

Workplan / Grant Application / Project Summary Report
Greater Blue Earth River Basin Clean Water Fund
Positions

Submitted by: **Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance JPB**

Grant Fund Type: Accelerated Implementation Grant

Fund Year: 2012

<i>Total Grant Amount:</i>	\$150,430.00	<i>Amount Budgeted for this Workplan:</i>	\$150,430.00	<i>Amount Spent for this workplan:</i>	0.00	<i>Amount Not Spent on this workplan:</i>	\$150,430.00
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BMP Detail Summary

Number of BMP's Installed	BMP Name	Shape Type	Linear Ft.	Total Acres	Total Mapped BMPs	Soil Loss Reduction Tons/Yr	Sediment Reduction Tons/Yr	Phosphorus Reduction Lbs/Yr
Total # installed BMPs:						Tons/Yr	Tons/Yr	Lbs/Yr
Total # mapped BMPs:								



Initiative Name: **2012 - Accelerated Implementation Grant - Administration and Coordination**Initiative Type: Admin/CoordinationYear: 2012Description

The Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA) will complete the following:

Coordinators: Kay Clark and Dave Bucklin

Complete the Restoration Technical Assistance work plan; submit semi-annual progress reports; display grant information on the GBERBA website; and submit a final progress report at the grants completion.

Watershed Assistant (Bookkeeper): Darlene Kukuzcka

Complete the financial transactions for the grant expenditures; and track the grant in-kind obligations. Also keep GBERBA informed of grants budget and timeline.

TOTAL ADMINISTRATION and COORDINATION: \$15,750.00

GBERBA: \$15,750.00

TOTAL IN-KIND: \$3,937.50

LOCAL - GBERBA: \$3,937.50

Actual ResultsCommentsFUND(s)

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>First Spend Date</u>	<u>Last Spend Date</u>
1. 2012 - Accelerated Implementation Grants - Positions - Local - In-Kind - (Cash or In-Direct)	3,937.50	3,937.50	0.00		
2. 2012 - Accelerated Implementation Grants - Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (JPB)	15,750.00	15,750.00	0.00		
Totals:	19,687.50	19,687.50	0.00		

Initiative Name: **2012 - Accelerated Implementation Grant - Cobb Technician**

Initiative Type: Technical and Engineering

Year: 2012

Description

The Cobb Watershed Technician assists the landowners of the 114,735 acre watershed and provides them with guidance on projects and programs to help improve water quality. The position also provides technical support in designing, surveying, staking and construction inspections of projects for the SWCDs and the South Central Technical Service Area. Also the SC-TSA provides guidance to the Technician when implementing best management practices in the watershed. The Technician has a goal of working on and completing the following Best Management Practices in the Cobb Watershed during the 2012-2014 grant period:
Waterways (3); Streambank Stabilization (1); Grade Stabilization (2); Shelterbelts (3) and Side Inlets (1).
The Technician has a goal of working on and completing the following Best Management Practices in the Greater Blue Earth River Basin during the 2012-2014 grant period:
Grade Stabilization (3); Wetland Water Control Structure (1); Streambank Stabilization (1); Ravine Stabilization (1) and Shelterbelts (3).
Technical Authority is approved by the qualifying SC TSA or Blue Earth SWCD staff when necessary and applicable.

****ONE YEAR-2080 HOURS****

TOTAL ACCELERATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: \$52,000.00

BLUE EARTH SWCD: \$50,000.00

SC TSA: \$2,000.00

TOTAL IN-KIND: \$13,000.00

LOCAL - BLUE EARTH SWCD (CASH or IN-DIRECT): \$5,500.00

LOCAL - LANDOWNER (25% PROJECT COST): \$3,000.00

LOCAL - LANDOWNER (IN-KIND-TIME): \$1,500.00

FEDERAL - EQUIP (PROJECT DOLLARS): \$3,000.00

Actual Results

Comments

<u>FUND(s)</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>First Spend Date</u>	<u>Last Spend Date</u>
1. 2012 - Accelerated Implementation Grants - Positions - Local - In-Kind - (Cash or In-Direct)	5,500.00	5,500.00	0.00		
2. 2012 - Accelerated Implementation Grants - Positions - Local - In-Kind - Landowner (Time)	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00		
3. 2012 - Accelerated Implementation Grants - Positions - Federal - In-Kind - EQIP Cost-Share	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00		
4. 2012 - Accelerated Implementation Grants - Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (JPB)	52,000.00	52,000.00	0.00		
5. 2012 - Accelerated Implementation Grants - Positions - Local - In-Kind - Landowner (25% Project Costs)	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00		
Totals:	65,000.00	65,000.00	0.00		

Initiative Name: **2012 - Accelerated Implementation Grant - Conservation Agronomist**Initiative Type: Project DevelopmentYear: 2012Description

The Extension Educator-Conservation Agronomist position is a collaborative effort between the University of Minnesota Extension Service, Rural Advantage and GBERBA. The Conservation Agronomist position provides educational programming focused toward third crop rotations, cover crops, sustainable agriculture, perennial bioenergy crops, soil health, crop nutrients, crop rotations, cover crops, carbon sequestration and practices that provide ecological uplift. This position works across southern MN with at least 75% of their effort dedicated to the Blue Earth, Le Sueur and Watonwan River Watersheds.

