

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee
Wednesday, October 19, 2022 – WebEx by Phone or Computer Connection

Present:

Ashley Brenke
Dave Bucklin
Andy Geiger
Melanie Krueger
Haley Johnson
Mark Schaetzke
Nathan Harder
Jill Sackett Eberhart

Representing:

Martin SWCD
GBERBA Coordinator
Jackson County
Brown SWCD
Blue Earth SWCD
Waseca SWCD
Cottonwood SWCD
BWSR

Present:

Kay Gross
Brenda Lageson
Herman Bartsch
Scott Salsbury
Carrie Schultz
Breanna Wagner

Rick Moore

Representing:

Cottonwood County
Freeborn SWCD
Cottonwood SWCD
Blue Earth County
Watonwan SWCD
Cottonwood

DNR MN-IT

Call to Order: GBERBA Technical Committee was called to order by Vice Chair Ashley Brenke the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Introductions

Agenda: Motion by Melanie Krueger, second by Kay Gross to approve the agenda with the addition of the November Joint Meeting topics. Motion carried, all yes

Minutes: Motion by Kay Gross, second by Carrie Schultz to approve the September 28, 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)

Robert & Cynthia Hargis 07-06(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning – 1 no. Cost \$1,839.00 C-S \$919.50

Motion by Andy Geiger, second by Carrie Schultz to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contracts - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Hargis 7-06(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning (\$919.50).
Motion carried, all yes.

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

David Gilman & Amanda 07-02(CWF-WWDW-21) Well Decommissioning – 1 no. Cost \$900.00 C-S \$585.00
Bromeland-Gilman
Henry & Suzanne 07-03(CWF-WWDW-21) Well Decommissioning – 1 no. Cost \$950.00 C-S \$617.00
Harazin

Motion by Carrie Schultz, second by Dave Bucklin to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract final payments FY21 BWSR CWF – Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection Grant Agreement (C21-8921) for Gilman/Bromeland Gilman 07-02(CWF-WWDW-21) Well Decommissioning (\$585.00) and Harazin 07-03(CWF-WWDW-21) Well Decommissioning (\$617.00).
Motion carried, all yes.

Review GBERBA Cost-Share Grant Balances and Financial Report

GBERBA Joint Policy Board - Technical Committee Meeting

WRAPS – Paul Davis
Funding – Future Updates – Justin Hanson
Watonwan Watershed – Where we are to date
Le Sueur Watershed – Mark Schaetzke and Haley Byron
Over – GBERBA – to date
MAWQCP – Climate Smart – Update – Herman Bartsch and Danielle Evers

Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant

Watonwan River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Appendix T and Appendix U.
Appendix T – GBERBA Joint Powers Agreement and By-Laws
Appendix U – By-Laws in the formal agreement (GBERBA) – Evaluating at the 5 year and end of 10 year. That is all written in the plan to satisfy plan requirements. BWSR process is not in there....not an official process at this time...
Reference BWSR process – in the General Administration Manual and review what is in the Watonwan River Comp Plan and combine into a short document.

1W1P Le Sueur River Comprehensive Plan

Le Sueur will be going with a collaboration agreement. Draft plan is being reviewed by the staff and technical advisors. Next steps, draft plan approved by Policy for the 60-day review.

Watonwan Drinking Water Protection Grant

MDH Accelerated Implementation Grant: Groundwater Protection Initiative

Scrolls/Displays, Brochures, Mailings, Radio and Field Day
 Topics – Livestock BMPs, Irrigation BMPs, Nutrient Mgmt., Groundwater Protection BMPs

Rainfall Simulator – Costs

Motion by Melanie Krueger, second by Carrie Schultz to approve the purchase of the Rainfall Simulator by the Policy Board and request using the additional funds needed from GBERBA general operating funds. Total request \$5,697.00. Motion carried.

BWSR CWF- GBERBA Soil Health Implementation – Grant 43

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Melanie Krueger to approve the updated Work Plan and Grant Policy with changes concerning the CRP Incentives as resubmit for BWSR approval. Motion carried.

