

**Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee**  
 Friday, March 15, 2024 – Blue Earth SWCD Meeting Room, Mankato, MN  
 WebEx by Phone or Computer Connection

**Present:**

Kay Gross  
 Ashley Brenke  
 Becky Buchholz  
 Dan Bartosh  
 Brooke Judd  
 Alison Kletcher  
 Breanna Wagner  
 Paul Davis  
 Adam Beikle

**Representing:**

Cottonwood County  
 Martin SWCD  
 Cottonwood SWCD  
 Jackson SWCD  
 Jackson SWCD  
 Brown County  
 Cottonwood SWCD  
 MPCA  
 BWSR

**Present:**

Dave Bucklin  
 Brenda Lageson  
 Eric Miller  
 Herman Bartsch  
 Mark Schaetzke  
 Haley Johnson  
 Laura Quiring  
 Jill Sackett Eberhart  
 Kim Musser

**Representing:**

GBERBA Coordinator  
 Freeborn SWCD  
 Waseca County  
 MAWQCP Area 6  
 Waseca SWCD  
 Blue Earth SWCD  
 Watonwan SWCD  
 BWSR  
 MSU-WRC

**Call to Order:** GBERBA Technical Committee was called to order by Chair Ashley Brenke at 9:42 a.m.

**Introductions**

**Agenda:** Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Eric Miller to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

**Minutes:** Motion by Kay Gross, second by Dan Bartosh to approve the February 28, 2024, Technical Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

**INFORMATION ACTION:**

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

Richard Hoek 17-08(WBIF-WW-21) Grass Waterway Cost \$14,860.00 C-S \$12,631.00

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Haley Johnson to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract final payment FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Richard Hoek 17-08(WBIF-WW-21) Grass Waterway (\$12,631.00). Motion carried, all yes.

**Moving Cost-Share Funding Categories - FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483)**

Richard Hoek 17-08(WBIF-WW-21) Slippage = \$5,369.00 Need \$26,862 in Ag Practices – Move \$11,113.76

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Ashley Brenke to approve the moving of \$11,113.76 from \$4,937.30 from Engineering and \$6,176.46 Shoreland to Agricultural Practices FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483). This is done at discretion of GBERBA as under the \$50,000 threshold. Motion carried, all yes.

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

Grover Family Farm 7-07(WBIF-WW-21) Grass Waterway – (3) 3.38 ac. Cost \$31,6030.00 C-S \$26,862.00

Motion by Haley Johnson, second by Eric Miller to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract FY2021 BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C21-2483) for Grover Family Farm 7-07(WBIF-WW-21) Grass Waterways (\$26,862.00). Motion carried, all yes.

**GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Final Payment - 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 – 55.85 ac.	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 Kay Gross to approve the for GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Final Incentive Payments - FY2023 BWSR CWF – Soil Health Grants – GBERBA Soil Health Implementation Grant Agreement (C22-6072) Rock Anderson 83-01(CWF-SH-22) \$2,000.00; Rock Anderson 83-02(CWF-SH-22) \$600.00; Gerald Eckstein 83-03(CWF-SH-22) \$2,000.00; Gerald Eckstein 83-04(CWF-SH-22) \$120.00; David Engelbrecht 83-05(CWF-SH-22) \$148.00; Brad Asendorf 83-06(CWF-SH-22) \$148.00; Harold Wolle 83-07(CWF-SH-22) \$2,000.00; Harold Wolle 83-08(CWF-SH-22) \$100.00. Motion carried, all yes.

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

**Soil Tunnel Demonstration**

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Ashley Brenke to approve purchasing the soil health tunnel using WBIF and Soil Health education funding for \$3,795 plus shipping of \$450.00. Motion carried, all yes.

**Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant #41**

Move funding – between categories (motion above)

**Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant #45**

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

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Ashley Brenke to approve the updated ranking sheet for Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant #45 (WBIF 2.0).

Motion carried, all yes.

**Discussion of State & Non-State Funds Cost-Share Portions (and 100% payment)**

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Ashley Brenke to approve for Grant 45 Watonwan Watershed Implementation WBIF 2.0) the cost-share rates will be calculated at a true 85%, 95% and 100%. When additional non-state funds are approved technical staff will use professional judgement when verifying those funds. An updated cost-share workbook will be developed, and new cost-share amounts will be vetted by BWSR staff. Motion carried, all yes.

