

GBERBA Policy Board Minutes

Friday, March 17, 2023

Cottonwood SWCD – 210 10th Street, Windom, MN

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

Present: Brad Augustin, Tom Appel, Tony Berg, Doug Christopherson, James Eigenberg, Rich Enger, Steve Flohrs, Larry Hansen, Don Kropp, Clark Lingbeek, Bill Miller, Kevin Paap, and John Shanahan.

Others Present: David Bucklin, Kay Gross, Jill Sackett Eberhart, Ed Lenz, Carrie Schultz and Breanna Wagner.

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

Introductions

Agenda

Motion by Tony Berg, second by Tom Appel to approve the GBERBA agenda with the addition of May Meeting date change.

Roll Call: Y – Brad Augustin; Y – Tom Appel; Y – Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Jim Eigenberg; Y – Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried, all yes.

Minutes

Motion by Steve Flohrs, second by Rich Enger to approve the January 13, 2023, minutes as presented.

Roll Call: Y – Brad Augustin; Y – Tom Appel; Y – Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Jim Eigenberg; Y – Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION/ACTION

Financial Report

The Financial Report dated 2/1/23 to 2/28/22 was presented for the Board's review. Motion by Jim Eigenberg, second by Bill Miller to approve the financial report as presented.

Roll Call: Y – Brad Augustin; Y – Tom Appel; Y – Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Jim Eigenberg; Y – Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried, all yes.

United Prairie Bank – Contact Information and Amendment of Securities (signatures).

Accounts Payable

Motion by Tom Appel, second by Don Kropp to approve the accounts payable totaling \$34,203.80.

Roll Call: Y – Brad Augustin; Y – Tom Appel; Y – Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Jim Eigenberg; Y – Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried, all yes.

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

Dustin Harold 17-04(WBIF-WW-21) Grass Waterway

C-S \$6,460.00

Motion by Tony Berg, second by Rich Enger to approve the cancellation of GBERBA Cost-Share contract - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Dustin Harold (WBIF-WW-21-17-04) Grass Waterway (\$6,460.00).

Roll Call: Y – Brad Augustin; Y – Tom Appel; Y – Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Jim Eigenberg; Y – Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried, all yes.

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

Mike Lynch 83-31(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning – 1 no. Cost \$975.00 C-S \$487.50

Motion by Jim Eigenberg, second by Kevin Paap to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Mike Lynch (WBIF-WW-21-83-31) Well Decommissioning (\$487.50).

Roll Call: Y – Brad Augustin; Y – Tom Appel; Y – Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Jim Eigenberg; Y – Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried, all yes.

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

Hayden Fast 83-01(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning Cost \$850.00 C-S \$425.00

Motion by Rich Enger, second by Larry Hansen to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract final payment FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Hayden Fast 83-01(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning (\$425.00).

Roll Call: Y – Brad Augustin; Y – Tom Appel; Y – Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Jim Eigenberg; Y – Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried, all yes.

MAWQCP Contract Approval

Renville SWCD	MAWQCP(TS-65-6-06)	Technical Assistance	\$6,000.00
Hadley Mensing	MAWQCP(22-6-29)	Worksheet/Certification Completion	Incentive \$300.00
Joseph Serbus III	MAWQCP(65-6-17)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00

Motion by Bill Miller, second by John Shanahan to approve the MAWQCP payments for Renville SWCD (\$6,000.00), Mensing (\$300.00) and Serbus III (\$100.00).

Roll Call: Y – Brad Augustin; Y – Tom Appel; Y – Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Jim Eigenberg; Y – Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried, all yes.

Review Grant Reports

Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant

Le Sueur River Watershed 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.

Watonwan Drinking Water Protection Grant

MDH – Groundwater Protection Initiative Accelerated Implementation Grant

Extension – 6-28-2024

CWF GBERBA Soil Health Implementation Grant

Meeting Date Change – Request for meeting date change in May from the May 12 to Friday, May 19, 2023.

Motion by Jim Eigenberg, second by Kevin Paap to approve moving the GBERBA Policy Board Meeting to Friday, May 19, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Y – Brad Augustin; Y – Tom Appel; Y – Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Jim Eigenberg; Y – Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Larry Hansen; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried, all yes.

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.

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 March 17, we have encumbered or paid for \$419,959.47 with \$280,517.53 remaining.

Breakdown:	Category	Funding Allotted	Remaining	Encumbered	Paid
	Administration	\$100,157	\$46,925.78		\$53,231.22
	BMPs	\$510,320	\$161,851.97	\$312,812.62	\$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
	TOTAL	\$700,477	\$280,517.53	\$312,812.62	\$107,146.85
			(40%)		

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

The Le Sueur 1W1P document is out for 60-day comment. Waseca County Staff 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 Watonwan Drinking Water Grant**

The Work Plan Revision request submitted to BWSR, response received with discussion at GBERBA Technical meeting.

The Technical Committee has the updated Grant Policy. GBERBA staff are planning a Drinking Water Testing event for this summer.

★ **MDH 2022 Watonwan 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 Watonwan SWCDs/Counties. Working on a one-year extension from MN Department of Health with end date of June 28, 2024.

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.

★ **BWSR Soil Health Grant**

Program start date 11-7-2022. NRCS announced a cover crop training for JAA, please sign-up as soon as possible! Finalizing all Soil Health Workshops, Heron Lake and Fairmont (I90) and Owatonna and Sleepy Eye (Hwy14).

Staff Reports – Emailed out to Policy and Technical Committee

PAGE 4
GBERBA POLICY MINUTES
MARCH 17, 2023

Agency Reports

BWSR

Jill Sackett Eberhart – GBERBA grants, with two expiring in 2023, soil health grant ends December 2025. Elink next generation has launched, trainings are virtual with recordings available. For legislation all topics need a house and senate bill and hearing scheduled to move forward by March 24.

Ed Lenz – Soil health and water storage funding opportunities. Local capacity to get implementation done.

MPCA – None

OTHER – None.

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

Next meeting date:

Policy Board Meeting	Friday, May 19, 2023	1:00 p.m.
Technical Committee Meeting	Wednesday, March 22, 2023	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, April 14, 2023	1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date _____