

# Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee

Wednesday, May 27, 2020 – WebEx by Phone or Computer Connection

## **Present:**

Michele Stindtman  
Dave Bucklin  
Kay Gross  
Josh Votruba  
Andy Meyer  
Shaina Keseley  
Rick Moore  
Tyler Grupa

## **Representing:**

Faribault SWCD  
GBERBA Coordinator  
GBERBA Coordinator  
Cottonwood SWCD  
Brown County  
BWSR  
MNIT – DNR  
MSU-WRC

## **Present:**

Jerad Bach  
Mark Schaetzke  
Brenda Lageson  
Jake Fritz  
Ashley Broussard  
Jill Sackett-Eberhart  
Paul Davis

## **Representing:**

Blue Earth SWCD  
Waseca SWCD  
Freeborn SWCD  
Blue Earth SWCD  
MN-Iowa Conservation Corps  
BWSR  
MPCA

**Call to Order:** GBERBA Technical Vice-Chair Michele Stindtman called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

## **Introductions**

**Agenda:** Motion by Jerad Bach, second by Dave Bucklin to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

**Minutes:** Motion by Jerad Bach, second by Mark Schaetzke to approve the April 22, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

## **INFORMATION ACTION:**

### **GBERBA Contract Approval**

Karson Duncanson      07-10(319-TMDL-16)      Cover Crops – 1,225 ac      Cost \$36,750.00 C-S \$18,375.00

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Andy Meyer to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract for Duncanson – 07-10(319-TMDL-16) - \$18,375.00.

Motion carried, all yes.

### **GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Completion**

Tony Dick      17-08(319-TMDL-16)      Cover Crops – 45 ac      Cost \$1,828.68 C-S \$914.34  
Curt Russell      81-09(319-TMDL-16)      Cover Crops – 28 ac      Cost \$1,460.00 C-S \$675.00

Motion by Mark Schaetzke, second by Jerad Bach to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract payments for Dick 17-08(319-TMDL-16) - \$914.34 and Russell – 81-09(319-TMDL-16) - \$675.00. Motion carried, all yes.

## **Review GBERBA Cost-Share Balances, Projects and Financial Report**

### **Technical/Engineering MPCA 319**

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Jerad Bach to approve the end date of June 24, 2020 to have Technical and Engineering request for existing MDM projects. Motion carried, all yes.

Looking for \$16,000 in engineering requests for a 10% move of \$30,000 to project funds.

**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. 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. **Grant End Date 8-31-2020**

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**GBERBA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
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For 2020 the cover crop acre limits are removed. At this point the 50% cost share rate will continue.  
GBERBA staff will request an extension of this grant due to 2019 weather conditions and the Covid-19 outbreak.

★ **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 Planning Project is ready to move into the Plan 60 day comment period. The Watonwan Policy Committee voted to further research GBERBA as the fiscal and reporting agent for the 1W1P Watonwan. The GBERBA Policy board has agreed to revise the Joint Powers Agreement to allow inclusion of 1W1P duties.

★ **Minnesota Conservation Corps Position**

The Minnesota/Iowa Conservation Corps program has decided to suspend AmeriCorps member field operations in Minnesota beginning on Friday, March 27 until cancelled.

**Staff Report:**

**Cottonwood SWCD Watershed Technician** – Josh Votruba – Written and Verbal 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 – Still working remotely and could be for a longer period of time (maybe until end of year). Budget is being reviewed constantly with the pandemic and economic shutdown. Monitoring has been shut down for the year.

**BWSR** – Jill Sackett Eberhart and Shaina Keseley – May BWSR Board Meeting has been canceled, for lack of action items. August Board Meeting Tour has been canceled but the Board meeting is scheduled. Two members retired from the BWSR Board new appointees are Jane Haggerty (SWCD) (Northfield), Ted Winter (Citizen) (Fulda). CREP batching period goes through June 1. Third batching period June 22 – August 10 (tentative). CREP Outreach Grants was not acted on through the legislature. Soil Health Bus Tour has been postponed to 2021. BWSR Academy is still in planning stages. Planning grants 1W1P still open till June 12. Lawns to Legumes individual is open till June 2. BWSR staff is still working remotely, some field staff have been given permission to complete field work. Still looking at a reduction in Clean Water Legacy funding. Still planning on having a Clean Water Fund competitive application period this fall.

**MNIT-DNR** – Rick Moore – Working remotely, which could go through the end of 2020.

**MSU-WRC** – Tyler Grupa – Following MSU regulations and working remotely. They are water sampling in the field. Scott Sparlin update on water storage efforts (Brand, Torkelson). Received and extensive network of entities for the bill. A companion bill was approved in the Senate. Making progress and could be brought up in the special session omnibus bill. Looking at a virtual tour of water storage throughout the MN River Basin. Will be holding a Zoom meeting for the 'We Are Water' Program. Le Sueur River Network meeting will be held next week through conference call/WebEx.

**OTHER** – Meeting structure updates from SWCDs.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:00 a.m. by Vice Chair Michele Stindtman.

**Upcoming Meetings**

Executive Board Meeting	Friday, June 12, 2020	1:00 p.m.
Technical Meeting	Wednesday June 24, 2020	9:30 a.m.
Policy Board/Technical Committee	Friday, July 10, 2020	9:30 a.m.

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