

# Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee

Wednesday, September 19, 2018, Blue Earth County Ag Service Center, Mankato, MN

## **Present:**

Heidi Rudolph  
Kay Gross  
Chris Bauer  
Jerad Bach  
Ashley Brenke  
Josh Votruba  
Jill Sackett Eberhart  
Paul Davis

## **Representing:**

Watonwan SWCD  
GBERBA  
Jackson SWCD  
Blue Earth SWCD  
Martin SWCD  
Watonwan Watershed Technician  
BWSR  
MPCA

## **Present:**

David Bucklin  
Alex Schultz  
Andy Geiger  
Melanie Krueger  
Andy Meyer  
Matthew Remer  
Rick Moore  
Bailey Griffin

## **Representing:**

GBERBA/Cottonwood SWCD  
Cottonwood County  
Jackson County  
Brown SWCD  
Brown SWCD  
Conservation Corp  
MNIT DNR  
ISG

**Call to Order:** GBERBA Technical Chair Heidi Rudolph called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

## **Introductions**

**Agenda:** Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Jerad Bach to approve the agenda with addition of Introductions and November Joint Meeting topics. Motion carried, all yes.

**Minutes:** Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Jerad Bach to approve the August 22, 2018 Technical Committee minutes as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

## **INFORMATION ACTION:**

### **GBERBA Contract Final Payment**

Steve Lawrence	22-13(319-TMDL)	Alternative Tile Intakes	Cost \$914.18	C-S \$250.00
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Motion by Ashley Brenke, second by Chris Bauer to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract final payment for Lawrence (\$250.00). Motion carried, all yes.

### **CWMA Contract Final Payments**

Nelson Township	W05-16(CWMA)	Weed Management	Cost \$3,929.59	C-S \$2,000.00
Riverdale Township	W06-16(CWMA)	Weed Management	Cost \$3,353.66	C-S \$2,000.00

Motion by Andy Geiger, second by Ashley Brenke to approve the CWMA Cost-Share contract final payments for Nelson and Riverdale Townships (\$2,000.00 each). Motion carried, all yes.

### **GBERBA Contract Approval**

Ronald Volsen	22-24(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$4,000.00	C-S \$3,000.00
Eric Volsen	22-25(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$4,000.00	C-S \$3,000.00
Noren Durheim	83-10(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$1,000.00	C-S \$750.00
Steve Michels	08-01(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$2,000.00	C-S \$1,500.00
Byron Christenson	08-02(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$3,250.00	C-S \$2,437.50
Ramont Schrock	17-04(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$2,000.00	C-S \$1,500.00
Naomi Schaezke	81-02(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$750.00	C-S \$562.50

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Andy Geiger to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contracts encumbrance for R. and E. Volsen (\$3,000.00), Christenson (\$2,437.50), Michels and Schrock (\$1,500.00), Durheim (\$750.00) and Schaezke (\$562.50). Motion carried, all yes.

## **Review GBERBA Cost-Share Balances, Projects and Financial Report**

### **Joint Policy/Technical Meeting – November**

ISG storage ponds – drone footage – highlight and showing benefits – Chuck Brandel; Brush Creek Watershed drone footage (Faribault County); Overview of MDM practices and Le Sueur Project and Flowage Easements (overview).

**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.

☆ **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 Selection Committee will meet after today's Technical Meeting. This will be to work on the Consultant Selection Process.

☆ **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.

**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:**

**MPCA** – Paul Davis – Watonwan WRAPS meeting; TMDL TSS Greater Blue Earth report is in draft form and out for public comment in December. Blue Earth Watershed Cycle One – bio crews having trouble getting out (same in Le Sueur), Blue Earth group will be doing another elected officials meeting. Le Sueur Cycle Two will be moving forward in the near future, sampling has been moving forward through SWAG in Le Sueur.

**BWSR** – Jill Sackett Eberhart – Programs and Operations email for FY19; Buffer and Capacity FY19 will need work plans and signed grant agreement; January 15 due date for County match documentation for Capacity grant agreement. CWF grants 150 grants – everything over applied by at least two times. 1W1P areas for next planning session include 9 watersheds (approved).

**ISG** – Bailey Griffin – Project in Jackson County JD 125 – working with oxbows – check out MDM cost-share. The ISG calculator – sign off – would ISG review for sign-off of calculated project.

**Other** – Greater Blue Earth River Watershed Study.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 10:30 a.m. by Chair Heidi Rudolph.

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