

GBERBA Policy Board Minutes

Friday, May 14, 2021

WebEx – Web Based (Computer) and/or Conference Call (Phone) Connection

Present: Brandon Anderson, Bruce Anderson, Tom Appel, Tyler Ask, Tony Berg, Doug Christopherson, Wayne Cords, Brad Edwin, Jim Eigenberg, Rich Enger, Steve Flohrs, Don Kropp, Clark Lingbeek, Neal Mensing, Bill Miller, Kevin Paap, and John Shanahan.

Others Present: Herman Bartsch, Ashley Brenke, David Bucklin, Jill Sackett Eberhart, Danielle Evers, Kay Gross, Dru Larson, Scott Salsbury.

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

Introductions

Agenda

Motion by Tony Berg, second by Rich Enger to approve the GBERBA agenda as presented.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Wayne Cords; Y – Brad Edwin; Y – Jim Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes

Motion by Kevin Paap, second by Steve Flohrs to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2021 GBERBA Policy Board Meeting.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Wayne Cords; Y – Brad Edwin; Y – Jim Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION/ACTION

Financial Report

The Financial Report dated 4/1/21 to 4/30/21 was presented for the Board's review. Motion by John Shanahan, second by Brandon Anderson to approve the financial report as presented.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Wayne Cords; Y – Brad Edwin; Y – Jim Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Bill Miller; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

Bill left the meeting

Accounts Payable

Motion by Don Kropp , second by Tyler Ask to approve the accounts payable totaling \$22, 157.26.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Wayne Cords; Y – Brad Edwin; Y – Jim Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

MAWQCP Contract Approval

Jared Johnson	MAWQCP(42-5-18)	Worksheet/Certification Completion	Incentive \$300.00
Brandon Enemark	MAWQCP(42-5-19)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Bulter Farms Inc	MAWQCP(46-6-07)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Eugene & Clinton Butler	MAWQCP(46-6-08)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Mike & Deb Butler	MAWQCP(46-6-09)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Dean Weiss	MAWQCP(46-6-10)	Worksheet Completion	Incentive \$100.00
Michael Hamann	MAWQCP(67-5-21)	Certification Completion	Incentive \$200.00

Motion by Jim Eigenberg, second by Rich Enger to approve the MAWQCP incentive payments for Enemark, Butler Farms, E & C Butler, M & D Butler and Weiss (\$100.00); Hamann (\$200.00) and Johnson (\$300.00).

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Wayne Cords; Y – Brad Edwin; Y – Jim Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

Review Grant Report

GBERBA Grant Procedures Guidelines – Review and Approval

Motion by Tony Berg, second by Steve Flohrs to approve the GBERBA Grant Procedures Guidelines.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Wayne Cords; Y – Brad Edwin; Y – Jim Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

Watonwan Watershed – Multipurpose Drainage Management Studies – Definition - Discussion

As for the MDM Studies, our Watonwan Watershed Plan goal is to "Coordinate with the drainage authorities to implement MDM on 10 public drainage systems to improve water quality and flood resiliency in tandem with the maintenance and repair of drainage systems."

First Draft -

MDM studies need to have multiple on-system and off-system BMPs identified in order to reduce downstream peak flows and flooding, reduce erosion and sedimentation, improve water quality and improve aquatic habitat.

Request for Legal Counsel Review - Discussion

Review of the GBERBA JPA/By-Laws and GBERBA Grant Agreements in regards to the need for additional contracts with local entities for Cost-Share Contracts and Staff Reimbursement.

Ann Goering is working on depositions so she will be having a partner to assist on our request.

Demonstration – Ashley Brenke and Scott Salisbury
Watonwan Watershed Ranking and Scoring Worksheet

Motion by Rich Enger, second by Doug Christopherson to approve the Watonwan Watershed Ranking and Scoring Worksheet as compiled by the Watonwan Steering Team.

Roll Call: Y – Brandon Anderson; Y – Bruce Anderson; Y - Tom Appel; Y – Tyler Ask; Y - Tony Berg; Y – Doug Christopherson; Y – Wayne Cords; Y – Brad Edwin; Y – Jim Eigenberg; Y - Rich Enger; Y – Steve Flohrs; Y – Don Kropp; Y – Clark Lingbeek; Y – Neal Mensing; Y – Kevin Paap; Y – John Shanahan.

Motion carried.

Coordinator Report

☆ MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

Update on progress made in areas 5 and 6 – See Certification Specialist Reports. Over 750,000 acres and over 1000 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, integrated pest management, and wildlife.

Dru Larson, MN/IA Conservation Corps Member is 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.

For 2020, the cover crop acre limits are removed. The 50% cost share rate will continue. GBERBA staff has requested and received an extension of this grant due to 2019 weather conditions and the Covid-19 outbreak. The new end date of the grant will be August 31, 2021.

This grant funding is now running low. Funding is awarded as available. Please pass this notice on to landowners wishing to apply.

PAGE 3
GBERBA POLICY MINUTES
MAY 14, 2021

☆ **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. GBERBA staff has finished correcting non-compliance issues with BWSR on this grant.

☆ **Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant**

The Implementation Work Plan is complete. The implementation grant funds are available now with the Grant 41 Policy distributed to all GBERBA members and partners. The grant timeline is 3-25-2021 to 12-31-2023. The Project Ranking Worksheet will be demonstrated at this meeting. 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.

☆ **1W1P Le Sueur River Planning Grant**

The Le Sueur River 1W1P Planning Grant has officially been executed so grant spending can begin. The steering team has been working on putting a recommended RFQ for consulting services together along with a list of consultants to notify and a ranking sheet. The group was impressed with the Watonwan ranking sheets and incorporated large portions into the recommended Le Sueur ranking sheets. They have a goal of doing the kickoff meeting in June, but time is quickly slipping by and will still need to contract for this and allow adequate planning time. The Policy Committee is currently scheduled to meet monthly and will be in a virtual format for now.

☆ **CWF 2020 Watonwan Drinking Water Grant.** The grant funding is available now to encumber! The grant timeline is 2021 to 12-31-2023.

Staff Reports – In person reports by Herman Bartsch, Danielle Evers and Dru Larson. Emailed out to Policy and Technical Committee

Agency Reports

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart – Legislative session is ongoing and a focus for BWSR staff. Soil Health may have a funding source through this session. Cancelled the May BWSR Board Meeting. CDC guidelines and State Agencies, MN Management and Budget states – work remotely, masks required, hopefully this will changing in the near future. BWSR is planning an in-person Academy at Cragun’s in October 2021.

OTHER – Meeting in person during the July GBERBA Policy/Technical Meeting.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 2:40 p.m. by Chairman Tom Appel.

Next meeting date: Technical Committee Meeting – Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting – Friday, June 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m.
Policy Board Meeting – Friday, July 16, 2021

Secretary’s signature of approved minutes _____ Date _____