This position will help promote all local programs for Counties and SWCDs, helping engage our local citizens through the MN Extension Service and leverages \$5,460.00 through the McKnight Foundation and \$5,460.00 from the Specialty Crop Grant. Numerous news releases, TV promotions, group presentations, displays and field days/tours will be created and presented to watershed residents. The goal is to reach 500-1,000 landowners (residents) in the Greater Blue Earth River Basin.

****1068.75 HOURS****

TOTAL ACCELERATED PROJECT DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE: \$43,680.00

RURAL ADVANTAGE: \$43,680.00

TOTAL IN-KIND: \$10,920.00

OTHER - PRIVATE - McKNIGHT (CASH): \$5,460.00

OTHER - PRIVATE - SPECIALTY CROP GRANT (CASH): \$5,460.00

Actual ResultsCommentsFUND(s)

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>First Spend Date</u>	<u>Last Spend Date</u>
1. 2012 - Accelerated Implementation Grants - Positions - Other - In-Kind - Private (Cash)	10,920.00	10,920.00	0.00		
2. 2012 - Accelerated Implementation Grants - Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (JPB)	43,680.00	43,680.00	0.00		
Totals:	54,600.00	54,600.00	0.00		

Initiative Name: **2012 - Accelerated Implementation Grant - Nutrient Management Specialist**Initiative Type: Technical and EngineeringYear: 2012Description

The Nutrient Management Specialist develops management plans and conducts outreach to area livestock producers. These plans are designed to help manage the amount, source, placement, form and timing of the application of nutrients. This position is also available to provide nutrient management workshops and assist counties as requested in the watershed.

A total of 20 nutrient management plans are targeted for the 2013-2014 grant period, with numerous landowner visits and informational meetings throughout the Greater Blue Earth River Basin watersheds. News releases and displays will also be completed.

****8-MONTH or 1360 HRS ESTIMATED****

TOTAL ACCELERATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: \$39,000.00

COTONWOOD SWCD: \$39,000.00

TOTAL IN-KIND: \$9,750.00

LOCAL - COTTONWOOD SWCD (CASH or IN-DIRECT): \$5,100.00

LOCAL - LANDOWNER (IN-KIND-TIME): \$2,000.00

FEDERAL - EQIP (PROJECT DOLLARS): \$2,650.00

Actual ResultsCommentsFUND(s)

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>First Spend Date</u>	<u>Last Spend Date</u>
1. 2012 - Accelerated Implementation Grants - Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (JPB)	39,000.00	39,000.00	0.00		
2. 2012 - Accelerated Implementation Grants - Positions - Local - In-Kind - Landowner (Time)	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00		
3. 2012 - Accelerated Implementation Grants - Positions - Federal - In-Kind - EQIP Cost-Share	2,650.00	2,650.00	0.00		
4. 2012 - Accelerated Implementation Grants - Positions - Local - In-Kind - (Cash or In-Direct)	5,100.00	5,100.00	0.00		
Totals:	48,750.00	48,750.00	0.00		

Program Specific Workplan Items

Water Plan Reference:

*Blue Earth County Water Management Plan (HIGH) Priority Concern: Surface Water – Impaired Waters and TMDLs (pp.84-86)
Water Management Goal: Reduce pollutants causing water quality impairments of surface water in watersheds within and affected by land in Blue Earth County. Obj.1: Support development of TMDL Implementation Plans. Action 1: Work cooperatively on a watershed basis to identify and prioritize implementation activities. Obj. 2: Implement soil and water conservation and other practices identified in TMDL implementation plans. Action1,3. Action 2: Seek funding for a county-based staff person at the SWCD to work with landowners in all impaired waters and TMDL Implementation Plan priority areas to establish soil and water conservation practices known to address multiple pollutants causing impairments. *Cottonwood County Local Water Management Plan (HIGH) Priority Concern 1: Improve Surface Water Quality. (p 21) Goal 1: Prevent further degradation of stream and lake water quality, with a priority for the Des Moines and Watonwan watershed. Obj.1.a: Protect soil erosion and prevent agricultural runoff. Action 1.a5,6,8,10. Action 1.a7: Assist producers in applying for cost-share opportunities for conservation practices. Priority Concern 3: Feedlots and ISTS. (p 25) Goal 3: Protect public waters and assist residents in meeting feedlot and septic standards, focusing on immediate health and safety situations. Obj.3.a: Assist feedlot owners to maintain compliance with MN Statute 7020 standards. Action 3a.6,7,8. *Martin County Local Water Plan (SWCD website April 22, 2011) (HIGH) No page numbers. Priority Concern: Impaired Waters and TMDLs (pp. 12-13) Obj. 1: Provide annually at least six efforts for education and outreach to county residents about impaired waters and TMDLs and their potential impact to Martin County. Action Items: A,B,C,D,E,F. Obj.8:...Develop and utilize partnerships to address TMDLs by watershed.

