

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

**Present:**

Andy Meyer  
Kay Gross  
Jake Gross  
Melanie Krueger  
Mark Schaetzke  
Shania Keseley  
Rick Moore  
Steve Sodeman

**Representing:**

Brown County  
GBERBA Coordinator  
Cottonwood SWCD  
Brown SWCD  
Waseca SWCD  
BWSR  
DNR-MNIT  
Watonwan SWCD Supervisor

**Present:**

Dave Bucklin  
Alan Gleisner  
Jake Fritz  
Carrie Schultz  
Jesse Walters  
Kim Musser  
Katie Wigen

**Representing:**

GBERBA Coordinator  
Brown SWCD  
Blue Earth SWCD  
Watonwan SWCD  
Martin SWCD  
MSU-WRC  
DNR

**Call to Order:** GBERBA Technical Committee was called to order by Chair Andy Meyer the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

**Introductions**

**Agenda:** Motion by Jake Fritz, second by Alan Gleisner to approve the agenda with the addition of MDH Accelerated Implementation Grant: Groundwater Protection Initiative. Motion carried, all yes

**Minutes:** Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Melanie Krueger to approve the February 23, 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)**

Justin Schwanke      07-04(WBIF-WW-21)      Well Decommissioning – 1 no.      Cost \$1,250.00      C-S \$625.00

Motion by Jake Fritz, second by Andy Meyer to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contracts - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Justin Schwanke (WBIF-WW-21-07-04) (\$625.00) Well Decommissioning. Motion carried, all yes.

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

Waseca Co      CWF-MDM-17-81-02      Technical Assistance Wetland Creation      Cost \$8,340.00  
Drainage Authority

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Carrie Schultz to approve the GBERBA 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 \$8,340.00. Motion carried, all yes.

**Review GBERBA Cost-Share Grant Balances and Financial Report**

**1W1P Le Sueur River Comprehensive Plan**

Mid-Point Meeting is set for April 4 in Pemberton to review activities and goals. Looking for public input through the meeting or individuals can participate through a survey. Steering team looking at the implementation table.

**Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant**

**State of the Watershed Report – Comp Plan Progress**

Survey has been sent out for local projects completed with additional funding (not WBIF).

**CWF Soil Health Grant RFP**

Discussion and request for committee members. (Al Gleisner, Jake Fritz, Jesse Walters and others).

**MDH Accelerated Implementation Grant: Groundwater Protection Initiative**

Motion by Carrie Schultz, second by Andy Meyer to approve the submission of a MDH Accelerated Implementation Grant for Groundwater Protection in the amount of \$50,000. 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 \$14,900.00 dollars left in this grant.

**★ Watonwan River Watershed - Implementation Grant**

The GBERBA Technical Committee has reviewed the progress during the first nine months of the Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant with the Policy/Executive Board approving changes to the ranking a scoring worksheet and moving funds from Technical and Engineering to Cover Crops (\$25,000). We are in the process of gathering information for progress reporting and the State of the Watershed Report which will be available by the Policy Meeting in July.

**★ 1W1P Le Sueur River Watershed Comprehensive Plan**

The group is wrapping up issue statements, measurable goals, and strategies, and will be switching gears to begin work on the implementation table and plan administration structure. Planning for the midpoint public meeting is in full swing and will be held on the evening of April 4<sup>th</sup> in Pemberton. A survey will also be available to all watershed residents to provide input on current plan content.

**★ 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** – Shania Keseley – Soil Health Grant opening on Monday also the One Watershed One Plan – Planning Grant. Batching period is open for CREP. Easement work orders will be sent to the new BWSR contact.

**MPCA** - Paul Davis – Not in Attendance.

**MN IT-DNR** – Rick Moore – State LiDAR Plan and looking at conditions on specific dates, and when is the ground snow free, tree growth, budding-leaves, ice out on lakes and rivers. Will be sending out a link which will be forwarded to the GBERBA group.

**MSU-WRC** – Kim Musser – Water Storage Bill at the legislature looking for an additional \$5 million in funding.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 10:40 a.m. by Chair Andy Meyer.

**Upcoming Meetings**

Technical Committee Meeting	Wednesday, April 27, 2022	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday, April 27, 2022	1:00 p.m.
Policy Board Meeting	Friday, May 13, 2022	1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_