

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee

Wednesday, April 28, 2021 – WebEx by Phone or Computer Connection

Present:

Andy Meyer
Dave Bucklin
Melanie Krueger
Alan Gleisner
Mark Schaetzke
Brenda Lageson
Wendy Chirpich
Brandee Douglas
Dru Larson
Paul Davis
Bailey Griffin
Will Bartsch
Steve Soderman

Representing:

Brown County
Cottonwood SWCD
Brown SWCD
Brown SWCD
Waseca SWCD
Freeborn SWCD
Martin County
Faribault County
MN/IA Conservation Corps
MPCA
ISG
MN NRRI
Watonwan SWCD Supervisor

Present:

Kay Gross
Nathan Carr
Scott Salsbury
Lindsey Zeitler
Jake Fritz
Ashley Brenke
David Haler
Shane Johnson
Jill Sackett Eberhart
Rick Moore
Cindy Hagley
Kim Musser

Representing:

GBERBA Coordinator
Faribault SWCD
Blue Earth County
Freeborn SWCD
Blue Earth SWCD
Martin SWCD
Watonwan County
Faribault SWCD
BWSR
MNIT – DNR
MN NRRI
MSU/WRC

Call to Order: GBERBA Vice Chair Andy Meyer called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

Introductions

Agenda: Motion by Ashley Brenke, second by Melanie Krueger to approve the agenda with the addition of BWSR Financial Report Submission for Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant. Motion carried, all yes.

Minutes: Motion by Jake Fritz, second by Melanie Krueger to approve the March 24, 2021 Technical Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION ACTION:

GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Amendment

Waseca Co. D.A. CWF-MDM-17-81.02 Time Extension 4-30-2021 to 4-30-2022

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Jake Fritz to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract amendment for Waseca County Drainage Authority (CWF-MDM-17-81-02) to extend the install date from 4-30-2021 to 4-30-2022. Motion carried.

GBERBA Contract Final Payment (Corrective Action)

Le Sueur Co. D.A. CWF-MDM-17-40-01 Storage/Treatment Wetland C-S \$50,000.00 Cost \$75,339.43
Payment not to exceed \$50,000 at 75% cost-share with state or state & non-state funds; Corrective Action – Percent Based Voucher and Practice Certification Form – Contract paid 11-20-2020.

Motion by Melanie Krueger, second by Andy Meyer to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract (CORRECTIVE ACTION) final payment for Le Sueur County Drainage Authority (CWF-MDM-17-40-01) totaling \$50,000.00 this is based on a payment not to exceed \$50,000 at 75% cost-share with state or state and non-state funds completed on a percent based contract and Voucher and Practice Certification Form – Contact paid 11-20-2020. Motion carried.

GBERBA Contract Approval

Tom Muller	17-12(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 130 ac.	C-S \$2,428.00	Cost \$4,856.00
Steve Muller	17-13(319-TMDL-16)	Cover Crops – 145 ac.	C-S \$2,708.00	Cost \$5,416.00
Marie Swedberg	22-68(319-TMDL-16)	Alternative Tile Intakes – 1 no.	C-S \$250.00	Cost \$500.00
Mavis Sabin	22-69(319-TMDL-16)	Alternative Tile Intakes – 1 no.	C-S \$250.00	Cost \$500.00
City of Mt. Lake	17-01(CWF-WWDW-21)	Tree/Shrub Planting – 2 ac.	C-S \$9,010.00	Cost \$10,600.00

Motion by Melanie Krueger, second by Jake Fritz to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract for T. Muller (319-TMDL-16-17-12) \$2,428.00; S. Muller (319-TMDL-16-17-13) \$2,708.00; Swedberg (319-TMDL-16-22-68) \$250.00; Sabin (319-TMDL-16-22-69) \$250.00 and City of Mountain Lake (CWF-WWDW-21-17-01) \$9,010.00. Motion carried.

Review GBERBA Cost-Share Grant Balances and Financial Report

BWSR – Non-Compliance Letter - Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant

GBERBA Procedure for Acquiring Grant Funding

Motion by Jake Fritz, second by Alan Gleisner to approve the submission of the GBERBA Procedures for Acquiring Grant Funding to BWSR in regards to the Non-Compliance Letter concerning CWF Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant to satisfy the corrective actions (which also included an new voucher for Le Sueur County Drainage Authority (CWF-MDM-17-40-01) (With corrections).

Motion carried.

Financial Report Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant

Grant 40 – Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection Grant Policy Update

Motion by Ashley Brenke, second by Andy Meyer to approve the Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection Grant Policy Update with clarification on the DWSMAs and Map attachment. Motion carried.

Grant 41 – Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant 2021-2023 Policy

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Ashley Brenke to approve the Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant 2021-2023 Policy. Motion carried.

Request for Legal Counsel Review

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.

☆ 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 third grant time extension. In addition, GBERBA can pay grant-engineering funds to approved projects even if not constructed prior to grant deadline. BWSR staff has now approved the extension for the entire grant to April 30, 2022. GBERBA staff are working through a non-compliance issue with BWSR on this grant.

☆ Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant

The Implementation Work Plan has been approved by SWCD. The implementation grant funds are available now. The grant timeline is 2021 to 12-31-2023. Grant Policy will be reviewed and approved at the May GBERBA Policy Board Meeting.

☆ **1W1P Le Sueur River Planning Grant**

The Le Sueur River 1W1P Planning Grant has officially been executed which means they can finally start billing against it for approved expenses. The steering team has been working on putting a recommended RFQ for consulting services together along with a list of consultants to notify and a ranking sheet. The group was impressed with the Watonwan ranking sheets and incorporated large portions into the recommended Le Sueur ranking sheets. They have a goal of doing the kickoff meeting in June, but time is quickly slipping by and will still need to contract for this and allow adequate planning time. The Policy Committee is currently scheduled to meet monthly and will be in a virtual format for now. Our next Policy Committee meeting is Friday, April 23, so possible updates at the 28th Technical and Executive Board Meetings.

☆ **CBF 2020 Watonwan Drinking Water Grant.** The grant funding is available now to encumber! The grant timeline is 2021 to 12-31-2023. With new GBERBA Procedure for Acquiring Grant Funding, we will be making some minor changes to the Drinking Water Protection Grant Policy and will present that at the May GBERBA Policy Board Meeting. These changes will only be inclusions of install by dates, percentages and other minor changes in dealing with Cost-Share contracts.

☆ **GBERBA Procedures for Acquiring Grant Funding**

GBERBA staff has been working on a Non-Compliance issue with Grant 39 and with that is completing a Procedures for Acquiring Grant Funding Policy. This will be an in-depth review of all requirements before contracts are encumbered or grant funds are expended to local entities, staff, TSA engineers, private consultants or others. This will be a work in progress, but we would like to have the first approval by the GBERBA Policy Board on May 14.

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 – None

BWSR – Jill Sackett Eberhart – None

DNR – Rick Moore – None

MSU-WRC – Kim Muller – **Congratulations to GBERBA for the 'Water Storage Partnership Award'.**

Presentation~ Atlas Interactive Mapping Tool Training

Will Bartsch and Cindy Hagley
Minnesota Natural Resources
Research Institute

The meeting was declared adjourned at 12:04 a.m. by Technical Coordinator Dave Bucklin.

Upcoming Meetings

Technical Committee Meeting	Wednesday, May 26, 2021	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, June 11, 2021	1:00 p.m.
Policy Board Meeting	Friday, May 14, 2021	1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____