

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee

Wednesday, June 24, 2020 – WebEx by Phone or Computer Connection

Present:

Michele Stindtman
Mark Schaetzke
Kay Gross
Jake Fritz
Ashley Brenke
Jill Sackett-Eberhart
Rick Moore

Representing:

Faribault SWCD
Waseca SWCD
GBERBA Coordinator
Blue Earth SWCD
Martin SWCD
BWSR
MNIT – DNR

Present:

Dave Bucklin
Andy Meyer
Brenda Lageson
Chad Hildebrand
Ashley Broussard
Paul Davis

Representing:

GBERBA Coordinator
Brown County
Freeborn SWCD
Watonwan SWCD
MN-Iowa Conservation Corps
MPCA

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

Introductions

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

Minutes: Motion by Andy Meyer, second by Jake Fritz to approve the May 27, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION ACTION:

GBERBA Contract Approval

Darby Harder	17-10(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 62 ac	Cost \$3,100.00	C-S \$1,550.00
Tom Muller	17-11(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 130 ac	Cost \$6,500.00	C-S \$3,250.00

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Jake Fritz to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract for Harder – 17-10(319-TMDL-16) - \$1,550.00 and Muller – 17-11(319-TMDL-16) - \$3,250.00.

Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Contract Amendments

Blue Earth Co D.A.	07-09(319-TMDL-16)	Additional Side Inlets – 5 no	Cost \$11,400.00	C-S \$5,700.00
All Remaining 319 Unpaid Contracts	ALL(319-TMDL-16)		Change Expiration Date to 8-20-2021	

Motion by Ashley Brenke, second by Dave Bucklin to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract amendment for Blue Earth Co D.A. – 07-09(319-TMDL-16) - \$5,700.00.

Motion carried, all yes.

Motion by Jake Fritz, second by Chad Hildebrand to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract amendment for ALL REMAINING UNPAID CONTRACTS (319-TMDL-16) – Extend End Date to 8-31-2021.

Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Completion

Terry Groskreutz	81-08(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 20 ac	Cost \$631.00	C-S \$315.50
------------------	--------------------	---------------------	---------------	--------------

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Ashley Brenke to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract payments for Groskreutz 81-08(319-TMDL-16) - \$315.50. Motion carried, all yes.

GBERBA MDM Technical and Engineering

Projects and technical fund estimates were reviewed, with changes, with total of \$30,879.50.00. All other funds will be moved to the Projects and Practices.

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Jake Fritz to approve the encumbrance of the MDM Technical and Engineering totaling \$30,879.50. Motion carried, all yes.

Review GBERBA Cost-Share Balances, Projects and Financial Report

PAGE 2
GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting
June 24, 2020

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 580,000 acres and over 850 certified producers statewide!

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.

For 2020 the cover crop acre limits are removed. At this point 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.

☆ **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 has moved 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. GBERBA staff are researching the costs and procedure of writing of a new GBERBA Joint Powers document. The new document would allow for the Watonwan, Le Sueur, and Blue Earth Watersheds to participate if the individual watersheds 1W1P boards see a benefit to do so.

Le Sueur River Watershed has submitted for the 1W1P process.

☆ **Minnesota Conservation Corps Position**

The Minnesota/Iowa Conservation Corps program has rescinded the Covid-19 suspension of M/ICC services. Ashley is back in the office and in the field helping with the MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program.

☆ **Resignation**

Josh Votruba has taken another position in the Kanabec SWCD office. Thanks for your work, and good luck Josh!

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 – Written Report and Verbal Report

PAGE 3
GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting
June 24, 2020

Agency Reports:

DNR – Paul Davis – MPCA will not be going into the office for the rest of the year. Blue Earth River Watershed will start and outline of the WRAPS.

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart – Special Session – completed with only the LCCMR extension approved. CREP batching period is open (third). Training talks are ongoing through 2020. No open grants, but are moving forward with FY21 Competitive Clean Water Grants – if approved should be opening in the near future and will be decided in December. Training funding is going to be available to the 8 MASWCD regions, up to \$5,000. Nine applications for 1W1P have been submitted. August BWSR Board Meeting Tour has been cancelled, but the Board Meeting will still go on.

MNIT–DNR – Rick Moore – No Report

OTHER –

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

Upcoming Meetings

Technical Meeting	Friday, July 10, 2020	9:30 a.m.
Policy Board/Technical Committee	Friday, July 10, 2020	1:00 p.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, August 26, 2020	1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____