USDA Information Release Request – please reference both County and GBERBA when requested.

Soil Health updated information will be going out and a request to review allowing \$12,000 of Education/Information funding to be used at four Soil Health Workshops in our area – Hwy 14 (Sleepy Eye and Owatonna) and I-90 (Heron Lake and Fairmont).

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 910,000 acres and over 1250 certified producers statewide! **That is over 1,421 square miles and equals more than Cottonwood and Watonwan counties combined!**

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program has launched four 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.

★ Watonwan River Watershed - Implementation Grant

Working with vendor to update and add pages to the GBERBA website to accommodate the Watonwan River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan and Watershed Based Implementation Funding grants.

As of October 14 (and with confirmation by Technical Committee on October 19), we have encumbered or paid for \$393,931.81 with \$306,545.19 remaining.

Breakdown:	Category	Funding Allotted	Remaining	Encumbered	Paid
	Administration	\$100,157	\$61,659.72		\$38,497.28
	BMPs	\$440,320	\$99,992.31	\$327,959.78	\$12,367.91
	Tech/Eng	\$80,000	\$80,000		
	Project Dev.	\$15,000	\$14,923.50		\$76.50
	Inventory/Map.	\$5,000	\$5,000		
	Planning/Asses.	\$45,000	\$30,000		\$15,000.00
	Education/Infor.	\$15,000	\$14,969.66		\$30.34
	TOTAL	\$700,477	\$306,545.19		
			(44%)		

★ 1W1P Le Sueur River Watershed Comprehensive Plan

The internal review of the first draft of the plan will begin October 6. The Le Sueur River Watershed Policy Committee decided to be a joint powers collaboration. Fiscal will be done by either Waseca County, Waseca SWCD or Blue Earth SWCD.

★ CWF 2020 Watonwan Drinking Water Grant

Request to move funding between categories while staying under the 10% discretionary policy. Request to move \$5,032.82 to be approved by Executive Board on the 14th.

☆ MDH 2022 Watonwan Groundwater Protection Accelerated Implementation Grant

State grant funds total \$21,898 with a grant start date of July 15, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023. The Cottonwood and Watonwan staff have met and will be working on groundwater education/outreach efforts from the Watonwan Comprehensive Watershed Mgmt. Plan. Displays – Livestock, Irrigation, Nutrient Mgmt., and the purchase of a rainfall simulator. Brochures – Livestock, MAWQCP, Irrigation, Nutrient Mgmt., Groundwater Quality. Mailings – MAWQCP, Groundwater and Irrigation, Well and Water Quality Testing, Field Day. The designated priority areas were finalized with maps being drawn up by the Watonwan and Cottonwood staff.

☆ BWSR SOIL HEALTH GRANT

BWSR has awarded GBERBA a Soil Health Implementation Grant totaling \$312,100 with a match requirement of \$31,210.

Work plan and policy have been updated and submitted to BWSR. Policy Board has approved signing the grant agreement, which has been returned to the State. The Executive Board reviewed the Work Plan and Policy in agreement with the Technical Committees final changes.

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 – Watershed plans are being reviewed (big workload). Most Board Conservationists are presenting at BWSR Academy. There are a lot of grants out that need work plans, including Soil Health. Elink next generation will be coming, waiting until after this annual reporting system to roll out the updated version. Audit/review of GBERBA cost-share files on November 16!!!

DNR – Katie Wigen – Not in Attendance

MPCA - Paul Davis – Not in Attendance

DNR-MNIT – Rick Moore – Will be at BWSR Academy and helping present. LiDAR for MN River East and West, several counties have designated funding.

MSU-WRC – Kim Musser – Not in Attendance

The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:37 a.m. by Vice Chair Ashley Brenke.

Upcoming Meetings

Policy Board/Technical Committee Meeting	Friday, November 18, 2022	9:30 a.m.
Technical Committee Meeting	Friday, December 16, 2022	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, December 16, 2022	1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____