

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee

Wednesday, September 23, 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. Motion carried, all yes.

Minutes: Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Chris Bauer to approve the August 26, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION ACTION:

GBERBA Contract Approval

Mark Byron	81-12(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 76 ac.	C-S \$1,900.00	Cost \$3,800.00
Faribault Co. D.A.	22-02(CWF-MDM-17)	Denitrifying Bioreactor – 1 no.	C-S \$3,000.00	Cost \$120,000.00

Motion by Nathan Carr, second by Jake Fritz to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contracts for Byron – 81-12(319-TMDL-16) - \$1,900.00 and Faribault Co. D.A. – 22-02(CWF-MDM-17) - \$3,000.00. Motion carried.

GBERBA Contract Final Payment

Doug Meyer	22-62(319-TMDL-16)	Alternative Tile Intakes – 2 no.	C-S \$500.00	Cost \$1,173.04
Tom Muller	17-11(319-TMDL-16))	Cover Crops – 130 ac.	C-S \$2,778.75	Cost \$5,557.50

Motion by Nathan Carr, second by Jake Fritz to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract final payments for Meyer – 22-62(319-TMDL-16) - \$500.00 and Muller – 17-11(319-TMDL-16) - \$2,778.75. 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.

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.

CWF MDM Grant Extension Request

October Technical Committee Meeting and Discussion

November Joint Policy/Technical Meeting Discussion

**GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting
September 23, 2020**

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.

This grant funding is now running short. Funding will be awarded as available. Please pass this notice on to new landowners wishing to apply.

☆ **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. The revised plan document is complete. The next step is for the plan to have public hearings in each county. **The BWSR Board has chosen the Le Sueur Watershed for a 2021 planning grant!**

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.

☆ **2021 Minnesota Conservation Corps Position**

The Minnesota/Iowa Conservation Corps program has received the GBERBA application for a 2021, one-year position to assist GBERBA with the MAWQCP program.

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 –

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart –

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MNIT-DNR – Rick Moore

MSU-WRC – Kim Musser –

OTHER –

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

Upcoming Meetings

Technical Meeting	Wednesday, October ????, 2020	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, October 9, 2020	1:00 p.m.
Policy Board	Friday, November 13	1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____