

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee

Wednesday, January 24, 2018, Blue Earth County Ag Service Center, Mankato, MN

Present:

Kay Gross
Ashley Brenke
Brandee Douglas
Andy Geiger
David Haler
Alex Schultz
Dustin Anderson
Paul Davis

Representing:

GBERBA
Martin SWCD
Faribault SWCD
Jackson County
Watonwan County
Cottonwood County
Watonwan Watershed Specialist
MPCA

Present:

David Bucklin
Wendy Chirpich
Nathan Carr
Andy Meyer
Chad Hildebrand
Matt Remer
Jill Sackett Eberhart
Jessica Nelson

Representing:

Cottonwood SWCD
Martin County
Faribault SWCD
Brown SWCD
Watonwan SWCD
Conservation Corp Member
BWSR
MSU-WRC

Call to Order: GBERBA Technical Chair Ashley Brenke called the meeting to order at 9:36 am.

Introductions

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

Minutes: Motion by Andy Meyer, second by Brandee Douglas to approve the December 20, 2017 Technical Committee minutes as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION ACTION:

Election of 2018 Officers

Motion by Ashley Brenke, second by Andy Geiger to nominate Heidi Rudolph as Chair. Motion carried, all yes.

Motion by Ashley Brenke, second by Dave Bucklin to nominate Michele Stindtman as Vice Chair. Motion carried, all yes.

Ashley Brenke continued meeting.

Cost-Share Contract Approval

Lunz Farms Inc.	46-01(FY16-CWP)	Bioreactor	Cost \$15,000.00	C-S \$7,500.00
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Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Andy Geiger to approve the cost-share contract for Lunz Farms Inc. (\$7,500.00). Motion carried, all yes.

Cost-Share Contract Completions

Blue Earth DA	07-01(MDM-17)	WASCOB & Side Inlets	Cost \$31,400.00	C-S \$23,550.00
Lucas Bunde	07-01(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$1,433.70	C-S \$1,075.28

Motion by Chad Hildebrand, second by Andy Meyer to approve the cost-share contract final payments for Blue Earth DA (\$23,550.00) and Bunde (\$1,075.28). Contingent on SWCD Board approval Motion carried, all yes.

Review GBERBA January Financial Report and Cost-Share Balances and Projects

MPCA – 319 Application

New program for 319; need to address an impairment, need to see outcomes. 2020 looking at doing 10 watershed projects around the state funding for four year cycles, non-competative, \$250,000 a year. Looking at targeting and providing ideas and areas to Paul by this summer.

Two more years of the regular program for 2018 and 2019. Looking at Drainage focus with upland projects in the ditchshed based on the Multi Purpose DM grant through BWSR.

CWF 2018 – Waste Water Collaborative Grant Proposal

Not interested at this time.

March Policy/Technical Meeting Speakers

6 member panel; **Al Kean**, landowner (**Harold Wolle Jr. or Pat Dunkinson – Blue Earth County**), commissioner (**Warmka**), drainage authority staff (**Craig Austinson**), ditch viewer (Tom Peterson or Ron Rinquist), DNR (**Todd Kolander**), Jim Klang, **Chuck Brandl**.

Question - Current State of Drainage in Southern MN and where is it going and how do we incorporate conservation practices. What does drainage improvement mean to you.

Al Kean – 20 minutes - Drainage Work Group – Lovell, Viser, Craig Austinson, Ron Rinquist, Curt Deter
Minge – 20 minutes – Drainage Work

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.

The broom intake inventory is as follows:

(15) 8" 36"L .. (1) 8" 16"L .. (3) 6" 36"L .. (1) 6" 16"L .. (3) 4" 36"L .. (1) 6" adaptors. Contact Herman or Danielle.

