

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee
Wednesday, February 23, 2022 – WebEx by Phone or Computer Connection

Present:

Dave Bucklin
Laura Quiring
Jake Gross
Scott Salsbury
Mark Schaetzke
Carrie Schultz
Alan Gleisner
Paul Davis
Kim Musser

Representing:

GBERBA Coordinator
Watonwan SWCD
Cottonwood SWCD
Blue Earth County
Waseca SWCD
Watonwan SWCD
Martin SWCD
MPCA
MSU-WRC

Present:

Kay Gross
Jake VanRyswyk
Jake Fritz
Melanie Krueger
Brenda Lageson
Jesse Walters
Katie Wigen
Jill Sackett Eberhart

Representing:

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

Call to Order: GBERBA Technical Committee was called to order by Technical Coordinator Dave Bucklin the meeting to order at 9:33 am.

Introductions

Agenda: Motion by Jake Fritz, second by Melanie Krueger to approve the agenda. Motion carried, all yes

Minutes: Motion by Melanie Krueger, second by Scott Salsbury to approve the January 26, 2022 Technical Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION ACTION:

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

Wesley Beck	83-04(WBIF-WW-21)	Cover Crops – 80 ac. 3 yr.	(1 yr. single 2 yrs. multi)	C-S \$9,520.00
David Beck	83-05(WBIF-WW-21)	Cover Crops – 68.76 ac. 3 yr.	(1 yr. single 2 yrs. Multi)	C-S \$8,182.44
Byron Christenson	83-06(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning – 1 no.	Cost \$900.00	C-S \$450.00

Motion by Jesse Walters, second by Jake Fritz to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contracts - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Wesley Beck (WBIF-WW-21-83-04) Cover Crops C-S \$9,520.00; David Beck (WBIF-WW-21-83-05) Cover Crops C-S \$8,182.44 and Byron Christenson (WBIF-WW-21-83-06) (\$450.00) Well Decommissioning. Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Technical and Engineering Request for Payment – FY2017 BWSR – CWF – Multipurpose Drainage Management GBERBA Grant Agreement (C17-3714)

Waseca Co. D.A.	81-02(CWF-MDM-17)	Technical and Engineering	C-S \$8,340.00
Waseca SWCD	81-02(CWF-MDM-17)	Technical and Engineering	C-S \$5,000.00

Motion by Scott Salsbury, second by Mark Schaetzke to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share request of funding for Waseca County Drainage Authority (\$8,340.00) (CWF-MDM-17-81-02) and Waseca SWCD (\$5,000.00) (CWF-MDM-17-81-02) for technical and engineering services. Motion carried, all yes.

**Review GBERBA Cost-Share Grant Balances and Financial Report
GBERBA MAWQCP 2022 Corps Member**

1W1P Le Sueur River Comprehensive Plan

Issue statements are being reviewed, all have moved through the Steering and Advisory and will go to Policy. Working on a mid-plan Public Meeting with a target of April for that meeting.

Will set up a time to meet with Haley, Mark and GBERBA Coordinators.

Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant

Ranking and Scoring Worksheet – Changes approved

Goals

State of the Watershed Report

Work Plan Review and Proposed Changes

Motion by Melanie Krueger, second by Jesse Walters to move \$25,000 to move from Technical and Engineering to Cover Crops which is under our 10% grace through the grant agreement with this motion presented to the Policy Board in March. Motion carried, all yes.

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.

The 2022 MAWQCP Conservation Corps position is not filled. The next opportunity to fill the position is May 2022. This is due to a lack of applicants.

★ 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.

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.

★ 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. The GBERBA Board has approved several cost share contracts for project funding.

★ 1W1P Le Sueur River Watershed Comprehensive Plan

Reviewing issue statements, looking at strategies and goals and will be taking draft statements to the Policy Board. Steering and Technical are looking at the next issues including water quantity, wetlands and others.

★ 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. Twenty-five Drinking Water Area information signs are in. These signs when posted will help educate/remind the public about protecting drinking water.

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 – Soil Health Initiative funds, with general and clean water fund dollars. RFP will be rolled out in March or April and due the beginning of May. Water storage funds are general fund dollars, RFP has gone out and is on the BWSR website. The Pilot Program is for shovel ready projects and needs to have hydrographs completed before the installation of the project, this needs to show results. This RFP closes April 4. Grant reviews are ongoing. Looking to move District Capacity from Clean Water Funds to SWCD Aid and coming from Department of Revenue.

MPCA - Paul Davis – Blue Earth WRAPS is going slower than planned, but Paul and Kim Musser may visit each office. Cycle 2 process is being developed. Watonwan starting a project charter to discuss the process.

MN IT-DNR – Rick Moore – Not in attendance

MSU-WRC – Kim Musser – Opening for a position for water quality monitoring. Le Sueur River Watershed Erosion Control Workshop. Grants from foundations for free seed in the Le Sueur (Le Sueur Network) also looking at an educational program in the high schools. April 22, Water on Earth Day.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:00 a.m. by Technical Coordinator Dave Bucklin.

Upcoming Meetings

Policy Board Meeting	Friday, March 11, 2022	1:00 p.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday, April 27, 2022	1:00 p.m.
Technical Committee Meeting	Wednesday, March 23, 2022	9:30 a.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____