

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee
Wednesday, April 26, 2023 – WebEx by Phone or Computer Connection

Present:

Kay Gross
Ashley Brenke
Dan Bartosh
Melanie Krueger
Carrie Schultz
Breanna Wagner
John Shea
Rick Moore
Katie Wigen

Representing:

Cottonwood County
Martin SWCD
Jackson SWCD
Brown SWCD
Watonwan SWCD
Cottonwood SWCD
BWSR
DNR MN-IT
DNR

Present:

Dave Bucklin
Allison Kletscher
Scott Salsbury
Al Gleisner
Laura Quiring
Anna Fairbanks
Brian Fischer
Paul Davis

Representing:

GBERBA Coordinator
Brown County
Blue Earth County
Brown SWCD
Watonwan SWCD
MN/IA Conservation Corps
Houston Engineering Inc.
MPCA

Call to Order: GBERBA Technical Committee was called to order by Chair Ashley Brenke at 9:08 a.m.
Introductions

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

Minutes: Motion by Scott Salsbury, second by Dan Bartosh to approve the March 22, 2023, Technical Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION ACTION:

Vice Chair Position

Motion by Kay Gross second by Dan Bartosh to nominate Dan Bartosh as the Vice Chair of the Technical Committee. Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA FY2022 BWSR CWF – Soil Health Implementation Grant Agreement (C22-6072)

Dan Bebernes	46-01(CWF-SH-22)	CRP Incentive – 1.61 ac.	Incentive \$322.00
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Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Ashley Brenke to approve the GBERBA Incentive Conservation Activity Reimbursement Contract FY22 BWSR CWF – Soil Health Implementation Grant (C22-6072) for Bebernes 46-01(CWF-SH-22) CRP Incentive (\$322.00).
Motion carried, all yes.

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

Curt Janzen	17-06(WBIF-WW-21)	Grade Stabilization – 1 no.	Cost \$4,500.00	C-S \$3,825.00
Dustin Harold	17-07(WBIF-WW-21)	WASCOB – 3 no.	Cost \$31,600.00	C-S \$15,000.00

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 Curt Janzen (WBIF-WW-21-17-06) Grade Stabilization (\$3,825.00) and Dustin Harold (WBIF-WW-21-17-07) WASCOBs (\$15,000.00).
Motion carried, all yes.

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

Gary Dannhoff	83-07(WBIF-WW-21)	WASCOB – C-S Increase	Increase \$3,706.85	New C-S \$15,402.85
Gary Dannhoff	83-08(WBIF-WW-21)	WASCOB – C-S Increase	Increase \$7,098.35	New C-S \$32,638.30
Gary Dannhoff	83-09(WBIF-WW-21)	WASCOB – C-S Increase	Increase \$9,405.25	New C-S \$40,314.65
Gary Dannhoff	83-11(WBIF-WW-21)	WASCOB – C-S Increase	Increase \$9,316.77	New C-S \$35,989.77
Gary Dannhoff	83-12(WBIF-WW-21)	WASCOB – C-S Increase	Increase \$7,381.66	New C-S \$30,573.06

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Carrie Schultz to approve the cost-share contract amendments FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Gary Dannhoff 83-07(WBIF-WW-21) WASCOB (\$15,402.85); Gary Dannhoff 83-08(WBIF-WW-21) WASCOB (\$32,638.30); Gary Dannhoff 83-09(WBIF-WW-21) WASCOB (\$40,314.65); Gary Dannhoff 83-11(WBIF-WW-21) WASCOB (\$35,989.77) and Gary Dannhoff 83-12(WBIF-WW-21) WASCOB (\$30,573.06).
Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA FY2022 BWSR CWF – Soil Health Implementation Grant Agreement (C22-6072)

Brown SWCD	CWF-SH-22	Education Information – Soil Health Workshop – 50 attendees	\$3,803.07
Freeborn SWCD	CWF-SH-22	Education Information – Soil Health Workshop – 125 attendees	\$3,197.15
Jackson SWCD	CWF-SH-22	Education Information – Soil Health Workshop – 55 attendees	\$3,663.38
Martin SWCD	CWF-SH-22	Education Information – Soil Health Workshop – 40 attendees	\$2,826.64
Cottonwood SWCD	CWF-SH-22	Education Information – JAA Training Soil Health – 11 GBERBA	\$409.54

Motion by Kay Gross, second by Dan Bartosh to approve the GBERBA Incentive Conservation Activity Reimbursement Contract FY22 BWSR CWF – Soil Health Implementation Grant (C22-6072) for Brown SWCD (\$3,803.07); Freeborn SWCD (\$3,197.15); Jackson SWCD (\$3,663.38); Martin SWCD (\$2,826.64) and Cottonwood SWCD (\$409.54). Motion carried, all yes.

