

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee

Wednesday, October 28, 2020 – WebEx by Phone or Computer Connection

Present:

Michele Stindtman
Mark Schaetzke
Kay Gross
Nathan Carr
Jake Fritz
Ashley Brenke
Kari Clouse
Andy Geiger
Jill Sackett Eberhart
Bailey Griffin

Representing:

Faribault SWCD
Waseca SWCD
GBERBA Coordinator
Faribault SWCD
Blue Earth SWCD
Martin SWCD
Cottonwood SWCD
Jackson County
BWSR
ISG

Present:

Dave Bucklin
Alan Gleinser
Brenda Lageson
Melanie Krueger
Julie Conrad
Ashley Broussard
Haley Byron
Chris Bauer
Rick Moore
Kim Musser

Representing:

GBERBA Coordinator
Brown SWCD
Freeborn SWCD
Brown SWCD
Blue Earth County
MN-Iowa Conservation Corps
Waseca County
Jackson SWCD
MNIT – DNR
MSU-WRC

Call to Order: GBERBA Vice Chair Michele Stindtman called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Introductions

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

Minutes: Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Alan Gleinser to approve the September 23, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION ACTION:

GBERBA Contract Cancellation

Faribault Co. D.A. 22-02(CWF-MDM-17) Denitrifying Bioreactor – 1 no. C-S \$3,000.00 Cost \$120,000.00

Motion by Ashley Brenke, second by Brenda Lageson to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract cancellation for Faribault Co. D.A. – 22-02(CWF-MDM-17) - \$3,000.00. Motion carried.

GBERBA Contract Final Payment

Roger Hubmer	07-11(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 305 ac.	C-S \$6,072.00	Cost \$12,144.00
Karson Duncanson	07-10(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 1,060 ac.	C-S \$18,375.00	Cost \$39,750.00
Karl Swenson	81-10(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crop – 120 ac.	C-S \$2,082.65	Cost \$4,165.31

Motion by Jake Fritz, second by Brenda Lageson to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract final payments for Hubmer – 07-11(319-TMDL-16) - \$6,072.00; Duncanson 07-10(319-TMDL-16) - \$18,375.00 and Swenson – 81-10(319-TMDL-16) - \$2,082.65. Motion carried.

Review GBERBA Cost-Share Balances, Projects and Financial Report

Status of Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant Projects and ability to request a formal extension.

Joint Powers Agreement and By-Law Discussion

At this time, Freeborn County Attorney had a number and spelling error; Cottonwood County Attorney had no changes; and Waseca County Attorney did not have any comments.

An email will be sent out reminding entities to have their County Attorneys (or others) review this document for any changes and have those questions and/or changes sent to Kay Gross by November 9.

CWF MDM Grant Extension Request

BWSR can extend the grant to April 30, 2021, but no later than that deadline.

Need to have an explanation from Waseca County incorporated into the request to BWSR staff. Inclement weather conditions in the fall of 2020 and other factors.

Motion by Mark Schaetzke, second by Dave Bucklin to approve a second grant extension request for the Board of Water and Soil Resources Multipurpose Drainage Management – Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (C17-3714) Grant Agreement and extend the expiration date from December 31, 2020 to April 30, 2021 and forward to the Policy Board for their approval. Motion carried, all yes.

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November Joint Policy/Technical Meeting Discussion

Have requested Ann Goering attend the GBERBA Policy Board Meeting if there are questions from members, county attorneys or staff.

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 625,000 acres and over 900 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% c/s (\$25.00 ac.). Prioritization required. Alternative intakes: Rock and pattern tile. \$500.00 maximum and 50% cost share. 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.

For 2020, the cover crop acre limits are removed. 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.

This grant funding is now running short. Funding will be awarded as available. Please pass this notice on to new landowners wishing to apply.

☆ **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.

At this time, GBERBA will apply for a second grant extension. GBERBA can pay grant-engineering funds to projects even if not constructed prior to grant deadline.

☆ **One Watershed One Plan Planning Grants, Watonwan and Le Sueur Watershed**

The Watonwan 1W1P plan is going to state agency review. The BWSR Southern Regional Meeting will receive plan presentation on November 19, 2020 at 9 am.

A GBERBA Committee is working to assist with writing a new GBERBA Joint Powers Agreement document and By-Laws. The new JPA document would allow for the Watonwan, Le Sueur and Blue Earth Watersheds 1W1P board to utilize the GBERBA structure if the individual watershed 1W1P boards see a benefit in doing so.

The BWSR Board has approved the Le Sueur 1W1P Planning grant.

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

Agency Reports:

DNR – Paul Davis – Not in attendance.

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart – BWSR Academy this week – great presentations!! No BWSR Board meeting in November. Preparing for the Southern Regional BWSR Meeting on November 19. District Capacity/Buffer Initiative grant work plans need to be completed before an executed grant agreement will be provided.

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MNIT-DNR – Rick Moore – Shaun Vaughn has been doing some outreach in Southern Minnesota looking for support.

MSU-WRC – Kim Musser – We Are Water is now open at the Blue Earth County Historical Society – ten people can attend at a time. Several activities are being completed in conjunction with the exhibit. Le Sueur Network Group – working on cover crop initiative (contact Kim if you would like more information).

OTHER –

The meeting was declared adjourned at 2:40 p.m. by GBERBA Vice Chair Michele Stindtman.

Upcoming Meetings

Technical Meeting	Friday, November 20, 2020	9:30 a.m.
Policy Board Meeting	Friday, November 20, 2020	1:00 p.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, December 18, 2020	1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____