

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee

Wednesday, January 23, 2019, Blue Earth County Ag Service Center, Mankato, MN

Present:

Heidi Rudolph
Kay Gross
Ashley Brenke
Jerad Bach
Wendy Chirpich
Josh Votruba
Jill Sackett Eberhart

Representing:

Watonwan SWCD
GBERBA
Martin SWCD
Blue Earth SWCD
Martin County
Watonwan Watershed Technician
BWSR

Present:

David Bucklin
Andy Meyer
Hannah Neusch
Pam Flitter
Ben Huntley
Lee Tapper
Rich Moore

Representing:

GBERBA/Cottonwood SWCD
Brown SWCD
Martin SWCD
Martin County
Martin County
Cons. Corp/MAWQCP
MNIT-DNR

Call to Order: GBERBA Technical Chair Heidi Rudolph called the meeting to order at 9:45 am.

Introductions

Agenda: Motion by Jerad Bach, second by Ashley Brenke to approve the agenda with addition of 319 MPCA grant possibility. Motion carried, all yes.

Election of 2019 Officers

Motion by Jerad Bach, second by Ashley Brenke to nominate Heidi Rudolph as Chair and Michele Stindtman as Vice Chair. Motion carried, all yes.

Heidi Rudolph continued meeting.

Minutes: Motion by Ashley Brenke, second by Dave Bucklin to approve the December 19, 2018 Technical Committee minutes as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

INTRODUCTIONS

INFORMATION ACTION:

GBERBA Contract Final Payment

John Frey	319-TMDL(07-04)	Cover Crops (56 acres)	Cost \$1,132.88	C-S \$849.66
John Rollings	319-TMDL(07-05)	Cover Crops (20 acres)	Cost \$715.40	C-S \$536.55
Naomi Schaezke	319-TMDL(81-02)	Cover Crops (15 acres)	Cost \$669.00	C-S \$501.75

Motion by Ashley Brenke, second by Jerad Bach to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract final payments for Frey (\$849.66), Rollings (\$536.55) and Schaezke (\$501.75). Motion carried, all yes.

Flood disaster reporting could count as a study on a 103E ditch.

Review GBERBA Cost-Share Balances, Projects and Financial Report

March GBERBA Policy Board/Technical Committee Meeting Ideas

Policy Board discussion on topics for presentations. RIM easements (wetland restorations) and concerns with drainage in the future. BWSR engineers and easement specialists.

Meeting Date Change for February (If Necessary)

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Ashley Brenke to approve moving the Technical Committee Meeting to Monday, February 25 starting at 1:00 p.m. Motion carried, all yes.

MPCA 319 – Grant Applications

Grants are accepted through February 26. Tie back to nitrogen source and draft TMDLs. Talk to Paul at MPCA. Phase 2 of Cover Crop grant using PTMApp priorities throughout the Blue Earth, Le Sueur and Watonwan Watersheds.

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. Matthew Remer our MAWQCP Conservation Corps member completed his one year term on December 13. GBERBA was awarded another year long Corps position. The new Corps member for 2019 will be Lee Tapper. His start date is January 22, 2019.

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☆ **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.

The grant amendment has been completed and all remaining cost share for projects including Alternative intakes, Side inlets, and Cover crops will be at 50% cost share. New grant policy papers have been generated.

☆ **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 Consultant Selection Committee has completed its task and Houston Engineering Inc. has been hired to provide the consultant. The Steering Committee, Policy Board, and HEI are scheduled to meet on January 16. The Public Kick off meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 28, 2019.

☆ **GBERBA Reporting**

January is a busy month for reporting to the state on grant progress.

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 – Lee Tapper – Introduction

Agency Reports:

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart – Reporting by February 1.

MNIT - DNR – Rick Moore – state data base for all breach lines; request for breach lines from MSU-WRC for the breach lines which were documented through a CWF project by GBERBA.

OTHER –None

The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:45 p.m. by Chair Heidi Rudolph.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____