

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee

Wednesday, January 27, 2021 – WebEx by Phone or Computer Connection

Present:

Dave Bucklin
Melanie Krueger
Andy Meyer
Brenda Lageson
Scott Salsbury
Hadley Mensing
Jake Fritz
Ed Lenz
Paul Davis
Brad Edwin

Representing:

GBERBA Coordinator
Brown SWCD
Brown County
Freeborn SWCD
Blue Earth County
Faribault SWCD
Blue Earth SWCD
BWSR
MPCA
Freeborn County Commissioner

Present:

Mark Schaetzke
Chad Hildebrand
Kay Gross
Michael Stalberger
David Haler
Ashley Brenke
Dru Larson
Rick Moore

Representing:

Waseca SWCD
Watsonwan SWCD
GBERBA Coordinator
Blue Earth County
Watsonwan County
Martin SWCD
Conservation Corps
MNIT – DNR

Call to Order: GBERBA Technical Coordinator Dave Bucklin called the meeting to order at 9:33 am.

Introductions

Election of 2021 Officers

Nomination by Andy Meyer of Chad Hildebrand as Chair and Andy Meyer as Vice Chair.

Call for any more nominations; conclude the process and declare Chair as Chad Hildebrand and Vice Chair as Andy Meyer.

Meeting continued with Chad Hildebrand as Chair.

Agenda: Motion by Jake Fritz, second by Ashley Brenke to approve the agenda with the addition of Dan Roemhildt cover crop c-s payment. Motion carried, all yes.

Minutes: Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Andy Meyer to approve the December 18, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION ACTION:

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Final Payment

Dan Gossman	319-TMDL(81-13)	Cover Crops (130.9 ac.)	Cost \$4,516.05	C-S \$2,258.00
Scott Gossman	319-TMDL(81-14)	Cover Crops (181.71 ac.)	Cost \$6,396.40	C-S \$3,198.00
Darby Harder	319-TMDL(17-10)	Cover Crops (62.3 ac.)	Cost \$2,555.10	C-S \$1,277.55
Dan Roemhildt	319-TMDL(81-10)	Cover Crops (209.2 ac.)	Cost \$6,802.46	C-S \$3,401.00

Motion by Jake Fritz, second by Ashley Brenke to approve the Cost-Share contract final payment for D. Gossman 319-TMDL-16-81-13 (\$2,258.00), S. Gossman 319-TMDL-16-81-14 (\$3,198.00), Harder 319-TMDL-16-17-10 (\$1,277.55) and Roemhildt 319-TMDL-17-81-10 (\$3,401.00). Motion carried.

GBERBA Technical and Engineering Assistance Final Payments

Waseca SWCD	81-01(CWF-MDM-17)	Technical & Engineering	Cost \$273.10
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Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Chad Hildebrand to approve the GBERBA Technical and Engineering Assistance contract final payments for Waseca SWCD (CWF-MDM-17-81-01) - \$273.10. Motion carried.

GBERBA Contract Approval

J-Ace Farms	22-65(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops (746 ac.)	Cost \$28,348.00	C-S \$14,174.00
Eric Volsen	22-66(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops (212 ac.)	Cost \$7,632.00	C-S \$3,816.00
Ron Volsen	22-67(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops (62 ac.)	Cost \$2,232.00	C-S \$1,116.00
Jeff Moeller	46-09(319-TMDL-16)	Alternative Tile Intakes (8 no.)	Cost \$2,000.00	C-S \$1,000.00

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Ashley Brenke to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share Contracts for J-Ace Farms 319-TMDL-16-22-65 (\$14,174.00), E. Volsen 319-TMDL-16-22-66 (\$3,816.00) R. Volsen 319-TMDL-16-22-67 (\$1,116.00) and Moeller 319-TMDL-16-46-09 (\$1,000.00). Motion carried.

Review GBERBA Cost-Share Balances, Projects and Financial Report

GBERBA Joint Powers Agreement

All members (10 Counties and 10 SWCDs) have approved the Joint Powers Agreement through their local Boards and the GBERBA Policy Board approved signing the approved Joint Powers Agreement to ratify the membership approval. Official Date – 1-22-2021.

