

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee

Wednesday, June 27, 2018, Blue Earth County Ag Service Center, Mankato, MN

Present:

Heidi Rudolph
Ashley Brenke
Wendy Chirpich
Jerad Bach
Shane Johnson
Nik Kadel
Andy Geiger
Jill Sackett Eberhart
Paul Davis

Representing:

Watsonwan SWCD
Martin SWCD
Martin County
Blue Earth SWCD
Faribault SWCD
Le Sueur SWCD
Jackson County
BWSR
MPCA

Present:

David Bucklin
Pam Flitter
Jesse Walters
Derek Denisen
Brandee Douglas
Chris Bauer
Nathan Carr
Shaina Keseley
Jessica Nelson

Representing:

Cottonwood SWCD
Martin County
Martin SWCD
Blue Earth SWCD
Faribault SWCD
Jackson SWCD
Faribault SWCD
BWSR
MNSU WRC

Call to Order: GBERBA Technical Chair Heidi Rudolph called the meeting to order at 9:33 am.

Introductions

Agenda: Motion by Jerad Bach, second by Andy Geiger to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

Minutes: Motion by Pam Flitter, second by Jerad Bach to approve the May 23, 2018 Technical Committee minutes as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION ACTION:

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Amendments

Faribault Co. D.A.				
FY-14-CWP	FY16-CWP(Drain-15)	Increase Cost-Share	Increase \$3,054.72	New C-S \$12,551.16
Faribault Co. D.A.	319-CDP-16(22-02)	Increase Cost-Share	Increase \$6,894.00	New C-S \$29,169.00

Motion by Shane Johnson, second by Dave Bucklin to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract amendments for Faribault Co Drainage Authority (\$3,054.72 and \$6,894.00). Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Administrative Changes

Faribault/Martin Co. D.A.			
JCD No. 414	FY16-CWP(22-02)	Move all Grant Funding to FY16-CWP	New C-S \$52,437.82
	319-CDP-16	Remove all Grant Funding from 319-CDP	New C-S \$0.00
Faribault Co. D.A.	319-CDP-16(22-02)	Decrease Grant Funding 319-CDP	New C-S \$7,004.98
	FY16-CWP	Move Grant Funding to FY16-CWP	New C-S \$22,164.02

Motion by Jerad Bach, second by Jesse Walters to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract administrative changes as indicated above for the two Faribault Co. Drainage Authority FY16-CWP and 319-CDP-16 grants. Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Contract Approval

Le Sueur Co. D.A.	40-01(CWF-MDM)	Storage/Treatment Wetland	Cost \$48,598.00	C-S \$36,448.50
Dennis Baxter	22-11(319-TMDL)	Alternative Tile Intakes	Cost \$1,000.00	C-S \$500.00
Dennis Baxter	22-12(319-TMDL)	Alternative Tile Intakes	Cost \$500.00	C-S \$250.00
Steve Lawrence	22-13(319-TMDL)	Alternative Tile Intakes	Cost \$500.00	C-S \$250.00
George Sill	83-03(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$4,000.00	C-S \$3,000.00
Jerry Sill	83-04(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$4,000.00	C-S \$3,000.00
Matt Warmka	07-02(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$3,575.00	C-S \$2,681.25
Brent Haase	22-14(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$3,350.00	C-S \$2,512.50
Scott Haase	22-15(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$2,150.00	C-S \$1,612.50
Kenneth Haase	22-16(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$2,400.00	C-S \$1,800.00

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Chris Bauer to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contracts encumbrance for Le Sueur Co, Drainage Authority (\$36,448.50), Baxter (\$500.00 and \$250.00), Lawrence (\$250.00), G. Sill (\$3,000.00), J. Sill (\$3,000.00), Warmka (\$2,681.25), B. Haase (\$2,512.5), S. Haase (\$1,612.50) and K. Haase (\$1,800.00). Motion carried, all yes.

