

GBERBA Policy Board Minutes

Friday, January 12, 2018

Blue Earth County Ag Service Center – Mankato, MN

Present: Tom Appel, Tyler Ask, Tony Berg, Keith Brekken, James Eigenberg, Rich Enger, Steve Flohrs, Larry Hansen, Don Kropp, Glen Mathiason, Neal Mensing, Mark Piepho, John Shanahan and, Tom Warmka and Clem Windschitl.

Others Present: David Bucklin, Paul Davis, Kay Gross, Kathy Smith, Jill Sackett Eberhart.

Chairman Glen Mathiason called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Introductions

Consent Agenda

Motion by Mark Piepho, second by Tom Warmka to approve the Policy Board Meeting Agenda as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Keith Brekken, second by Clem Windschitl to approve the Policy Board Meeting Consent agenda with mileage change. Motion carried, all yes.

Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2017 – Policy Board and Technical Committee Meeting.

2018 Financial Institution Designation

United Prairie Bank as designated Financial Institution for GBERBA in 2018.

2018 United Prairie Bank – Line of Credit

Approve signing for the \$60,000 Line of Credit through the United Prairie Bank with Tom Warmka, Treasurer, as authorized signer and provide UPB the 2017 General Ledger and Budget.

2018 - United Prairie Signature Card - Check Signing

GBERBA check signing as standing – 2018 GBERBA Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Administrative Coordinator.

2018 IRS Mileage Rate

Mileage rate at \$0.545/mile

2018 Meeting Dates

Election of 2018 Executive Board

Motion by Keith Brekken, second by Tom Appel to present a unanimous ballot for Chairman – Glen Mathiason, Vice Chairman – Neal Mensing, Secretary – Clark Lingbeek, Treasurer – Tom Warmka, and Tom Appel and John Shanahan as Directors. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION/ACTION

Financial Report

The Financial Report dated 12/1/17 to 12/31/17 was presented for the Board's review. Motion by Mark Piepho, second by Tony Berg to approve the financial report as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

Accounts Payable

Motion by Tom Warmka, second by Don Kropp to approve the accounts payable totaling \$54,127.49. Motion carried, all yes.

2018 Administrative and Technical Coordinator Contract

Motion by Rich Enger, second by Larry Hansen to approve the 2018 GBERBA Contract for Service – Administrative and Technical Coordinators contact (\$72,800.00) with the Cottonwood SWCD. Motion carried, all yes.

2018 Financial Coordinator Contract

Motion by Tom Warmka, second by John Shanahan to approve the 2018 GBERBA Contract for Service – Financial Coordinator contract (up to \$31,200.00) with the Cottonwood SWCD. Motion carried, all yes.

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March Policy Board/Technical Committee Presentations

Contract Amendment

Motion by Tom Warmka, second by Steve Flohrs to approve the contract amendment with Widseth Smith Nolting for the Blue Earth-Le Sueur Targeting Implementation Grant for work up to \$212,000.00. Motion carried, all yes.

Conservation Drainage Partnership Outreach Contract

Motion by Keith Brekken, second by Tom Appel to approve the Conservation Drainage Partnership Outreach Contract with MSU-WRC to compile the Conservation Drainage Partnership Booklets totaling \$4,400.00. Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Encumbered

Lunz Farms Inc.	FY16CWP(46-01)	Bioreactor	Cost \$15,000.00	C-S \$7,500.00
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Motion by Steve Flohrs, second by Clem Windschitl to approve the Cost-Share contract for Lunz Farms Inc. (\$7,500.00). Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Final Payment

Blue Earth DA	MDM-17(07-01)	WASCOBs & Side Inlets	Cost \$31,400.00	C-S \$23,550.00
Lucas Bunde	319-TMDL(07-01)	Cover Crops	Cost \$1,433.70	C-S \$1,075.28

Motion by Larry Hansen, second by Tom Warmka to approve the Cost-Share contract final payments for Blue Earth DA (\$23,550.00) and Bunde (\$1,075.28). Motion carried, all yes.

