

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee
Friday, December 15, 2023 – WebEx by Phone or Computer Connection

<u>Present:</u>	<u>Representing:</u>	<u>Present:</u>	<u>Representing:</u>
Kay Gross	Cottonwood County	Dave Bucklin	GBERBA Coordinator
Ashley Brenke	Martin SWCD	Dan Bartosh	Jackson SWCD
Melanie Krueger	Brown SWCD	Becky Buchholz	Cottonwood SWCD
Alison Kletcher	Brown County	Jerad Bach	Blue Earth SWCD
Nathan Harder	Cottonwood SWCD	Breanna Wagner	Cottonwood SWCD
Eric Miller	Waseca County	Jake Fritz	Blue Earth SWCD
Laura Quiring	Watowan SWCD	Brooke Judd	Jackson SWCD
Jesse Walters	Martin SWCD	Jacob VanRyswyk	Watowan SWCD
Jill Sackett Eberhart	BWSR	Anna Fairbanks	MN/IA Conservation Corps
Adam Beilke	BWSR	Paul Davis	MPCA
Dusty Van Thuyne	BWSR	Jason Beckler	BWSR
John Shea	BWSR	John Lohre	DNR

Call to Order: GBERBA Technical Committee was called to order by Chair Ashley Brenke at 9:34 a.m.

Introductions

Agenda: Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Jerad Bach to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

Minutes: Motion by Jerad Bach, second by Dan Bartosh to approve the November 17, 2023, Technical Committee Meeting (and Policy Board) minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION ACTION:

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

Wesley Beck	83-04(WBIF-WW-21)	Cover Crop Contract	Cost-Share Unencumbered	\$9,520.00
David Beck	83-05(WBIF-WW-21)	Cover Crop Contract	Cost-Share Unencumbered	\$8,182.44
R & C Hargis	07-06(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning Contract	Cost-Share Unencumbered	\$1,000.00
Curt Janzen	17-06(WBIF-WW-21)	Grade Stabilization Contract	Cost-Share Unencumbered	\$3,825.00

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Jerad Bach to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Cancellations - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watowan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) Wesley Beck 83-04(WBIF-WW-21) \$9,520.00; David Beck 83-05(WBIF-WW-21) \$8,182.44; R & C Hargis 07-06(WBIF-WW-21) \$1,000.00 and Curt Janzen 17-06(WBIF-WW-21) \$3,825.00. Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Approval - FY2023 BWSR CWF – Soil Health Grants – GBERBA Soil Health Implementation Grant Agreement (C22-6072)

Rock Anderson	83-01(CWF-SH-22)	CRP Incentive – 32.82 ac.	Incentive	\$2,000.00
Rock Anderson	83-02(CWF-SH-22)	CRP Incentive – 3.0 ac.	Incentive	\$600.00
Gerald Eckstein	83-03(CWF-SH-22)	CRP Incentive – 11.2 ac.	Incentive	\$2,000.00
Gerald Eckstein	83-04(CWF-SH-22)	CRP Incentive – 0.6 ac.	Incentive	\$120.00

Motion by Melanie Krueger, second by Kay Gross to approve the for GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Approval - FY2023 BWSR CWF – Soil Health Grants – GBERBA Soil Health Implementation Grant Agreement (C22-6072) Rock Anderson 83-01(CWF-SH-22) CRP Incentive (\$2,000.00); Rock Anderson 83-02(CWF-SH-22) CRP Incentive (\$600.00); Gerald Eckstein 83-03(CWF-SH-22) CRP Incentive (\$2,000.00) and Gerald Eckstein 83-04(CWF-SH-22) CRP Incentive (\$120.00). Motion carried, all yes.

