

# Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee

Wednesday, June 23, 2021 – WebEx by Phone or Computer Connection

## **Present:**

Andy Meyer  
Dave Bucklin  
Scott Salisbury  
David Haler  
Laura Quiring  
Mark Schaetzke  
Brenda Lageson  
Dru Larson  
Paul Davis  
Steve Soderman

## **Representing:**

Brown County  
GBERBA Coordinator  
Blue Earth County  
Watonwan County  
Watonwan SWCD  
Waseca SWCD  
Freeborn SWCD  
MN/IA Conservation Corps  
MPCA  
Watonwan SWCD Supervisor

## **Present:**

Kay Gross  
Nathan Carr  
Alan Gleisner  
Ashley Brenke  
Dan Bartosh  
Jake Fritz  
Shane Johnson  
Jill Sackett Eberhart

## **Representing:**

GBERBA Coordinator  
Faribault SWCD  
Brown SWCD  
Martin SWCD  
Jackson SWCD  
Blue Earth SWCD  
Faribault SWCD  
BWSR

**Call to Order:** GBERBA Technical Committee Vice Chair Andy Meyer called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

## **Introductions**

**Agenda:** Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Jake Fritz to approve the agenda with the addition of the Potential State Shutdown. Motion carried, all yes.

**Minutes:** Motion by Ashley Brenke, second by Andy Meyer to approve the May 26, 2021 Technical Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

## **INFORMATION ACTION:**

### **GBERBA Contract Approval**

Karson Duncanson	07-01(CWF-WWDW-21) Cover Crops – 150 ac/3 yrs.	C-S \$12,000.00	Cost \$18,500.00
Andy Linder	22-70(319-TMDL-16) Cover Crops – 153 ac.	C-S \$3,060.00	Cost \$6,120.00
Robert Priebe	81-17(319-TMDL-16) Cover Crops – 130 ac.	C-S \$3,250.00	Cost \$6,500.00

Motion by Jake Fritz, second by Nathan Carr to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contracts for Duncanson (CWF-WWDW-21-07-01) \$12,000.00; Linder (319-TMDL-16-22-70) \$3,060.00 and Priebe (319-TMDL-16-81-17) \$3,250.00. Motion carried.

### **GBERBA Contract Final Payment**

City of Mt. Lake 17-01(CWF-WWDW-21) Tree/Shrub Planting – 2 ac.	C-S \$9,010.00	Cost \$10,600.00
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Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Brenda Lageson to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract final payment for City of Mountain Lake (CWF-WWDW-21-17-01) \$9,010.00. Motion carried.

## **Review GBERBA Cost-Share Grant Balances and Financial Report**

### **1W1P Le Sueur River Planning Grant**

Currently in negotiations with ISG and completing the contract. Also, in negotiations with Water Resource Center for meeting facilitation. Plan initiation comments are due June 30 from State and local entities. Looking at a later Kick-Off meeting in late summer or early fall.

### **Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant**

#### **Multipurpose Drainage Management Studies – Definition and Expectations**

Watonwan Watershed – Multipurpose Drainage Management Studies – Definition - Discussion

As for the MDM Studies, our Watonwan Watershed Plan goal is to "Coordinate with the drainage authorities to implement MDM on 10 public drainage systems to improve water quality and flood resiliency in tandem with the maintenance and repair of drainage systems.

First Draft - MDM studies need to have multiple on-system and off-system BMPs identified in order to reduce downstream peak flows and flooding, reduce erosion and sedimentation, improve water quality and improve aquatic habitat.

**GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting  
June 23, 2021**

Would like to get a clear definition and delivery expectations for the July Policy and Technical Meetings. Committee to work through the objectives. Andy Meyer and Ashley Brenke. Correspondence will be sent out to the Technical Committee plus Jill, Shania, Mark H, Paul, Katy and Brooke.

**Urban Forestry Planting/Removal Proposal (Handout) - Discussion**

Need to look for a different practice standard. Need to have a water quality purpose. Will review 612 and see if anything will coordinate. Need to have group consensus on moving funds for these projects.

