

Greater Blue Earth Cooperative Weed Management Area Agreement

The Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA) Joint Powers Board shall serve as the governing body for the Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA).

The CWMA shall be named: Greater Blue Earth Cooperative Weed Management Area, or the Greater Blue Earth CWMA.

The Greater Blue Earth CWMA shall be subject to and operate under the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Joint Powers Agreement. All legal authorities established under the GBERBA Joint Powers Agreement shall be extended to the CWMA.

A Technical Committee shall make recommendations to the governing body regarding: Annual Plan, Comprehensive Plan, Priorities, Projects, Programs, Purchase of Equipment, and all aspects of the operation of the CWMA.

The governing body shall make all decisions regarding the operation of the CWMA, including the approval of plans and projects, setting priorities, program development, and the purchase of equipment.

The CWMA Technical Committee shall operate as a subcommittee of the GBERBA Technical Committee. In addition to GBERBA Technical Committee members, at least one additional member per county will be asked to serve on the CWMA Technical Committee. These members may represent organizations, business, industry, agriculture, education, local governmental units and the general public. All natural resource agencies and organizations are encouraged to provide a representative to serve on the Technical Committee and provide guidance and support to the CWMA.

By Proclamation, the GBERBA Policy Committee declares all counties in their entirety, having land within the Greater Blue Earth River Basin to be within the boundaries of the Greater Blue Earth CWMA. All land and water, public or private within the boundaries of these counties is considered to be included in and shall be a part of the CWMA.

To be a materially participating partner in Greater Blue Earth CWMA projects, each county, local governmental unit, business, organization, private citizen or other entity, must sign on as a CWMA partner and abide by all of the policies set forth by the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance and the CWMA documents the Alliance has approved. The CWMA is inclusive, inviting all interested parties to become a participating partner. Participation in CWMA activities is on a strictly voluntary basis.

Neighboring property owners and jurisdictions located directly adjacent to the boundary of the GBE CWMA may become materially participating partners for mutually beneficial projects, by signing on as a CWMA partner. They must also abide by all GBERBA and CWMA policies.

The Greater Blue Earth CWMA shall develop a Strategic Plan, an Annual Operating Plan, an Annual Report and progress reports to the GBERBA policy Committee and others as requested.

The purpose of this agreement is to facilitate cooperation across jurisdictional boundaries and eliminate administrative barriers.

Agreement approved by the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance on: 9-11-09
Date of Adoption

Attested by: John W. Oeltjenbruns Chairman
Policy Committee Title

Greater Blue Earth Cooperative Weed Management Area

2018 Budget

Martin SWCD, the Grantee for BWSR CWMA Program Grant FY 2016, shall claim all administrative funds available from the grant. Since part of the local match has already been secured, administrative funds for the project host District may be made available if additional matching funds are provided for their project. State Cost-Share Contract and Voucher and Practice Certification Summary forms shall be used to document project work and report project cash and in-kind match as well as the request for reimbursement of expenses.

Funding Sources:	Grant	Match
BWSR Cooperative Weed Management Area Program Grant FY 2016: (Grant Period, December 12, 2016 - December 31, 2018)	\$15,000	
Implementation Plan Budget:		
Admin./Coord. (Grant reporting, tracking and admin. and coordination of projects Within the ten GBE CWMA counties.)	\$1,000	
Tech Assistance (Technical assistance for workshops and on the ground projects.)	\$2,000	
Education (Holding workshops and develop/deliver of publication materials.)	\$1,000	
CWMA projects (On the ground projects to remove invasive species, assisted by volunteers and service organizations, including Scout troops, 4-H Clubs, sports organizations, etc.)		\$8,000
Inventory (Inventory/mapping of existing invasive species populations.)	\$1,000	
Equipment (Equipment for terrestrial invasive species removal.)	\$2,000	
Match Local in-kind and cash match (\$3,750 required) suggested: Seeking local match is suggested for each project. In Martin County, The Fox Lake Conservation League has contributed \$2,000 toward the required match.		\$5,000
FY 2016 BWSR CWMA Program Grant Total budget:	\$15,000	\$5,000

Encumbered:

SHEEK, Inc., Martin County \$4,000 project estimate, \$3,000 grant funds
 Jim Vonderharr, Blue Earth County \$6,250 project estimate, \$4,687.50 grant funds

Grant Funds available to encumber: \$7,312.50

This budget supports the GBE CWMA 2018 Annual Operating Plan adopted by:

Martin SWCD on: _____ and GBERBA on: _____.

