

# GBERBA Policy Board/Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 9, 2018

Mankato Armory – Mankato, MN

**Present:** Tom Appel, Tony Berg, Keith Brekken, Noren Durheim, James Eigenberg, Rich Enger, Steve Flohrs, Larry Hansen, Don Kropp, Clark Lingbeek, Glen Mathiason, Neal Mensing, Mark Piepho, Gary Rathman, Jessie Schaffer, John Shanahan, Tom Warmka and Clem Windschitl.

Other Elected Officials: William Groskreutz Jr., Tom Loveall, Linda Meschke, Steve Sodeman, Daryl Tasler,

**Others Present:** Dustin Anderson, Craig Austinson, Jerad Bach, Herman Bartsch, Dustin Benes, John Billings, Mark Bosacker, Chuck Brandel, Ashley Brenke, David Bucklin, Haley Byron, Julie Conrad, Aaron Crowley, Paul Davis, Brandee Douglas, Pat Duncanson, Jill Sackett Eberhart, Kay Gross, Bailey Griffin, David Haler, Chad Hildebrand, Mark Hiles, Greg Johanson, Greg Johnson, Al Kean, Merissa Lore, Jeremy Maul, Andy Meyer, David Minge, Rick Moore, Jared Morrill, Kim Musser, Jessica Nelson, Cindy Penny, Rich Perrine, Tyler Polster, Matt Remer, John Roper, Heidi Rudolph, Mark Schaetzke, Alex Schultz, Kathy Smith, Michele Stindtman, Frank Spartz and Don Waskosky.

**Call to Order** - Chairman Glen Mathiason

## Introductions

## Agenda

Motion by Mark Piepho second by Tom Warmka to approve the Policy Board Meeting Agenda with the addition of BWSR Biennial Budget Request for FY2020-2021. Motion carried, all yes.

## Minutes

Motion by Tony Berg, second by Tom Appel to approve the January 12, 2018 minutes with correction adding Tom Appel as Executive Board Member as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

## TECHNICAL MEETING – Convened at 9:42 a.m. by Chair Heidi Rudolph

### Minutes

Motion by Jared Morrill, second by Ashley Brenke to approve the February 21, 2018 minutes as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

## INFORMATION/ACTION

### GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Approval

Ryan O'Hare	22-02(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops (40 ac)	Cost \$2,000.00	C-S \$1,500.00
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Motion by Michele Stindtman, second by David Haler to approve the Cost-Share Contract for O'Hare (\$1,500.00). Motion carried, all yes.

### GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Final Payment

Lucas Bunde	07-01(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$1,771.20	C-S \$1,075.28
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Motion by Ashley Brenke, second by Michele Stindtman to approve the Cost-Share Contract final payment for Bunde (\$1,075.28). Motion carried, all yes.

**TECHNICAL MEETING** Adjourned at 9:46 a.m. by Chair Heidi Rudolph

## 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 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 has started work on January 16, 2018 at the Cottonwood SWCD office. This is a one year position. Contract for Services signed by GBERBA and the Cottonwood and Pipestone SWCDs for Area 5 and 6 MDA Area Certification Specialist for 2018-2019.

### ☆ 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.

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

Conservation drainage booklet is being put together by the WRC-MSU for GBERBA – with a copy available to review at the March Policy/Tech Meeting.

☆ **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 are now signing the Memorandum of Agreement MOA for the 1W1P. An informal Policy Committee meeting consisting of County Board and SWCD Supervisors was held Wednesday, January 31, 2018 in St. James. This meeting informed all about the various committees roles and the 1W1P process. The Steering Committee met after the informal Policy meeting at Noon.

☆ **New Grants Potential**

The GBERBA Technical Committee did not recommend an application for the Wastewater Facilitator grant for 2018. GBERBA Technical Committee members will continue to discuss the potential benefits of new grant applications for 2018.

