

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee

Wednesday, April 24, 2019, Blue Earth County Ag Service Center, Mankato, MN

Present:

Kay Gross
Heidi Rudolph
Andy Geiger
Mark Schaetzke
Wendy Chirpich
Brenda Lageson
Josh Votruba
Jill Sackett Eberhart
Emma Young
Bill Miller

Representing:

GBERBA
Watonwan SWCD
Jackson County
Waseca SWCD
Martin County
Freeborn County
Watonwan Watershed Technician
BWSR
Water Resource Center
Watonwan County Commissioner

Present:

David Bucklin
Michele Stindtman
Chris Bauer
Pam Flitter
Nik Kadel
Herman Bartsch
Lee Tapper
Shaina Keseley

Representing:

Cottonwood SWCD
Faribault SWCD
Jackson SWCD
Martin County
Le Sueur SWCD
Area 6 Certification Specialist
MN Conservation Corp
BWSR

Call to Order: GBERBA Technical Chair Heidi Rudolph called the meeting to order at 9:36 am.

Introductions

Agenda: Motion by Wendy Chirpich, second by Mark Schaetzke to approve the agenda with the additions of Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant Amendment, 319 Drainage Grant and Water Storage Resolution (MN River Congress). Motion carried, all yes.

Minutes: Motion by Andy Geiger, second by Dave Bucklin to approve the March 8, 2019 Policy Board/Technical Committee minutes as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION ACTION:

GBERBA Contract Approval

Faribault Co D.A. JD 1F	22-03(319-CDP)	Alternative Side Intakes (29)	Cost \$61,135.00	C-S \$30,567.50
Larry Cowing	46-04(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$3,750.00	C-S \$1,875.00
Andrew Krusemark	46-05(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Cost \$4,000.00	C-S \$2,000.00

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Wendy Chirpich to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract approval for Faribault Co DA (\$30,567.50), Cowing (\$1,875.00) and Krusemark (\$2,000.00). Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Contract Cancellation

David Ammann	46-03(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	C-S \$750.00
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Motion by Andy Geiger, second by Chris Bauer to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract cancellation for Ammann (\$750.00). Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Amendment

George Sill	83-03(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops	Previous Date 4-12-19	New Install Date 12-31-19
Le Sueur Co D.A.	40-01(CWF-MDM-17)	Storage & Treatment Wetland	Previous C-S \$36,448.50	New C-S \$50,000.00 C-S Increase \$13,551.50

Motion by Chris Bauer, second by Michele Stindtman to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract amendment to (Sill 83-03) change the install date to 12-31-19 and increase in C-S (\$13,551.50) for Le Sueur Co. Drainage Authority (40-01). Motion carried, all yes.

Review GBERBA Cost-Share Balances, Projects and Financial Report Drainage Grant Projects Needed

319 Conservation Drainage Grant (Grant 33)

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Wendy Chirpich to approve the percentage increase from 50% to 75% project cost-share for any final encumbrance of grant funds. (Grant match has been met at this time). Motion carried, all yes.

Multipurpose Drainage Grant Policy Amendment (Grant 39)

If approved GBERBA will need to complete a work plan amendment and add the CAP 130 Plan and 587 – Structure for Water Control.

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Motion by Michele Stindtman, second by Mark Schaetzke to approve adding the CAP 130 Plan and 587 Structure for Water Control to the Multipurpose Drainage Grant Policy and request and amendment to the BWSR Work Plan. Motion carried, all yes.

MN River Congress Resolution for Water Storage

Discussion.

Change Date for July Policy/Technical Meeting – Friday, July 19

Topics – 1W1P Presentation (Blue Earth and Le Sueur River Watersheds) and Soil Health

Technical Meeting Date Change – Wednesday, May 29

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.

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 1W1P Project is in full swing completing the plan language. The Advisory Committee has now met two times with good progress being made on the Issues Table.

★ **New Grant Opportunity**

GBERBA applied for a MPCA 319 round two cover crop focused grant. We received notification that the GBERBA application was not funded.

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 – Written Report

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Agency Reports:

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart

May 15th Grant Agreements and Work Plans need to be completed. May 1st final reports in Elink. 1W1P planning grants due June 6. Doug Thomas Retirement Open House – May 6th. Al Kean – Retirement is June 6th. BWSR website is done and going through internal testing.

MPCA – Not in Attendance.

WRC – Emma Young – Anything you want on the Water Storage Website email – waterstorageforum@gmail.com.

Other – None.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:55 p.m. by Chair Heidi Rudolph.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____