

GBERBA Executive Board Minutes

Friday, February 14, 2020

Blue Earth County Ag Service Center– Mankato, MN

Present: Tom Appel, Clark Lingbeek, Glen Mathiason, Neal Mensing and John Shanahan.

Others Present: Dave Bucklin, Jill Sackett Eberhart, Kay Gross and Ashley Broussard.

Chairman Neal Mensing called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Agenda

Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by John Shanahan to approve the Executive Board Meeting Agenda with the addition of the Line of Credit Renewal for 2020 – United Prairie Bank and 2020 Budget. Motion carried, all yes.

Minutes

Motion by Glen Mathiason, second by Tom Appel to approve the December 20, 2019 minutes as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION/ACTION

Financial Report

The Financial Report dated 1/1/20 to 1/31/20 was presented for the Board's review. Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by Glen Mathiason to approve the financial report as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

Accounts Payable

Motion by Tom Appel, second by Tom Warmka to approve the accounts payable totaling \$33,159.73. Motion carried, all yes. (Mensing Abstained from voting).

GBERBA Contract Cancellations

Blue Earth Co. D. A.	07-02(CWF-MDM-17)	WASCOBs	Cost \$33,500.00 C-S \$25,125.00
Blue Earth Co. D. A.	07-03(CWF-MDM-17)	WASCOBs	Cost \$50,200.00 C-S \$37,650.00

Motion by Glen Mathiason, second by Clark Lingbeek to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract cancellations for Blue Earth Co. D.A. 07-02 \$25,125.00 and 07-03 \$37,650.00 (CWF-MDM-17). Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Contract Approval

Faribault Co. D. A.	22-54(319-TMDL-16)	Grade Stabilizations – 30 no.	Cost \$91,962.00 C-S \$45,981.00
Blue Earth Co. D. A.	07-04(CWF-MDM-17)	WASCOBs	Cost \$50,200.00 C-S \$37,650.00
Blue Earth Co. D. A.	07-05(CWF-MDM-17)	WASCOBs	Cost \$33,500.00 C-S \$25,125.00

Motion by Tom Warmka, second by Glen Mathiason to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract approval for Faribault Co. D.A. 22-54 \$45,981.00 (319-TMDL-16); Blue Earth Co. D.A. 07-04 \$37,650.00 and 07-05 \$25,125.00 (CWF-MDM-17). Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Completion

Darby Harder	17-07(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 80 acres	Cost \$5,696.90 C-S \$2,000.00
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Motion by John Shanahan, second by Clark Lingbeek to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract payments for contracts Harder 17-07 \$2,000.00 (319-TMDL-16). Motion carried, all yes.

MAWQCP Contract Approval

Le Sueur SWCD	MAWQCP(TS-40-6-02)	Additional Technical Services	\$6,000.00
Mark Pettis	MAWQCP(40-6-05)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
Mark Byron	MAWQCP(81-6-05)	Certification Incentive	\$200.00
Jamie Labat	MAWQCP(42-5-12)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
Chris Balfany	MAWQCP(87-5-19)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00

Motion by Tom Warmka, second by Clark Lingbeek to approve the MAWQCP incentive payments for Pettis, Labat and Balfany (\$100.00) and Byron (\$200.00). Motion carried, all yes.

Letter of Engagement for Audit

Motion by Tom Appel, second by Tom Warmka to approve the Letter of Engagement for the 2019 Audit with Peterson and Company LTD for \$2,675.00. Motion carried, all yes.

Line of Credit Renewal – United Prairie Bank

Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by Glen Mathiason to approve the renewal of the \$60,000 line of credit with United Prairie Bank at 5% and a \$220 renew fee and authorize Tom Warmka, Treasurer, to sign the renewal documents with United Prairie Bank. Motion carried, all yes.

2020 Budget

Reviewed for approval at the March GBERBA Policy Meeting.

COORDINATOR REPORT

☆ MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

Update on progress made in areas 5 and 6 – See Certification Specialist Reports. Over 500,000 acres certified! GBERBA has the Area 5 and 6 MAWQCP administrative contract approved through 2021.

☆ 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, 50% cost share maximum (\$25.00 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.

The grant amendment has been completed and all remaining cost share for projects including Alternative intakes, Side inlets, and Cover crops will be at 50% cost share. **Grant End Date 8-31-2020**

For 2020 the cover crop acre limits are removed. At this point the 50% cost share rate will be continued.

☆ 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.

A grant Work Plan Revision has been approved by the BWSR to allow for CAP 130 Drainage Water Management plans and for Structures for Water Control.

Grant Amendment Agreement has been approved to extend the expiration date to 12-31-2020.

☆ One Watershed One Plan Planning Grants, Watonwan Watershed

The Watonwan 1W1P Project is in full swing completing the plan language and reviewing plan sections. The Policy and Steering Committee met on February 5 to fine tune parts of the budget and plan. Discussion as to what type of organizational structure the group will use is moving forward.

☆ 2020 Grant Applications

GBERBA staff submitted a Drinking Water Protection Grant application as well as a MDM Grant application for the 2020 Clean Water Fund. **GBERBA did not receive funding. Congratulations to Faribault County for the Cover Crop Grant Award!**

☆ 2020 MAWQCP Conservation Corps Position

Introducing Ashley Broussard as the 2020 MAWQCP Conservation Corps position. Welcome aboard Ashley!

Staff Reports

Area 6 Certification Specialist – Herman Bartsch – See Handout

Area 5 Certification Specialist – Danielle Evers - See Handout

Watershed Resource Technician – Joshua Votruba – See Handout

MDA – Conservation Corp Member – Ashley Broussard – See Handout

Agency Reports

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart – Reporting – congrats – all reports were received on time. Reconciliations need to be done at least once if not twice for grants over \$50,000. Linking and grouping are sticking points this year. Work plans for Capacity and Buffers a few to complete. Lawns and Legumes are out now for work plan submission. SWCD have to have an annual work plan – in 2022 cost-share will now have a work plan to help keep our status current with 103C statute. Area 6 Technical Training Team will be meeting in March. 1W1P tentatively coming out at the end of March and submission by middle of June and will expire June 30, 2023 with 1.5 million has been set aside with 6-8 applications being picked. This year there could be some areas not funded. BWSR Academy October 27 – 29 at Breezy Point.

OTHER – Watershed Districts are asking for an increase in allocation to \$500,000 per year and seek levy authority.

Meeting adjourned by Chairman Neal Mensing at 2:35 p.m.

Next meeting date:	Policy Board/Technical Meeting	Friday, March 13	9:30 a.m.
	Executive Board Meeting	Friday, April 10, 2020	1:00 p.m.
	Technical Committee Meeting	Wednesday, April 22, 2020	9:30 a.m.
	Policy Board Meeting	Friday, May 8, 2020	1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date _____