

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee
Wednesday, February 28, 2024 – WebEx by Phone or Computer Connection

Present:

Dave Bucklin
Eric Miller
Mel Krueger
Paul Davis
Allison Kletscher
Nathan Harder
Brooke Judd
Jacob VanRyswyk
Mark Schaetske

Representing:

GBERBA Coordinator
Waseca County
Brown SWCD
MPCA
Brown County
Cottonwood SWCD
Jackson SWCD
Watowan SWCD
Waseca SWCD

Present:

Dan Bartosh
Haley Johnson
Laura Quiring
Ashley Brenke
Kim Musser
Adriene Matthews
John Shea
Carrie Schultz
Jerad Bach

Representing:

Jackson
Blue Earth SWCD
Watowan SWCD
Martin SWCD
MSU-WRC
Conservation Corps
BWSR
Watowan SWCD
Blue Earth SWCD

Call to Order: GBERBA Technical Committee was called to order by Chair Ashley Brenke at 9:35 a.m.

Introductions

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

Minutes: Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Dan Bartosh to approve the January 24, 2024 (correction to year at top of first page), Technical Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION ACTION:

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Approval - FY2024 (2.0) BWSR WBIF-Watowan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C24-0092)

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

Brad Asendorf	83-06(CWF-SH-22)	CRP Incentive – 0.74 ac.	Incentive \$148.00
Harold Wolle	83-07(CWF-SH-22)	CRP Incentive – 10 ac (55.85 ac CRP)	Incentive \$2,000.00
Harold Wolle	83-08(CWF-SH-22)	CRP Incentive – 0.5 ac	Incentive \$100.00

Motion by Mel Krueger, second by Dan Bartosh to approve the for GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Approval - FY2023 BWSR CWF – Soil Health Grants – GBERBA Soil Health Implementation Grant Agreement (C22-6072) Brad Asendorf 83-06(CWF-SH-22) CRP Incentive (\$148.00); Harold Wolle 83-07(CWF-SH-22) CRP Incentive (\$2,000.00); Harold Wolle 83-08(CWF-SH-22) CRP Incentive (\$100.00).

Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Incentive Voucher 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
David Engelbrecht	83-05(CWF-SH-22)	CRP Incentive – 0.74 ac	Incentive \$148.00
Brad Asendorf	83-06(CWF-SH-22)	CRP Incentive – 0.74 ac.	Incentive \$148.00
Harold Wolle	83-07(CWF-SH-22)	CRP Incentive – 10 ac (55.85 ac CRP)	Incentive \$2,000.00
Harold Wolle	83-08(CWF-SH-22)	CRP Incentive – 0.5 ac	Incentive \$100.00

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Melanie Krueger to approve the for GBERBA Incentive Voucher 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); Gerald Eckstein 83-04(CWF-SH-22) CRP Incentive (\$120.00); David Engelbrecht 83-05(CWF-SH-22) CRP Incentive (148.00); Brad Asendorf 83-06(CWF-SH-22) CRP Incentive (\$148.00); Harold Wolle 83-07(CWF-SH-22) CRP Incentive (\$2,000.00); Harold Wolle 83-08(CWF-SH-22) CRP Incentive (\$100.00).

Motion carried, all yes.

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

Discussion needed regarding state and non-state funds when non-state funds don't make up the other 10% (Hoek). Doesn't matter, 95% even if our state funding goes above 85%. Need to talk to Julie Krebs about how to write amendment for Hoek and what our contracts should look like for the future contracts. Overall consensus that it's whatever it takes to get 95% total.

**Review GBERBA Cost-Share Grant Balances
Financial Report – Not reviewed at this meeting**

Watowan Watershed Implementation Grant #41

Printed Plans and Appendixes are now available.

Brochures are done.

Ranking Sheet Update – Urban Practices – Committee Report – Nathan Harder, Ashley Brenke, Carrie Schultz, Becky Buchholz

Watowan Watershed Implementation Grant #45

Ranking Sheet Update – Non-Structural Practices – Forestry – Vegetative Management

Add No-till, Strip-Till to practice list – and giving 10 points – so it will be stacking on the ranking sheet.

Committee – Committee Report – Nathan Harder, Ashley Brenke, Carrie Schultz,

Becky Buchholz

Tennessean and W9 required for Flat Rate and Incentive Contracts

1W1P Le Sueur River Implementation – Eric Miller and Mark Schaezke- Report

The Le Sueur WBIF now has an approved workplan and the grant agreement has been signed. Our local cost share policy was approved at the January Policy Advisory Committee meeting. There are a couple of practices that were included in the policy as “placeholders.” The Implementation Team needs to hash out the details a little bit on those, but generally we have a solid foundation to build from for starting to implement the Plan.

