

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee
Wednesday, March 22, 2023 – WebEx by Phone or Computer Connection

Present:

Kay Gross
Dan Bartosh
Brooke Judd
Melanie Krueger
Laura Quiring
Mark Schaetzke
Carrie Schultz
Jill Sackett Eberhart
Kim Musser
Paul Davis
Steve Sodeman

Representing:

Cottonwood County
Jackson SWCD
Jackson SWCD
Brown SWCD
Watowan SWCD
Waseca SWCD
Watowan SWCD
BWSR
MSU-WRC
MPCA
Watowan SWCD Supervisor

Present:

Dave Bucklin
Jesse Walters
Brenda Lageson
Jake Fritz
Scott Salsbury
Breanna Wagner
Anna Fairbanks
Kiah Sagami
Rick Moore

Representing:

GBERBA Coordinator
Martin SWCD
Freeborn SWCD
Blue Earth SWCD
Blue Earth County
Cottonwood SWCD
MN/IA Conservation Corps
Houston Engineering Inc.
DNR MN-IT

Call to Order: GBERBA Technical Committee was called to order by Technical Coordinator Dave Bucklin at 9:34 a.m.
Introductions

Agenda: Motion by Jake Fritz, second by Scott Salsbury to approve the agenda with additions. Motion carried, all yes.

Minutes: Motion by Dan Bartosh, second by Jake Fritz to approve the February 17, 2023, Technical Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION ACTION:

Vice Chair Position - Tabled

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

Dustin Harold	17-04(WBIF-WW-21)	Grass Waterway	C-S \$6,460.00
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Motion by Melanie Krueger, second by Scott Salsbury to approve the cancellation of GBERBA Cost-Share contract - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watowan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Dustin Harrold (WBIF-WW-21-17-04) Grass Waterway (\$6,460.00).
Motion carried, all yes.

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

Mike Lynch	83-31(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning – 1 no.	Cost \$975.00	C-S \$487.50
Jay Grandprey	31-01(WBIF-WW-21)	Conservation Cover - .012 ac.	Cost \$1,198.41	C-S \$1,018.65
Kim & Curt Peterson	31-02(WBIF-WW-21)	Conservation Cover – 0.05 ac.	Cost \$3,635.32	C-S \$3,090.02
Steph & Jim Smith	31-03(WBIF-WW-21)	Conservation Cover – 0.10 ac.	Cost \$4,630.00	C-S \$3,935.50
Brian & Joan Heger	31-04(WBIF-WW-21)	Conservation Cover – 0.004 ac.	Cost \$1,273.00	C-S \$1,082.05
Richard McMullen	17-05(WBIF-WW-21)	Cover Crops – 70 ac/Flat Rate/3 years	Cost \$7,350.00	C-S \$7,350.00

Motion by Jake Fritz, second by Melanie Krueger to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watowan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Mike Lynch (WBIF-WW-21-83-31) Well Decommissioning (\$487.50) Jay Grandprey (WBIF-WW-21-31-01) Conservation Cover (\$1,018.65), Kim & Curt Peterson (WBIF-WW-21-31-02) Conservation Cover (\$3,090.02), Steph & Jim Smith (WBIF-WW-21-31-03) Conservation Cover (\$3,935.50) and Brian & Joan Heger (WBIF-WW-21-31-04) Conservation Cover (\$1,082.05) and Richard McMullen (WBIF-WW-21-17-05) Cover Crops (\$7,350.00).
Motion carried, all yes.

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

Mt. Lake Golf Course	17-05(CWF-WWDW-21)	Midway 32 Tree/Shrub Establishment–70#	Cost \$6,000.00	C-S \$5,020.00
City of Windom	17-06(CWF-WWDW-21)	Great Bend 25 Tree/Shrub Est–250#	Cost \$6,000.00	C-S \$5,000.00

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Melanie Krueger to approve the GBERBA cost-share contracts FY2021 BWSR CWF – Watowan Watershed Drinking Water Protection Grant Agreement (C21-8921) for Mt. Lake Golf Course (CWF-WWDW-21-17-05) Tree/Shrub Establishment (\$5,020.00) and City of Windom (CWF-WWDW-21-17-06) Tree/Shrub Establishment (\$5,000.00).
Motion carried, all yes.

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

Hayden Fast 83-01(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning Cost \$850.00 C-S \$425.00

Motion by Melanie Krueger, second by Scott Salsbury to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract final payment FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Hayden Fast 83-01(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning (\$425.00).

Motion carried, all yes.

Review GBERBA Cost-Share Grant Balances
Financial Report and United Prairie Bank

10:00 a.m. – BWSR PTMApp Initiative – Kiah Sagami, Houston Engineering Inc.

As part of BWSR PTMApp initiative they are looking to get the state PTMApp products updated to the newest toolbar that has the NRCS practices. With this we are asking these watersheds if they want to update and possible add more priority resource points to make sure they are capturing areas of interest on their watershed. We are also asking if there are any lakes of interest that want to be taken into account through the improved lake routing process with in PTMApp. And last what cost they would like to use as part of the output. This new dataset will then be put up on the PTMApp web for the watersheds to use in the future. This new data will allow the web users to use more functionality with in PTMApp web that is not currently available due to the legacy data.

