

GREATER BLUE EARTH RIVER BASIN ALLIANCE

SECTION 319 POLICY

TMDL Implementation – Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (FY 2016 Application)

APPLICATION

The Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA) will implement cover crops and convert open tile intakes to an alternative design according to the Lower MN dissolved oxygen TMDL implementation plan. Our goal is to convert 1500 open tile intakes and implement 3,000 acres of cover crops in targeted areas.

Total Grant: \$400,000.00

Grant Period: December 30, 2016 – August 31, 2020

GUIDELINES

1. Administrative and Coordination: Funds will be provided to GBERBA to complete the grant reporting and financial responsibilities: \$21,000.00. GBERBA Coordinators will provide \$4,000.00 in matching funds.
2. Technical Assistance and Engineering: These funds will be paid to County and SWCD staff to target and prioritize alternative tile intake projects at a cost of \$25/hr. A total of \$79,000.00 is available for staff to complete this task. Matching funds of \$37,700.00 is required and may be obtained from staff time and landowner in-kind.
3. Cost-Share for Conservation Practices: A total of \$300,000.00 is available to be disbursed to landowners up to 75% cost-share. State funds and landowner in-kind and cash are anticipated. Total match required for projects: \$225,000.00.
 - Cover Crops: 1 year contract, 80 acre maximum, 75% cost-share at maximum \$50/acre estimated total cost. No fall tillage requested. Individual landowners can apply annually.
 - Alternative Tile Intakes: Includes intake covers (risers, water quality inlets), dense pattern tile, and rock (blind) intakes, 50% cost-share.
4. BMPs will be targeted in agricultural areas that:
 1. Receive surface applied livestock manure.
 2. Slopes >3%.
 3. Are in close proximity to impaired waters.
 4. Land operated by producers working through the Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program.
5. Projects will be approved at the local SWCD and then presented to the Technical Committee and Policy/Executive Board for approval. (Approval is not official until approved by local SWCD Board of Supervisors). The BWSR Cost-Share Contract shall be used to establish an agreement between the SWCD and landowner requesting funds.
6. Payments for the completed projects will be approved at the local SWCD and then presented to the Technical Committee followed by the Policy/Executive Board for final payment. All applicable paper work must be submitted to GBERBA before payments are made.
7. Numbering System for grant: 319 – TMDL – 16 – (County #) – (Project # beginning with 01)