

GBERBA Executive Board Minutes

Friday, June 11, 2021

WebEx Media Communication – Cottonwood SWCD Office

Cottonwood County Attorney Nick Anderson as attorney/chief legal counsel for the board, I am determining that requiring all supervisors to participate in person at board meetings is not practical or prudent. I have made that determination based on the WHO's determination that the COVID 19 outbreak is a health pandemic. The Cottonwood SWCD Board of Supervisor Declared the Cottonwood SWCD Office – Designated Meeting Location During State of Emergency – Health Crisis

Present: Tom Appel, Jim Eigenberg, Rich Enger, Clark Lingbeek, Bill Miller and John Shanahan.

Others Present: Dave Bucklin, Jill Sackett Eberhart, Dru Larson and Laura Quiring.

Chair Tom Appel called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Agenda

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Miller to approve the Executive Board Meeting Agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel Y – Lingbeek Y - Miller Y-Enger Y – Shanahan Y – Eigenberg

Motion carried, all yes.

Minutes

Motion by Miller, second by Shanahan to approve the April 28, 2021 minutes as presented.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel Y – Lingbeek Y - Miller Y-Enger Y – Shanahan Y – Eigenberg

Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION/ACTION

Financial Report

The Financial Report dated 5/1/21 to 5/31/21 was presented for the Board's review. Motion by Shanahan, second by Enger to approve the June financial report as presented.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel Y – Lingbeek Y - Miller Y-Enger Y – Shanahan Y – Eigenberg

Motion carried, all yes.

Accounts Payable

Motion by Enger, second by Eigenberg to approve the accounts payable totaling \$29,485.13.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel Y – Lingbeek Y - Miller Y-Enger Y – Shanahan Y – Eigenberg

Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Contract Approval

Scott Gossman 81-16(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 181.7 ac.	C-S \$3,634.00	Cost \$7,268.00
Karson Duncanson 07-01(CWF-WWDW-21)	Cover Crops – 150 ac./3 Yrs	C-S \$12,000.00	Cost \$18,500.00
Andy Linder 22-70(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 153 ac.	C-S \$3,060.00	Cost \$6,120.00
Robert Priebe 81-17(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 130 ac.	C-S \$3,250.00	Cost \$6,500.00

Motion by Miller, second by Shanahan to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract for Gossman (319-TMDL-16-81-16) \$3,634.00; Duncanson (CWF-WWDW-21) \$12,000.00; Linder (319-TMDL-16-22-70) \$3,060.00 and Priebe (319-TMDL-16-81-17) \$3,250.00.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel Y – Lingbeek Y - Miller Y-Enger Y – Shanahan Y – Eigenberg

Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Contract Final Payment

City of Mt. Lake 17-01(CWF-WWDW-21) Tree/Shrub Planting – 2 ac. C-S \$9,010.00 Cost \$10,600.00

Motion by Enger, second by Eigenberg to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract final payment for City of Mountain Lake (CWF-WWDW-21-17-01) \$9,010.00.

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel Y – Lingbeek Y - Miller Y-Enger Y – Shanahan Y – Eigenberg

Motion carried, all yes.

MAWQCP Contract Approval and Payment

David Pomerence	MAWQCP(32-5-23)	Certification Incentive	\$200.00
Peter Nodding	MAWQCP(51-5-19)	Worksheet Incentive	\$100.00
Robert/Marty Krocak	MAWQCP(40-6-08)	Certification Incentive	\$300.00

Motion by Enger, second by Shanahan to approve the MAWQCP incentives for Pomerence (\$200.00), Nodding (\$100.00) and Krocak (\$300.00).

Roll Call Vote – Y – Appel Y – Lingbeek Y - Miller Y-Enger Y – Shanahan Y – Eigenberg
Motion carried, all yes.

Review Grant Report Watowan Watershed – Drainage Study Definition & Policy

Legal Counsel

Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney have given their opinion based on our request (document provided). We are working with counsel to create a usable contract through our Watowan Watershed Implementation Grant. Phone conversation on Thursday (yesterday) with Tim Sullivan established some points of consideration to include in the contract with additional documentation sent for review.

