

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 – WebEx by Phone or Computer Connection

Present:

Michele Stindtman
Chad Hildebrand
Kay Gross
Josh Votruba
Jill Sackett-Eberhart
Kim Musser

Representing:

Faribault SWCD
Watonwan SWCD
GBERBA Coordinator
Cottonwood SWCD
BWSR
MSU-WRC

Present:

Ashley Brenke
Dave Bucklin
Alan Gleisner
Paul Davis
Rick Moore
Mark Schaetzke

Representing:

Martin SWCD
GBERBA Coordinator
Brown SWCD
MPCA
MNIT – DNR
Waseca SWCD

Call to Order: GBERBA Technical Vice-Chair Michele Stindtman called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

Introductions

Agenda: Motion by Ashley Brenke, second by Chad Hildebrand to approve the agenda with the addition Le Sueur 1W1P. Motion carried, all yes.

Minutes: Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Chad Hildebrand to approve the March 13, 2020 Policy Board - Technical Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION ACTION:

GBERBA Contract Cancellations

Greenwood Properties LLC	83-01(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 80 ac	Cost \$4,000.00	C-S \$3,000.00
Gary Dannhoff	83-02(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 80 ac	Cost \$4,000.00	C-S \$3,000.00
George Sill	83-03(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 80 ac	Cost \$4,000.00	C-S \$3,000.00
Porter Ann Gaines Whiteside	83-05(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 80 ac	Cost \$4,000.00	C-S \$3,000.00

Motion by Ashley Brenke, second by Dave Bucklin to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract cancellations for Greenwood Properties LLC - 83-01(319-TMDL-16) - \$3,000.00; Gary Dannhoff - 83-02(319-TMDL-16) - \$3,000.00; George Sill - 83-03(319-TMDL-16) - \$3,000.00 and Porter Ann Gaines Whiteside – 83-05(319-TMDL-16) - \$3,000.00. Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Contract Approval

Curt Russell	81-09(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 27 ac	Cost \$1,350.00	C-S \$675.00
Ramont Schrock	17-09(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 155 ac	Cost \$7,750.00	C-S \$3,875.00
Blue Earth Co. D.A.	07-09(319-TMDL-16)	Alternative Side Inlets – 10 no	Cost \$37,600.00	C-S \$18,800.00

Motion by Chad Hildebrand, second by Ashley Brenke to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contracts for Curt Russell - 81-09(319-TMDL-16) - \$675.00; Ramont Schrock - 17-09(319-TMDL-16) - \$3,875.00 and Blue Earth Co. D.A. - 07-09(319-TMDL-16) - \$18,800.00.

Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Completion

Homewood Farms Limited Prtnsp	83-08(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 80 ac	Cost \$3,500.00	C-S \$2,625.00
AVG II LLC	83-09(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 80 ac	Cost \$3,500.00	C-S \$2,625.00

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Ashley Brenke to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract payments for Homewood Farms Limited Prtnsp 83-08(319-TMDL-16) - \$2,625.00 and AVG II LLC – 83-09(319-TMDL-16) - \$2,625.00. Motion carried, all yes.

Review GBERBA Cost-Share Balances, Projects and Financial Report

LeSueur 1W1P

Application will go in for the LeSueur Watershed, Haley Bryon Waseca County staff, will be taking the lead. Eleven or twelve throughout the state with four or five in Southern Minnesota. Deadline is June 12 for submission.

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! GBERBA has the Area 5 and 6 MAWQCP administrative contracts approved through 2021. The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program is launching three new endorsements in addition to 10-year certification a farmer or landowner receives in the program. The endorsements are for soil health, integrated pest management, and wildlife.

☆ **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**
For 2020 the cover crop acre limits are removed. At this point the 50% cost share rate will continue. GBERBA staff will request an extension of this grant due to 2019 weather conditions and the Covid-19 outbreak.

☆ **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 and reviewing plan sections. The Watonwan Policy Committee voted to further research GBERBA as the fiscal and reporting agent for the 1W1P Watonwan. The GBERBA Policy board has agreed to revise the Joint Powers Agreement to allow inclusion of 1W1P duties.

☆ **Minnesota Conservation Corps Position**

The Minnesota/Iowa Conservation Corps program has decided to suspend AmeriCorps member field operations in Minnesota beginning on Friday, March 27th and effective through at least Monday, May 4th.

Staff Report:

Cottonwood SWCD Watershed Technician – Josh Votruba – Written and Verbal Report
Area 6 Certification Specialist – Herman Bartsch – Written Report
Area 5 Certification Specialist – Danielle Evers – Written Report
Conservation Corp Member – Ashley Broussard – Written Report

Agency Reports:

DNR – Paul Davis - Amendments – two 319 amendments. Clean Water Fund and no tax revenue and how will projects be funded – How is that going to work. All working remotely; no field work is being completed.

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart – BWSR April Board meeting was cancelled; May Board Meeting is scheduled. CREP Batching Period has been extended April 13 – June 1. Trainings has been moved online – have staff check the training calendar. Open grants – 1W1P RFP due June 12 submitted by 4:30 p.m. Jill will be the Board Conservationist for the Le Sueur. Covid-19 response page BWSR website. Getting a Webinar together for LGUs to discuss grant work. BWSR field staff are still on hiatus because of Covid-19. Please consult your local county attorney or MCIT for open meeting law questions.

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MNIT-DNR – Rick Moore – DNR Office staff are working remotely. Field staff projects are being looked at individually.

MSU-WRC – Kim Musser – Water Storage Bill update – MN River Congress – HF4398 (Brand) – funding going through local LGUs. HF3595 (Torkelson) – Fresh Water Society - funding would go through BWSR – bipartisan support – no funding set aside now. Kim will send out the links for these bills.

Water Storage Forum – follow-up – Virtual tour of water storage projects in the area.

Ag Urban Partnership Forum – No pilot will be funded by MPCA. City of Mankato is very interested in moving forward – focus on five pilots – host local meetings. MAWQCP Advisory Group is getting involved. They will keep us posted.

Jennifer Hahn is working on putting in an LLCMR proposal for the Soil Health Team.

OTHER – Looking at how we can meet in the future – WebEx will be planned for May Policy and Technical Meetings. Overview on how offices are working through the Covid-19 health crisis.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 10:55 p.m. by Vice Chair Michele Stindtman.

Upcoming Meetings

Policy Board Meeting	Friday, May 8, 2020	1:00 p.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, June 12, 2020	1:00 p.m.
Technical Meeting	Wednesday May 27, 2020	9:30 a.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____