

GBERBA Policy Board Minutes

Friday, May 19, 2023

Cottonwood SWCD – 210 10th Street, Windom, MN

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

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

Others Present: David Bucklin, Dave Copeland, Kay Gross and John Shea.

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

Introductions

Agenda

Motion by Enger, second by Eigenberg to approve the GBERBA agenda as presented.

Roll Call: Y – Anderson; Y – Augustin; Y – Appel; Y – Ask; Y – Berg; Y – Christopherson; Y – Eigenberg; Y – Enger; Y – Flohrs; Y – Hansen; Y – Kropp; Y – Lingbeek; Y – Miller; Y – Paap; Y – Shanahan.

Motion carried, all yes.

Minutes

Motion by Hansen, second by Berg to approve the March 17, 2023, minutes as presented.

Roll Call: Y – Anderson; Y – Augustin; Y – Appel; Y – Ask; Y – Berg; Y – Christopherson; Y – Eigenberg; Y – Enger; Y – Flohrs; Y – Hansen; Y – Kropp; Y – Lingbeek; Y – Miller; Y – Paap; Y – Shanahan.

Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION/ACTION

Financial Report

The Financial Report dated 4/1/23 to 4/30/22 was presented for the Board’s review. Motion by Kevin Paap, second by Steve Flohrs to approve the financial report as presented.

Roll Call: Y – Anderson; Y – Augustin; Y – Appel; Y – Ask; Y – Berg; Y – Christopherson; Y – Eigenberg; Y – Enger; Y – Flohrs; Y – Hansen; Y – Kropp; Y – Lingbeek; Y – Miller; Y – Paap; Y – Shanahan.

Motion carried, all yes.

Accounts Payable

Motion by Jim Eigenberg, second by Tom Appel to approve the accounts payable totaling \$38,442.27.

Roll Call: Y – Anderson; Y – Augustin; Y – Appel; Y – Ask; Y – Berg; Y – Christopherson; Y – Eigenberg; Y – Enger; Y – Flohrs; Y – Hansen; Y – Kropp; Y – Lingbeek; Y – Miller; Y – Paap; Y – Shanahan.

Motion carried, all yes.

Bank Midwest – Request to Change Financial Institution

Motion by Tony Berg, second by Jim Eigenberg to approve changing 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: Y – Anderson; Y – Augustin; Y – Appel; Y – Ask; Y – Berg; Y – Christopherson; Y – Eigenberg; Y – Enger; Y – Flohrs; Y – Hansen; Y – Kropp; Y – Lingbeek; Y – Miller; Y – Paap; Y – Shanahan.

Motion carried, all yes.

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

Curt Janzen	17-06(WBIF-WW-21)	Grade Stabilization – 1 no.	Cost \$4,500.00	C-S \$3,825.00
Dustin Harold	17-07(WBIF-WW-21)	WASCOB – 3 no.	Cost \$31,600.00	C-S \$15,000.00

Motion by Tom Appel, second by Bill Miller to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Curt Janzen (WBIF-WW-21-17-06) Grade Stabilization (\$3,825.00) and Dustin Harrold (WBIF-WW-21-17-07) WASCOBs (\$15,000.00).

Roll Call: Y – Anderson; Y – Augustin; Y – Appel; Y – Ask; Y – Berg; Y – Christopherson; Y – Eigenberg; Y – Enger; Y – Flohrs; Y – Hansen; Y – Kropp; Y – Lingbeek; Y – Miller; Y – Paap; Y – Shanahan.

Motion carried, all yes.

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

Cottonwood SWCD CWF-SH-22 Education Information – JAA Training Soil Health – 11 GBERBA \$409.54

Motion by Rich Enger, second by Kevin Paap to approve the GBERBA Incentive Conservation Activity Reimbursement Contract FY22 BWSR CWF – Soil Health Implementation Grant (C22-6072) for Cottonwood SWCD (\$409.54).

Roll Call: Y – Anderson; Y – Augustin; Y – Appel; Y – Ask; Y – Berg; Y – Christopherson; Y – Eigenberg; Y – Enger; Y – Flohrs; Y – Hansen; Y – Kropp; Y – Lingbeek; Y – Miller; Y – Paap; Y – Shanahan.

Motion carried, all yes.

MAWQCP Contract Approval

Cottonwood SWCD	MAWQCP(TS-17-5-05)	Technical Assistance	\$6,000.00
Martin SWCD	MAWQCP(TS-46-6-02)	Technical Assistance	\$6,000.00
Le Sueur SWCD	MAWQCP(TS-40-6-03)	Technical Assistance	\$6,000.00
Phillip Batalden	MAWQCP(17-5-30)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Richard McMullen	MAWQCP(17-5-31)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Alec Marxen	MAWQCP(43-6-07)	Worksheet/Certification Completion	Incentive \$300.00
Kristopher Imker	MAWQCP(64-5-41)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Douglas Bruns	MAWQCP(65-6-18)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Brent Fluit	MAWQCP(67-5-33)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Jason Chesley	MAWQCP(67-5-34)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Peter Haugen	MAWQCP(37-5-11)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Janet Nelson	MAWQCP(37-5-12)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Casey Nelson	MAWQCP(37-5-13)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00

Motion by Bill Miller, second by Jim Eigenberg to approve the MAWQCP payments for Cottonwood, Martin & Le Sueur SWCDs (\$6,000.00), Marxen (\$300.00) and McMullen, Imker, Bruns, Fluit, Chesley, Haugen, J. Nelson, C. Nelson (\$100.00).