For those that want some more information BWSR has a learning center where there are several short video's that help describe what some of these functionalities in PTMApp web are.

Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant

MS4Front – Comprehensive Plan and WBIF Tracking System

Will set up a demonstration by Brian Fisher, HEI, at the next Technical Meeting.

Ranking Sheet – Meeting Expectations

Discussion

BWSR – Jill Sackett-Eberhart

Sixty percent of WBIF grant is encumbered and paid out at this time. The ask for FY24 funding request will be needed before July 2023. Need to get the Steering Team together to discuss next 3 years. BWSR is not sure if extensions will be given.

1W1P Le Sueur River Comprehensive Plan

Policy committee meeting monthly, prepping for implementation, and working on the agreement. Public hearing (Pemberton) Friday, March 24, with final draft to go to the state soon. State comments have been addressed.

Watonwan Drinking Water Protection Grant

Water Testing Event in each Watonwan Watershed County

MDH Accelerated Implementation Grant: Groundwater Protection Initiative

Extension June 28, 2024. Rainfall Simulator has arrived and assembled.

BWSR CWF- GBERBA Soil Health Implementation – Grant 43

The first training for JAA was held on Tuesday, February 14 and will focus on Crop Rotation, No-Till, Reduce Till, RUSLE and WEPS – 11 GBERBA staff members were in attendance. NRCS just announced a cover crop training for JAA with sites in Marshall, MN on Monday, March 27 or Austin, MN on Friday, March 31.

Hwy-14 and I90 CLASIC (Crop, Livestock and Soil Innovation Conferences) workshops have been completed and we are working with those groups on invoicing.

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.

A new incentive has been approved by the Technical Committee and Executive Board to get landowner referrals from local agronomists and pay an incentive if the referral results in a MAWQCP worksheet completion. Incentive would be \$50/referral and worksheet completion or \$100/referral and certification completion.

★ **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 Water Based Implementation Funding grants.

As of March 17, we have encumbered or paid for \$419,959.47 with \$280,517.53 remaining.

Breakdown:	Category	Funding Allotted	Remaining	Encumbered	Paid
	Administration	\$100,157	\$46,925.78		\$53,231.22
	BMPs	\$510,320	\$161,851.97	\$312,812.62	\$35,555.41
	Tech/Eng.	\$10,000	\$10,000		
	Project Dev.	\$15,000	\$11,790.12		\$3,209.88
	Inventory/Map.	\$5,000	\$5,000		
	Planning/Asses.	\$45,000	\$30,000		\$15,000.00
	Education/Infor.	\$15,000	\$14,849.66		\$150.34
	TOTAL	\$700,477	\$280,517.53	\$312,812.62	\$107,146.85
			(40%)		

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

The Le Sueur 1W1P document is out for 60-day comment. Waseca County Staff will continue to act as coordinator for the 1W1P effort for implementation and Waseca SWCD will do the fiscal coordination. The group will be working on Joint Powers Collaboration, By-laws, and policy for implementation.

★ **CWF 2020 Watonwan Drinking Water Grant**

The Work Plan Revision request submitted to BWSR, response received with discussion at GBERBA Technical meeting. The Technical Committee has the updated Grant Policy. GBERBA staff are planning a Drinking Water Testing event for this summer.

★ **MDH 2022 Watonwan Groundwater Protection Accelerated Implementation Grant**

First mailing is being sent out as of January 1, with an emphasis on MN Nutrient Management Initiative through the MN Department of Agriculture. Approximately 1,218 letters and brochures were sent out by Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, Martin and Watonwan SWCDs/Counties. Working on a one-year extension from MN Department of Health with end date of June 28, 2024.

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.

★ **BWSR Soil Health Grant**

Program start date 11-7-2022. NRCS announced a cover crop training for JAA, please sign-up as soon as possible! Finalizing all Soil Health Workshops, Heron Lake and Fairmont (I90) and Owatonna and Sleepy Eye (Hwy14).

Staff Report:

Area 6 Certification Specialist – Herman Bartsch – Written Report

Area 5 Certification Specialist – Danielle Evers – Written Report

Conservation Corp Member – Anna Fairbanks – Written Report

Agency Reports:

BWSR – Jill Sackett-Eberhart – Legislature is in session, this Friday is the deadline for the bills having authors and committee hearing. SWCD Aid, Soil Health and Water Storage Grant Funding. Water storage grant RFP is open. BWSR Board meeting 1W1P planning grants will be approved and opening in the near future. LCCMR gave BWSR some funding focusing on CRP plans. For continuous CRP sign-ups hoping to send out in July. (Per watersheds that have a locally adopted comp plan). Work loads and open communication with TSAs for future work.

DNR – Katie Wigen – Not in Attendance

MPCA - Paul Davis – Watonwan monitoring meeting will be upcoming. Blue Earth is close to going public comments. Public notice is being done differently, so Paul will send out by email.

DNR-MNIT – Rick Moore – Left early

MSU-WRC – Kim Musser – Left early

The meeting was declared adjourned at 12:26 p.m. by Technical Coordinator Dave Bucklin.

Upcoming Meetings

Executive Board Meeting	Friday, April 14, 2023	1:00 p.m.
Technical Committee Meeting	Wednesday, April 26, 2023	9:30 a.m.
Policy Board Meeting	Friday, May 19, 2023	1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____