

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee
Wednesday, August 24, 2022 – WebEx by Phone or Computer Connection

Present:

Ashley Brenke
Dave Bucklin
Laura Quiring
Dan Bartosh
Carrie Schultz
Mark Schaetzke
Allison Kletscher
Jill Sackett Eberhart
Shaina Keseley
John King

Representing:

Martin SWCD
GBERBA Coordinator
Watonwan SWCD
Jackson SWCD
Watonwan SWCD
Waseca SWCD
Brown County
BWSR
BWSR
Commissioner Le Sueur County

Present:

Kay Gross
Brenda Lageson
Melanie Krueger
Shane Johnson
Jake Fritz
Andy Geiger
Haley Johnson
Katie Wigen

Representing:

Cottonwood County
Freeborn SWCD
Brown SWCD
Faribault SWCD
Blue Earth SWCD
Jackson County
Blue Earth SWCD
DNR

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 Kay Gross to approve the agenda with the addition of Tennesen Warning and Grant 40 Policy Update. Motion carried, all yes

Minutes: Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Jake Fritz to approve the July 15, 2022, Technical Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION ACTION:

Tennesen Warning

Motion by Ashley Brenke, second by Shane Johnson to approve the signing of Tennesen Warning by each contract holder for all GBERBA cost-share contracts. Motion carried, all yes.

Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant

Cost-Share Policy and Ranking Sheet Interpretation

Reviewed PTMap and project locations (if in direct contact or protecting surrounding, adjacent area does meet 10 point score on ranking sheet).

Providing cost-share at 85% with in increase to 95% of total project costs if additional non-state funding; clarification that WBIF funding will only cost-share up to 85% of total project costs, which is how our cost-share workbook is set up.

Web Site Update

Will be working to build additional pages to the GBERBA website in highlighting Watonwan River Comprehensive Watershed Management and WBIF funding.

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

Paul Bergling	83-19(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning – 1 no.	Cost \$500.00	C-S \$250.00
Summit Farmland IV	83-20(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning – 1 no.	Cost \$3,000.00	C-S \$1,000.00
Conor Kranz	83-21(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning – 1 no.	Cost \$895.00	C-S \$447.50
Ken Oldenborg	07-05(WBIF-WW-21) Cover Crops – 45 ac.	Cost \$5,670.00	C-S \$5,670.00
Jason Smith	83-22(WBIF-WW-21) WASCOB – 1 no.	Cost \$64,672.00	C-S \$35,940.40
Jason Smith	83-23(WBIF-WW-21) Grass Waterway – 2.52 ac.	Cost \$17,505.00	C-S \$10,140.75
Jason Smith	83-24(WBIF-WW-21) WASCOB – 1 no.	Cost \$20,820.00	C-S \$12,348.00
Dan & Cassie Warwick	83-25(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning – 1 no.	Cost \$1,200.00	C-S \$600.00

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Ashley Brenke to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contracts - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Bergling 83-19(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning (\$250.00); Summit Farmland IV 83-20(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning (\$1,000.00); Kranz 83-21(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning (\$447.50); Oldenborg 07-03(WBIF-WW-21) Cover Crops (\$5,670.00); Smith 83-22(WBIF-WW-21) WASCOB (\$35,940.40); Smith 83-23(WBIF-WW-21) Grass Waterway (\$10,140.75); Smith 83-24(WBIF-WW-21) WASCOB (\$12,348.00) and Cassie Warwick 83-25(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning (\$600.00). Motion carried, all yes.

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

Henry & Suzanne 07-03(CWF-WWDW-21) Well Decommissioning – 1 no. Cost \$2,575.00 C-S \$750.00
Harazin

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Jake Fritz to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract FY21 BWSR CWF – Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection Grant Agreement (C21-8921) for Harazin 07-03(CWF-WWDW-21) Well Decommissioning (\$750.00). Motion carried, all yes.

