

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee

Wednesday, August 22, 2018, Blue Earth County Ag Service Center, Mankato, MN

Present:

Heidi Rudolph
Kay Gross
Wendy Chirpich
Alex Schultz
Dustin Anderson
Chad Hildebrand
Josh Votruba
Jill Sackett Eberhart
Paul Davis
Tyler Grupa

Representing:

Watonwan SWCD
GBERBA
Martin County
Cottonwood County
Faribault County
Watonwan SWCD
Watonwan Watershed Technician
BWSR
MPCA
MSU WRC

Present:

David Bucklin
Haley Brown
Jesse Walters
Mark Schaetzke
Brandee Douglas
Andy Meyer
Herman Bartsch
Rick Moore
Jessica Nelson
Mark Reineke

Representing:

GBERBA/Cottonwood SWCD
Waseca County
Martin SWCD
Waseca SWCD
Faribault SWCD
Brown SWCD
Area 6 Certification Specialist
MNIT DNR
MSU WRC
Widseth Smith Nolting

Call to Order: GBERBA Technical Chair Heidi Rudolph called the meeting to order at 9:42 am.

Introductions

Agenda: Motion by Jesse Walters, second by Andy Meyer to approve the agenda with the addition of an introduction to the afternoon training. Motion carried, all yes.

Minutes: Motion by Jesse Walters, second by Dustin Anderson to approve the July 13, 2018 Technical Committee/Policy Board minutes as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION ACTION:

GBERBA Contract Approval

Tom Peterson	22-21(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$4,000.00	C-S \$3,000.00
Dominic Schultz	22-22(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$3,500.00	C-S \$2,625.00
Greg Johanson	22-23(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$1,000.00	C-S \$750.00
AVG II, LLC	83-09(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$4,000.00	C-S \$3,000.00
Homewood Farms	83-08(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$4,000.00	C-S \$3,000.00
Glen Ausen	24-02(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$2,000.00	C-S \$1,500.00
Casey Madson	24-03(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$4,000.00	C-S \$3,000.00
Curtis Janzen	17-03(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$4,000.00	C-S \$3,000.00

Motion by Andy Meyer, second by Wendy Chirpich to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contracts encumbrance for Peterson, Homewood Farms, Madson, Janzen, AVG2 (\$3,000.00), Schultz (\$2,625.00), Johanson (\$750.00), and Ausen (\$1,500.00). 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 will be filling out an amendment for this grant to utilize more funds for cover crops and other drainage practices.

☆ **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 Policy Board had the first official meeting on August 15 at 1PM at the Human Services Building in Saint James. Things covered included; Establishing By-laws, Election of Officers, Review major milestones for the 1W1P process, and approve the Consultant Selection Process.

☆ **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. The Clean Water Fund Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant Category has \$600,000 dollars set aside for drainage grant applications for CWF 2019. We have also been working on a Watonwan Watershed Resource Specialist Grant, through the CWF Accelerated Implementation.

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Dustin Anderson to approve the submission of two CWF grant applications which includes the Multipurpose Drainage and Watonwan Watershed Resource Specialist through GBERBA. Motion carried, all yes.

☆ **GBERBA Watonwan Watershed Resource Specialist**

The new Watonwan Watershed Resource Specialist Josh Votruba started work on Monday August 6. He will be working out of various locations depending on workload.

Overview – Hydro-Conditioning Grant Product Training – Jessica Nelson

September 27th will be the final training for the grants.

Staff Report:

Watonwan Watershed Technician – Josh Votruba - Introduction
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 – Three watersheds from the Greater Blue Earth Watershed are moving into the second round for the new 319 funding. Watonwan WRAPS moving forward. Civic Engagement contract with Blue Earth Watershed. Will be working on the Le Sueur Watershed second round in the next few months.

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart – BWSR field staff have been invited to the 319 watershed meetings. Elink emails concerning FY19 Capacity and Buffer grants will be coming and work plans completed. BWSR tour is being completed over the next two days in Nobles County. It has been recommended to the BWSR Board to approve all nine of the applications for 1W1P. CWF grants due August 31.

MN-WRC – Formulate team to highlight watershed stories through a McKnight grant in the MN River Basin.

Other – None

The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:03 a.m. by Chair Heidi Rudolph.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____