

# Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee

Wednesday, August 25, 2021 – WebEx by Phone or Computer Connection

## Present:

Andy Meyer  
Dave Bucklin  
Carrie Schultz  
Laura Quiring  
Mark Schaetzke  
Hadley Mensing  
Shane Johnson  
Dru Larson  
Paul Davis  
Kim Musser

## Representing:

Brown County  
GBERBA Coordinator  
Watonwan SWCD  
Watonwan SWCD  
Waseca SWCD  
Faribault SWCD  
Faribault SWCD  
MN/IA Conservation Corps  
MPCA  
MSU-WRC

## Present:

Kay Gross  
Scott Salsbury  
Shane Johnson  
Dustin Anderson  
Jake Fritz  
Brenda Lageson  
  
Jill Sackett Eberhart  
Rick Moore  
Jake Gross

## Representing:

GBERBA Coordinator  
Blue Earth County  
Faribault SWCD  
Faribault County  
Blue Earth SWCD  
Freeborn SWCD  
  
BWSR  
MN IT-DNR  
NRCS

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

## **Introductions**

**Agenda:** Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Jake Fritz to approve the agenda with the addition of the Le Sueur Watershed Planning Grant. Motion carried, all yes.

**Minutes:** Motion by Kay Gross, second by Scott Salsbury to approve the July 16, 2021 Technical Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

## **INFORMATION ACTION:**

### **GBERBA Contract Cancellation**

Jeff Moeller 46-09(319-TMDL-16) Alternative Tile Intakes – 4 no. C-S \$1,000.00 Cost \$2,000.00

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Brenda Lageson to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract cancellation for Moeller (319-TMDL-16-46-09) \$1,000.00. Motion carried.

### **GBERBA Contract Approval**

David Gilman/A. Bromeland-Gilman

07-02(CWF-WWDW-21) Well Decommissioning – 1 no. C-S \$750.00 Cost \$1,300.00  
JD Tippin 17-01(WBIF-WW-21) Grass Waterway – 3,080 ft. C-S \$6,050.00 Cost \$33,615.06

Motion by Jake Fritz, second by Andy Meyer to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract approvals for Gillman/Bromeland-Gilman (CWF-WWDW-21-07-02) \$750.00 and Tippin (WBIF-WW-21-17-01) \$6,050.00. Motion carried.

### **GBERBA Contract Final Payment**

Randy Sorg 81-15(319-TMDL-16) Cover Crops – 141.5 ac. C-S \$3,086.00 Cost \$6,172.00  
Randy Sorg 24-04(319-TMDL-16) Cover Crops – 70 ac. C-S \$1,542.50 Cost \$3,085.00  
Bill Anderson 22-31(319-TMDL-16) Alternative Tile Intakes – 2 no. C-S \$500.00 Cost \$1,180.00  
Faribault Co DA 22-54(319-TMDL-16) Grade Stab/Side Inlets – 40 no. C-S \$33,963.75 Cost \$76,020.00  
Eric Volsen 22-66(319-TMDL-16) Cover Crops – 745 ac. C-S \$2,053.10 Cost \$4,106.20  
Ron Volsen 22-67(319-TMDL-16) Cover Crops – 745 ac. C-S \$410.55 Cost \$821.10  
Tom Muller 17-12(319-TMDL-16) Cover Crops – 745 ac. C-S \$2,265.25 Cost \$4,530.50  
Steve Muller 17-13(319-TMDL-16) Cover Crops – 745 ac. C-S \$2,526.63 Cost \$5,053.25  
Andy Linder 22-70(319-TMDL-16) Cover Crops – 745 ac. C-S \$1,948.35 Cost \$3,896.70  
Larry Cowing 46-10(319-TMDL-16) Cover Crops – 745 ac. C-S \$2,250.00 Cost \$4,824.07

Motion by Scott Salsbury, second by Dustin Anderson to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract final payments for Sorg (319-TMDL-16-81-15) \$3,086.00, Sorg (319-TMDL-16-24-04) \$1,542.50, Anderson (319-TMDL-16-22-31) \$500.00, Faribault County Drainage Authority (319-TMDL-16-22-54) \$33,963.75, E. Volsen (319-TMDL-16-22-66) \$2,053.10, R. Volsen (319-TMDL-16-22-67) \$410.55, T. Muller (319-TMDL-16-17-12) \$2,265.25, S. Muller (319-TMDL-16-17-13) \$2,526.63, Linder (319-TMDL-16-22-70) \$1,948.35 and Cowing (319-TMDL-16-46-10) \$2,250.00. Motion carried.