MDM Plan Professional Agreement Final Payment – FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483)

Cottonwood County Ditch 21 and WBIF-WW-21 Multipurpose Drainage ISG Cost \$9,500.00
Cottonwood/Watonwan Judicial Ditch No. 1 Management Plan

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Melanie Krueger to approve the Multipurpose Drainage Management Plan Professional Agreement through FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) final payment to ISG totaling \$9,500.00 for Cottonwood County Ditch No. 21 and Cottonwood/Watonwan Judicial Ditch No. 1. Motion carried, all yes.

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

Larry Salzwedel 17-03(WBIF-WW-21) Grass Waterway 131 ft/Diversion 225 ft Cost \$2,959.30 C-S \$2,515.41

Motion by Jake Fritz, second by Melanie Krueger, to approve the final contract payment foFY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Salzwedel 17-03(WBIF-WW-21) Grass Waterway/Diversion (\$2,515.41). Motion carried, all yes.

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

City of Windom 17-02(CWF-WWDW-21) Tree/Shrub Planting – 60 no. Cost \$6,000.00 C-S \$5,000.00

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Ashley Brenke to approve the final payment FY21 BWSR CWF – Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection Grant Agreement (C21-8921) for City of Windom 17-02(CWF-WWDW-21) Tree/Shrub Planting (\$5,000.00). Motion carried, all yes.

Review GBERBA Cost-Share Grant Balances and Financial Report

1W1P Le Sueur River Comprehensive Plan

Still working on the implementation table and reviewing. Goal that the draft implementation table will go to the policy board this Friday. Still on hold for administration, working on some new concepts.

Watonwan Drinking Water Protection Grant

Motion by Ashley Brenke, second by Dave Bucklin to approve the Grant Policy Update for Converting Turf to High Quality Natives category deleting the Maximum Cost \$300/acre Maximum Cost-Share \$225/acre to 85% of estimated project cost NTE \$2,500 per project. This will go to Policy for final approval in September. Motion carried, all yes.

MDH Accelerated Implementation Grant: Groundwater Protection Initiative

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

CWF Soil Health Grant

We have been approved for the Soil Health Grant totaling \$312,100 and we will be working to complete a work plan and grant policy for approval in September.

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 858,786 acres and over 1234 certified producers statewide! **That is over 1,259 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**

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. First State of the Watershed Report has been distributed. Mid-year Elink reporting for this grant is completed and submitted to BWSR. Discussion on cost-share and percentages, and how this related to BWSR workbook for applications.

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

The policy committee is working through what kind of plan administration they would like for implementation, with Tom Appel and Kay Gross joining their meeting on June 24 to help explain and answer questions about GBERBA. 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 choses to use GBERBA as their implementation source.

★ **CWF 2020 Watonwan Drinking Water Grant**

The grant funding is available to encumber through 2023. 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**

Chairman Tom Appel through DocuSign signed the formal grant agreement from the MN Department of Health. The grant agreement was formally approved at the July GBERBA Policy Board Meeting. State grant funds total \$21,898 with a grant start date of July 15, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023.

★ **BWSR Soil Health Grant**

Awaiting funding status from BWSR.

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 – Busy month for the BWSR Board. 1W1P appointing the next round of funding for planning grants with Cottonwood/Little Cottonwood Watershed poised for approval to start this fall. FY23 SWCD Local Capacity and Buffer Grants are going to board for approval. NRBG has been approved and out for payment. FY23 SSTS are still on hold and awaiting MPCA finalization. Soil Health Grants will be approved by the Board.

CWF – 52 applications Projects and Practices - \$25 million, 8 applications Drinking Water - 1 million; 5 applications MDM - \$650,000, 3 Soil Health applications totaling \$800,000.

DNR – Katie Wigen – No Report

MPCA - Paul Davis – Not in Attendance

DNR-MNIT – Rick Moore – Not in Attendance

MSU-WRC – Kim Musser – Not in Attendance

The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:30 a.m. by Vice Chair Ashley Brenke.

Upcoming Meetings

Policy Board Meeting	Friday, September 23, 2022	1:00 p.m.
Technical Committee Meeting	Wednesday, September 28, 2022	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, October 14, 2022	1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____