GBERBA By-Laws

Review of the By-Laws with motion of adoption on 1-22-2021.

CWF MDM Grant Extension Request by Waseca SWCD

The Waseca SWCD Board of Supervisors requested approval of a letter of Request for Extension to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for the Clean Water Fund Multipurpose Drainage Grant to extend to December 31, 2021. Approval of letter submission was given by the GBERBA Policy Board.

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 750,000 acres and over 1000 certified producers statewide!

GBERBA has the Area 5 and 6 MAWQCP administrative contract approved through 2021. The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program has launched 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.

Introduction of Dru Larson, MN/IA Conservation Corps Member.

☆ 2017 MPCA 319 Grant - Cover Crops and Alternative Tile Intakes

An Implementation Policy Paper for this grant titled "Greater Blue Earth River Basin TMDL Implementation" is found on the GBERBA web site. Cover crops: \$50.00 dollars per acre maximum, 50% c/s (\$25.00 ac.). Prioritization required. Alternative intakes: Rock and pattern tile. \$500.00 maximum with 50% cost share.

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.

For 2020, the cover crop acre limits are removed. 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 the 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 to identify the eligible ditches. A guidance policy sheet is online.

At this time, GBERBA has received a second grant time extension. In addition, GBERBA can pay grant-engineering funds to approved projects even if not constructed prior to grant deadline. The new grant end date is April 30, 2021. Waseca SWCD is asking GBERBA to request from BWSR, a project time extension for a (water storage) wetland restoration.

☆ One Watershed One Plan Planning Grants, Watonwan and Le Sueur Watersheds

The full BWSR Board at the December 17, 2020 meeting approves the Watonwan 1W1P plan. The task now is to draft an Implementation Plan and Budget, by March 2021.

A GBERBA committee is working to assist with writing a new GBERBA Joint Powers Agreement document and By-laws. The new JPA document would allow for the Watonwan, Le Sueur, and Blue Earth Watersheds 1W1P boards to utilize the GBERBA structure if the individual watersheds 1W1P boards see a benefit to do so. Local boards in member counties and SWCD's are approving the document this month.

The Le Sueur River 1W1P group has asked Mark Schaetzke to give 1W1P updates to GBERBA. Currently the Le Sueur group are working on the work plan narrative, timeline and budget. They are expecting a first policy board meeting in February, and then begin the work of selecting a consultant after that.

☆ CWF 2020 Watonwan Drinking Water Grant. BWSR has notified GBERBA that we are able to start grant planning in Elink.

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GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting
January 27, 2021

Staff Report:

Area 6 Certification Specialist – Herman Bartsch – Written Report

Area 5 Certification Specialist – Danielle Evers – Written Report

Conservation Corp Member – Dru Larson – Written Report

Agency Reports:

MPCA - Paul Davis – Looking at reduction goals for the Blue Earth Watershed and bringing back to staff for discussion. Le Sueur and Blue Earth – civic engagement grants have been put on hold because of the pandemic.

BWSR – Ed Lenz – Jill Sackett Eberhart was unable to join because of technical difficulties – if you are needing assistance please reach out to Shania Keseley, Mark Hiles or other Board Conservationists.

OTHER – Rick Moore – LiDAR updated for Minnesota – area in Northeast Minnesota has been set for Spring 2021, Southwest and Southeast have also been approved for Spring 2021 (looking for and upgrade in these two areas); also working on the cities – which will be submitted for 2022.

MSU-WRC - Kim Musser – Water storage bill Senate File 261 (Senator Weber) was presented yesterday in the legislature – urban stormwater and for rural – study for water storage areas – also looking for project funding. ‘We are Water’ exhibit has been extended. Looking for nominations for the Trail Blazer Awards due by March 5. ACPF training link online.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 10:40 a.m. by Chair Chad Hildebrand.

Upcoming Meetings

Technical Meeting	Wednesday, February 24, 2021	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, February 12, 2021	1:00 p.m.
Policy Board Meeting	Friday, March 12, 2021	1:00 p.m.

Secretary’s signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____