

# Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee

Wednesday, January 26, 2011 Blue Earth County Ag Service Center, Mankato, MN

## **Present:**

David Bucklin  
Darlene Kukuczka  
Michele Stindtman  
Don Flatness  
Mark Leiferman  
Cathy Thiesse  
Bruce Johnson  
Jill Sackett  
John Billings  
Lauren Michelsen  
Paul Davis  
Matt Drewitz

## **Representing:**

GBERBA/Cottonwood SWCD  
GBERBA  
Faribault SWCD  
Freeborn SWCD  
Waseca County  
Martin SWCD  
Watsonwan County  
U of M/Rural Advantage  
Blue Earth SWCD  
WFDNR Watershed Coordinator  
MPCA  
BWSR

## **Present:**

Kay Clark  
Kathy Smith  
Dick Hoffman  
Rich Perrine  
Jerad Bach  
Marla Watje  
Julie Conrad  
Brooke Hacker  
Omid Mohseni  
Carissa Spencer  
Chris Hughes

## **Representing:**

GBERBA  
Martin SWCD  
Freeborn County  
Martin SWCD  
Blue Earth SWCD  
Waseca SWCD  
Blue Earth County  
Blue Earth SWCD/GBERBA  
BARR Engineering  
NRCS Fairmont Field Office  
BWSR

**Call to Order:** Kathy Smith called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM.

**Agenda:** Motion by Jerad Bach, second by Don Flatness to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

**Minutes:** Motion by Dick Hoffman, second by Jerad Bach to approve the December 15, 2010 minutes as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

## **Old Business:**

**Cost-Share Projects for Payment:** None.

**MPCA In-Kind** – Darlene Kukuczka

## **CWMA Cost-Share Projects:**

Blue Earth SWCD/Eagle Scout	Original Project Cost	\$2,000.00	Cost-Share	\$1,500.00
Amendment Increase Cost \$502.00	New Project Cost	\$2,502.00	Cost-Share	\$1,877.00

Motion by Don Flatness, second by Michele Stindtman to approve the Cost-Share Amendment for CWMA Project Blue Earth SWCD/Eagle Scout Project totaling \$502.00 total project cost of \$2,502.00. Motion carried, all yes.

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Dick Hoffman to approve the final cost-share payment for CWMA Project Blue Earth SWCD/Eagle Scout totaling \$1,877.00. Motion carried, all yes.

Blue Earth SWCD/City of Mankato	Original Project Cost	\$2,010.00	Cost-Share	\$1,500.00
Amendment Increase Cost \$1,198.44	New Project Cost	\$3,208.44	Total C-S	\$2,400.00

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Cathy Thiesse to approve the Cost-Share Amendment for CWMA Project Blue Earth SWCD/City of Mankato Project totaling \$1,198.44 total project cost of \$3,208.44. Motion carried, all yes

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Michele Stindtman to approve the final cost-share payment for CWMA Project Blue Earth SWCD/City of Mankato totaling \$2,400.00. Motion carried, all yes.

## **Coordinator Report:** Dave Bucklin/Kay Clark

Completing grant reporting for BWSR and MPCA Grants FY 2008 – 2010 and writing narratives for newly funded grants. Requesting information for each completed cost-share project in 2010 for entry into E-link.

GBERBA is working with MCIT to procure insurance for the organization, will work through MCIT to update Joint Powers Agreement. Dave and Kay meet with the Brown SWCD to discuss our organization and what being a member entails. Policy Board set dues for Brown \$1,280.60 and Steele \$1,182.75 (Original Base minus 5%). Will work with both counties to see if interested in pursuing membership into GBERBA. Updating of Urban BMP Policies.

## **Urban BMP Policy:**

Urban cost-share will be available for existing stormwater issues in areas that were subdivided before the year 2000.

Motion by Cathy Thiesse, second by Mark Lieferman to approve the policy as stated above. Motion carried, all yes.

**CWF Shoreland Grant:**

Funding Received through CWF as designated from BWSR:  
Incentives: \$72,000  
Mapping and Education: \$28,000

Teleconference with MN Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) – participants included Blue Earth County Staff, Matt Drewitz-BWSR, Dave Bucklin-GBERBA. After the grants were awarded by BWSR MCEA contacted BWSR, GBERBA and Blue Earth County as to a project they had completed. On the teleconference MCEA explained the mapping project that they completed in Blue Earth County (without the knowledge of Blue Earth County); and Blue Earth County explained the mapping that has been completed by their staff.

Discussed Shoreland Grant and the scaling back that needs to be done because not all requested funding was received that was requested in grant application. BWSR has given \$100,000 as a pilot project to see what data can be produced throughout the area. The decrease in funding could mean that only the 12 digit HUCs will be mapped (in the counties that need the work completed).

Because this grant directly affects the Planning and Zoning officials in each county (specifically focusing on shoreland rules of which they enforce) another meeting should be called to ask those officials how this grant will affect their counties and receive their opinions concerning grant execution.

