

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee

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

Present:

Michele Stindtman
Kay Gross
Andy Meyer
Hannah Neusch
Josh Votruba
Jill Sackett Eberhart
Paul Davis
Bailey Griffin

Representing:

Faribault SWCD
GBERBA
Brown SWCD
Martin SWCD
Watonwan Watershed Technician
BWSR
MPCA
ISG

Present:

David Bucklin
Ashley Brenke
Chad Hildebrand
Herman Bartsch
Matthew Remer
Shaina Keseley
Rick Moore

Representing:

GBERBA/Cottonwood SWCD
Martin SWCD
Watonwan SWCD
Area 6 Certainty Specialist
Conservation Corp
BWSR
MNIT DNR

Call to Order: GBERBA Technical Vice Chair Michele Stindtman called the meeting to order at 9:39 am.

Introductions

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

Minutes: Motion by Ashley Brenke, second by Andy Meyer to approve the September 19, 2018 Technical Committee minutes as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION ACTION:

GBERBA Contract Amendments

Andy Linder	22-03(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Time Extension Nov 1, 2018 to Dec 31, 2019
J-Ace Farms Inc	22-04(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Time Extension Nov 1, 2018 to Dec 31, 2019
William Rauenhorst	22-06(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Time Extension Nov 1, 2018 to Dec 31, 2019
Dan Schimek	22-07(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Time Extension Nov 1, 2018 to Dec 31, 2019
Neal Mensing	22-08(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Time Extension Nov 1, 2018 to Dec 31, 2019
Clint Eastman	22-09(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Time Extension Nov 1, 2018 to Dec 31, 2019
Scott Volz	22-10(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Time Extension Nov 1, 2018 to Dec 31, 2019
Brent Haase	22-14(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Time Extension Nov 1, 2018 to Dec 31, 2019
Scott Haase	22-15(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Time Extension Nov 1, 2018 to Dec 31, 2019
Kenneth Haase	22-16(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Time Extension Nov 1, 2018 to Dec 31, 2019
Jeff Schultz	22-18(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Time Extension Nov 1, 2018 to Dec 31, 2019
Ryan Hagedorn	22-19(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Time Extension Nov 1, 2018 to Dec 31, 2019
Trails End Farm	22-20(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Time Extension Nov 1, 2018 to Dec 31, 2019
Tim Peterson	22-21(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Time Extension Nov 1, 2018 to Dec 31, 2019
Dominic Schultz	22-22(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Time Extension Nov 1, 2018 to Dec 31, 2019
Greg Johanson	22-23(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Time Extension Nov 1, 2018 to Dec 31, 2019
Ronald Volsen	22-24(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Time Extension Nov 1, 2018 to Dec 31, 2019
Eric Volsen	22-25(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Time Extension Nov 1, 2018 to Dec 31, 2019

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Ashley Brenke to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract amendments time extension from November 1, 2018 to December 31, 2019 for the above mentioned contract holders. Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Contract Final Payments

Casey Madson	24-03(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$3,280.00	C-S \$2,460.00
G&S Drainage & Excavating	22-01(CWF-MDM)	CAP 130 Plan	Cost \$2,100.00	C-S \$1,575.00

Motion by Chad Hildebrand, second by Andy Meyer to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract final payments for Madson (\$2,460.00) and G&S Drainage & Excavating (\$1,575.00). Motion carried, all yes.

Review GBERBA Cost-Share Balances, Projects and Financial Report

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.

☆2016 MPCA – 319 Drainage Grant

An Outreach Booklet has been printed and will be sent to Drainage staff and elected officials to see conservation opportunities and potential in drainage systems. *319 Drainage Grant*: Side inlet structures 50% cost share. These are federal dollars matched by state or local dollars.

☆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. We are filling out an amendment for this grant to utilize more funds for cover crops and other drainage practices. All eligible practices will be at a 50% cost share rate after the amendment is approved.

☆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

The Watonwan 2W2P Policy Board Consultant Selection Committee had six consultant applications. At the Policy meeting on October 24 the Committee approved the subcommittee candidate recommendation and authorized to start contract negotiations. After the finalization of a contract work will begin on the public kick off meeting and a watershed advisory committee meeting.

☆New Grants Potential

With most of the drainage grant funds now encumbered, GBERBA is looking for new grant opportunities to acquire funds for conservation drainage projects. The 2019 Clean Water Fund Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant Category has \$610,000 dollars set aside for drainage grant applications and the Accelerated Implementation Grant has \$1.4 million. The GBERBA Drainage Partnership MDM application is for \$304,950.00 and the Watonwan Watershed Resource Specialist AIG application is for \$99,000.00. The grant awards will be made known in December 2018.

☆November 9, 2018 Policy/Tech Meeting

The program will continue with the conservation drainage initiative theme. ISG has agreed to put together a drainage presentation with drone footage of ditch project sites and construction of practices. We hope to have state agency staff to update GBERBA on ditch system water storage projects, their potential and application. We have also requested an update from Herman Bartsch about the MAWQCP.

Staff Report:

Watonwan Watershed Technician – Josh Votruba – Written Report
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:

MNIT DNR – Rick Moore – Attended Le Sueur Watershed Network Meeting which was attended by a lot of political candidates. ACPF updated version is out and can do individual watersheds around a lake.

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart and Shaina Keseley – Buffer Law and Capacity Work Plans in by December 31, 2018. Technical Training Committee correspondence Megan Lennon will be leaving November 1; Area Training Teams will be aligned with the MASWCD Area lines. Talk on Area Training Team challenges in Area 6. Grant Extensions are going to start to take longer – if you are in needing talk to your BC right away. Haven't heard anything on Flood Relief Cost-Share.

Projects and Practices have been scored by interagency teams and moving on in the process.

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GBERBA TECHNICAL MEETING
OCTOBER 24, 2018

MPCA – Paul Davis – Watonwan TMDL in draft; Watonwan WRAPS Meeting this afternoon – public meeting in November. Blue Earth moving forward with another meeting coming up. Le Sueur is behind at this time in starting Cycle 2 – getting their bearings on the process.

ISG – Bailey Griffin – Nothing at this time.

OTHER – Michele Stindtman – Legislative Water Commission Stakeholder Meeting was held (August 8) without a lot of local concerns being brought forward. Only locals in attendance were Kim Musser, Jessica Nelson and Michele Stindtman. Also the meeting was held in downtown St. Paul. One conversion was water governance.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 12:05 p.m. by Vice Chair Michele Stindtman.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____