None

Meeting adjourned by Chair Clark Lingbeek at 2:52 p.m.

**Next meeting date:**

Policy Board Meeting	Friday, May 19, 2023	1:00 p.m.
Technical Committee Meeting	Wednesday, April 26, 2023	9:00 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, June 16, 2023	1:00 p.m.

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