TMDL Reference:

*MN River TMDL Project for Turbidity (Fact Sheet-2011) (p.3) Land use practices that reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients entering lakes and streams are necessary to reduce turbidity. Riparian buffers, streambank stabilization, water storage, surface tile intake buffers or replacements and crop residue management, all help reduce sediment transport. On a basin scale such as this, virtually every best management practice involving all types of land use will be necessary. *Lower MN River DO Implementation Plan: Description of management measures to achieve load reductions. 3.2 Agriculture (pp.17-20) The TMDL Report did include agricultural practices as a way to reduce runoff during higher flow times, thereby increasing the amount of ground water recharged during dry periods. Implementation Targets: Crop residue, surface tile intakes, manure application, phosphorus crediting, native grasses or wetlands. Table 7(p.19) Examples of other practices to increase infiltration and reduce phosphorus. *GBERB Fecal Coliform TMDL Implementation Plan: Integration with Existing Programs (p.10) Implementation Management Measures (pp.12-13) These TMDL statements are referred to in the local water management plans of the GBERBA counties. Continuations of these positions will result in accelerated implementation of BMP practices.

Watershed Name (81 Majors)

Blue Earth River, Le Sueur River and Watonwan River

Project Description:

The Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA) is a Joint Powers Organization consisting of nine member Counties and SWCDs encompassing the Blue Earth, Le Sueur and Watonwan River Watersheds. Water quality concerns throughout have moved the organization to take action. In 2007, GBERBA applied for and received funding through the CWL and MPCA 319 programs to hire three positions to address these concerns. The positions were the MN Extension Conservation Agronomist, Cobb Watershed Technician and the Nutrient Management Specialist.

The positions provide elevated levels of assistance, education and outreach in conservation agronomy, nutrient management, drainage and BMPs to reduce nonpoint source pollution. This will be done through demonstrations, tours, news releases, radio and TV broadcasts, presentations, brochures, letters and one-on-one contact with basin residents. They will work with local counties/SWCDs to enhance their abilities in working with their constituents. In addition, they will work with partners, both state and federal, to help inform the public on current conservation opportunities and programs.

Project Outcomes:

The Conservation Agronomist provides educational programming focused toward third crop rotations, cover crops, sustainable agriculture, perennial bioenergy crops, soil health, crop nutrients, crop rotations, cover crops, carbon sequestration and practices that provide ecological uplift. Activities include demonstrations, research, outreach and education.

The Cobb Watershed Technician assists the landowners of the 114,735 acre watershed and provides them with guidance on projects and programs to help improve water quality. The position also provides technical support in designing, surveying, staking and construction inspections of projects to the SWCDs and the South Central Technical Service Area.

The Nutrient Management Specialist develops management plans and conducts outreach to area livestock producers. These plans are designed to help manage the amount, source, placement, form and timing of the application of nutrients. This position is also available to provide nutrient management workshops and assist counties as requested in the watershed.

20 Nutrient Management Plans completed; 5 AgBMPs; 500-1,000 landowners contacted through fact sheets, news releases, radio and TV broadcasts, displays and demonstrations for basin residents. 75-100 sites visited throughout the basin.

Members of the LGU Board

The Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA) is a Joint Powers Organization consisting of nine member Counties and SWCDs. Each member has a County Commissioner and SWCD Supervisor on the GBERBA Policy Board. Three Commissioners and three Supervisors from this group (elected) make up the GBERBA Executive Board.

Also, GBERBA has a Technical Committee with a representative from the County and SWCD.

LGU CWF Website

www.gberba.org

Full Time Employees

MN Extension Conservation Agronomist; Cobb River Watershed Technician; Nutrient Management Specialist; GBERBA Coordinators (Full Time Equivalent) Administrative and Technical (employed by JPB).