

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee
Wednesday, June 22, 2022 – WebEx by Phone or Computer Connection

Present:

Andy Meyer
Dave Bucklin
Laura Quiring
Dan Bartosh
Mark Schaetzke
Breanna Wagner
Jill Sackett Eberhart

Representing:

Brown County
GBERBA Coordinator
Watonwan SWCD
Jackson SWCD
Waseca SWCD
Cottonwood SWCD
BWSR

Present:

Ashley Brenke
Brenda Lageson
Melanie Krueger
Scott Salsbury
Jake Gross
Nathan Harder
Paul Davis

Representing:

Martin SWCD
Freeborn SWCD
Brown SWCD
Blue Earth County
Cottonwood County
Cottonwood SWCD
MPCA

Call to Order: GBERBA Technical Committee was called to order by Chair Andy Meyer the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

Introductions

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

Minutes: Motion by Jake Gross, second by Ashley Brenke to approve the May 25, 2022, Technical Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

Chair Andy Meyer announced resignation as of June 29th.

INFORMATION ACTION:

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

Brad Asendorf 83-16(WBIF-WW-21) Grass Waterway/Grade Stab/WASCOB Cost \$49,902.90 C-S \$26,849.76

Motion by Scott Salsbury, second by Andy Meyer to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Brad Asendorf (WBIF-WW-21-83-16) (\$26,849.76) grass waterway/grade stabilization/wascob. Motion carried, all yes.

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

Mark Sill 83-15(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning – 1 no. Cost \$720.00 C-S \$360.00

Motion by Ashley Brenke, second by Dave Bucklin to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract completion – final payment - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Mark Sill (WBIF-WW-21-83-15) (\$360.00) well decommissioning. Motion carried, all yes.

Review GBERBA Cost-Share Grant Balances and Financial Report

1W1P Le Sueur River Comprehensive Plan

Working on Implementation Table, 9 zones identified. About half way through the planning grant timeline. Still deciding on an entity, Kay will be attending the Policy Meeting on Friday, June 24 in Blue Earth.

Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant

Shoreline Protection and Ranking/Scoring Sheet Discussion– Jake Gross

Plant based protection as opposed to rip-rap. Keep the existing conservation practice 580 (Streambank and Shoreline Protection) and add 327 (Conservation Cover) and 390 (Riparian Herbaceous Cover) to the grant policy practice table (with lifespans) and the ranking sheet under primary practices.

Remove the ‘Score Your Shore’ question on the ranking sheet because it is too bulky of a manual for civilian use and data was not being collected and utilized by the DNR. Because the survey is found in the implementation table, SWCD staff will complete a ‘Score Your Shore’ survey before project implementation and after implementation to track improvements on the lakes in the watershed.

Add 5 ranking points to the proposed ‘Shoreline Protection – CP 327, 390 and 580 primary practice options (replacing 5 points for the ‘Score Your Shore’ question. We will ask for revision of the ranking sheet at the July 15 meeting.

GBERBA will send Katie Wigen the shoreline protection project proposals to make sure we are compliant with the DNR shoreline regulations.

Developing a shoreline protection design worksheet and site evaluation guide to help quantify prices. Not required for use but as a handy tool to justify project costs.

Watonwan Project Tracking

Structural and Management Practices survey link: <https://arcg.is/1ieDzy0>
Education and Outreach link: <https://arcg.is/0Wm0C9>

Create a Shoreline Protection sign (remove GBERBA) and also create a generic Watonwan Watershed Implementation sign for other projects completed near roads or places that could be easily observed.

State of the Watershed Report

Survey 1,2,3 will be completed by July 15 meeting.

Watonwan Drinking Water Protection Grant

No discussion.

MDH Accelerated Implementation Grant: Groundwater Protection Initiative

Grant Supplies \$20,000 Staff Coordination \$1,989 total grant proposal \$21,989.

CWF Soil Health Grant RFP Update

Waiting on BWSR for approval of applications.

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.

In discussions with the MAWQCP Certification Specialists, MN Iowa Corps Staff and MDA Staff, we have decided to forego the 2022 MAWQCP Conservation Corps position. We plan to request a position again for 2023.

☆ Watonwan River Watershed - Implementation Grant

An additional grant report has been completed and will be updated monthly to reflect the funds remaining to be encumbered, by activity, in the implementation grant. We are 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 policy committee is working through what kind of plan administration we would like for implementation. There are pros and cons to using a collaboration or an entity and members have not come to a consensus yet. Our next policy meeting will have this as a main topic. Blue Earth has agreed to help us draft up the wording. The steering team spent a full day working on the implementation table. The table format is organized by practice and then 9 sub-watersheds. Our starting point was the amount of conservation in the watershed in the last ten years plus the anticipated increase in conservation with WBIF. These numbers will change to reflect what is feasible and what the resource goals are. Summary reports from the Midpoint meeting and survey have been put together by WRC and will be reviewed to see if there are any changes suggested by the public.

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.

☆ 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.

The policy change to incorporate additional practices under Urban Storm Water category is complete.

☆ MDH 2022 Watonwan Groundwater Protection Accelerated Implementation Grant

MDH is requesting revisions to the proposal with grant award totaling \$18,480.

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 – WRAPS Blue Earth will be up for review soon.

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart – MASWCD meetings resolutions are due soon. SWCD CREP batching period June 15 – July 18. WCA BWSR contacts have changed. FY23 CWF grants RFP open June 27 and close August 22. Next generation Elink will be introduced at the BWSR Academy in October. GAM updated as of July 1 – please review.

DNR – Katie Wigen – Not in attendance.

DNR-MNIT – Rick Moore – Not in attendance.

MSU-WRC – Kim Musser – Not in attendance.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:10 a.m. by Chair Andy Meyer.

Upcoming Meetings

Policy Board/Technical Committee Meeting	Friday, July 15, 2022	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, August 19, 2022	1:00 p.m.
Technical Committee Meeting	Wednesday, August 24, 2022	9:30 a.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____