GBERBA July Policy Board and Technical Committee Meeting

At this time, we are planning on holding both the Technical Committee Meeting and Policy Board Meetings on Friday, July 16 at their separate time – 9:30 a.m. for Technical Committee and 1:00 p.m. for the Policy Board Meeting. We will look forward to September when hopefully more restrictions will have been lifted to hold an in person meeting.

COORDINATOR REPORT

☆ MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

Update on progress made in areas 5 and 6 – See Certification Specialist Reports. Over 761,000 acres and over 1063 certified producers statewide!

GBERBA has the Area 5 and 6 MAWQCP administrative contract approved through 2021. The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program has launched three new endorsements in addition to 10-year certification a farmer or landowner receives in the program. The endorsements are for soil health (31), integrated pest management (31), wildlife (22) and climate smart (12).

NRCS announced a June 4th application deadline for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP – MAWQCP). RCPP is a partnership between NRCS and MAWQCP. Producers who are seeking certification or are already certified are eligible to receive funding. Priority is given to practices that are needed for a producer to obtain certification. Dru Larson, MN/IA Conservation Corps Member will be assisting with this program in 2021

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

An Implementation Policy Paper for this grant titled "Greater Blue Earth River Basin TMDL Implementation" is found on the GBERBA web site. Cover crops: \$50.00 dollars per acre maximum, 50% c/s (\$25.00 ac.). Prioritization required.

Alternative intakes: Rock and pattern tile. \$500.00 maximum with 50% cost share.

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 end date of the grant is August 31, 2021. This grant is now fully encumbered. Funding awarded as available.

☆ 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 to identify the eligible ditches. A guidance policy sheet is online.

At this time, GBERBA has received a third grant time extension. In addition, GBERBA can pay grant-engineering funds to approved projects even if not constructed prior to grant deadline. BWSR staff has now approved the extension for the entire grant to April 30, 2022.

☆ **Watonwan River Watershed - Implementation Grant**

Implementation grant funds are available now with the Grant 41 Policy distributed to all GBERBA members and partners. The grant timeline is 3-24-2021 to 12-31-2023. The Project Ranking Worksheet is used for project priority. Legal counsel has been contracted to review the need for additional contracts with member entities or others and recourse and/or errors and omissions if non-compliance issues arise when completing projects. The Technical Committee is working on the Multipurpose Drainage Management Study definition and expectations, with hope to have that completed by the July 16 Policy Board Meeting.

☆ **Le Sueur River Watershed – One Watershed One Plan**

Two Consultant responses were received out of the nine Requests for Qualifications that were sent out which was much less than anticipated. The steering team reviewed the two RFQs and interviewed both to provide a recommendation to the Policy Committee. Both were good proposals and the Steering team was able to come to consensus. The Steering Team is also communicating with Kim from WRC to refine the vision and expectations of the kickoff meeting. 60 day comment letters were due by the end of May and we received them from all the state agencies, Faribault County, Faribault SWCD, and Waseca SWCD. A wide variety of priorities and data sources were provided. Contracting with the consultant will be our next task. Haley will be out for leave from July-Sept and is coordinating with other staff who will complete her day-to-day duties for that time.

☆ **CFW 2020 Watonwan Drinking Water Grant.** The grant funding is available now to encumber! The grant timeline is 3-25-2021 to 12-31-2023. Grant Policy #40 has been distributed to staff, please review for eligible practices and grant guidelines.

Staff Reports

- Area 6 Certification Specialist** – Herman Bartsch – Will be sent out once a month.
- Area 5 Certification Specialist** – Danielle Evers – Will be sent out once a month.
- MDA – Conservation Corp Member** – Dru Larson – Will be sent out once a month.

Agency Reports

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart – Comments.

OTHER – None

Meeting adjourned by Chair Tom Appel at 1:58 p.m.

Next meeting date:

Policy Board Meeting	Friday, July 16, 2021	1:00 p.m.
Technical Meeting	Wednesday, June 23, 2021	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday, August 25, 2021	1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date _____