**1W1P Le Sueur River Implementation – Eric Miller - Report**

Funding has been received, awaiting contract documents to start encumbering. Also working on an upcoming CRP incentive grant.

**Blue Earth River Watershed 1W1P Planning Grant – Ashley Brenke**

See Coordinator Report (Below).

**MDH Accelerated Implementation Grant #42: Groundwater Protection Initiative**

See Coordinator Report (Below).

**CWF Soil Health Implementation Grant #43 – Herman Bartsch and Kim Musser**

Update on Education Activities with Water Resource Center.

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

Fifty-six sites (20-30 landowners) on the Priority A listing. This list will be going out to the SWCDs for talking with those landowners.

Motion by Haley Johnson, second by Eric Miller 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. Ongoing program budget through 2025.

☆ **Watowan River Watershed - Implementation Grants**

WBIF(21) as of February 28, we have encumbered or paid for \$626,274.45 with \$74,202.55 remaining.

<b>Breakdown:</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Funding Allotted</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>Encumbered</b>	<b>Paid</b>
	Administration	\$120,857	\$3,824.24		\$117,032.76
	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	\$3,000.00	\$10,255.52	\$15,744.48
	Education/Infor.	\$15,000	\$10,526.22		\$4,473.78
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$700,477</b>	<b>\$74,202.55</b>	<b>\$154,914.21</b>	<b>\$471,360.24</b>
				<b>(11%)</b>	<b>(89%)</b>

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

<b>Breakdown:</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Funding Allotted</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>Encumbered</b>	<b>Paid</b>
	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
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,136,479</b>	<b>\$1,135,769</b>	<b>\$710.00</b>	<b>\$0</b>
				<b>(&gt;99%)</b>	<b>(&lt;1%)</b>

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

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 was a placeholder left in our cost share for perennial cover, and as an Implementation Team we have been able to work through how we want that policy to look and will be bringing the amendment to the Policy Advisory Committee in April. Just a couple more things for the staff to iron out and we will be ready to rock and roll.

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

The Blue Earth River One Watershed just approved Houston Engineering to be our consultant for the planning process. Rachel Olm will be the facilitator and planning lead for the project. We are currently working on planning our public kickoff meeting that is going to be held in late May.

☆ **MDH 2022 Watowan 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 we will bring them to the March Tech and Policy meeting in Mankato. At this time, we have expended \$16,267.89 of which \$1,799.16 was project coordination by Watowan Co/SWCD (admin).

☆ **BWSR Soil Health Grant**

Promotional efforts are focusing on the available incentives for cover crops, no/strip-till, manure management, and CRP. **CRP Incentive discussions are ongoing, the committee is working on the potential options.** The Policy Board contracted with MSU-WRC to help implement our Education/Outreach efforts to landowners throughout the 10-county area total amount \$47,00 which includes indirect costs of \$2,660.00. Second JAA Training Completed Windom – February 13 and February 27 Mankato.

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

Funding requested for the Watowan Watershed (\$30,000) with an end date of December 31, 2025. The Executive Board approved the workplan and policy on February 16. Workplan was submitted to BWSR and approved, and the grant agreement is executed. Work can now begin on Priority A and Priority B offers.

**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** – Jill Sackett Eberhart and Adam Beikle – Bonding year for BWSR and working on those initiatives. Going to Clean Water Council for some items. Clean Water Council and Legislator have never allocated funds during a bonding year so time will tell. Grant reporting season. MDM batching period is April 1. Water storage grants open and close in April. Grant reporting seeing a lot of missing information.

**DNR** – John Lore – Not in attendance

**MPCA** - Paul Davis – Middle of writing Cyle 2 Report for Le Sueur – not seeing a lot of changes. Looking at 1W1P areas to see if there are changes. Also not things aren't getting worse...and also our climate patterns. Watonwan watershed survey to send out and looking toward Cycle 2 Report.

**MSU-WRC** – Kim Musser – Soil Health Meeting – FarmAmerica, March 20<sup>th</sup> RSVP today to Kim or Mark S.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:44 a.m. by Technical Committee Chair Ashley Brenke.

**Upcoming Meetings**

Policy Board Meeting	Friday, March 15, 2024	1:00 p.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, April 12, 2024	1:00 p.m.
Technical Committee Meeting	Friday, April 24, 2024	9:30 a.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_