Blue Earth River Watershed 1W1P Planning Grant – Nathan Carr

Interviewing HEI, Barr, and ISG on February 26th. The 60 day comment period on the plan ends March 8th so the kickoff meeting will be the next step after the consultant is selected.

MDH Accelerated Implementation Grant #42: Groundwater Protection Initiative

Well Water posters completed and ready for districts to pick them up. We can bring them in March.

CWF Soil Health Implementation Grant #43 Update

Contract with MSU-Water Resources Center – Approved for Development by Policy Board. Signed by GBERBA.

Deliverables – Handout

Will be County Wide – 10 GBERBA Counties

Second JAA Training Completed Windom – February 13 and February 27 Mankato

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

Workplan has been approved. Grant agreement has been executed. Work can begin.

Discussion on Priority A sites and should Blue Earth be in charge of working on those regardless of county location or have individual districts contact those landowners

Priority B ranking sheet review

Incentive formula review

Tennessean Warning & W9 required

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Carrie Schultz to approve the Priority B ranking sheet.

Motion carried, all yes.

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.

We have signed the contract for 2024-2025 to MDA totaling \$523,116.00. Adriene Matthews has accepted the GBERBA MAWQCP 2024 Conservation Corp position. She will start on January 29.

☆ **Watonwan River Watershed - Implementation Grants**

WBIF(21) as of February 28, we have encumbered or paid for \$624,312.36 with \$76,164.64 remaining.

Breakdown:	Category	Funding Allotted	Remaining	Encumbered	Paid
	Administration	\$120,857	\$6,530.81		\$114,326.19
	BMPs	\$515,557.31	\$51,914.79	\$144,658.69	\$318,983.83
	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	\$2,255.52	\$11,000	\$15,744.48
	Education/Infor.	\$15,000	\$10,526.22		\$4,473.78
	TOTAL	\$700,477	\$76,164.64	\$155,658.69	\$468,653.67
			(11%)	(89%)	

WBIF(24) as of February 28, we have encumbered or paid for \$710.00 with \$1,135,769 remaining.

Breakdown:	Category	Funding Allotted	Remaining	Encumbered	Paid
	Administration	\$120,000	\$120,000		\$0
	BMPs	\$811,479	\$810,769	\$710.00	\$0
	SSTS Incentive	\$100,000	\$100,000		\$0
	Tech/Eng.	\$20,000	\$20,000		\$0
	Project Dev.	\$65,000	\$65,000		\$0
	Planning/Asses.	\$10,000	\$10,000		\$0
	Education/Infor.	\$10,000	\$10,000		\$0
	TOTAL	\$1,136,479	\$1,135,769	\$710.00	\$0
			(>99%)	(<1%)	

☆ **Le Sueur River Watershed Implementation Grant – Eric Muller**

☆ **Blue Earth Watershed 1W1P Planning Grant – Nathan Carr**

Interviewing HEI, Barr, and ISG on February 26th. The 60 day comment period on the plan ends March 8th so the kickoff meeting will be the next step after the consultant is selected.

☆ **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. Well testing poster boards are completed and will be here this month. We will bring them to the March Tech and Policy meeting in Mankato, please try to have a staff member or supervisor bring them back to your office.

☆ **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. **CRP Incentive discussions are ongoing. A committee is working on the potential options.** Policy Board approved entering into a contract with MSU-WRC to help implement our Education/Outreach efforts to landowners throughout the 10-county area. Second JAA Training Completed Windom – February 13 and February 27 Mankato.

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

Funding requested for the Watonwan Watershed (\$30,000) with an end date of December 31, 2025. Executive Board approved the workplan and policy on February 16. Workplan was submitted to BWSR and approved, we are waiting on the final grant agreement execution.

Staff Report:

Area 6 Certification Specialist – Herman Bartsch – Written Report

Area 5 Certification Specialist – Danielle Evers – Written Report

Conservation Corp Member – Adriene Matthews – Written Report

Agency Reports:

BWSR – John Shea – Virginia Tech Alliance RFP reopened due to lack of applications.

DNR – John Lore – Not in attendance

MPCA - Paul Davis – Will be getting in touch with Watonwan watershed counties for cycle 2 work and will have a survey and follow up visit.

MSU-WRC – Kim Musser – Left early

PAGE 4
GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting
February 28, 2024

The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:13 a.m. by Technical Committee Chair Ashley Brenke.

Upcoming Meetings

Policy Board Meeting	Friday, March 15, 2024	1:00 p.m.
Technical Committee Meeting	Wednesday, March 15, 2024	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, April 12, 2024	1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____