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

WBIF-WW-21-83-02	Leota Hall Trust	Well Decommissioning	Install Date to 12-31-24	Cost-Share	\$525.00
WBIF-WW-21-83-03	Randy Romsdahl	Well Decommissioning	Install Date to 12-31-24	Cost-Share	\$562.50
WBIF-WW-21-83-06	Byron Christenson	Well Decommissioning	Install Date to 12-31-24	Cost-Share	\$450.00
WBIF-WW-21-83-07	Gary Dannhoff	WASCOB	Increase in C-S \$63.75	Cost \$18,196.00	C-S \$15,466.60
WBIF-WW-21-83-08	Gary Dannhoff	WASCOB	Increase in C-S \$255.00	Cost \$38,698.00	C-S \$32,893.30
WBIF-WW-21-83-11	Gary Dannhoff	WASCOB	Increase in C-S \$544.00	Cost \$42,980.90	C-S \$36,533.77
WBIF-WW-21-83-12	Gary Dannhoff	WASCOB	Increase in C-S \$272.00	Cost \$36,288.30	C-S \$30,845.06
WBIF-WW-21-83-17	Bernetta Hess	Well Decommissioning	Install Date to 12-31-24	Cost-Share	\$450.00
WBIF-WW-21-83-16	Brad Asendorf	GStab-WASCOB-GW	Install Date to 12-31-24	Cost-Share	\$26,849.76
WBIF-WW-21-83-22	Jason Smith	WASCOB	Install Date to 12-31-24	Cost-Share	\$35,940.40
WBIF-WW-21-83-23	Jason Smith	Grass Waterway	Install Date to 12-31-24	Cost-Share	\$10,140.75
WBIF-WW-21-83-24	Jason Smith	WASCOB	Install Date to 12-31-24	Cost-Share	\$12,348.00

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WBIF-WW-21-08-01	Lorin Helget	WASCOB	Install Date to 12-31-24		
WBIF-WW-21-08-01	Lorin Helget	WASCOB	Increase in C-S \$9,202.73	Cost \$25,941.85	C-S \$22,050.57
WBIF-WW-21-83-27	Chad Lange	Well Decomm.	Increase in C-S \$30.00	Cost \$525.00	C-S \$232.50
WBIF-WW-21-83-31	Mike Lynch	Well Decommissioning	Install Date to 12-31-24	Cost-Share	\$487.50
WBIF-WW-21-17-07	Dustin Harrold	WASCOBs	Increase Project Cost \$532.50	C-S	\$15,000.00
WBIF-WW-21-83-32	Robbe Carlson	Well Decommissioning	Install Date to 12-31-24	Cost-Share	\$750.00
WBIF-WW-21-17-08	R & G Hoek	Grass Waterway	Install Date to 12-31-24	Cost-Share	\$18,000.00
WBIF-WW-21-83-33	Roger Schmiesing	Grade Stabilization	Install Date to 12-31-24	Cost-Share	\$19,215.10
WBIF-WW-21-83-34	Trevor Jensen	Well Decommissioning	Install Date to 12-31-24	Cost-Share	\$663.75
WBIF-WW-21-83-35	Emily Norland	Conservation Cover	Install Date to 12-31-24	Cost-Share	\$7,383.95
WBIF-WW-21-83-36	Travis Elg	Conservation Cover	Install Date to 12-31-24	Cost-Share	\$4,061.51
WBIF-WW-21-32-06	Monica Maurer	Conservation Cover	Install Date to 12-31-24	Cost-Share	\$3,995.00

Motion by Kay Gross, second by Melanie Krueger to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract amendments - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for the above-mentioned contracts (17) to change the install/completion date from 12-31-2023 to 12-31-2024. All contracts can be signed by Chairman Clark Lingbeek or GBERBA Administrative Coordinator Kay Gross on or before December 31, 2023 or they will be considered cancelled. Also amending the following contracts for an increase in cost-share funding including WBIF-WW-21-83-07 Gary Dannhoff WASCOB Increase in C-S \$63.75 Cost \$18,196.00 C-S \$15,466.60; WBIF-WW-21-83-08 Gary Dannhoff WASCOB Increase in C-S \$255.00 Cost \$38,698.00 C-S \$32,893.30; WBIF-WW-21-83-11 Gary Dannhoff WASCOB Increase in C-S \$544.00 Cost \$42,980.90 C-S \$36,533.77; WBIF-WW-21-83-12 Gary Dannhoff WASCOB Increase in C-S \$272.00 Cost \$36,288.30 C-S \$30,845.06; WBIF-WW-21-08-01 Lorin Helget WASCOB Increase in C-S \$9,202.73 Cost \$25,941.85 C-S \$22,050.57; WBIF-WW-21-83-27 Chad Lange Well Decomm. Increase in C-S \$30.00 Cost \$525.00 C-S \$232.50; WBIF-WW-21-17-07 Dustin Harrold WASCOBs Increase Project Cost \$532.50 C-S \$15,000.00. Motion carried, all yes.

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

Cottonwood SWCD	CWF-WWDW-21	Drinking Water Protection – Well Testing Ad	Cost \$270.00
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Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Melanie Krueger to approve the GBERBA payment - GBERBA Payment - FY2021 BWSR CWF – Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection Grant Agreement (C21-8921) Cottonwood SWCD CWF-WWDW-21 Drinking Water Protection – Well Testing Ad (\$270.00). Motion carried, all yes.