**INFORMATION/ACTION**

**Financial Report**

The Financial Report dated 1/31/18 to 2/28/18 was presented for the Board's review. Motion by Mark Piepho, second by Tom Appel to approve the financial report as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

**Accounts Payable**

Motion by Linda Meschke, second by Keith Brekken to approve the accounts payable and pay the bills totaling \$39,520.78. Motion carried, all yes.

**COST-SHARE PROJECTS**

**GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Approval**

Ryan O'Hare	22-02(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$2,000.00	C-S \$1,500.00
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Motion by Larry Hansen, second by Rich Enger to approve the Cost-Share Contract for O'Hare (\$1,500.00). Motion carried, all yes.

**GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Final Payment**

Lucas Bunde	07-01(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$1,771.20	C-S \$1,075.28
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Motion by Neal Mensing, second by Keith Brekken to approve the Cost-Share Contract for final payment for Bunde (\$1,075.28). Motion carried, all yes.

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**GBERBA MAWQCP COST-SHARE CONTRACT FINAL PAYMENT**

Renville SWCD	TS-65-6-03(MAWQCP)	Additional Technical Assistance	Incentive \$6,000.00
Matt Surprenant	64-5-18 (MAWQCP)	Worksheet/Certification Completion	Incentive \$300.00
Mike Knutson	87-5-07(MAWQCP)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
David Loe	87-5-08(MAWQCP)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Bill Steuck	59-5-22(MAWQCP)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Dane Schmiesing	64-5-23(MAWQCP)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Jim Sherwood	67-5-11(MAWQCP)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Roger Blom	59-5-23(MAWQCP)	Worksheet/Certification Completion	Incentive \$300.00
Southwest Prairie TSA	TSA-5-02	Additional Engineering Assistance	TAA \$5,035.50

Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by Don Kropp to approve the MAWQCP cost-share contract final payments for Renville SWCD (\$6,000.00) and 2 individuals (\$300.00) and 5 individuals (\$100.00) and Southwest Prairie TSA (\$5,035.50). Motion carried, all yes.

Review Grant Balances and Projects Report.

**Staff Reports**

- Watowan Watershed Technician** – Dustin Anderson – See Handout
- 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 – 2018 Capacity Amendment to Agreements; Buffer Cost-Share Report and Return of Funds; also BBR 2020-2021 due April 12; July 1, 2018 – Other Waters Information into each Counties specific Water Plan; Drainage Record Modification Grants – deadline of March 14<sup>th</sup>.

**MPCA** – Paul Davis – State Office Staff to talk about future of 319 Funding.

**DNR** – Dan Girolomo – Livestock producers Water Use Permits – with landowners using more than 1 million gallons per year – new approach – in this area starting in Martin County next week – will see mailings if you are a livestock producer.

**MSU-WRC** – Jessica Nelson – Watowan Hydro-Conditioning will be setting up trainings for this spring. Le Sueur Watershed Network update.

**OTHER** – ‘Thank You’ from GBERBA, members and staff to Dustin Anderson and all the work that he has done in the Watowan Watershed you will definitely be missed – but you are not far away; Good Luck to you in Faribault County!

**Other Business - None**

Meeting declared adjourned by Chairman Glen Mathiason 10:22 a.m.

**Presentation – Agricultural Drainage Perspectives**

- David Minge – MN Center for Environmental Advocacy
- Al Kean, Chief Engineer Manager, BWSR

**Drainage Panel Discussion – Moderator Tom Appel, Cottonwood County Commissioner**

- Craig Austinson – Blue Earth County Ditch Manager
- Chuck Brandel – Principal, Senior Civil Engineer ISG
- Tom Warmka – Faribault County Commissioner
- Al Kean – Chief Engineer Manager, BWSR
- Pat Duncanson – Landowner/Farmer

**Next meeting date:** Executive Meeting – April 13, 2018, 1:00 p.m.  
Technical Meeting – April 25, 2018, 9:30 a.m.  
Policy Board Meeting – May 11, 2018, 1:00 p.m.