Motion by Julie Conrad, second by Bruce Johnson to set up a meeting with Planning and Zoning staff from each county in attendance to discuss the grant in detail. Motion carried, all yes.

Tentative meeting date is Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at the Blue Earth County Ag Service Center; those not in attendance will be contacted.

**Cobb River Ditch Conservation Drainage Draft Final Report Presentation** – Omid Mohseni, BARR Engineering Five month process completed with a draft final report ready. Much discussion on findings; findings focusing on bank erosion and tile outlet scouring as the main cause of sedimentation in the Cobb River Ditch. Fixes include the rip rapping of major portions of the ditch and scour areas, which fueled lively discussion and concern. Written comments and concerns will be directed to BARR Engineering from Matt Drewitz, BWSR.

**New Business:**

**Technical Committee Elections:**

**Chairperson**

Motion by Bruce Johnson, second by Julie Conrad to nominate Gordy Olson as the Chairman. Motion carried, all yes.

Motion by Dick Hoffman, second by Mark Leiferman to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Gordy Olson as Chairman. Motion carried, all yes.

**Vice Chairperson**

Motion by Bruce Johnson, second by Jerad Bach to nominate Michele Stindtman as Vice Chairperson. Motion carried, all yes.

Motion by Michele Stindtman, second by Julie Conrad to nominate Marla Watje as Vice Chairperson. Motion carried, all yes.

Motion by Bruce Johnson, second by Dave Bucklin to Amend previous nominations and nominate as Co-Vice Chairperson Michele Stindtman and Marla Watje. Motion carried, all yes.

Motion by Don Flatness, second by Dave Bucklin to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Co-Vice Chairpersons Michele Stindtman and Marla Watje. Motion carried, all yes.

**Cost-Share Projects Encumbered:**

24-	AgBMP	Duane Stiernagle	Sediment Basins	Encumbered C-S \$5,967.00
46-11	Urban BMP	Judy Beckman	Rain Garden	Encumbered C-S \$1,150.00
46-12	Urban BMP	Judy Beckman	Rain Garden	Encumbered C-S \$1,150.00
46-13	Urban BMP	Judy Beckman	Rain Garden	Encumbered C-S \$1,150.00
46-14	Urban BMP	Judy Beckman	Rain Garden	Encumbered C-S \$1,150.00
46-15	Urban BMP	Center Creek Holdings	Rain Garden	Encumbered C-S \$1,150.00
46-16	Urban BMP	Jon Helvig	Rain Garden	Encumbered C-S \$1,150.00

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**GBERBA Technical Meeting**  
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Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Jerad Bach to approve the encumbrance of the Cost-Share Project for the above mentioned UrbanBMP Projects (\$6,900.00) and AgBMP Project (\$5,967.00). Motion carried, all yes.

**Staff Reports:**

**John Billings – Cobb Technician**

Working with SC-TSA and SWCD designing projects and reporting.

**Jill Sackett – Conservation Agronomist**

Past Events: Innovative No-till/Multi-Species Cover Crops – Webinar; Southern MN Corn College; South LEE Conference Call; 'This Perennial Land' Open House; RMN Research Update; MN Cover Crop Decision Tool Mtg; UMN Winter Crops Day; KEYC Regional Update Taping; NCR-SARE Reporting; Extension Reporting; 3<sup>rd</sup> Crop Producer Mtgs; South Central Corn and Soybean Day.

Upcoming Events: 2011 Staff Development Mtg; EFANS Water Mtg; MN Cover Crop Decision Tool Mtg; Protect US Community Invasive Species Webinar; Conservation Tillage Conference; 3<sup>rd</sup> Crop Producer – Local Foods Mtg; Nutrient Efficiency and Mgmt Conference; EFANS Water Initiative Mtg; MN Cover Crop Decision Tool Mtg; Small Grains Day; SWROC Winter Crops Day; Winter Crops Day and Small Grain Day; Invasive Species Workshop; 3<sup>rd</sup> Crop Producer – Renewable Energy Today – Mtg; South Central Corn/Soybean Day; 3<sup>rd</sup> Crop Producer Mtgs – Importance of Ecological Services and Practices for Reducing Nutrient Loss.

**Brooke Hacker – Ecosystem Services Specialist**

The new CIG proposal was not accepted. Policy and Tech meeting on February 7 and an SWCD representative is needed for the Technical Committee. Preliminary work with BWSR on Ag-Ag trading and working with MPCA on fine dollars.

**Urban Specialist – Michele Stindtman**

Will know more after the meeting with BWSR, MPCA and MN Department of Health.

**Agency Reports:**

**MPCA – Paul Davis**

Le Sueur work plan is completed will be having one-on-one meetings with counties to talk about funds.

**BWSR – Chris Hughes**

Deadlines upcoming February 1<sup>st</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup>. Cost-Share rules are being revised.

**BWSR – Matt Drewitz**

Grant announcement by BWSR and upcoming grant agreements and work plan completion.

**CWMA – Rich Perrine**

CWMA workshops encourage those who have not already had a workshop to inquire about hosting one.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 12:30 p.m. by Chair Kathy Smith.

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