Budget approval:

Attested by:

On:

 Martin Soil and Water Conservation Dist.

Chair _____
 Title _____

 Date _____

 GBERBA Policy Committee

Chair _____
 Title _____

 Date _____

GBE CWMA Budget Notes:

Supplemental funds are being sought to increase the budget amount available, to allow for an increase in the number and size of projects that can be undertaken during the grant period. The Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Grant Program including the DNR Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program are potential funding sources for certain projects, as well as the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Supplemental funding for long term native habitat enhancement (using local ecotype native plant materials to replace invasive species) on permanently protected lands has been approved through the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources. Funding for this "Propagating Native Plants and Restoring Native Habitats" project is available to all GBE CWMA counties plus Nicollet, Crow Wing and Lake Counties. Contact Martin SWCD for a copy of the work plan and budget. Consider this additional source of funding for projects that remove invasive species and can meet the requirements of this grant.

Additional funding sources will continue to be sought for future CWMA projects and activities.

Project implementation on permanently protected lands (replacing invasive species with local ecotype native plants) is the highest priority for this grant period since supplemental funding is available through the ENRTF. Funding priorities include training, demonstrations and invasive species control projects that incorporate an educational component.

2017 Activities Report:

BWSR CWMA Program Grant FY 2014 (\$15,000) was closed out in December. Project work completed included:

Mountain Lake (2 projects) in Cottonwood County.....\$7,105.00 grant with \$5,216.17 match
Gerald Gray project in Martin County..... \$4,500 grant with \$1500.62 match

Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)

Greater Blue Earth CWMA 2018 Annual Operating Plan

2018 goals and objectives:

Building partnerships, outreach, education/training, on the ground projects

Tasks:

Timeline:

Revise the 2017 plan and approve the 2018 Annual Operating Plan	Winter
Review and revise the Strategic Management Plan	Winter
Plan and hold invasive species training/demonstrations/control projects	Continuous
Seek additional funding (grants and matching funds)	Continuous
CWMA organization, make new contacts/coordinate with existing partners	Winter - Fall
Hold roadside/natural lands integrated pest management workshop	Spring
Hold an informational/organizational meeting (Outreach and Planning)	Spring - Summer
Plan/participate in a basin-wide or regional educational workshop/conference	Summer - Winter
Identify equipment needs across the area	Spring - Summer
Purchase equipment for demonstrations, workshops and projects	As Needed
Identify project sites, develop work plans, fund and schedule projects	Continuous
Develop and expand the invasive species education program (Observe Invasive Species Awareness Month – June)	Continuous

*See the budget that supports the GBE CWMA Annual Operating Plan for grant work plan requirements. The budget notes outline supplemental funding opportunities and grant project priorities.

Plan approved by Martin SWCD on: _____ By: _____
Date SWCD Signature

Plan approved by the GBERBA on: _____
Date

Attested by:

Policy Committee signature

Title

**Greater Blue Earth Cooperative Weed Management Area
(GBE CWMA)**

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

I, _____, do hereby agree to allow Greater Blue Earth Cooperative Weed Management Area member volunteers and cooperating community volunteers to enter my property located at: _____

(address, section, township, range, county, etc.)

for the purpose of controlling invasive/noxious weeds by any means deemed necessary to treat (project name or weeds being treated): _____

_____ invasive/noxious weeds.

Said invasive/noxious weeds are those named by both the State of Minnesota and other jurisdictions within the GBE CWMA and adjacent areas in cooperation with and participating in GBE CWMA projects. Treatment includes applying herbicides at the recommended labeled rates and in accordance with all label directions under the direction of licensed - certified pesticide applicators; hand pulling or chopping; beneficial insect releases or other accepted weed control methods.

I agree to hold harmless from any liability, the above named groups or individuals while they are applying invasive/noxious weed treatments on my said property. I understand that the intention of this weed control is for my benefit, the benefit of my property and I am participating in said project in some capacity.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Landowner or landowner's representative