

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee

Wednesday, February 24, 2021 – WebEx by Phone or Computer Connection

Present:

Mark Schaetzke
Alan Gleisner
Dustin Anderson
Brenda Lageson
Ashley Brenke
Lee Tapper
Rick Moore
Ed Lenz
Brad Edwin

Representing:

Waseca SWCD
Brown SWCD
Faribault County
Freeborn SWCD
Martin SWCD
Cottonwood SWCD
MNIT – DNR
BWSR
Freeborn County Commissioner

Present:

Kay Gross
Andy Meyer
David Haler
Scott Salisbury
Jake Fritz
Mark Hiles
Paul Davis

Representing:

GBERBA Coordinator
Brown County
Watonwan County
Blue Earth County
Blue Earth SWCD
BWSR
MPCA

Call to Order: GBERBA Vice Chari Andy Meyer called the meeting to order at 9:32 am.

Introductions

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

Minutes: Motion by Jake Fritz, second by Alan Gleisner to approve the January 27, 2021 Technical Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION ACTION:

GBERBA Contract Approval

Roger Hubmer 07-12(319-TMDL-16) Cover Crops (255 ac.) Cost \$10,237.42 C-S \$5,118.71

Motion by Jake Fritz, second by Andy Meyer to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share Contracts for Roger Hubmer 319-TMDL-16-07-12 (\$5,118.71). Motion carried.

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

Extension Request to BWSR by Waseca SWCD

At the GBERBA Executive Board Meeting Ed Lenz and Jill Sackett Eberhart did convey that there would be no extension offered for the Multipurpose Drainage Grant past April 30, 2021. BWSR staff are looking into other possible funding options – and will let us know if they are successful in their quest.

BWSR Training – Contracts and Contractor Invoices

MN Department of Health – Presentation – March

Amanda Strommer and Tracy Lund (MN Department of Health) will be presenting at both the GBERBA Policy Board Meeting (March 12) and the GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting (March 24) on Source Water Assessment Program and Surface Water Intake Protection Plans

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 750,000 acres and over 1000 certified producers statewide!

GBERBA has the Area 5 and 6 MAWQCP administrative contract approved through 2021. The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program has launched 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.

Introduction of Dru Larson, MN/IA Conservation Corps Member.

PAGE 2
GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting
February 24, 2021

☆ **2017 MPCA 319 Grant - Cover Crops and Alternative Tile Intakes**

An Implementation Policy Paper for this grant titled "Greater Blue Earth River Basin TMDL Implementation" is found on the GBERBA web site. 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 with 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 low. Funding is awarded as available. Please pass this notice on to 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 to identify the eligible ditches. A guidance policy sheet is online.

At this time, GBERBA has received a second grant time extension. In addition, GBERBA can pay grant-engineering funds to approved projects even if not constructed prior to grant deadline. The new grant end date is April 30, 2021. Waseca SWCD asked BWSR for a project time extension for the Waseca (water storage) wetland restoration. BWSR has stated that the language in the grant will not allow any further extensions. BWSR staff has said they are looking for other dollars to fund the project.

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

The Watonwan 1W1P Steering Team are working to complete a BWSR Budget Request by February 26 and Implementation Work Plan by March 31.

The Le Sueur River 1W1P group has asked Mark Schaetzke to give 1W1P updates to GBERBA. Currently the Le Sueur group are working on the work plan narrative, timeline, and budget. They are expecting a first policy board meeting March 8, and then begin the work of selecting a consultant after that.

☆ **CWF 2020 Watonwan Drinking Water Grant.** GBERBA Executive board has signed the Grant agreement, and staff will return to BWSR. GBERBA staff will be completing a grant work plan and budget in Elink.

Staff Report:

Area 6 Certification Specialist – Herman Bartsch – Written Report

Area 5 Certification Specialist – Danielle Evers – Written Report

Conservation Corp Member – Dru Larson – Written Report

Agency Reports:

MPCA - Paul Davis – Blue Earth and Le Sueur Civic Engagement and working through the process with Covid. Monitoring was moved back a year and Watonwan monitoring will be moved back a year also.

BWSR – Mark Hiles – BWSR Training on March 30 with small group training in April by Board Conservationists.

OTHER – Rick Moore – LiDAR update.

MSU-WRC - Kim Musser – Not in attendance

The meeting was declared adjourned at 10:30 a.m. by Vice Chair Andy Meyer.

Upcoming Meetings

Policy Board Meeting	Friday, March 12, 2021	1:00 p.m.
Technical Committee Meeting	Wednesday, March 24, 2021	9:30 a.m.
Technical Committee Meeting	Wednesday, April 28, 2021	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday, April 28, 2021	1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____