

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee

Friday, December 17, 2021 – WebEx by Phone or Computer Connection

Present:

Kay Gross
Ashley Brenke
Laura Quiring
Jake Gross
Scott Salisbury
Mark Schaetzke
Carrie Schultz
Paul Davis
Shaina Kelsey

Representing:

GBERBA Coordinator
Martin SWCD
Watonwan SWCD
Cottonwood SWCD
Blue Earth County
Waseca SWCD
Watonwan SWCD
MPCA
BWSR

Present:

Dave Bucklin
Dan Bartosh
Alan Gleisner
Jake Fritz
Melanie Krueger
Brenda Lageson
Jesse Walters
Jill Sackett Eberhart
Katie Wigen

Representing:

GBERBA Coordinator
Jackson SWCD
Brown SWCD
Blue Earth SWCD
Brown SWCD
Freeborn SWCD
Martin SWCD
BWSR
DNR

Call to Order: GBERBA Technical Committee was called to order by Technical Coordinator Dave Bucklin the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

Introductions

Agenda: Motion by Ashley Brenke, second by Brenda Lageson to approve the agenda with the additions. Motion carried, all yes.

Minutes: Motion by Jake Frtiz, second by Alan Gleisner to approve the November 19, 2021 Technical Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION ACTION:

GBERBA Partial Payment – FY2017 BWSR Competitive Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant Agreement (C17-3714)

Waseca Co CWF-MDM-17-81-02 Technical Assistance Wetland Restoration Cost \$14,560.00
Drainage Authority

Motion by Mark Schaetzke, second by Scott Salbury to approve the GBERBA partial payment – FY2017 BWSR Competitive Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant Agreement (C17-3714) for the Waseca County Drainage Authority (CWF-MDM-17-81-02) for Technical Assistance Wetland Creation total cost \$14,560.00. Motion carried, all yes,

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Final Payment - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483)

Mathias & Cheryl 07-01(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning Cost \$1,635.00 C-S \$817.50
Williams

Motion by Jake Frtiz, second by Ashley Brenke to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract final payment - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Mathias & Cheryl Williams (WBIF-WW-21-07-01) Well Decommissioning totaling \$817.50. Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Approval – FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483)

Larry Salzwedel 17-03(WBIF-WW-21) Rank 59 Grass Waterway 331 ft/Diversion – 1 Cost \$5,300.00 C-S \$4,505.00

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Melanie Krueger to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract approval – FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Larry Salzwedel (BIF-WW-21-17-03) grass waterway and diversion total cost-share of \$4,505.00. Motion carried, all yes.

MDM Plan Professional Agreement Approval – FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483)

Watonwan County WBIF-WW-21 Professional Agreement for MDM Plan with ISG Cost \$5,500.00
Ditch No. 1

Motion by Carrie Schultz, second by Scott Salisbury to approve the Multipurpose Drainage Management Plan Professional Agreement through FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) with ISG totaling \$5,500.00 for Watonwan County Ditch No. 1. Motion carried, all yes.

**GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting
December 17, 2021**

Review GBERBA Cost-Share Grant Balances and Financial Report
GBERBA 2020 Audit
GBERBA 2022 Calendar
GBERA MAWQCP 2022 Corps Member

1W1P Le Sueur River Planning Grant

The Steering Team and Technical Advisory Committee reviewed 36 draft issue statements created through a comprehensive watershed data review performed by ISG. The issue statements that rose to the top will be presented to the Policy Committee on December 16th. After the Policy Committee meeting planning partners will begin to focus their efforts on identifying priority areas starting with lakes and groundwater.

Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant
Watonwan Grant 41 Ranking/Scoring Sheet

Ashley, Scott, Jake and Carrie as a Subcommittee (Practices we should add) (Meeting in January)

Watonwan Watershed WBIF Disbursal Agreements

New Proposed Projects

Cottonwood County Ditch #21 and (Cottonwood-Watonwan) Judicial Ditch No. 1

Suggestion to bid them together

Watonwan County – Gary Dannhoff Projects – Southfork Watonwan – Work towards RCPP

Coordination with NRCA on Outstanding Projects

WBIF – Yearly Reporting

Coordinator Report: Dave Bucklin and Kay Gross

★ **MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program**

Update on progress made in areas 5 and 6 – See Certification Specialist Reports. Over 790,000 acres and over 1100 certified producers statewide!

New agreement amendment has been approved and signed with the MN Department of Agriculture totaling \$573,893.00 for January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023.

Dru Larson, MN/IA Conservation Corps Member completed his term on December 7, 2021. Jake Gross and I participated in the interview process for the 2022 MAWQCP GBERBA Corps member.

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, wildlife and climate smart.

★ **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 has now approved the extension for the entire grant to April 30, 2022. There are \$24,000 dollars left in this grant. GBERBA needs another project or two.

★ **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. The first Multipurpose Drainage Management Plan has been requested for Watonwan County Ditch No. 1 with a request for a contract with ISG to complete the plan for \$5,500. Member counties and SWCDs are in the process of submitting their WBIF Disbursement Agreements with GBERBA. Technical Committee will be discussing the ranking and scoring spreadsheet, new proposals for projects and yearly reporting.

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

The Kickoff meeting went well with decent weather, a good turnout (50-60), and good discussion. Kim and WRC crew are synthesizing the information collected that night as well as the online survey responses. Haley has resumed the day-to-day responsibilities for the planning effort. ISG is working at aggregating the data and trying to come up with a first draft of issue statements. The Steering Team discussed inviting citizens to the Technical Advisory Committee and identifying others who may have good experience or perspectives to weigh in on portions of the draft plan.

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★ **CWF 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. Project contracts are coming in for funding. Drinking Water Area information signs will be ordered soon.

Staff Report:

Area 6 Certification Specialist – Herman Bartsch – Written Report

Area 5 Certification Specialist – Danielle Evers – Written Report

Conservation Corp Member – Dru Larson – Final Report

Agency Reports:

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart – State employees not going back to the office January 1. At this time, they have 19 vacancies in BWSR (easements, wetlands, and engineering – majority). Kevin Bigalke will be leaving at the end of December. Clean Water Fund – our area has a few grants awarded. Watonwan Watershed and Le Sueur have been listed for Watershed Based Implementation Funding.

MPCA - Paul Davis – Left Meeting Early. Paul presented in Fairmont concerning the Chain of Lakes and did a GREAT Job!!! (Ashley Brenke)

MN IT-DNR – Rick Moore – Not in attendance

MSU-WRC – Kim Musser – Not in attendance

The meeting was declared adjourned at 12:00 noon by GBERBA Technical Coordinator Dave Bucklin.

Upcoming Meetings

Technical Committee Meeting	Wednesday, January 26, 2022	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, December 17, 2021	1:00 p.m.
Policy Board Meeting	Friday, January 14, 2022	1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____