

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee

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

Present:

Heidi Salminen
Mark Schaetzke
Jerad Bach
Andy Geiger
Ashley Brenke
Dave Bucklin
Josh Votruba
Jill Sackett-Eberhart
Kim Musser

Representing:

Watonwan SWCD
Waseca SWCD
Blue Earth SWCD
Jackson County
Martin SWCD
GBERBA Coordinator
Watonwan Watershed Technician
BWSR
WRC-MSU

Present:

Michele Stindtman
Chris Bauer
Alan Gleisner
Brenda Lageson
Andy Meyer
Kay Gross
Herman Bartsch
Rick Moore

Representing:

Faribault SWCD
Jackson SWCD
Brown SWCD
Freeborn SWCD
Brown County
GBERBA Coordinator
MAWQPC
MNIT – DNR

Call to Order: GBERBA Technical Chair Heidi Salminen called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

Introductions

Agenda: Motion by Jerad Bach, second by Dave Bucklin to approve the agenda with the additional discussion on water storage for subcommittee on MN Water Policy. Motion carried, all yes.

Minutes: Motion by Michele Stindtman, second by Brenda Lageson to approve the September 27, 2019 Technical Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION ACTION:

GBERBA Contract Approval

Jared Mensing	22-45(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops (76 ac)	Cost \$3,800.00	C-S \$1,900.00
Neal Mensing	22-46(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops (80 ac)	Cost \$4,000.00	C-S \$2,000.00
Terry Groskreutz	81-07(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops (30 ac)	Cost \$1,500.00	C- S \$750.00

Motion by Andy Geiger, second by Dave Bucklin to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract approval for N. Mensing(319-TMDL-\$2,000.00), J. Mensing(319-TMDL-\$1,900.00) and Groskreutz(319-TMDL-\$750.00). Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Cancellation

Steve Michels	08-01(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops (40 ac)	Cost \$2,000.00	C-S \$1,500.00
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Motion by Chris Bauer, second by Brenda Lageson to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract cancellation or Michels 08-01 (\$1,500.00 – 319-TMDL-16). Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Contract Partial Payment

Byron Properties of New Richland	81-01(CWF-MDM-17)	Bioreactor	Cost \$36,586.19	C-S \$27,439.64
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(Engineer has confirmed that the project is not complete with needed work around the water control structure).

Motion by Jerad Bach, second by Chris Bauer to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract partial payment for contract 81-01 (\$27,439.64 – CWF-MDM-17). Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Completion

Tom Klug	81-04(319-TMDL)	Cover Crops (55 ac)	Cost \$2,613.40	C-S \$1,306.70
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Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Mark Schaetzke to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract final payment for Klug (\$1,306.70 – 319-TMDL-16 Grant). Motion carried, all yes.

Review GBERBA Cost-Share Balances, Projects and Financial Report

Cover Crop Demonstration Grant - Discussion

November Policy/Technical Meeting - Discussion

Water Storage – MN Water Policy Subcommittee – Kim Musser, WRC-MSU

Water Storage Program from GBERBA perspective – Pilot Project – BMPs most effective (Modeling), Location of Projects, Incentive Program to move forward, then expand pilots to other regions. Invite Jim Stark, Director of Legislative Water Commission.

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. Over 500,000 acres certified! MDA will be working with GBERBA to extend our agreement for another five years.

☆ **2016 MPCA – 319 Drainage Grant GRANT COMPLETED**

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.

We have submitted the final report.

☆ **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, 50% cost share maximum (\$25.00 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. Grant End Date 8-31-2020

☆ **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.

A grant Work Plan Revision has been approved by the BWSR to allow for CAP 130 Drainage Water Management plans and for Structures for Water Control.

Grant Amendment Agreement will be approved and signed at the November 8 Policy Board/Technical Committee Joint Meeting and returned to BWSR; this will extend the expiration date to 12-31-2020.

☆ **One Watershed One Plan Planning Grants, Watonwan Watershed**

The Watonwan 1W1P Project is in full swing completing the plan language. The Advisory/ Steering Committee last met on October 2, to review progress made on the measurable goals, actions, and programs table. These will need to be completed for all issues in the plan.

☆ **2020 Clean Water Fund Grant Potential**

GBERBA staff submitted a Drinking Water Protection Grant application as well as a MDM Grant application. BWSR will announce the grant awards in January. GBERBA will also apply for a Cover Crop Grant through BWSR due October 24

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

Agency Reports:

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart – BWSR has two Board Conservation positions open, Jill will be assisting in additional coverage (5 LGUs), could go into grant reporting season. BWSR Academy next week, Jill will be in attendance through Wednesday. FY20 Capacity Grants and Work Plans are requested, but no deadline. Elink training for southern region will be held – waiting for details.

**GBERBA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 23, 2019**

MSU-WRC - Kim Musser

Upcoming Meetings and Information

MN Environmental Congress – The Climate for Action is Changing (Special Session on Water)

December 3, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Centennial Student Union – MSU, Mankato

Ag/Urban Partnership Building – November 18, Mankato, Civic Center – 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

MN Soil Health Coalition RCCP - Deadline December 4

MNIT-DNR – Rick Moore – None

OTHER – Question on Trading in the Shell Rock Watershed.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:31 p.m. by Chair Heidi Salminen.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____