

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee
Wednesday, September 28, 2022 – WebEx by Phone or Computer Connection

Present:

Ashley Brenke
Dave Bucklin
Laura Quiring
Dan Bartosh
Carrie Schultz
Al Gleisner
Jill Sackett Eberhart

Representing:

Martin SWCD
GBERBA Coordinator
Watonwan SWCD
Jackson SWCD
Watonwan SWCD
Brown SWCD
BWSR

Present:

Kay Gross
Brenda Lageson
Melanie Krueger
Haley Johnson
Mark Schaetzke
Allison Kletscher
Paul Davis

Representing:

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

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 Melanie Krueger, second by Kay Gross to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried, all yes

Minutes: Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Al Gleisner to approve the August 24, 2022, Technical Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION ACTION:

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

Ronald Thiessen 83-13(WBIF-WW-21)	Grass Waterway	New Cost \$21,425.80	C-S \$18,211.93
	Increase in construction materials/excavation		Increase in C-S \$3,982.93

Motion by Kay Gross, second by Melanie Krueger to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract amendment - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Thiessen (WBIF-WW-21-83-13) increase in cost-share \$3,982.93 for a total cost-share encumbered \$18,211.93. Cost increase in construction materials and excavation need to complete the project. Motion carried.

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

Neil Kietzer	83-26(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning – 1 no.	Cost \$895.00	C-S \$447.50
Dustin Harrold	17-04(WBIF-WW-21)	Grass Waterway – 400 ft.	Cost \$7,600.00	C-S \$6,460.00

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Al Gleisner to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Kietzer (WBIF-WW-21-83-26) (\$447.50) Well Decommissioning, Harrold (WBIF-WW-21-17-04) (\$6,460.00) Grass Waterway. Motion carried.

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

Watonwan County Ditch 1	WBIF-WW-21	Multipurpose Drainage ISG Management Plan	Cost \$5,500.00
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Motion by Ashley Brenke, 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 \$5,500.00 for Watonwan County Ditch No. 1. Motion carried.

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

JD Tippin	17-01(WBIF-WW-21)	Grass Waterway – 4.1 ac.	Cost \$51,649.14	C-S \$6,050.00
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Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Brenda Lageson to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract final payment - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Tippin 17-01(WBIF-WW-21) (\$6,050.00). Motion carried.

Review GBERBA Cost-Share Grant Balances and Financial Report

Tennessen Warning

Discussion on legal counsel response. Do not use Tennessen Warning because no private information is requested, sign a Classification of Data statement with landowners.

Watowan Watershed Implementation Grant

Updating website to include all Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan and Watershed Based Implementation Funding activities.

1W1P Le Sueur River Comprehensive Plan

The Le Sueur Policy Committee did decide to go with a collaboration and will decide in the future who will be the fiscal and administrative contacts for the group. A full plan is now ready for review by the Policy Committee, October-November moving toward 60-day review.

Watowan Drinking Water Protection Grant

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Ashley Brenke to approve moving \$5,032.82 in funds to the Urban Forestry category from Converting Turf to High Quality Natives, Well Decommissioning and Promotional Signage. This will go to Executive for final approval in October. Motion carried, all yes.

MDH Accelerated Implementation Grant: Groundwater Protection Initiative

Committee meeting is set for October 4 (Cottonwood and Watowan staff) to review workplan and set a schedule for activities.

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.

BWSR CWF- GBERBA Soil Health Implementation – Grant 43

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

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 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.

★ 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 September 28, we have encumbered or paid for \$386,552.31 with \$313,924.69 remaining.

Breakdown:	Category	Funding Allotted	Remaining	Encumbered	Paid
	Administration	\$100,157	\$61,659.72		\$38,497.28
	BMPs	\$440,320	\$107,371.81	\$320,580.28	\$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	\$313,924.69	\$320,580.28	
			(45%)		

☆ 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. THINGS ARE MOVING ALONG!!! Great Job, and if you need anything don't hesitate to ask!!!

☆ 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.

Table and explanation attached.

☆ 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. Within the next few weeks an informational meeting will be held for the local staff on grant implementation throughout the Watonwan Watershed.

☆ BWSR SOIL HEALTH GRANT

BWSR has awarded GBERBA a Soil Health Implementation Grant totaling \$312,100 with a match requirement of \$31,210. At this time a work plan and policy have been written and submitted to BWSR. Policy and Work Plan were reviewed by the Policy Board on September 23, with approval to sign grant agreement, after the approval of both the Work Plan and Policy by the Technical Committee and 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 – FY23 grants went to the August BWSR Board Meeting including, Counties (NRBG-SSTS), SWCD Capacity and Buffer Law, round one Soil Health Grants, Soil Health Cost-Share Grants and watershed 1W1P planning grants are all now available! Registration for BWSR Academy open until next week. Elink session – nothing specific for the next generation.

DNR – Katie Wigen – Not in Attendance

MPCA - Paul Davis – Blue Earth WRAPS – thanks to the staff in helping. Watonwan project chart of accounts, set up meeting with Watonwan Watershed counties review cycle 2.

DNR-MNIT – Rick Moore – Not in Attendance

MSU-WRC – Kim Musser – Not in Attendance

The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:14 a.m. by Vice Chair Ashley Brenke.

Upcoming Meetings

Executive Board Meeting	Friday, October 14, 2022	1:00 p.m.
Technical Committee Meeting	Wednesday, October 19, 2022	9:30 a.m.
Policy Board/Technical Committee Meeting	Friday, November 18, 2022	9:30 a.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____