A Conservation Corps member will be housed at the Cottonwood SWCD to assist with the MAWQC Program in Area's 5 and 6 in 2018. The Corps member is Matthew Remer and has started on January 9, for orientation and January 16, 2018 at the Cottonwood office. We are assisting with an orientation week to start on the 16th at the Cottonwood SWCD. Matthew has met some of the appropriate staff and is reviewing available resources, and potential job duties.

★ **2016 MPCA – CWP and 319 Drainage Grants**

CWP Drainage Grant: Side inlet structures 50% cost share, other conservation drainage practices 33% cost share. These are state dollars matched by federal or local dollars. ***This grant is fully encumbered.***

319 Drainage Grant: Side inlet structures 50% cost share. These are federal dollars matched by state or local dollars. The side inlet design project was awarded to the ISG Firm. The side inlet design program was introduced at the November 17 Policy/Technical meeting. An Outreach Booklet is being developed to assist Drainage staff to see conservation opportunities and potential in drainage systems.

★ **2017 MPCA 319 Grant - Cover Crops and Alternative Tile Intakes**

An Implementation Policy Paper for the grant titled "Greater Blue Earth River Basin TMDL Implementation" has been developed and reviewed at the Technical meeting. This guidance document will be posted on the GBERBA website. Cover crops: \$50.00 dollars per acre maximum, 75% cost share maximum (\$ 37.50 ac.), 80 acre size maximum per owner. Prioritization required. Alternative intakes: Rock and pattern tile. \$500.00 maximum and 50% cost share. These are federal dollars and require state or local match. Perforated risers, broom and other water quality intakes: \$200.00 maximum and 50% cost share. These are federal dollars and require state or local match.

★ **2017 CWF Grant- Multipurpose Drainage Management**

Multipurpose Drainage Management - \$301,200: Projects for this Drainage Grant will need to be located in public ditch sheds. **GBERBA member entire counties are eligible.** Priority parameters are developed to identify the eligible ditches. A guidance policy sheet is online.

★ **One Watershed One Plan Planning Grants, Watonwan Watershed**

On January 3, 2018 the fourth Steering Team meeting was held in Mankato. Completing development of a Memorandum of Agreement MOA, work plan, and budget was the focus of the meeting. These documents are very near completion. An informal Policy Committee meeting consisting of County Board and SWCD Supervisors is scheduled for 10am-Noon Wednesday, January 31, 2018 in St. James. This meeting will inform all about the Committees roles and the 1W1P process. The Steering Committee will meet next after the Policy meeting on January 31, at Noon.

★ **New Grants Potential**

GBERBA members will discuss the potential benefits of new grant applications for 2018.

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GBERBA TECHNICAL MEETING
JANUARY 24, 2018

Staff Report:

Watowan Watershed Technician – Dustin Anderson – Written Report
Outreach Booklet the importance of conservation on drainage systems.
Area 6 Certification Specialist – Herman Bartsch – Written Report
Area 5 Certification Specialist – Danielle Evers – Written Report
Conservation Corp Member – Matt Remer – Written Report

Agency Reports:

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart - 1W1P start for next round is going to be delayed until April 2018. Buffer memo going out and requesting staff input. Local Capacity match questions, some input answers were changed. Easement Delivery could have some changes. New deadline moved to Monday, February 5th for reporting. NRCS has updated the Cover Crop EQIP spreadsheet and will roll it out in the future.

MPCA – Paul Davis – 319 application process.

MSU - WRC – Jessica Nelson – Le Sueur River Watershed Network Steering Committee is meeting on February 1 in Mapleton from 6-8 PM to discuss a watershed-wide meeting this spring, updates on subwatershed projects, and developing a cover crop program. We are using the linking water storage benefits calculators in the Le Sueur River Watershed with ACPF results to evaluate the usefulness in planning water quantity reductions at the outlet of subwatersheds.

Watowan River Watershed Breachlines are ready for people to use. If you are working in a subwatershed and would like a copy of the breachlines, email Jessica your AOI shapefile.

Other – None

The meeting was declared adjourned at 12:00 noon by Chairman Ashley Brenke.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____