## **Review GBERBA Cost-Share Grant Balances and Financial Report**

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

The Policy Committee met in person for the first time in July. There was good discussion on some of the issues within the Le Sueur Watershed. We just finalized the contract with WRC to do the kickoff meeting, online survey, and half-time meeting. Kim is working on getting things together for Sept 16 Kickoff meeting. Location is tentatively Pemberton but may change to an outdoor location to ease pandemic concerns. MPCA, DNR, and WRC are the planned speakers. The Steering Team had their first meeting with ISG and Freshwater. We went over roles, overview, and timeline. We discussed what a successful plan would be, what could threaten the success, and how to set ourselves up for success. Next steps include summarizing the existing data and beginning to draft the issue statements that will be the building blocks of the final plan.

### **Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant**

#### **Multipurpose Drainage Management Studies – Definition and Expectations**

Watonwan Watershed – Multipurpose Drainage Management Studies – Definition - Discussion

As for the MDM Studies, our Watonwan Watershed Plan goal is to "Coordinate with the drainage authorities to implement MDM on 10 public drainage systems to improve water quality and flood resiliency in tandem with the maintenance and repair of drainage systems.

Updated version developed by Andy Meyer and Ashley Brenke reviewed and discussed.

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Scott Salisbury to approve the Multipurpose Drainage Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Policy and present to the Executive Board for approval and addition to the Grant 41 Policy. Motion carried.

### **Interim Report**

Interim Report has been submitted for expenditures January 1 – June 30, 2021 with review request to Jill Sackett-Eberhart.

### **Legal Counsel**

Discussion with counsel and two contracts have been developed, one per grant agreement and one per funding source/agency. Reviewed and discussed.

### **Future Meetings**

Andy Meyer left at 11:06 a.m.

**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

**The end date of the grant is August 31, 2021.** This grant is now fully encumbered.

**PAGE 3**  
**GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting**  
**August 25, 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.

☆ **Watowan 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 Technical Committee is working on the Multipurpose Drainage Management Study definition and expectations, with hope to have that completed by the July 16 Policy Board Meeting. A BWSR interim report is due August 27 for grant expenditures through June 30, 2021.

☆ **Le Sueur River Watershed – One Watershed One Plan**

The Policy Committee met in person for the first time in July. There was good discussion on some of the issues within the Le Sueur Watershed. We just finalized the contract with WRC to do the kickoff meeting, online survey, and half-time meeting. Kim is working on getting things together for Sept 16 Kickoff meeting. Location is tentatively Pemberton but may change to an outdoor location to ease pandemic concerns. MPCA, DNR, and WRC are the planned speakers. The Steering Team had their first meeting with ISG and Freshwater. We went over roles, overview, and timeline. We discussed what a successful plan would be, what could threaten the success, and how to set ourselves up for success. Next steps include summarizing the existing data and beginning to draft the issue statements that will be the building blocks of the final plan.

☆ **CWF 2020 Watowan 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.

**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** – Jill Sackett Eberhart – BWSR not allowed back in the office, allowances for copying, short time in office alright. Grant agreements have been delayed but will be coming within the next couple of months. Buffer agreements will be reduced by about 17% for FY22. BWSR Academy will be going virtual in 2021.

**MPCA** - Paul Davis – New policy related to Covid-19 will be coming in September. 319 grant funding requests for payment needs to be completed in early September with final payment by MPCA on September 30.

**MN IT-DNR** – Rick Moore – Southeast LiDAR information has been collected and will be done by next year. Southwest is working on contracts for next year.

**MSU-WRC** – Kim Musser – Thanks members for updating on upcoming events.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:33 a.m. by Technical Coordinator Dave Bucklin.

**Upcoming Meetings**

Technical Committee Meeting	Wednesday, September 22, 2021	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday, August 25, 2021	1:00 p.m.
Policy Board Meeting	Friday, September 10, 2021	1:00 p.m.

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