

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee

Wednesday, October 20, 2021 – WebEx by Phone or Computer Connection

Present:

Andy Meyer
Dave Bucklin
Laura Quiring
Jake Gross
Scott Salisbury
Mark Schaetzke
Dan Bartosh
Dru Larson
Rick Moore

Representing:

Brown County
GBERBA Coordinator
Watonwan SWCD
Cottonwood SWCD
Blue Earth County
Waseca SWCD
Jackson SWCD
MN/IA Conservation Corps
MN IT-DNR

Present:

Kay Gross
Scott Salisbury
Alan Gleisner
Jake Fritz
Melanie Krueger
Brenda Lageson
Hadley Messing
Katie Wigen
Ed Lenz

Representing:

GBERBA Coordinator
Blue Earth County
Brown SWCD
Blue Earth SWCD
Brown SWCD
Freeborn SWCD
Faribault SWCD
DNR
BWSR

Call to Order: GBERBA Technical Committee Vice Chair Andy Meyer called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

Introductions

Agenda: Motion by Jake Fritz, second by Dave Bucklin to approve the agenda with the addition of 2022 Budget and Dues. Motion carried, all yes.

Minutes: Motion by Kay Gross, second by Andy Meyer to approve the September 22, 2021 Technical Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

INFORMATION ACTION:

GBERBA Contract Approval

Mathias & Cheryl Williams 07-01(WBIF-WW-21) Well Decommissioning – 1 no. C-S \$1,000.00 Cost \$2,021.00
City of Windom 17-02(CWF-WWDW-21) Tree Planting (612) 50-60 no. C-S \$5,000.00 Cost \$5,900.00

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Jake Fritz to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract approval for Williams (WBIF-WW-21-07-01) \$1,000.00 and City of Windom (CWF-WWDW-21-17-02) \$5,000.00. Motion carried.

Review GBERBA Cost-Share Grant Balances and Financial Report

Review 2022 Budget and 2022 Dues - Discussion

1W1P Le Sueur River Planning Grant

Kickoff Meeting went very well. Water Resource Center is putting together a summary for the group. Technical Advisory Committee, looking to see if individuals would attend all meetings, or meeting only pertaining to their specialties. ISG will be bring data to the next meeting this Friday.

Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant

Drainage Management Plan – Watonwan County – Section 33 Rosendale – which is part of the South Fork Watonwan River and County Ditch One. Replacing a bridge with a culvert which was done in 1978.

In flux of additional tile since 1978 can attribute to the increase water flow.

Culvert was designed properly; but he did not get notified at the time. If impacting the public water – would need a permit (change of course, current or crossing would need review).

Looks like a good project to start with on a management plan.

Check with existing MDM grant to see if a Management Plan is eligible for funding,

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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 761,000 acres and over 1063 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 (31), integrated pest management (31), wildlife (22) and climate smart (12). NRCS announced a June 4th application deadline for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP – MAWQCP). RCPP is a partnership between NRCS and MAWQCP. Producers who are seeking certification or are already certified are eligible to receive funding. Priority is given to practices that are needed for a producer to obtain certification. Dru Larson, MN/IA Conservation Corps Member will be assisting with this program in 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 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 has now approved the extension for the entire grant to April 30, 2022. There are \$24,000 dollars left in this grant. GBERBA needs another project or two.

★ Watonwan River Watershed - Implementation Grant

Implementation grant funds are available now with the Grant 41 Policy distributed to all GBERBA members and partners. The grant timeline is 3-24-2021 to 12-31-2023. The Project Ranking Worksheet is used for project priority.

Legal counsel has been contracted to review the need for additional contracts with member entities or others and recourse and/or errors and omissions if non-compliance issues arise when completing projects. The Policy Board has approved the Multipurpose Drainage Management Study definition and expectations. The information has been added to the Grant 41 Policy and redistributed to the elected officials and staff.

★ Le Sueur River Watershed – One Watershed One Plan

The Kickoff meeting went well with decent weather, a good turnout (50-60), and good discussion. Kim and WRC crew are synthesizing the information collected that night as well as the online survey responses. Haley has resumed the day-to-day responsibilities for the planning effort. ISG is working at aggregating the data and trying to come up with a first draft of issue statements. The Steering Team discussed inviting citizens to the Technical Advisory Committee and identifying others who may have good experience or perspectives to weigh in on portions of the draft plan.

★ CWF 2020 Watonwan Drinking Water Grant. The grant funding is available now to encumber! The grant timeline is 3-25-2021 to 12-31-2023. Grant Policy #40 has been distributed to staff, please review for eligible practices and grant guidelines. Project contracts are coming in for funding. Drinking Water Area information signs will be ordered soon.

Staff Report:

Area 6 Certification Specialist – Herman Bartsch – Written Report

Area 5 Certification Specialist – Danielle Evers – Written Report

Conservation Corp Member – Dru Larson – Written and Verbal Report

Agency Reports:

BWSR – Ed Lenz – NRBG grant agreements have gone out along with District Capacity. Outside entities are looking over the funding being spent by Districts and if you have more than two years of funding

MPCA - Paul Davis – Not in attendance

MN IT-DNR – Rick Moore – No report

MSU-WRC – Kim Musser – Not in attendance

The meeting was declared adjourned at 10:50 a.m. by Vice Chairman Andy Meyer.

Upcoming Meetings

Technical Committee Meeting	Friday, November 19, 2021	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Friday, December 17, 2021	1:00 p.m.
Policy Board Meeting	Friday, November 19, 2021	1:00 p.m.

Secretary's signature of approved minutes _____ Date: _____