

# Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee

Wednesday, May 23, 2018, Blue Earth County Ag Service Center, Mankato, MN

## Present:

Kay Gross  
Heidi Rudolph  
Jared Morrill  
Jerad Bach  
David Haler  
Haley Bryon  
Herman Bartsch  
Rick Moore

## Representing:

GBERBA  
Watonwan SWCD  
Martin County  
Blue Earth SWCD  
Watonwan County  
Waseca County  
Area 6 Certification Specialist  
MNIT-DNR

## Present:

David Bucklin  
Pam Flitter  
Wendy Chirpich  
Andy Meyer  
Brandee Douglas  
Sam Pittorf  
Jill Sackett Eberhart  
Bailey Griffin

## Representing:

Cottonwood SWCD  
Martin County  
Martin County  
Brown SWCD  
Faribault SWCD  
Watonwan County  
BWSR  
ISG

**Call to Order:** GBERBA Technical Chair Heidi Rudolph called the meeting to order at 9:36 am.

## **Introductions**

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

**Minutes:** Motion by Pam Flitter, second by Dave Bucklin to approve the April 25, 2018 Technical Committee minutes as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

## **INFORMATION ACTION:**

### **GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Cancellation**

Lunz Farms Inc.	FY16-CWP-46-01	Bioreactor	Cost \$15,000.00 C-S \$7,500.00
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Motion by David Haler, second by Pam Flitter to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract cancellation for Lunz Farms Inc (\$7,500.00). Motion carried, all yes.

### **GBERBA Contract Approval**

Scott Volz	22-10(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$4,000.00 C-S \$3,000.00
Greenwood Properties	83-01(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$4,000.00 C-S \$3,000.00
Gary Dannhoff	83-02(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$4,000.00 C-S \$3,000.00
Darby Harder	17-02(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$3,700.00 C-S \$2,775.00

Motion by Jerad Bach, second by Jared Morrill to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contracts encumbrance for Volz, Greenwood Properties and Dannhoff (\$3,000.00) and Harder (\$2,775.00). 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 and Conservation Corp Member Reports. Please remember there are funds available for District to work on the Certification Program. Go to the GBERBA website under Grant Information – Subtitle – MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program and look for Additional \$6,000 for Districts – FIRST TIME REQUEST or ADDITIONAL REQUESTS. Complete the application form with signatures from local SWCD and Area Certification Specialist and submit to GBERBA for payment.

### **☆ 2016 MPCA – CWP and 319 Drainage Grants**

*CWP Drainage Grant:* An amendment to the budget was approved by the MPCA in February. Funds were moved from project development, technical services, and administration to project cost-share in order to fully utilize the grant funds. **The grant deadline is June 30, 2018. This grant is fully encumbered.**

An Outreach Booklet is being developed to assist 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 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**

Member SWCDs and Counties have now signed the Memorandum of Agreement MOA for the 1W1P. Awaiting final MOA paperwork; when received the MOA, copies of signatures, Work Plan, Budget and Timeline will be submitted.

☆ **New Grants Potential**

With most of the drainage grant funds now encumbered, GBERBA will be looking for new grant opportunities to acquire funds for conservation drainage projects in 2018.

☆ **GBERBA Watonwan Watershed Technician**

The Cottonwood SWCD has opened the position for Watonwan Watershed Technician with closure on Monday, May 21 at 4:30 p.m. If you know of anyone interested please direct them to the GBERBA website, Cottonwood SWCD website or have them email kay.clark@windomnet.com for the job announcement, description and application. A letter of introduction, application and resume must be received in the Cottonwood SWCD Office by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, May 21. Interviews will be scheduled at a later date with Heidi Rudolph and/or David Haler participating in the hiring process.

☆ **GBERBA July Policy Board and Technical Committee Meeting**

Discussion of speakers and venue for July Meeting. Suggestions – Pat Baskfield (MPCA) and Kevin Roth (BWSR).

**Staff Report:**

**Watonwan Watershed Technician** – Vacant

**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:**

**DNR** – Rick Moore – Drainage Mgmt. Team – putting together fact sheets on 2 stage ditches, also on altered hydrology to assist with planning; culvert collector app – looking at SWCDs for collecting possible culvert data – which goes into a data base that can be shared right away (will share in the future).

**BWSR** – Jill Sackett Eberhart – Other Water Courses due to be included by July 1; BWSR website updates – requesting comments; FY19 Capacity Funding – approving allocation in December and sending funding in January – February, can you financially wait for the Capacity funding; Bonding Bill – compromise passed; Ag Bill got vetoed.

NRCS switching from 6 areas to 4; Area Technical Training Teams recommending go to 8 which match the TSA areas; NRCS hiring freeze has been lifted; Collaboration Grants – 18 grant applications for over 8 million; sign-off on SWCD projects – working on a new process proposal.

**MPCA** – None.

**ISG** – Bailey Griffin – contact if you need pictures and/or drone footage.

**Other** – Brandee Douglas – Training for LIDAR and Hydro-conditioning trying to combined with Le Sueur/Blue Earth and Watonwan (if possible); try a one hour webinar first and wait a week and review again – then having a hands on training – see data, go over real life scenario. Can we have after a Technical Meeting since already in Mankato? Second training – basic and/or specific training.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:10 p.m. by Chair Heidi Rudolph.

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