Roll Call: Y – Anderson; Y – Augustin; Y – Appel; Y – Ask; Y – Berg; Y – Christopherson; Y – Eigenberg; Y – Enger; Y – Flohrs; Y – Hansen; Y – Kropp; Y – Lingbeek; Y – Miller; Y – Paap; Y – Shanahan.

Motion carried, all yes.

Review Grant Reports

Watowan Watershed Implementation Grant

MS4Front – Comprehensive Plan and WBIF Tracking System

MS4Front	Subscription	\$6,000 (Yearly)	WBIF Funding – Move to Administration
	Configuration	\$7,000 (One Time)	Drainage Mgmt Plans \$15,000
End Product #1	Dashboard for Progress	\$5,000 (One Time)	Whole Farm Plans <u>\$ 5,700</u>
End Product #2	Printable Summary	<u>\$2,700</u> (One Time)	Total \$20,700
	Total	\$20,700	

Motion by Jim Eigenberg, second by Kevin Paap to approve the purchase of MS4Front (Houston Engineering) at a cost of \$20,700 and move grant 41 policy funding from Drainage Mgmt Plans (\$15,000) and Whole Farms Plans (\$5,700).

Roll Call: Y – Anderson; Y – Augustin; Y – Appel; Y – Ask; Y – Berg; Y – Christopherson; Y – Eigenberg; Y – Enger; Y – Flohrs; Y – Hansen; Y – Kropp; Y – Lingbeek; Y – Miller; Y – Paap; Y – Shanahan.

Motion carried, all yes.

Second Round of Funding – Request – August/September

Sixty percent of WBIF grant is encumbered and paid out at this time. The ask for FY24 funding request will be needed before July 2023. Need to get the Steering Team together to discuss next 3 years.

BWSR is not sure if extensions will be given.

Second Round of Funding – Purchase – BEAST - \$7,500

Le Sueur River Watershed Planning Grant

Plan submitted for 90-day notice to state agencies. Working on scheduling the BWSR Southern Regional Meeting after of which they will recommend to the full BWSR Board (August). Framework in place for their Joint Powers Agreement/By-Laws are being reviewed by the County Attorneys. Next Policy Meeting is June 23.

Watonwan Drinking Water Protection Grant

Water Testing Event in each Watonwan Watershed County – Summer Activity

MDH – Groundwater Protection Initiative Accelerated Implementation Grant

Groundwater Focus Brochure – Utility Bill Stuffer or Mailing – Month of May

CWF GBERBA Soil Health Implementation Grant

Focus on promotion of grant.

Coordinator Report

★ 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 HEI to update plan appendix T and U, changes sent (4-2023). Request from Technical Committee to purchase MS4Front from HEI at a cost of \$20,700 for reporting purposes (comprehensive plan) changes reflected in below highlighted text.

As of May 19, we have encumbered or paid for \$419,959.47 with \$280,517.53 remaining **requested changes**.

Breakdown:	Category	Funding Allotted	Remaining	Encumbered	Paid
	Administration	\$120,857	\$36,629.71	\$20,700	\$63,527.29
	(Admin Increase	\$20,700)			
	BMPs	\$510,320	\$89,254.37	\$385,510.22	\$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.	\$24,300	\$9,300		\$15,000.00
	(Plan & Assess Decrease	\$20,700)			
	Education/Infor.	\$15,000	\$14,849.66		\$150.34
	TOTAL	\$700,477	\$176,823.86	\$406,210.22	\$117,442.92
			(25%)	(75%)	

★ 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. Will focus on a summer event for water testing (testing will be paid for locally) and the grant will focus on advertising the event.

★ 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. A utility bill stuffer and advertisements (focusing on groundwater) will be completed during the month of May for Drinking Water Week May 7 – 13. Watonwan County has 2,865 residents and Cottonwood County has 845 residents, working with Brown, Blue Earth, Jackson, and Martin on their efforts.

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☆ BWSR SOIL HEALTH GRANT

Program start date 11-7-2022. Under education, Soil Health Workshops in Heron Lake, and Fairmont (190) 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 – Emailed out to Policy and Technical Committee

Agency Reports

BWSR - John Shea and Dave Copeland – Legislative session completion and tracking changes and new programs.

MPCA – None

OTHER – None.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 1:57 p.m. by Chairman Clark Lingbeek.

Next meeting date:

Technical Committee Meeting	Wednesday, May 24, 2023	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, June 16, 2023	1:00 p.m.
Policy Board/Technical Committee Meeting	Friday, July 14, 2023	9:30 a.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date _____