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

Gary Dannhoff	83-07(WBIF-WW-21)	WASCOB	Cost \$18,196.00	C-S \$15,466.60
Gary Dannhoff	83-08(WBIF-WW-21)	WASCOB	Cost \$38,698.00	C-S \$32,893.30
Gary Dannhoff	83-09(WBIF-WW-21)	WASCOB	Cost \$47,429.00	C-S \$40,314.65
Gary Dannhoff	83-10(WBIF-WW-21)	WASCOB	Cost \$36,492.30	C-S \$31,018.46
Gary Dannhoff	83-11(WBIF-WW-21)	WASCOB	Cost \$42,980.90	C-S \$36,533.77
Gary Dannhoff	83-12(WBIF-WW-21)	WASCOB	Cost \$36,288.30	C-S \$30,845.06
Chad Lange	83-27(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning	Cost \$525.00	C-S \$262.50
Chad Lange	83-28(WBIF-WW-21)	Well Decommissioning	Cost \$850.00	C-S \$425.00
Richard McMullen	17-05(WBIF-WW-21)	Cover Crops	Cost \$7,350.00	C-S \$7,350.00
Dustin Harrold	17-07(WBIF-WW-21)	WASCOBS	Cost \$32,132.50	C-S \$12,970.66

Motion by Jerad Bach, second by Dan Bartosh to approve the GBERBA Final Payment Approval - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Gary Dannhoff 83-07(WBIF-WW-21) WASCOB (\$15,466.60); Gary Dannhoff 83-08(WBIF-WW-21) WASCOB (\$32,893.30); Gary Dannhoff 83-09(WBIF-WW-21) WASCOB (\$40,314.65); Gary Dannhoff 83-10(WBIF-WW-21) WASCOB (\$31,018.46); Gary Dannhoff 83-11(WBIF-WW-21) WASCOB (\$36,533.77); Gary Dannhoff 83-12(WBIF-WW-21) WASCOB (\$30,845.06); Chad Lange 83-27(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning (\$262.50); Chad Lange 83-28(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning (\$425.00); Richard McMullen 17-05(WBIF-WW-21) Cover Crops (\$7,350.00); Dustin Harrold 17-07(WBIF-WW-21) WASCOBS (\$12,970.66). Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Final Payment - FY2023 BWSR CWF – Soil Health Grants – GBERBA Soil Health Implementation Grant Agreement (C22-6072)

Bob Priebe 81-01(CWF-SH-22) Cover Crops – 40 acres/3 years. Incentive \$4,440.00

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Melanie Krueger to approve the for GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Final Payment - FY2023 BWSR CWF – Soil Health Grants – GBERBA Soil Health Implementation Grant Agreement (C22-6072) Bob Priebe 81-01(CWF-SH-22) Cover Crops (\$4,440.00). Motion carried, all yes.

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

Karson Duncanson 07-01(CWF-WWDW-21) Cover Crops – 150 acres Cost \$5,625.00 C-S \$3,656.25

Motion by Jerad Bach, second by Dave Bucklin to approve the GBERBA payment - GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Final Payment - FY2021 BWSR CWF – Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection Grant Agreement (C21-8921) Karson Duncanson 07-01(CWF-WWDW-21) Cover Crops (\$3,656.25). Motion carried, all yes.

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

Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant #41

Extension Request (Approved by BWSR – with new grant ending date of 12-31-2024)

Second round of Amendments approved Tech and Executive Board 12-15-2023.

Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant #45

Request for Funding – Work Plan Approved – Grant Agreement Executed – Awaiting 50% payment

WBIF – 1,136,479 – 50% payment – \$568,239.50

1W1P Le Sueur River Planning/Implementation – Eric Miller

WBIF approved for funding on December 1, 2023 for \$1,355,873. Policy Board discussions continue to update the grant policy in January. CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Blue Earth River Watershed 1W1P Planning Grant

Policy committee has met once and the steering team has been meeting regularly.

Watonwan Drinking Water Protection Grant

All funds expended, the remaining \$1,831.67 was moved to Administration and paid out. Reporting will be completed by January 15, 2024

MDH Accelerated Implementation Grant: Groundwater Protection Initiative

Working on the completion of the Testing Well Water posters.

CWF Soil Health Implementation Grant #43 Update

Information/Database for Soil Health Farm Activities – Web Based Platform (Committee).

