

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee
Wednesday, April 27, 2022 – WebEx by Phone or Computer Connection

Present:

Andy Meyer
Kay Gross
Jake Fritz
Melanie Krueger
Jake VanRyswyk
Mark Schaetzke
Jill Sackett Eberhart
Paul Davis

Representing:

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

Present:

Dave Bucklin
Jake Gross
Ashley Brenke
Carrie Schultz
Scott Salsbury
Jesse Walters
Kim Musser
Rick Moore

Representing:

GBERBA Coordinator
Cottonwood SWCD
Martin SWCD
Watonwan SWCD
Blue Earth County
Martin SWCD
MSU-WRC
DNR-MNIT

Call to Order: GBERBA Technical Committee was called to order by Chair Andy Meyer the meeting to order at 9:36 am.

Introductions

Agenda: Motion by Ashley Brenke, second by Melanie Krueger to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried, all yes

Minutes: Motion by Ashley Brenke, second by Dave Bucklin to approve the March 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)

Gary Dannhoff	83-07(WBIF-WW-21)	WASCOB – 1 no.	Cost \$13,760.00	C-S \$11,696.00
Gary Dannhoff	83-08(WBIF-WW-21)	WASCOB – 1 no.	Cost \$30,047.00	C-S \$25,539.95
Gary Dannhoff	83-09(WBIF-WW-21)	WASCOB – 1 no.	Cost \$36,364.00	C-S \$30,909.40
Gary Dannhoff	83-10(WBIF-WW-21)	WASCOB – 1 no.	Cost \$36,785.00	C-S \$31,267.25
Gary Dannhoff	83-11(WBIF-WW-21)	WASCOB – 1 no.	Cost \$31,380.00	C-S \$26,673.00
Gary Dannhoff	83-12(WBIF-WW-21)	WASCOB – 1 no.	Cost \$27,284.00	C-S \$23,191.40
Ronald Thiessen	83-13(WBIF-WW-21)	Grass Waterway–1.8 ac	Cost \$16,740.00	C-S \$14,229.00
Kermit Carlson	83-14(WBIF-WW-21)	Cover Crops 188 ac. (3yrs)	Cost \$19,740.00	C-S \$19,740.00
Mark Sill	83-15(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning - 1 no.	Cost \$800.00	C-S \$400.00

Motion by Carrie Schultz, second by Dave Bucklin to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contracts - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Gary Dannhoff 83-07(WBIF-WW-21) C-S \$11,696.00, Gary Dannhoff 83-08(WBIF-WW-21) C-S \$25,539.95, Gary Dannhoff 83-09(WBIF-WW-21) C-S \$30,909.40, Gary Dannhoff 83-10(WBIF-WW-21) C-S \$31,267.25, Gary Dannhoff 83-11(WBIF-WW-21) C-S \$26,673.00, Gary Dannhoff 83-12(WBIF-WW-21) C-S \$23,191.40, Ronald Thiessen 83-13(WBIF-WW-21) C-S \$14,229.00, Kermit Carlson 83-14(WBIF-WW-21) C-S \$19,740.00 and Mark Sill 83-15(WBIF-WW-21) C-S \$400.00. Motion carried, all yes.

Watonwan Drinking Water Protection Grant – Policy Change

Motion by Scott Salsbury, second by Carrie Schultz to approve the addition of Other Urban Stormwater Practices to the Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection (Grant 40) with 85% cost-share not to exceed \$5,000 per practice. Motion carried, all yes.

FY2021 BWSR CWF – Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection Grant Agreement (C21-8921)

Joyce Bucklin	17-03(CWF-WWDW-21)	Bioretention Basin – 1 no.	Cost \$1,375.80	C-S \$1,169.43
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Motion by Melanie Krueger, second by Andy Meyer to approve the Cost-Share Contract for Bucklin 17-03(WWDW-21) C-S \$1,169.43. Motion carried, all yes. Dave Bucklin abstains.

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

Waseca SWCD	WF-MDM-17-81-02	Technical Assistance Wetland Restoration	Cost \$2,153.31
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Motion by Ashley Brenke, second by Melanie Krueger to approve the GBERBA payment – FY2017 BWSR Competitive Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant Agreement (C17-3714) for the Waseca SWCD (CWF-MDM-17-81-02) for Technical Assistance Wetland Creation total cost \$2,153.31. Motion carried, all yes.