PAGE 2
GBERBA TECHNICAL MEETING
JUNE 27, 2018

GBERBA Contract Final Payment

Faribault Co. D.A.	22-01(FY16-CWP)	16 Alternative Side Inlets	Cost \$50,748.00	C-S \$25,374.00
Faribault/Martin Co.D.A	22-02(FY16-CWP)	47 Alternative Side Inlets	Cost \$104,875.64	C-S \$52,437.82
Faribault Co. D.A.	Drain-15(FY16-CWP)	24 Alternative Side Inlets	Cost \$76,392.00	C-S \$12,551.16
Faribault Co. D.A.	22-02(FY16-CWP) (319-CDP-16)	29 Alternative Side Inlets	Cost \$58,338.00	C-S \$22,164.02 C-S \$7,004.98

Motion by Nathan Carr, second by Jesse Walters to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share final payments for Faribault County Drainage Authority (\$25,374.00, \$12,551.16, \$29,169.00) and Faribault/Martin Co. Drainage Authority (\$52,437.82). 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.

We are securing a booth for the MN State Cattlemen's Summer Tour and Trade Show, Danielle, Herman and Matt will man the booth and attend the tour, Tuesday, July 10 in Cottonwood County.

★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 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

The Watonwan 1W1P work plan/timeline/budget has been approved and an eLINK file, including the unexecuted grant agreement, has been created. The unexecuted grant agreement needs to go to the Watonwan County Board for signature and then sent to St. Paul. A meeting date for the Steering Team (and possibly the Policy Committee) will need to be held soon. BWSR will also need to work with somebody to develop the eLINK work plan activities.

★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. Question if any SWCD/Counties will be sending in an interest request for the new 319 funding. At this time Mark Schaezke may be interested for Waseca. Faribault SWCD and Martin SWCD have submitted applications.

★GBERBA Watonwan Watershed Technician

Five candidates have been selected for interviews on Monday, June 25 and Friday June 29, with Becky Alexander, Dave Bucklin, David Haler, Clark Lingbeek and Tom Appel participating in the interviews/hiring process.

PAGE 3
GBERBA TECHNICAL MEETING
JUNE 27, 2018

☆GBERBA July Policy Board and Technical Committee Meeting

Speakers and venue for July Meeting. Pat Baskfield (MPCA) and Kevin Roth (BWSR) have agreed to speak at the July Policy / Technical meeting. Pat will be talking about the "Water quality in the Greater Blue Earth watershed, where do we stand?" Kevin will be speaking on the BWSR Excessive Soil Loss Program. Additional information on ongoing conservation drainage projects in GBERBA will also be presented and we will determine the location for the meeting soon.

Dave Bucklin added that a lot of projects came in yesterday for GBERBA and that it would be nice to receive contract information 3 to 4 days prior to the GBERBA meetings.

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:

MPCA – Paul Davis – Currently reviewing 319 2 page interest statements.

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart and Shaina Keseley – 1W1P round of applications is open until July 2. Reminder that MASWCD locally led training is coming up. There are 2 Watershed Conservation Planner positions in south central Minnesota. There will be no changes to the Capacity funding processes in FY19 based on survey responses received from SWCDs. FY19 CWF Competitive grants will be \$11.6 million for PP. There is also funding for Accelerated Implementation, MDM, MDH well sealing. CWF application will be open from July 9 – August 31. Cost Share contracts will be updated so keep up to date in the GAM. Formal process is being adopted for NRCS signatures on state cost share contracts. Reminder that a number of FY16 and FY17 grants are expiring at the end of 2018. Estimates for the buffer aid are on the Department of Revenue for counties.

MNSU Water Resources Center – Jessica Nelson – Reviewed ACPF and PTM priority watersheds. Discussion on HUC 8 vs HUC 10 vs HUC 12. On July 7 there will be a rainfall simulator in New Richland in combination with Waseca County/SWCD.

Brandee reviewed timeline for the remainder of hydro-conditioning grant. August 1 and August 22 will be the first training sessions.

Other – None

The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:25 a.m. by Chair Heidi Rudolph.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____