MAWQCP Contract Approval

Wes Kroeker	MAWQCP(17-5-16)	Certification Incentive	\$200.00
James Knips	MAWQCP(53-5-07)	Worksheet and Certification Incentive	\$300.00
Bruce Leinen	MAWQCP(53-5-08)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
Vernon Uit de Flesch	MAWQCP(53-5-09)	Worksheet and Certification Incentive	\$300.00
Matthew Fitzgerald	MAWQCP(43-6-02)	Worksheet and Certification Incentive	\$300.00

Motion by Mark Piepho second by Tony Berg to approve the MAWQCP incentive payments for Kroeker (\$200.00), Leninen (\$100.00) and Knips, Uit de Flesch and Fitzgerald (\$300.00). 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.

The broom intake inventory is as follows:

(31) 8" 36"L .. (2) 8" 16"L .. (13) 6" 36"L .. (2) 6" 16"L .. (3) 4" 36"L .. (3) 6" adaptors. Contact Herman or Danielle.

A Conservation Corps member will be housed at the Cottonwood SWCD to assist with the MAWQC Program in Area's 5 and 6 in 2018. The Corps member is Matthew Remer and will have a start date of January 9, for orientation and January 16, 2018 at the Cottonwood office. We are arranging an orientation week to start on the 16th at the Cottonwood SWCD. This is to have Matthew meet appropriate staff and review available resources, and potential job duties.

☆ 2016 MPCA – CWP and 319 Drainage Grants

CWP Drainage Grant: Side inlet structures 50% cost share, other conservation drainage practices 33% cost share. These are state dollars matched by federal or local dollars. ***This grant is fully encumbered.***

319 Drainage Grant: Side inlet structures 50% cost share. These are federal dollars matched by state or local dollars.

The side inlet design project was awarded to the ISG Firm. The side inlet design program was introduced at the November 17 Policy/Technical meeting. An Outreach Booklet is being developed to assist Drainage staff to see conservation opportunities and potential in drainage systems.

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☆ **2017 MPCA 319 Grant - Cover Crops and Alternative Tile Intakes**

An Implementation Policy Paper for the grant titled "Greater Blue Earth River Basin TMDL Implementation" has been developed and reviewed at the Technical meeting. This guidance document will be posted on the GBERBA website.

Cover crops: \$50.00 dollars per acre maximum, 75% cost share maximum (\$ 37.50 ac.), 80 acre size maximum per owner. Prioritization required. Alternative intakes: Rock and pattern tile. \$500.00 maximum and 50% cost share. These are federal dollars and require state or local match. Perforated risers, broom and other water quality intakes: \$200.00 maximum and 50% cost share. These are federal dollars and require state or local match.

☆ **2017 CWF Grant- Multipurpose Drainage Management**

Multipurpose Drainage Management - \$301,200: Projects for this Drainage Grant will need to be located in public ditch sheds. **GBERBA member entire counties are eligible**. Priority parameters are developed to identify the eligible ditches. A guidance policy sheet is online.

☆ **One Watershed One Plan Planning Grants, Watonwan Watershed**

On January 3, 2018 the fourth Steering Team meeting was held in Mankato. Completing development of a Memorandum of Agreement MOA, work plan, and budget was the focus of the meeting. These documents are very near completion. An informal Policy Committee meeting consisting of County Board and SWCD Supervisors is scheduled for 10am-Noon Wednesday, January 31, 2018 in St. James. This meeting will inform all about the Committees roles and the 1W1P process. The Steering Committee will meet next after the Policy meeting on January 31, at Noon.

☆ **Three Grant Completions**

The Watonwan Watershed, Le Sueur Watershed, and the Ravine and Gully FY14 Grants have all ended December 31, 2017. All activity including reporting in these three grants needs to be completed by January 31, 2018.

Staff Reports

Agency Reports

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart – Grant reporting due February 1st. BWSR approved the Policy Plan for funding One Watershed One Plan (Watershed Based Funding) and it is considered a pilot program. Proposed funding based on % of private land in the watershed with 10% match. BWSR partnered with U of M to start an office of Soil Health looking at hiring a PhD candidate as their point person.

MPCA – Paul Davis – WRAPs process.

DNR – Not in Attendance.

OTHER - Ditch Authority talking to landowners about impounding water on private land – some landowners don't want long term programs.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 2:40 p.m. by Chairman Glen Mathiason.

Next meeting date: Executive Meeting – February 9, 2018, 1:00 p.m.
Technical Meeting – January 24, 2018, 9:30 a.m.
Policy Board/Technical Committee Meeting – March 9, 2017, 9:30 a.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date _____