

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee

Wednesday, January 26, 2022 – WebEx by Phone or Computer Connection

Present:

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

Representing:

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

Present:

Dave Bucklin
Dan Bartosh
Jake VanRyswyk
Jake Fritz
Melanie Krueger
Brenda Lageson
Jesse Walters

Jill Sackett Eberhart
Kim Musser

Representing:

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

BWSR
MSU-WRC

Call to Order: GBERBA Technical Committee was called to order by Vice Chair Andy Meyer the meeting to order at 9:40 am.

Introductions

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

Minutes: Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Ashley Brenke to approve the December 17, 2021 Technical Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

Election of 2022 Officers

Nomination of Andy Meyer as Chair and Ashley Brenke as Vice Chair.

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Melanie Krueger to cast a unanimous ballot with Andy Meyer as Chair and Ashley Brenke as Vice Chair.

Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION ACTION:

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

Hayden Fast	83-01(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning – 1 no.	Cost \$850.00	C-S \$425.000
Leota Hall Trust	83-02(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning – 1 no.	Cost \$1,050.00	C-S \$525.00
Randy Romsdahl	83-03(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning – 1 no.	Cost \$1,125.00	C-S \$565.50
Brian/Jeanine Williams/ Blue Earth County	07-02(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning – 1 no.	Cost \$2,535.50	C-S \$1,000.00
Nicholas Ott/Molly Blume/ Blue Earth County	07-03(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning – 1 no.	Cost \$2,535.50	C-S \$1,000.00

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Jake Fritz to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contracts - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Hayden Fast (WBIF-WW-2183-01) Well Decommissioning C-S \$425.000; Leota Hall Trust (WBIF-WW-21-83-02) Well Decommissioning C-S \$525.00; Randy Romsdahl (WBIF-WW-21-83-03) Well Decommissioning C-S \$565.50; Brian/Jeanine Williams/Blue Earth County (WBIF-WW-21-07-02) Well Decommissioning C-S \$1,000.00; and Nicholas Ott/Molly Blume/ Blue Earth County (WBIF-WW-21-07-03) Well Decommissioning C-S \$1,000.00. Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Partial Payment – FY2021 BWSR WWDW-Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection Grant Agreement (C21-8921)

Karson Duncanson	07-01(CWF-WWDW-21)	Cover Crops 150 ac. 1 st Payment	Cost \$4,950.00	C-S \$3,217.50
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Motion by Jake Fritz, second by Ashley Brenke to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract partial payment – FY2021 BWSR WWDW-Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection Grant Agreement (C21-8921) for Karson Duncanson (CWF-WWDW-21-07-01) cover crop cost-share \$3,217.50. Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Proposed Projects

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Andy Meyer to approve the submission of the ISG Multipurpose Drainage Management Plan proposal for Cottonwood County Ditch 21 and Judicial Ditch 1 (Cottonwood and Watonwan Counties) with a cost of \$9,500.00 to the GBERBA Policy Board for consideration. Motion carried, all yes.

**GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting
January 26, 2022**

Review GBERBA Cost-Share Grant Balances and Financial Report
GBERBA 2022 Calendar
GBERBA Policy Board Member Listing
GBERBA MAWQCP 2022 Corps Member

1W1P Le Sueur River Comprehensive Plan

Reviewing issue statements, looking at strategies and goals and will be going to Policy this Friday (January 28). Steering and Technical are looking at the next issues including water quantity, wetlands and others.

Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant

Watonwan Grant 41 Ranking/Scoring Sheet (Ashley, Scott, Jake and Carrie as a Subcommittee)

Discussion

Motion by Melanie Krueger, second by Ashley Brenke to approve the addition of a ACPF/PTMApp question for project placement (highlighting priorities of our plan) and placing a 10 point value on the ranking and scoring worksheet, with intentions to review in six-months. Motion carried, all yes.

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Ashley Brenke to clarify multiple practices in a contract will be given points as an additional practice (each practice receiving their applicable points in the ranking and scoring worksheet). Motion carried, all yes.

State of the Watershed Report

Goals

Work Plan Review

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 806,000 acres and over 1155 certified producers statewide! **That is over 1,259 square miles, and equals more than Cottonwood and Watonwan counties combined!**

GBERBA has the Area 5 and 6 MAWQCP administrative contract approved through 2023 pending agreement approval. 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.

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.

★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 Policy Board has approved the Multipurpose Drainage Management Study definition and expectations. This information is now part of the Grant #41 Policy. Work continues on several projects looking for grant funding.

★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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GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting
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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. We will discuss sign numbers at the next Technical meeting.

Staff Report:

Area 6 Certification Specialist – Herman Bartsch – Written Report

Area 5 Certification Specialist – Danielle Evers – Written Report

Conservation Corp Member – No candidates.

Agency Reports:

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart – Grant reporting on February 1, do not do progress reports for FY23, executed grant agreements by December 31, 2021. When closing out grants need a financial report uploaded. Open grants available Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot Program (HELP) grant (Feb. 23 – Dan Shaw). Cooperative Weed Management Area grant (Feb 23), Lawns to Legumes (Feb 3) Blue Thumb – individual landowners, Wellhead Protection Grants (Due end of every month). Water Storage Grant Fund, if no changes, application period starts January 31 (in January BWSR Board packet). 1W1P Planning Grants are opening in March. Soil Health Funding is still working through the process in BWSR – will probably open during the summer. Several positions are still open in BWSR.

MPCA - Paul Davis – Blue Earth WRAPS is still in the works.

MN IT-DNR – Rick Moore – Not in attendance

MSU-WRC – Kim Musser – Scott Sparlin is working on Federal Funding for water storage. In February Governor Walz will talking on water storage. Several educational outreach projects are moving forward.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 12:16 p.m. by Chair Andy Meyer.

Upcoming Meetings

Policy Board Meeting	Friday, January 28, 2022	1:00 p.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, February 11, 2022	1:00 p.m.
Technical Committee Meeting	Wednesday, February 23, 2022	9:30 a.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____