

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee

Friday, February 14, 2020, Blue Earth County Ag Service Center, Mankato, MN

Present:

Heidi Salminen
Mark Schaetzke
Ashley Brenke
Brenda Lageson
Kay Gross
Herman Bartsch
Bill Miller
Bailey Griffin
Rick Moore

Representing:

Watonwan SWCD
Waseca SWCD
Martin SWCD
Freeborn SWCD
GBERBA Coordinator
Area 6 MAWQCP
Watonwan Co. Commissioner
ISG
MNIT – DNR

Present:

David Haler
Jake Fritz
Michele Stindtman
Dave Bucklin
Alan Gleisner
Ashley Broussard
Paul Davis
Jill Sackett-Eberhart

Representing:

Watonwan County
Blue Earth SWCD
Faribault SWCD
GBERBA Coordinator
Brown SWCD
MN/IA Conservation Corp
MPCA
BWSR

Call to Order: GBERBA Technical Chair Heidi Salminen called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

Introductions

Agenda: Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Ashley Brenke to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

Minutes: Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Michele Stindtman to approve the December 20, 2019 Technical Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION ACTION:

GBERBA Contract Cancellations

Blue Earth Co. D. A.	07-02(CWF-MDM-17)	WASCOBs	Cost \$33,500.00 C-S \$25,125.00
Blue Earth Co. D. A.	07-03(CWF-MDM-17)	WASCOBs	Cost \$50,200.00 C-S \$37,650.00

Motion by Ashley Brenke, second by Brenda Lageson to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract cancellations for Blue Earth Co. D.A. 07-02 and 07-03 (CWF-MDM-17). Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Contract Approval

Jared Mensing	22-48(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 37 acres	Cost \$1,665.00 C-S \$832.50
Neal Mensing	22-49(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops - 32 acres	Cost \$1,440.00 C-S \$720.00
Neal Mensing	22-50(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops - 75 acres	Cost \$3,375.00 C-S \$1,687.50
Neal Mensing	22-51(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops - 45 acres	Cost \$2,160.00 C-S \$1,080.00
Neal Mensing	22-52(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops - 42 acres	Cost \$1,890.00 C-S \$945.00
Neal Mensing	22-53(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops - 71 acres	Cost \$3,195.00 C-S \$1,597.50
Faribault Co. D. A.	22-54(319-TMDL-16)	Grade Stabilizations – 30 no.	Cost \$91,962.00 C-S \$45,981.00
Blue Earth Co. D. A.	07-04(CWF-MDM-17)	WASCOBs	Cost \$50,200.00 C-S \$37,650.00
Blue Earth Co. D. A.	07-05(CWF-MDM-17)	WASCOBs	Cost \$33,500.00 C-S \$25,125.00

Motion by Michele Stindtman, second by Brenda Lageson to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract approval for Jared Mensing contract 22-48 (319-TMDL-16) and Neal Mensing contracts 22-49, 22-50, 22-51, 22-52, 22-53 and Faribault Co. D.A. 22-54 all (319-TMDL-16); Blue Earth Co. D.A. 07-04 and 07-05 (CWF-MDM-17). Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Completion

Andrew Krusemark	46-05(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 80 acres	Cost \$3,157.33 C-S \$1,578.67
Darby Harder	17-07(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 80 acres	Cost \$5,696.90 C-S \$2,000.00

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Ashley Brenke to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract payment for Krusemark 46-05(319-TMDL-16) and Harder 17-07(319-TMDL-16). Motion carried, all yes.

Review GBERBA Cost-Share Balances, Projects and Financial Report

March Policy Board -Technical Committee Meeting Topics

February Technical Meeting will be cancelled (met on Friday, February 14th).

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GBERBA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
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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 500,000 acres certified! GBERBA has the Area 5 and 6 MAWQCP administrative contract approved through 2021.

☆ **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. **Grant End Date 8-31-2020**

For 2020 the cover crop acre limits are removed. At this point the 50% cost share rate will be continued.

☆ **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 Watershed**

The Watonwan 1W1P Project is in full swing completing the plan language and reviewing plan sections. The Policy and Steering Committee met on February 5 to fine tune parts of the budget and plan. Discussion as to what type of organizational structure the group will use is moving forward.

☆ **2020 Grant Applications**

GBERBA staff submitted a Drinking Water Protection Grant application as well as a MDM Grant application for the 2020 Clean Water Fund. **GBERBA did not receive funding. Congratulations to Faribault County for the Cover Crop Grant Award!**

☆ **2020 MAWQCP Conservation Corps Position**

Introducing Ashley Broussard as the 2020 MAWQCP Conservation Corps position. Welcome aboard Ashley!

Staff Report:

Cottonwood SWCD Watershed Technician – Josh Votruba – Written Report

Area 6 Certification Specialist – Herman Bartsch – Written Report

Area 5 Certification Specialist – Danielle Evers – Written Report

Conservation Corp Member – Ashley Broussard – Introduction

Agency Reports:

DNR – Paul Davis – Middle MN and Watonwan WRAPS done and on website. MN River and the Greater Blue Earth TMDL for TSS has been approved by EPA. Township roads and temporary storage. Congratulations MPCA for all of your hard work!!!!

MNIT–DNR – Rick Moore – Working on getting LIDAR.

ISG – Bailey Griffin – Water Quality and Ag Drainage Workshop – June 17 and 18 in Mankato.

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BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart – Reporting – congrats – all reports were received on time. Reconciliations need to be done at least once if not twice for grants over \$50,000. Linking and grouping are sticking points this year. Work plans for Capacity and Buffers a few to complete. Lawns and Legumes are out now for work plan submission. SWCDs have to have an annual work plan – in 2022 cost-share will now have a work plan to help keep our status current with 103C statute. Area 6 Technical Training Team will be meeting in March. 1W1P tentatively coming out at the end of March and submission by middle of June and will expire June 30, 2023 with 1.5 million has been set aside with 6-8 applications being picked. This year there could be some areas not funded.

April 14 Soil Health – U of MN. October 27 – 29 Breezy Point for BWSR Academy.

OTHER –

The meeting was declared adjourned at 12:10 p.m. by Chair Heidi Salminen.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____