

GBERBA Policy Board and Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday, July 14, 2023

Mankato Armory – Mankato, MN

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

Others Present: 22Attendees – including Staff, Guests, State Agencies.

Call to Order - Chairman Clark Lingbeek called the meeting to order at 9.35 a.m.

Introductions

Agenda

Motion by Tony Berg, second by Jim Eigenberg to approve the Policy Board agenda as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

Minutes

Motion by Rich Enger, second by Kevin Paap to approve the May 19, 2023, minutes as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

TECHNICAL MEETING – Convened at 9:39 a.m. by Technical Committee Chair Ashley Brenke

Minutes

Motion by Carrie Schultz, second by Jerad Bach to approve the June 28, 2023 minutes with corrections. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION/ACTION

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

Jim & Steph Smith	32-03(WBIF-WW-21)	Increase Contract Costs	Increase C-S \$2,439.50	C-S \$6,375.00
Jay Grandprey	32-01(WBIF-WW-21)	Increase Landowner Time	Increase C- S \$681.35	C-S \$1,700.00

Motion by Jerad Bach, second by Carrie Schultz to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract amendments - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Smith(WBIF-WW-21-32-03) amend cost-share amount to (\$6,375.00) and Grandprey (WBIF-WW-21-32-01) amend cost-share amount to (\$1,700.00). Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Approval FY2023 BWSR CWF – GBERBA Soil Health Implementation Grant Agreement (C22-6072)

Wade Krenz	46-02(CWF-SH-22)	Cover Crops 28 ac. (3 yrs)	Cost \$3,360.00	C-S \$3,360.00
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Motion by Carrie Schultz, second by Brenda Lageson to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract FY2023 BWSR CWF – GBERBA Soil Health Implementation Grant Agreement (C22-6072) for Krenz (CWF-SH-22-46-02) cover crop cost-share (\$3,360.00). Motion carried, all yes.

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

Jim & Steph Smith	32-03(WBIF-WW-21)	Shoreline Project – 1 no.	Cost \$7,149.14	C-S \$6,076.77
Brian & Joan Heger	32-04(WBIF-WW-21)	Shoreline Project – 1 no.	Cost \$1,228.49	C-S \$1,044.22
Jay Grandprey	32-01(WBIF-WW-21)	Shoreline Project – 1 no.	Cost \$1,763.67	C-S \$1,499.12
Kim & Curt Peterson	32-02(WBIF-WW-21)	Shoreline Project – 1 no.	Cost \$2,002.72	C-S \$1,702.31
Kermit Carlson	83-14(WBIF-WW-21)	Cover Crops – 188 ac. (3 yrs)	Cost \$19,740.00	C-S \$19,740.00

Motion by Carrie Schultz, second by Brooke Judd to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract final payments - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Jim & Steph Smith ((WBIF-WW-21-32-03) Shoreline Project (\$6,076.77); Brian & Joan Heger (WBIF-WW-21-32-04) Shoreline Project (\$1,044.22); Jay Grandprey (WBIF-WW-21-32-01) Shoreline Project (\$1,499.12); Kim & Curt Peterson (WBIF-WW-21-32-02) Shoreline Project (\$1,702.31) and Kermit Carlson (WBIF-WW-21-83-14) Cover Crops (\$19,740.00).

Motion carried, all yes.

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

Cottonwood SWCD WBIF-WW-21 Project Development – 115.5 hrs Shoreline Projects Cost \$4,052.81

Motion by Brenda Lageson, second by Jerad Bach to approve the GBERBA payment - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Cottonwood SWCD (WBIF-WW-21) Project Development (\$4,052.81). Motion carried, all yes.

TECHNICAL MEETING Adjourned at 9:44 a.m. by GBERBA Technical Chair Ashley Brenke

POLICY BOARD MEETING Reconvened by Chair Clark Lingbeek at 9:52 a.m.

INFORMATION/ACTION

Financial Report

The Financial Report dated 6/1/23 to 6/30/23 was presented for the Board’s review. Motion by Jim Eigenberg, second by Bill Miller to approve the financial report as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

Accounts Payable

Motion by Rich Enger, second by Steve Flohrs to approve the accounts payable and pay the bills totaling \$72,362.54. Motion carried, all yes.

COST-SHARE PROJECTS

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

Jim & Steph Smith	32-03(WBIF-WW-21)	Increase Contract Costs	Increase C-S \$2,439.50	C-S \$6,375.00
Jay Grandprey	32-01(WBIF-WW-21)	Increase Landowner Time	Increase C- S \$681.35	C-S \$1,700.00

Motion by Kevin Paap, second by Jim Eigenberg to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract amendments - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Smith(WBIF-WW-21-32-03) amend cost-share amount to (\$6,375.00) and Grandprey (WBIF-WW-21-32-01) amend cost-share amount to (\$1,700.00). Motion carried, all yes.