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

10:00 a.m. – Presentation – MS4Front – Brian Fischer, HEI

Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant

MS4Front – Comprehensive Plan and WBIF Tracking System

MS4Front	Subscription	\$6,000 (Yearly)	WBIF Funding – Move to Administration
	Configuration	\$7,000 (One Time)	Drainage Mgmt Plans \$15,000
End Product #1	Dashboard for Progress	\$5,000 (One Time)	Whole Farm Plans \$ 5,700
End Product #2	Printable Summary	\$2,700 (One Time)	Total \$20,700
	Total	\$20,700	

Motion by Carrie Schultz, second by Scott Salsbury to approve the recommendation to the Policy Board to purchase MS4Front at a cost of \$20,700 and move grant 41 policy funding from Drainage Mgmt Plans (\$15,000) and Whole Farms Plans (\$5,700) . Motion carried, all yes.

Second Round of Funding – Request – August/September

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.

Second Round of Funding – Purchase – BEAST - \$7,500

1W1P Le Sueur River Comprehensive Plan

Policy Committee meeting to send on to the 90-day review. Working on the collaboration agreement and all that entails.

Watonwan Drinking Water Protection Grant

Water Testing Event in each Watonwan Watershed County – Summer Activity

MDH Accelerated Implementation Grant: Groundwater Protection Initiative

Groundwater Focus Brochure – Utility Bill Stuffer or Mailing – Month of May

BWSR CWF- GBERBA Soil Health Implementation – Grant 43

Focus on promotion of grant.

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 920,000 acres and over 1300 certified producers statewide! **That is double the land size in Blue Earth County!** The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program has endorsements in addition to certification. 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 April 14, we have encumbered or paid for \$419,959.47 with \$280,517.53 remaining.

Breakdown:	Category	Funding Allotted	Remaining	Encumbered	Paid
	Administration	\$100,157	\$36,629.71		\$63,527.29
	BMPs	\$510,320	\$108,079.37	\$366,685.22	\$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	\$216,348.86	\$366,685.22	\$117,442.92
			(31%)	(69%)	

★ **1W1P Le Sueur River Watershed 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.

★ **CFW 2020 Watonwan Drinking Water Grant**

The Drinking Water Grant is in its final year. The grant deadline is 12/31/2023. We are on target to finish the grant and use all funds available. Will focus on a summer event for water testing (testing will be paid for locally) and the grant will focus on advertising the event.

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

State grant funds total \$21,898 with a grant start date of July 15, 2022 and now ending June 28, 2024.

A utility bill stuffer and advertisements (focusing on groundwater) will be completed during the month of May for Drinking Water Week May 7 – 13. Watonwan County has 2,865 residents and Cottonwood County has 845 residents, working with Brown, Blue Earth, Jackson, and Martin on their efforts.

★ **BWSR Soil Health Grant**

Program start date 11-7-2022. Under education, Soil Health Workshops in Heron Lake, and Fairmont (I90) and Owatonna and Sleepy Eye (Hwy14) and a NRCS cover crop training for JAA are complete. Promotional efforts are now focusing on the available incentives for cover crops, no/strip-till, manure management, and CRP.

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

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GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting
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Agency Reports:

BWSR – John Shea – Email on RIPE program and contact John if interested. Blue Earth 1W1P leads will be Ashley Brenke (financial) Nathan Carr (administration), will be putting in a request to plan.

DNR – Katie Wigen – Not in attendance

MPCA - Paul Davis – Thanks for attending the monitoring meeting for the Watonwan. Blue Earth WRAPS and TMDL going for public notice on May 8 (30-day comment period). Working on Le Sueur second cycle – will be contacting offices.

DNR-MNIT – Rick Moore – Left early

MSU-WRC – Kim Musser – Not in attendance

The meeting was declared adjourned at 10:52 a.m. by Technical Committee Chair Ashley Brenke.

Upcoming Meetings

Technical Committee Meeting	Wednesday, May 24, 2023	9:30 a.m.
Policy Board Meeting	Friday, May 19, 2023	1:00 p.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, June 16, 2023	1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____