**Legal Counsel**

Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney have given their opinion based on our request (document provided). We are working with counsel to create a usable contract through our Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant. Phone conversation on Thursday (yesterday) with Tim Sullivan established some points of consideration to include in the contract with additional documentation sent for review.

**GBERBA July Policy Board and Technical Committee Meeting**

At this time, we are planning on holding both the Technical Committee Meeting and Policy Board Meetings on Friday, July 16 at their separate time – 9:30 a.m. for Technical Committee and 1:00 p.m. for the Policy Board Meeting. We will look forward to September when hopefully more restrictions will have been lifted to hold an in person meeting.

**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 761,000 acres and over 1063 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 (31), integrated pest management (31), wildlife (22) and climate smart (12).

NRCS announced a June 4<sup>th</sup> application deadline for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP – MAWQCP). RCPP is a partnership between NRCS and MAWQCP. Producers who are seeking certification or are already certified are eligible to receive funding. Priority is given to practices that are needed for a producer to obtain certification. Dru Larson, MN/IA Conservation Corps Member will be assisting with this program in 2021

**☆ 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.

The end date of the grant is August 31, 2021. This grant is now fully encumbered. Funding awarded as available.

**☆ 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 third grant time extension. In addition, GBERBA can pay grant-engineering funds to approved projects even if not constructed prior to grant deadline. BWSR staff has now approved the extension for the entire grant to April 30, 2022.

**☆ Watonwan River Watershed - Implementation Grant**

Implementation grant funds are available now with the Grant 41 Policy distributed to all GBERBA members and partners. The grant timeline is 3-24-2021 to 12-31-2023. The Project Ranking Worksheet is used for project priority. Legal counsel has been contracted to review the need for additional contracts with member entities or others and recourse and/or errors and omissions if non-compliance issues arise when completing projects. The Technical Committee is working on the Multipurpose Drainage Management Study definition and expectations, with hope to have that completed by the July 16 Policy Board Meeting.

☆ **Le Sueur River Watershed – One Watershed One Plan**

Two Consultant responses were received out of the nine Requests for Qualifications that were sent out which was much less than anticipated. The steering team will be reviewed the two RFQs and interviewed both to provide a recommendation to the Policy Committee. Both were good proposals and the Steering team was able to come to consensus. The Steering Team is also communicating with Kim from WRC to refine the vision and expectations of the kickoff meeting. 60 day comment letters were due by the end of May and we received them from all the state agencies, Faribault County, Faribault SWCD, and Waseca SWCD. A wide variety of priorities and data sources were provided. Contracting will be our next task. Haley will be out for leave from July-Sept and is coordinating with other staff who will complete her day-to-day duties for that time.

☆ **CBF 2020 Watonwan Drinking Water Grant.** The grant funding is available now to encumber! The grant timeline is 3-25-2021 to 12-31-2023. Grant Policy #40 has been distributed to staff, please review for eligible practices and grant guidelines.

**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:**

**BWSR** – Jill Sackett Eberhart – BWSR staff (some) have been able to meet in person. For BWSR it will be up to the staff if they will be attending in person meetings. Jill will be contacting all Districts and updating over the phone or virtually. RFP has closed for Watershed Implementation – eleven applications. BWSR Board Meeting General, Capacity, TSA and NRBG. State Cost-Share grant will need a work plan to complete for 2022 and 2023 with an attached State Cost-Share Policy (information is on website).

**MPCA** - Paul Davis – Middle of Shutdown Blues – suppose to come back to work on July 1. Also, they have been authorized that they can start in person meetings. Blue Earth WRAPS in progress.

**DNR** – Rick Moore – Not in attendance

**MSU-WRC** – Kim Musser – Not in attendance.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:37 a.m. by Technical Coordinator Dave Bucklin.

**Upcoming Meetings**

Technical Committee Meeting	Friday, July 16, 2021	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday, August 25	1:00 p.m.
Policy Board Meeting	Friday, July 16, 2021	1:00 p.m.

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