Also, working on grant revision if deemed necessary by Technical Committee.

BWSR – CRP State Incentive Pilot Program Grant #44 – Watonwan Watershed - \$30,000

Discussion with Technical Committee and BWSR staff Dusty VanThuyne and Jason Beckler. (Handout sent out)

Motion by Jerad Bach, second by Kay Gross to approve moving forward with our bid concept program and work with a subcommittee to move forward with work plan policies. Motion carried, all yes. Committee members Becky Buchholz, Jerad Bach, Jesse Walters and Watonwan representative.

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. **MAWQCP HAS ONE MILLION ACRES CERTIFIED WITH 1,400 PRODUCERS STATEWIDE.** That equals nearly 4% of all farm ground in Minnesota.

Contract for 24-25 is completed and will be signed totaling \$523,116.

★ **Watonwan River Watershed - Implementation Grant – 2021-2024**

As of December 15, we have encumbered or paid \$614,841.30 with \$85,635.70 remaining. Extension approved to 12-31-2024.

Breakdown:	Category	Funding Allotted	Remaining	Encumbered	Paid
	Administration	\$120,857	\$20,207.79		\$100,649.21
	BMPs	\$515,557.31	\$44,509.17	\$178,873.79	\$292,174.35
	Tech/Eng.	\$5,300	\$4,937.30		\$362.70
	Project Dev.	\$14,762.69	\$0.00		\$14,762.69
	Inventory/Map.	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
	Planning/Asses.	\$29,000	\$3,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$15,000.00
	Education/Infor.	\$15,000	\$12,981.44		\$2,018.56
	TOTAL	\$700,477	\$85,635.70	\$189,873.79	\$424,967.51
			(12%)	(88%)	

★ **Watonwan River Watershed - Implementation Grant – 2023-2026**

Work plan completed and grant agreement executed. Awaiting first fifty percent payment of \$568,239.50.

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

Eric Miller, Waseca County, is the Day-to-Day Administration and Waseca SWCD is the Fiscal Agent for the Le Sueur 1W1P with the Comprehensive Plan approved and moving forward into the implementation phase.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Eric has been working, the past several weeks, on reviewing comments from the Steering Team regarding the cost share policy and budget. The Policy Committee will meet in early November to review what we have put together and approve the Fiscal Agent submitting the request to BWSR. Hope to have everything submitted and approved in time to receive funding by the start of the calendar year.

★ **Blue Earth Watershed 1W1P Planning Grant**

The scheduled date for the first Technical and Policy meeting was November 29, 2023. This Planning effort includes the counties of Faribault, Freeborn, Martin, Blue Earth, Jackson, and the City of Fairmont.

★ **CBF 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 most funds available.

★ **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.

Groundwater banners are complete – two related to nutrient management and one focusing on groundwater in general.

★ **BWSR Soil Health Grant**

Program start date 11-7-2022. Promotional efforts are now focusing on the available incentives for cover crops, no/strip-till, manure management, and CRP. Bringing together a Soil Health Committee to look at potential educational efforts for GBERBA.

Also, will be meeting with Technical Committee to reflect on the grant. How we can implement more contracts for this grant.

CRP Incentive discussions are ongoing.

★ **BWSR – CRP State Incentive Pilot Program – Watonwan Watershed**

Funding requested for the Watonwan Watershed (\$30,000) with an end date of December 31, 2025. We will be working on a work plan for this funding. Eligible activities include administration and incentive payment to landowners for Continuous CRP enrollments. No match required. Will be working with watershed members to complete a policy and work plan.

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, John Shea, Adam Beilke, Dusty Van Thuyne
Working Lands grant will have an RFP out next week. RIM Enhancement Program has been initiated additional funding will also be available. CWF update latest round at BWSR Board Meeting approximately \$10 million in applications approved. Soil Health Staffing grant open until February 8. Virginia Tech Grant has the RFP open until February 8, 3.5 million. One hundred dollar per acre and animal unit will be paid by Virginia Tech. Reporting deadline February 1st.

DNR – John Lore – Left Meeting

MPCA - Paul Davis – Le Sueur WRAPS survey was sent out, please respond.

MSU-WRC – Kim Musser – Not in attendance.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:47 a.m. by Technical Committee Chair Ashley Brenke.

Upcoming Meetings

Policy Board Meeting	Friday, January 12, 2024	1:00 p.m.
Technical Committee Meeting	Wednesday, January 24, 2024	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, February 16, 2024	1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____