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

Blue Earth County	07-02(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning 1 no.	Cost \$2,535.50 C-S \$1,000.00
Blue Earth County	07-03(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning 1 no.	Cost \$2,766.80 C-S \$1,000.00

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Jake Fritz to approve the Cost-Share contract payment for Blue Earth County 07-02(WBIF-WW-21) C-S \$1,000.00 and Blue Earth County 07-03(WBIF-WW-21) C-S \$1,000.00. Motion carried.

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

Waseca County Drainage Authority	WF-MDM-17-81-02	Wetland Restoration – 2.71 ac.	Cost \$80,386.72 C-S \$50,000.00
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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 Wetland Restoration cost-share \$50,000.00. Motion carried, all yes.

Review GBERBA Cost-Share Grant Balances and Financial Report

1W1P Le Sueur River Comprehensive Plan

The Le Sueur 1W1P Planning Partners held a successful public meeting April 4th in Pemberton and are looking forward to seeing the results from the that effort and public survey. Big thank you to the Water Resources Center for planning the event! Planning Partners are currently figuring out what our plan implementation organizational structure will be and are beginning work on the implementation table. Information on updated dues for Steele County/SWCD were presented.

**Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant
Reporting Progress and Comp Plan – Planning Region Reduction Goals**

Ranking Sheet Update

Watonwan Drinking Water Protection Grant – Policy Change

Motion by second by to approve the addition of Other Urban Stormwater Practices to the Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection (Grant 40) with 85% cost-share not to exceed \$5,000 per practice. Motion carried, all yes.

MDH Accelerated Implementation Grant: Groundwater Protection Initiative

If selected the estimated grant start date would be July 1, 2022, with kick-off meeting in August 2022 and the grant end date is June 30, 2023.

CWF Soil Health Grant RFP Update

Discussion.

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 still open. We had a third round of interviews in March. The applicant did not accept the position. The next opportunity to fill the position is May 2022.

☆ 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.

★ **Watowan River Watershed - Implementation Grant**

The GBERBA Technical Committee has reviewed the progress during the first nine months of the Watowan 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. The good crowd attended the midpoint public meeting in Pemberton on April 4, 2022. A survey will also be available to all watershed residents to provide input on current plan content.

GBERBA dues schedule (approved 11-2021) was updated to include Steele County, this is for their information in the event that the Le Sueur Comprehensive Planning group chooses to use GBERBA as their implementation source.

★ **CBF 2020 Watowan 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. A "Protect your drinking water" public information message is playing for one month on KDOM Radio Window. The message is available for other radio stations in the Watowan Watershed.

Request for Policy change to incorporate additional practices under Urban Stormwater category.

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:

MPCA - Paul Davis – Blue Earth WRAPs moving slowly. Have meet with Martin SWCD (Paul and Kim Musser).

Watowan project chart and set up meetings with the members, looking at monitoring and Cycle 2. Le Sueur Cycle 2 ongoing. Conference room is open for meetings at MPCA.

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart – Soil Health grant is due May 9 through elink, 1W1P planning grants are due June 10. SE WCA position is open and looking to be filled by BWSR. Legislative session to close May 17. Assistant Director of Regional Operations starts May 9; Assistant Director of Strategy and Operations is open. New Board Conservationist are coming on board. Capacity grants for 2023 are being discussed at the May BWSR Board meeting.

MN IT-DNR – Rick Moore – Will be sharing the link for members to help with budding out of foliage in the area. Collecting in MN River LiDAR for next year, and on the Policy Board Meeting.

MSU-WRC – Kim Musser – Le Sueur network has a grant that could help with Soil Health grant match. Also, a Soil Health Scientist, would like to anchor a long-term soil health demonstration site (looking for sponsors). Celebration of Water Storage Initiative – MN River Congress Meeting - June 15.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:49 a.m. by Vice Chair Ashley Brenke.

Upcoming Meetings

Technical Committee Meeting	Wednesday, May 25, 2022	9:30 a.m.
Policy Board Meeting	Friday, May 13, 2022	1:00 p.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, June 17, 2022	1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____