

**Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee**  
Friday, December 16, 2022 – WebEx by Phone or Computer Connection

**Present:**

Ashley Brenke  
Dave Bucklin  
Herman Bartsch  
Jake Fritz  
Jesse Walters  
Paul Davis  
Rick Moore

**Representing:**

Martin SWCD  
GBERBA Coordinator  
Cottonwood SWCD  
Blue Earth SWCD  
Martin SWCD  
MPCA  
DNR MN-IT

**Present:**

Kay Gross  
Dan Bartosh  
Melanie Krueger  
Laura Quiring  
Alison Kletscher  
Shaina Keseley

**Representing:**

Cottonwood County  
Jackson SWCD  
Brown SWCD  
Watonwan SWCD  
Brown County  
BWSR

**Call to Order:** GBERBA Technical Committee was called to order by Vice Chair Ashley Brenke the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

**Introductions**

**Agenda:** Motion by Jake Fritz, second by Melanie Krueger to approve the agenda with the addition of Clarification – Shoreland Projection Projects. Motion carried, all yes.

**Minutes:** Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Dan Bartosh to approve the November 18, 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)**

Lorin Helget 08-01(WBIF-WW-21) WASCOD – 1 no. Cost \$15,115.10 C-S \$12,847.84

Motion by Melanie Krueger, second by Jake Fritz to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Helget 08-01(WBIF-WW-21) WASCOD (\$12,847.84).

Motion carried, all yes.

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

Martin SWCD 46-(WBIF-WW021) Project Development – 67 staff hours Payment \$3,133.38  
Education/Information – Postage Payment \$120.00

Motion by Melanie Krueger, second by Dave Bucklin to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share payment - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Martin SWCD 46(WBIF-WW-21) project development (\$3,133.38) and education/information (\$120.00).

Motion carried, all yes.

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

Mitchell Klingsporn 17-02(WBIF-WW-21) Cover Crops – 120 ac 3-yr flat rate Cost \$15,120.00 C-S \$15,120.00  
Summit Farmland IV LLP 83-20(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning – 1 no. Cost \$1,750.00 C-S \$875.00

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Jake Fritz to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract final payments FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Klingsporn 17-02(WBIF-WW-21) Cover Crops (\$15,120.00) and Summit Farmland IV 83-20(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning (\$875.00).

Motion carried, all yes.

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

Joyce Bucklin 17-03(CWF-WWDW-21) Bioretention Basin – 1 no. Cost \$1,531.91 C-S \$1,169.43

Motion by Kay Gross, second by Dan Bartosh to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract payment FY21 BWSR CWF – Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection Grant Agreement (C21-8921) for Bucklin 17-03(CWF-WWDW-21) Bioretention Basin (\$1,169.43). Motion carried, all yes.

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

**Watowan Watershed Implementation Grant**

BWSR Work Plan revision request has been completed and approved by BWSR.  
Request the Technical Committee review or create protocol for shoreland protection projects and cost-share to landowners. If a contractor is following specs and itemizes the bills to specific project it is cost-shareable.

Request to change the project cost-share policy for the Watowan Watershed Implementation Grant

**1W1P Le Sueur River Comprehensive Plan**

Draft plan is being reviewed/approved by Policy for the 60-day review.

**Watowan Drinking Water Protection Grant**

Work Plan revision request to BWSR.

**Request Formal BWSR Work Plan Change**

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

Motion by Melanie Krueger, second by Dan Bartosh to request the Executive Board to approve a formal work plan change for the FY2021 BWSR CWF – Watowan Watershed Drinking Water Protection Grant Agreement (C21-8921) and move funding as follows: Move \$4,250.00 from Urban Storm Water category to Urban Tree Planting category; Move \$3,048.00 from Groundwater Practice category to Urban Tree Planting category; Move \$250.00 from Groundwater Practice category to Drinking Water Events. Categories would be as follows:

Motion carried, all yes

Cover Crops	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
Urban Tree Planting	\$21,732.82	\$29,030.82
Urban Storm Water	\$5,419.43	\$1,169.43
Groundwater Practice	\$5,250.00	\$1,952.00
Promotional Signs	\$343.75	\$343.75
PSAs	\$504.00	\$504.00
Drinking Water Events	\$500.00	\$750.00
Admin	\$9,150.00	\$9,150.00
Totals	\$54,900.00	\$54,900.00

The Events funding will be discussed, with ideas to complete in the coming year.

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

The first mailing is scheduled to go out the first two weeks of January with a focus on Nutrient Management Initiative.

**BWSR CWF- GBERBA Soil Health Implementation – Grant 43**

Program start date 11-7-2022. Herman created a handout to distribute to landowners. Also, MDA will be opening an Equipment Grant in early January.

**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 Watowan 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.

Interviews are being conducted on December 9 for the MN Corps MAWQCP 2023 position.

**★ Watowan River Watershed - Implementation Grant**

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

As of November 18, we have encumbered or paid for \$393,931.81 with \$306,545.19 remaining.

<b>Breakdown:</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Funding Allotted</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>Encumbered</b>	<b>Paid</b>
	Administration	\$100,157	\$53,373.89		\$46,783.11
	BMPs	\$440,320	\$99,992.31	\$322,289.78	\$18,037.91
	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
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$700,477</b>	<b>\$298,259.36</b>		
			<b>(43%)</b>		

Formal requesting to BWSR for a work plan change and move \$70,000 from Technical/Engineering to Agricultural Practices and also recording our previous category funding changes.

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

The Le Sueur 1W1P Policy Committee will review the Draft Plan at their meeting on December 15 and decide whether to initiate the 60-day comment period for plan review agencies and the public.

**☆ CWF 2020 Watonwan Drinking Water Grant**

Updated project funding in each category with funds still available to encumber.

**☆ 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. Request the purchase of a rainfall simulator with additional funding coming from GBERBA general fund (\$5,697) with \$5,000 in grant funds. WebEx project update on Thursday, December 8 at 10:30 a.m.

**☆ 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 approved by BWSR and the grant agreement was executed on November 7, 2022.

**Staff Report:**

**Area 6 Certification Specialist** – Herman Bartsch – Written Report

**Area 5 Certification Specialist** – Danielle Evers – Written Report

**Conservation Corp Member** – No Staff at this time

**Agency Reports:**

**BWSR** – Shania Keseley – BWSR approved the CWF grants, Elink reporting in January, Elink (next gen) will be rolled out in February/March.

**DNR** – Katie Wigen – Not in Attendance

**MPCA** - Paul Davis – Blue Earth TMDL at EPA for review, still working on the WRAPS. Watonwan Cycle II moving forward and have some additional sites. Le Sueur, behind, TMDL work is starting. How does Cycle II and Le Sueur 1W1P work together.

**DNR-MNIT** – Rick Moore – LiDAR status grants have been accepted for MN River East and West. Flying will take place spring of 2023.

**MSU-WRC** – Kim Musser – Not in Attendance

The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:20 a.m. by Vice Chair Ashley Brenke.

**Upcoming Meetings**

Policy Board Meeting	Friday, January 13, 2023	1:00 p.m.
Technical Committee Meeting	Wednesday, January 25, 2023	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, February 17, 2023	1:00 p.m.

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