

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee

Friday, December 20, 2019, Blue Earth County Ag Service Center, Mankato, MN

Present:

Heidi Salminen
Mark Schaetzke
Ashley Brenke
Merissa Lore
Dave Bucklin
Josh Votruba
Lee Tapper
Jill Sackett-Eberhart

Representing:

Watonwan SWCD
Waseca SWCD
Martin SWCD
Faribault County
GBERBA Coordinator
Watonwan Watershed Technician
Cottonwood SWCD
BWSR

Present:

Michele Stindtman
Jake Fritz
Andy Meyer
Dustin Anderson
Kay Gross
Herman Bartsch
Paul Davis
Rick Moore

Representing:

Faribault SWCD
Blue Earth SWCD
Brown County
Faribault County
GBERBA Coordinator
MAWQPC
MPCA
MNIT – DNR

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

Introductions

Agenda: Motion by Ashley Brenke, second by Andy Meyer to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of the MPCA-319 Grant Policy Amendments. Motion carried, all yes.

Minutes: Motion by Ashley Brenke, second by Dave Bucklin to approve the November 8, 2019 Policy Board/Technical Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION ACTION:

GBERBA Contract Amendments

Byron Properties	81-01(CWF-MDM-17)	Time Extension to 12-31-2020
Le Sueur County Drainage Authority	40-01(CWF-MDM-17)	Time Extension to 12-31-2020
Waseca County Drainage Authority	81-02(CWF-MDM-17)	Time Extension to 12-31-2020

Motion by Dustin Anderson, second by Andy Meyer to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract amendments for Time Extensions to 12-31-2020 for Byron Properties (CWF-MDM-17-81-01), Le Sueur County Drainage Authority (CWF-MDM-17-40-01) and Waseca County Drainage Authority (CWF-MDM-17-81-02). Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Completion

Roger Hubmer	07-07(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 80 acres	Cost \$3,240.00 C-S \$1,620.00
John Rollings	07-08(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 20 acres	Cost \$1,397.50 C-S \$500.00
Ramont Schrock	17-06(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 72 acres	Cost \$1,415.20 C-S \$1,207.60
Matt Alford	22-26(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 80 acres	Cost \$2,713.20 C-S \$1,356.60
Andy Linder	22-27(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 80 acres	Cost \$4,080.00 C-S \$2,000.00
Linder Family Farms	22-28(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 80 acres	Cost \$7,134.00 C-S \$2,000.00
Leo Olson	22-29(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 55 acres	Cost \$1,776.00 C-S \$888.00
William Rauenhorst	22-30(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 80 acres	Cost \$5,605.00 C-S \$1,180.00
Kurt Schimek	22-32(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 68 acres	Cost \$2,040.00 C-S \$8,25.00
J-Ace Farms	22-33(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 80 acres	Cost \$4,296.00 C-S \$1,119.20
Scott Volz	22-34(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 80 acres	Cost \$7,227.50 C-S \$1,180.00
Tim Murray	22-35(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 40 acres	Cost \$1,114.74 C-S \$557.37
Daryl Murray	22-36(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 45 acres	Cost \$1,254.96 C-S \$627.48
Mark Vokiel	22-37(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 70 acres	Cost \$3,145.80 C-S \$1,572.90
Nathan Carr	22-38(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 79 acres	Cost \$2,893.07 C-S \$1,165.25
Clinton Eastman	22-39(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 75.37 acres	Cost \$2,893.07 C-S \$1,446.53
Ryan Hagedorn	22-40(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 80 acres	Cost \$4,705.28 C-S \$1,180.00
Eric Volsen	22-41(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 65 acres	Cost \$3,012.50 C-S \$1,506.25
Roger Iliff	22-42(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 74 acres	Cost \$2,331.00 C-S \$1,165.50
Shawn Hassing	22-43(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 75 acres	Cost \$2,250.00 C-S \$1,125.00
Jared Mensing	22-45(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 76 acres	Cost \$2,736.00 C-S \$1,368.00
Neal Mensing	22-46(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 80 acres	Cost \$2,880.00 C-S \$1,440.00
Doug Meyer	22-47(319-TMDL-16)	Alternative Tile Intakes (2)	Cost \$2,586.65 C-S \$500.00
Marvin Guse	81-03(319-TMDL-16)	Alternative Tile Intakes (1)	Cost \$587.47 C-S \$250.00
Dan Roemhildt	81-05(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 45 acres	Cost \$1,362.80 C-S \$681.40
Glen Ausen	24-02(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 40 acres	Cost \$1,400.00 C-S \$1,050.00
Mark Byron	81-06(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 80 acres	Cost \$2,860.00 C-S \$1,430.00

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Motion by Michele Stindtman, second by Mark Schaetzke to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract payments as listed above for contracts (25 individuals/entities) through grant 319-TMDL-16 for cover crops and (2 individuals) through grant 319-TMDL-16 for alternative tile intakes. Motion carried, all yes.

Review GBERBA Cost-Share Balances, Projects and Financial Report

Cover Crop 319 Grant – Policy Amendments

Up the acres per contract for Cover Crops to 160 or open ended; repeat contract holders are allowed. If possible up the percentage to 75% for all practices, will look at match numbers to determine.

Motion by Ashley Brenke, second by Michele Stindtman to approve the MPCA 319 Cover Crop Grant Policy Amendments as described above to GBERBA Executive Board for approval. Motion carried, all yes.

MDA Joint Powers Agreement - January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021 - \$517,650.00 - Discussion
Cottonwood SWCD – Watershed Technician Position - Discussion

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! The needed paperwork has been submitted to the MDA that will extend the GBERBA agreement for another two years. The Executive Board will need to approve the agreement today.

★ **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. 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 has been approved to 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 Policy and Steering Committee will meet on December 18 to fine tune and approve measurable goals, actions, and programs table.

★ **2020 Grant Applications**

GBERBA staff submitted a Drinking Water Protection Grant application as well as a MDM Grant application for the 2020 Clean Water Fund. BWSR will announce the grant awards in January. GBERBA has also applied for a Cover Crop Grant through BWSR, submitted October 24, 2019.

★ **2019 MAWQCP Conservation Corps Position**

Lee Tapper has completed the 2019 Corps position requirements. Thank You, Lee! Lee has been hired by the Cottonwood SWCD as a Program Technician.

★ **2020 MAWQCP Conservation Corps Position**

Two applicants were interviewed for the 2020 MAWQCP Corps position. This is a yearlong position starting in January 2020. An applicant has accepted the position.

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Staff Report:

Watonwan Watershed Technician – Josh Votruba – Written Report

Area 6 Certification Specialist – Herman Bartsch – Written Report

Endorsements – Going above and beyond Certification

Soil Health, Integrated Pest Management has begun and the Wildlife component will be coming.

Area 5 Certification Specialist – Danielle Evers – Written Report

Conservation Corp Member – Lee Tapper – Written Report

Agency Reports:

DNR – Paul Davis – Blue Earth Watershed Impairment List is out for Comment; Le Sueur Cycle 2 moving forward; Watonwan WRAPS approved next week.

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart – Elink reporting until February 3 (Monday). FY2020 NRBG does not have to be reported – all other years – YES. Covering extra work areas – so responses back could be slower. Several positions are open so will cause delays in several BWSR areas.

Coming today – Directive from BWSR – To District Managers – PLEASE READ!

MNIT–DNR – Rick Moore – New AIS staff person in the office Carli Wagner.

OTHER – Michele Stindtman reviewed their Cover Crop Demonstration application, giving ideas on moving forward with other county programs.

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

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____