

# Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee

Friday, July 10, 2020 – WebEx by Phone or Computer Connection

## Present:

Michele Stindtman  
Mark Schaetzke  
Kay Gross  
Jake Fritz  
Ashley Brenke  
Shaina Keseley  
Rick Moore

## Representing:

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

## Present:

Dave Bucklin  
Alan Gleinser  
Brenda Lageson  
Haley Byron  
Ashley Broussard  
Paul Davis  
John King

## Representing:

GBERBA Coordinator  
Brown SWCD  
Freeborn SWCD  
Waseca County  
MN-Iowa Conservation Corps  
MPCA  
Le Sueur Co. Commissioner

**Call to Order:** GBERBA Technical Coordinator Dave Bucklin called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

## **Introductions**

**Agenda:** Motion by Ashley Brenke, second by Jake Fritz to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

**Minutes:** Motion by Michele Stindtman, second by Dave Bucklin to approve the June 24, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

## **INFORMATION ACTION:**

### **GBERBA Contract Cancellation**

Matt Warmka	07-02(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 71.5 ac	C-S \$2,681.25
Eric Wegner	22-17(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 40 ac	C-S \$1,500.00

Motion by Jake Fritz, second by Ashley Brenke to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract cancellations for Warmka – 07-02(319-TMDL-16) - \$2,681.25 and Wegner – 22-17(319-TMDL-16) - \$1,500.00. Motion carried, all yes.

### **GBERBA Contract Approval**

Andrew Krusemark	46-07(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 450 ac	C-S \$11,250.00	Cost \$22,500.00
Roger Hubmer	07-11(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 312 ac	C-S \$6,700.00	Cost \$13,400.00
Scott Volz	22-61(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 169.6 ac	C-S \$4,240.00	Cost \$8,480.00
Dan Roemhildt	81-10(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 209.2 ac	C-S \$5,230.00	Cost \$10,460.00
Doug Meyer	22-62(319-TMDL-16)	Alternative Tile Intakes – 2 no	C-S \$500.00	Cost \$1,000.00

Motion by Michele Stindtman, second by Brenda Lageson to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract for Krusemark - 46-07(319-TMDL-16) - \$11,250.00, Hubmer - 07-11(319-TMDL-16) - \$6,700.00, Volz - 22-61(319-TMDL-16) - \$4,240.00, Roemhildt - 81-10(319-TMDL-16) - \$5,230.00, Meyer - 22-62(319-TMDL-16) - \$500.00. Motion carried, all yes.

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

Blue Earth Co D.A.	07-01(CWF-MDM-17)	T/E County Ditch 56	C-S \$2,617.00	Cost \$2,617.00
Jared Mensing	22-48(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 37 ac	C-S \$665.63	Cost \$1,331.26
Neal Mensing	22-49(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 32 ac	C-S \$702.10	Cost \$1,404.20
Neal Mensing	22-50(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 52 ac	C-S \$935.48	Cost \$1,870.96
Neal Mensing	22-51(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 48 ac	C-S \$1,035.32	Cost \$2,070.64
Neal Mensing	22-52(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 42 ac	C-S \$755.58	Cost \$1,511.16
Neal Mensing	22-53(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 71 ac	C-S \$1,277.29	Cost \$2,554.58

Motion by Michele Stindtman, second by Ashley Brenke to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract payments for Blue Earth Co D.A. -07-01(CWF-MDM-17) - \$2,617.00, Jared Mensing - 22-48(319-TMDL-16) - \$665.63, Neal Mensing - 22-49(319-TMDL-16) - \$702.10, 22-50(319-TMDL-16) - \$935.48, 22-51(319-TMDL-16) - \$1,035.32, 22-52(319-TMDL-16)-\$755.58, 22-53(319-TMDL-16) - \$1,277.29. Motion carried, all yes.

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

### **Joint Powers Agreement Update**

Technical Committee member volunteers are Michele Stindtman, Ashley Brenke and Julie Conrad and Policy Board members Tom Appel and Clark Lingbeek. We will be contacting Ann Goering and will send out tentative dates for our first WebEx 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 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 and Blue Earth 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. The Le Sueur Watershed has submitted an application to BWSR for a Planning Grant. In addition, we are looking for committee members to help update the GBERBA Joint Powers Agreement.

☆ **Minnesota Conservation Corps Position**

The Minnesota/Iowa Conservation Corps program has rescinded the Covid 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!

**2021 Clean Water Fund RFP**

Are there any areas that need a targeted effort? Any projects out there? Looking for project and practices – could you focus on Solar Farms and the environmental impacts they are having with runoff. Pollinator habitat and sediment basins etc. as a possible grant opportunity. Break up the applications as in the past into smaller grants – especially the groundwater applications.

**Staff 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

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**Agency Reports:**

**DNR** – Paul Davis – Can only go to meetings if approved because of Covid restrictions. Mid project review for 319 will need to be completed, will need to go to some sites.

**BWSR** – Jill Sackett Eberhart (written) and Shaina Keseley – Competitive Clean Water Fund – Open June 29 – August 17 – Grants Available – Projects and Practices, Project and Practices Drinking Water and Multipurpose Drainage Management. Technical Team Grants are available. One Watershed, One Plan – nine have been submitted with 5-7 being funded. BWSR Academy still be planned (stay tuned). Assessing Comprehensive Planning progress and Shaina is on the oversight team.

**MNIT–DNR** – Rick Moore – Some field work is being completed. Drainage Mgmt. Team will be sending out the update for Drainage Law Manual (will send out an email).

**OTHER** – We will be sending out an email concerning MAWQCP’s renewed RCPP agreement with NRCS. Request is for funding for technical assistance in providing JAA to RCPP funded projects in your area or county.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 10:45 a.m. by Technical Coordinator Dave Bucklin.

**Upcoming Meetings**

Technical Meeting	Wednesday, August 26, 2020	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, August 26, 2020	1:00 p.m.
Policy Board	Friday, September 11, 2020	1:00 p.m.

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