

# Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee

Wednesday, September 22, 2021 – WebEx by Phone or Computer Connection

## **Present:**

Andy Meyer  
Dave Bucklin  
Carrie Schultz  
Laura Quiring  
Shane Johnson  
Michael Stalberger  
Melanie Krueger  
Mark Schaetzke  
Herman Bartsch  
Dru Larson  
Paul Davis  
Kim Musser

## **Representing:**

Brown County  
GBERBA Coordinator  
Watonwan SWCD  
Watonwan SWCD  
Faribault SWCD  
Blue Earth County  
Brown SWCD  
Waseca SWCD  
MAWQCP Area 6 Specialist  
MN/IA Conservation Corps  
MPCA  
MSU-WRC

## **Present:**

Kay Gross  
Scott Salsbury  
Jerad Bach  
Andy Geiger  
Jake Fritz  
Ashley Brenke  
Tim Grant  
Brenda Lageson  
  
Jill Sackett Eberhart  
Rick Moore

## **Representing:**

GBERBA Coordinator  
Blue Earth County  
Blue Earth SWCD  
Jackson County  
Blue Earth SWCD  
Martin SWCD  
Blue Earth County  
Freeborn SWCD  
  
BWSR  
MN IT-DNR

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

## **Introductions**

**Agenda:** Motion by Melanie Krueger, second by Jerad Bach to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

**Minutes:** Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Jerad Bach to approve the August 25, 2021 Technical Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

## **INFORMATION ACTION:**

### **GBERBA Contract Approval**

Mitch Klingsporn	17-02(WBIF-WW-21)	Cover Crops – 120 ac.	C-S \$15,120.00	Cost \$15,120.00
		Flat Rate Contract – 3 years		

Motion by Dave Bucklin, second by Ashley Brenke to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share contract approval for Klingsporn (WBIF-WW-21-17-02) \$15,120.00 flat rate 3 year contract. Motion carried.

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

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

Kick-off Meeting was held on September 16 at St. Olaf Lake Park. Very well attended (55-60). ISG is aggregating a bunch of the watershed data. Canceled the September Policy Meeting.

### **Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant**

**Multipurpose Drainage Management Studies** – Selecting Project Areas - Discussion

## **Dues 2022**

## **MN Department of Agriculture – COVID-19 Protocol**

### **October Technical Committee Meeting**

Technical Committee meeting moved to Wednesday, October 20 starting at 9:30 a.m.

### **Presentation: “Blue Earth County Well Sealing Program and the Importance of Sealing Wells”**

Presenters Scott Salsbury and Tim Grant, Blue Earth County 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 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).

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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**

The grant project funding is complete. The final report is due in September.  
**The end date of the grant is August 31, 2021.** This grant is now completed.

☆ **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 Technical Committee has completed the Multipurpose Drainage Management Study definition and expectations.

☆ **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 St. Olaf Lake Park 6-8pm 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 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.

**Staff Report:**

**Area 6 Certification Specialist** – Herman Bartsch – Written Report and Verbal Report

**Area 5 Certification Specialist** – Danielle Evers – Written Report

**Conservation Corp Member** – Dru Larson – Written and Verbal Report

**Agency Reports:**

**BWSR** – Jill Sackett Eberhart – No report.

**MPCA** - Paul Davis – Thanked everyone for getting the 319 grants reported and completed in a timely manner!

**MN IT-DNR** – Rick Moore – No report.

**MSU-WRC** – Kim Musser – Thanks to everyone helping with the Le Sueur 1W1P Kick-Off Meeting!

The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:55 a.m. by Administrative Coordinator Kay Gross.

**Upcoming Meetings**

Technical Committee Meeting	Wednesday, October 20, 2021	9:30 a.m.
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday, October 15, 2021	1:00 p.m.
Policy Board Meeting	Friday, November 19, 2021	1:00 p.m.

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