

# Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee

Wednesday, August 26, 2020 – WebEx by Phone or Computer Connection

## **Present:**

Michele Stindtman  
Mark Schaetzke  
Kay Gross  
Chad Hildebrand  
Jake Fritz  
Ashley Brenke  
Jill Sackett Eberhart  
Rick Moore  
Brandee Douglas  
Sean Vaughn

## **Representing:**

Faribault SWCD  
Waseca SWCD  
GBERBA Coordinator  
Watonwan SWCD  
Blue Earth SWCD  
Martin SWCD  
BWSR  
MNIT – DNR  
Faribault County  
MNIT-DNR

## **Present:**

Dave Bucklin  
Alan Gleinser  
Brenda Lageson  
Nathan Carr  
Chris Bauer  
Ashley Broussard  
Paul Davis  
Julie Conrad  
Andy Meyer  
Kim Musser

## **Representing:**

GBERBA Coordinator  
Brown SWCD  
Freeborn SWCD  
Faribault SWCD  
Jackson SWCD  
MN-Iowa Conservation Corps  
MPCA  
Blue Earth County  
Brown County  
MSU-WRC

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

## **Introductions**

**Agenda:** Motion by Chad Hildebrand, second by Ashley Brenke to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of the Joint Powers Agreement Update. Motion carried, all yes.

**Minutes:** Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Chris Bauer to approve the July 10, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

## **INFORMATION ACTION:**

### **GBERBA Contract Approval**

Karl Swenson	81-11(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 120 ac	C-S \$3,000.00	Cost \$6,000.00
Tim Perrizo	22-63(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 120 ac	C-S \$2,700.00	Cost \$5,400.00
Larry Cowing	46-08(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 140 ac	C-S \$3,500.00	Cost \$7,000.00
Ron Volsen	22-64(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 215 ac	C-S \$3,767.50	Cost \$7,535.00

Motion by Nathan Carr, second by Jake Fritz to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contracts for Swenson – 81-11(319-TMDL-16) - \$3,000.00, Perrizo – 22-63(319-TMDL-16) - \$2,700.00, Cowing – 46-08(319-TMDL-16) - \$3,500.00 and Volsen – 22-64(319-TMDL-16) - \$3,767.50. Motion carried.

### **Review GBERBA Cost-Share Balances, Projects and Financial Report**

Status of Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant Projects and ability to request a formal extension.

### **Prevailing Wage Discussion**

Request a training session through the State Employees Association on this topic (with help from BWSR and MPCA).

### **2021 MAWQCP Corps Application**

MN/IA Conservation Corp has moved into the next round of positions for 2021. Looks like a position will be applied for in 2021, which would be mid-January thru mid-December.

### **Joint Powers Agreement Update**

Committee met with Ann Goering via WebEx on August 3. Our Joint Powers Agreement is at an age that a total rewrite is being completed, the agreement will be shortened with a lot of the content going into By-Laws for the organization. Ann will be sending out a draft Joint Powers Agreement for the committee to review before our next meeting on September 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. Over 625,000 acres and over 900 certified producers statewide!

GBERBA has the Area 5 and 6 MAWQCP administrative contract 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. For 2020, the cover crop acre limits are removed. At this point the 50% cost share rate will continue. GBERBA staff has requested and received an extension of this grant due to 2019 weather conditions and the Covid-19 outbreak. The new end date of the grant will be August 31, 2021.

☆ **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 and Le Sueur Watershed**

The Watonwan 1W1P Planning Project has completed the Plan 60 day comment period. All comments have been reviewed and the new plan document will be written with the changes. We are still on pace to complete the plan in the time allotted. The GBERBA Policy board has agreed to revise the Joint Powers Agreement to allow inclusion of 1W1P duties. A GBERBA committee is working to assist with writing a new GBERBA Joint Powers document. The new document would allow for the Watonwan, Le Sueur, and Blue Earth Watersheds to participate if the individual watersheds 1W1P boards see a benefit to do so. The Le Sueur Watershed has submitted an application to BWSR for a Planning Grant.

☆ **Minnesota Conservation Corps Position**

The Minnesota/Iowa Conservation Corps program has rescinded the covid suspension of M/ICC services. Ashley is back in the office and in the field helping with the MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program.

☆ **2021 Clean Water Fund Grant Application**

GBERBA staff has submitted a Projects and Practices Drinking Water application for protection of public drinking water sources within the Watonwan Watershed. We should find out in December 2020 if the application is funded.

**Staff Report:**

**Area 6 Certification Specialist** – Herman Bartsch – Written Report

**Area 5 Certification Specialist** – Danielle Evers – Written Report

**Conservation Corp Member** – Ashley Broussard – Written Report and Verbal Report

**Agency Reports:**

**DNR** – Paul Davis – Working on the Blue Earth TMDL and WRAPS internally, process will be different. Will be sending things out by email for comment. The 319 can be completed early and spot checks will be done next week.

**BWSR** – Jill Sackett Eberhart – BWSR update: CREP is moving forward. Grant Administration Manual has been updated which include new forms. One change to note in 2022 – grants will have a minimum amount that they can move at their own discretion. FY22 will be moving to a new program replacing the BBR. SWCD Operational Handbook is on the BWSR website. BWSR Academy will be virtual option and scheduled with morning sessions (for three days). BWSR Board Packet – Meeting (today) – One Watershed One Plan – 9 applications 8 are being recommended (Des Moines, Lac Qui Parle, Le Sueur and Mississippi Winona-La Crescent – all in Southern MN). With that being said – not sure what the BWSR Board will do? FY21 Local Capacity Grants – recommending that the FY21 with County match. Buffer Law BWSR grants – will be a budget cut – 14% FY21. One Watershed One Plans – FY21 – Watershed Implementation Funds – budget cut – 10.5% - distribute cuts across the watersheds evenly. Only take reduction out of 2018 planning grants. These decisions, will be finalized by the BWSR Board today (Aug. 26). Sixty-one applications for \$20 million (majority projects and practices) were received for Clean Water Fund Grants.

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**GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting**  
**August 26, 2020**

**MNIT-DNR** – Rick Moore  
**Lidar – Southern Minnesota Update Presentation** – Sean Vaughn

**MSU-WRC** – Kim Musser – We Are Water MN Exhibit – October 22 – December 21, 2020, Blue Earth County Historical Society. Follow-up on two additional projects.

**OTHER –**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:29 a.m. by GBERBA Vice Chair Michele Stindtman.

**Upcoming Meetings**

Technical Meeting	Wednesday, September 23, 2020	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, August 26, 2020	1:00 p.m.
Policy Board	Friday, September 11, 2020	1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_