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

Richard & Glennice Hoek 17-08(WBIF-WW-21) Grass Waterway – 3.2 ac. Cost \$26,554.00 C-S \$18,000.00

Motion by Neal Mensing, second by Steve Flohrs to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Hoek(WBIF-WW-21-17-08) grass waterway (\$18,000.00). Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Approval FY2023 BWSR CWF – GBERBA Soil Health Implementation Grant Agreement (C22-6072)

Wade Krenz 46-02(CWF-SH-22) Cover Crops 28 ac. (3 yrs) Cost \$3,360.00 C-S \$3,360.00

Motion by Tony Berg, second by Kevin Paap to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract FY2023 BWSR CWF – GBERBA Soil Health Implementation Grant Agreement (C22-6072) for Krenz (CWF-SH-22-46-02) cover crop cost-share (\$3,360.00). Motion carried, all yes.

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MAWQCP Contract Approval

Yellow Medicine SWCD	MAWQCP(TS-87-5-08)	Technical Assistance	\$6,000.00
Sheila Horton	MAWQCP(58-5-35)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Brayden Schultz	MAWQCP(22-6-30)	Worksheet/Certification Completion	Incentive \$300.00
David Detert	MAWQCP(46-6-15)	Worksheet/Certification Completion	Incentive \$300.00
Jason Norton	MAWQCP(81-6-12)	Worksheet/Certification Completion	Incentive \$300.00
Garret Niska	MAWQCP(87-5-27)	Certification Completion	Incentive \$200.00
Art Ehde	MAWQCP(67-5-37)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Paul Gregor	MAWQCP(40-6-10)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00

Motion by Bill Miller, second by Steve Flohrs to approve the MAWQCP incentive payments for Horton (\$100.00), Niska (\$200.00) and Schultz, Detert and Norton (\$300.00) and Technical Assistance to Yellow Medicine SWCD (\$6,000.00). Motion carried, all yes.

Review Grant Balances

MDA Ag Water Quality Certification Program Update – Herman Bartsch and Danielle Evers

**Request Update Grant Policy for Shoreline and Move Funding
FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483)**

Motion by Jim Eigenberg, second by Tony Berg to include an additional cost-share category for Shoreline (Enhanced Shoreline Practice (580+) at 85% cost-share with a maximum per contract of \$25,000. Also request to move Urban Practice funding (\$9,737.56) to Shoreland Protection. Motion carried, all yes.

1W1P Le Sueur Watershed Comprehensive Plan Update

Presentation later agenda.

Watonwan Drinking Water Protection Grant

Working to finalize remaining funds with a Water Testing event in each County. Project funding left \$750.82 earmarked for well sealing has not been encumbered, request to move funding to Urban Forestry.

Recommendation by Technical Committee

Motion by Neal Mensing, second by Kevin Paap to move the Well Decommissioning funding to Urban Forestry (\$750.82). Motion carried, all yes.

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. Second mailing/media project completed with 3,591 participants contacted.

CWF Soil Health Grant RFP Update

Working on grant promotion by SWCDs.

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 more than double of all the land in Martin 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). Policy Board approved the purchase of MS4Front from HEI at a cost of \$20,700. Approved to purchase the BEAST software (\$7,500) from HEI.

As of June 30, we have encumbered or paid for \$538,244.61 with \$162,232.39 remaining.

Breakdown:	Category	Funding Allotted	Remaining	Encumbered	Paid
	Administration	\$120,857	\$30,368.74		\$90,488.26
	BMPs	\$510,320	\$88,423.87	\$385,270.72	\$36,625.41
	Tech/Eng.	\$10,000	\$10,000		
	Project Dev.	\$15,000	\$4,290.12	\$7,500.00	\$3,209.88
	Inventory/Map.	\$5,000	\$5,000		
	Planning/Asses.	\$24,300	\$9,300		\$15,000.00
	Education/Infor.	\$15,000	\$14,849.66		\$150.34
	TOTAL	\$700,477	\$162,232.39	\$392,770.72	\$145,473.89
			(23%)		(77%)

~1W1P Le Sueur River Watershed Comprehensive Plan

The plan is out for 90-day review by State agencies. BWSR Southern Regional Meeting will be held in July with projected recommendation for approval to BWSR Board in August.

~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) is complete for Drinking Water Week May 7 – 13 with Watonwan County distributing 1849, Cottonwood County 925, Jackson County 125, Blue Earth County 501 and Brown County 191. Priority on completing a Nutrient Mgmt and Groundwater Overview display for the area fairs.

~BWSR Soil Health Grant

Program start date 11-7-2022. Promotional efforts are now focusing on the available incentives for cover crops, no/strip-till, manure management, and CRP.

STAFF REPORTS

MAWQCP Presentation – Herman Bartsch and Danielle Evers

Agency Reports

BWSR – John Shea and Mark Hiles

Other Business – None

Meeting declared adjourned by Chairman Clark Lingbeek 10:53 a.m.

Presentations

~Water Quality and Storage Grant Program

Rita Weaver, BWSR

Lunch (Provided)

~Introduction of MS4Front and BEAST Software Programs

Brian Fischer, Houston Engineering

~Le Sueur River Watershed Comprehensive Management Plan

Eric Miller, Waseca County

Next Meetings

Executive Board Meeting	August 18, 2023	1:00 p.m.
Technical Meeting	August 23, 2023	9:30 a.m.
Policy Board Meeting	September 22, 2023	1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date _____