

GBERBA Policy Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, May 11, 2018

Blue Earth Ag Service Center – Mankato, MN

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

Others Present: Ashley Brenke, David Bucklin, Jill Sackett Eberhart, Kay Gross and Steve Sodeman.

Call to Order - Chairman Glen Mathiason called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Introductions

Agenda

Motion by Clark Lingbeek second by Tony Berg to approve the Policy Board Meeting Agenda with the addition of Contract Amendment with MSU-WRC – Watonwan Watershed Hydro-Conditioning Grant (Information/Action) and July Joint Policy/Technical Meeting. Motion carried, all yes.

Minutes

Motion by Keith Brekken, second by John Shanahan to approve the March 9, 2018 minutes as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION/ACTION

Financial Report

The Financial Report dated 4/1/18 to 4/30/18 was presented for the Board's review. Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by Clem Windschitl to approve the financial report as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

Accounts Payable

Motion by Tony Berg, second by Steve Flohrs to approve the accounts payable and pay the bills totaling \$25,770.76. Motion carried, all yes.

COST-SHARE PROJECTS

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Approval

Andy Linder	22-03(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$4,000.00	C-S \$3,000.00
J-Ace Farms, Inc.	22-04(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$4,000.00	C-S \$3,000.00
Matt Alford	22-05(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$4,000.00	C-S \$3,000.00
William Rauenhorst	22-06(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$4,000.00	C-S \$3,000.00
Dean Schimek	22-07(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$4,000.00	C-S \$3,000.00
Neal Mensing	22-08(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$4,000.00	C-S \$3,000.00
Clint Eastman	22-09(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$4,000.00	C-S \$3,000.00
Roger Hubmer	07-03(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$4,000.00	C-S \$3,000.00
John Frey	07-04(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$2,750.00	C-S \$2,062.50
Scott Volz	22-10(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$4,000.00	C-S \$3,000.00

Motion by Richard Enger, second by Mark Piepho to approve the Cost-Share Contract for Linder, J-Ace Farms Inc., Alford, Rauenhorst, Schimek, Mensing, Eastman, Frey and Volz (\$3,000.00) and Hubmer (\$2,750.00). Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA MAWQCP COST-SHARE CONTRACT FINAL PAYMENT

Redwood SWCD	TS-64-5-04(MAWQCP)	Additional Technical Assistance	Incentive \$6,000.00
James Schubert	32-5-13(MAWQCP)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Rodney Dicks	32-5-14(MAWQCP)	Worksheet/Certification	Incentive \$300.00
David Henning	32-5-15(MAWQCP)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Matt Henning	32-5-16(MAWQCP)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Aaron Leinen	53-5-10(MAWQCP)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Matthew Tiffany	64-5-25(MAWQCP)	Worksheet/Certification Completion	Incentive \$300.00
Matt Schmidt	87-5-10(MAWQCP)	Worksheet/Certification Completion	Incentive \$300.00
Howard Gatchell Jr	87-5-11(MAWQCP)	Worksheet/Certification Completion	Incentive \$300.00
Gary Paulson	81-6-02(MAWQCP)	Worksheet/Certification Completion	Incentive \$300.00

Motion by Tom Appel, second by James Eigenberg to approve the MAWQCP cost-share contract final payments for Redwood SWCD (\$6,000.00) and 4 individuals (\$100.00) and 5 individuals (\$300.00). Motion carried, all yes.

Review Grant Balances and Projects Report.

WATONWAN WATERSHED HYDRO-CONDITIONING CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Motion by Tom Warmka second by Keith Brekken to approve the Watonwan Watershed Hydro-Conditioning Contract Amendment time extension from June 20, 2018 to December 31, 2018. 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.

A Conservation Corps member, Matthew Remer is housed at the Cottonwood SWCD to assist with the MAWQC Program in Area's 5 and 6 in 2018. Contract for Services signed by GBERBA and the Cottonwood and Pipestone SWCDs for Area 5 and 6 MDA Area Certification Specialist for 2018-2019.

Marcie Weinandt, MDA, will be retiring on May 1st from the Department of Agriculture; we wish her all the best in her retirement!! Also, we are securing a booth for the MN State Cattlemen's Summer Tour and Trade Show, Danielle, Herman and Matt will man the booth and attend the tour, Tuesday, July 10 in Cottonwood County.

☆ 2016 MPCA – CWP and 319 Drainage Grants

CWP Drainage Grant: An amendment to the budget was approved by the MPCA in February. Funds were moved from project development, technical services, and administration to project cost-share in order to fully utilize the grant funds. The grant deadline is June 30, 2018. ***This grant is fully encumbered.***

An Outreach Booklet is being developed to assist Drainage staff and elected officials to see conservation opportunities and potential in drainage systems.

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

☆ 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

Member SWCDs and Counties have now signed the Memorandum of Agreement MOA for the 1W1P. A steering committee meeting was held on April 25, and several documents will be sent to the BWSR staff for review and approval. (MOA, Budget, Gantt chart and Work Plan)

☆ Biennial Budget Request

The BBR has been submitted to BWSR included were funding for BMPs, Cover Crops and Drainage also we included the Le Sueur and Watonwan positions and Faribault SWCD has included the Blue Earth Watershed position.

☆ New Grants Potential

With most of the drainage grant funds now encumbered, GBERBA will be looking for new grant opportunities to acquire funds for conservation drainage projects in 2018.

☆ GBERBA Financial Position

The Cottonwood SWCD has accepted the resignation of Kathy Smith as of April 27th. At this time the GBERBA Executive Board has suspended the Financial Coordinator Contract with the Cottonwood SWCD and accepted a contract with the Martin SWCD for the position through October 31, 2018.

GBERBA Joint Policy Board/Technical Committee Meeting

Looking at having the July combined meeting focus on Drainage, with special presentations by Pat Baskfield, MPCA Groundwater/Flow Monitoring Major Watershed Coordinator and Kevin Roth, BWSR Buffers and Soil Loss Ordinance Specialist.

Staff Reports

Watonwan Watershed Technician – Vacant

Area 6 Certification Specialist – Herman Bartsch – See Handout

Area 5 Certification Specialist – Danielle Evers - See Handout

MAWQCP Conservation Corp Member – Matt Remer – See Handout

Agency Reports

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart – Clean Water Fund FY19 running on same schedule with RFP out in July Accelerated, Project Practices Funding and Well Sealing, not so sure on funding? Buffer Tax Credit discussion; BWSR Academy October 29 – 31 (Monday – Wednesday).

MPCA – None.

MSA-WRC – Jessica Nelson – Hydro-Conditioning grant – three or four trainings this summer to use the data files.

OTHER – Buffer Enforcement Update from Counties – discussion.

Other Business - None

Meeting declared adjourned by Chairman Glen Mathiason 2:04 a.m.

Next meeting date: Executive Meeting – June 27, 2018, 1:00 p.m.
Technical Meeting – May 23, 2018, 9:30 a.m.
Policy Board/Technical Committee Meeting – July 13, 2018, 1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date _____