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-Shares Contract Approval
Lunz Farms Inc.  66-01(FY16-CWP)  Bioreactor  Cost $15,000.00  C-S $7,500.00  

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-Shares 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-competitive, $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.
Staff Report:
**Watonwan 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.

Watonwan 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: __________________